

.. NEWS.. AND VIEWS

RECENT ATOE VISITORS to the SF Bay Area include Dick Kline, Frederick, Md., Bob Wilson, Yakima, Wash., Johnny Seng, Aurora, Ill., Andy Crow, Tacoma, Wash., Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jorgensen from Minneapolis, Minn., and Ken Hodgson of Vancouver, B.C.....Always glad to meet ATOE-ers when they are in our vicinity....RECEIVED AN APPLICATION from new member Elmer Perkins of South Berwick, Maine, with the information that he has a (quote) Small Tracker In Home, Currently Being 'Electrocuted' (unquote).... Elaine Ulman of Grimes, Iowa: The Reginald Foort LP's were released by Cook Laboratories, 101 Second Street, Stamford, Conn.....JIMMY BOYCE, talented organist at the Alexandria, Va., Arena Roller Rink,

has purchased the 4/34 WurliTzer formerly owned by Dr. Warren Phillips of Harrisburg, Pa.....Jimmy is in the process of installing this giant . . . in the roller rink . . replacing the 2/7 WurliTzer that he has been using there nightly for a number of yearsThis WurliTzer was originally installed in the Centre Theatre, N.Y.....Complete story with pics and stoplist will be in a future issue of THEATRE ORGAN....In our last issue we placed the Fisher Theatre in Chicago....Mr. R. David Brewer of Dearborn, Mich.....wants us to return it to Detroit....Thanks, Dave!....REGIONAL MEETINGS OF AGO have included visits to THEATRE ORGANS as part of their programs in at least three instances... SYRACUSE CHAPTER held a Milk-

man's Matinee at the RKO Keith (3m WurliTzer)....OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER spent some time at the Toledo Paramount's 4/20 WurliTzerSOUTHERN REGIONAL AGO had a jam session at the Malco Theatre, Memphis 3/13 WurliTzer....Nice way to top off a convention! !....We are trying to locate information on all the Robert Morton installations . . . Can anybody help? ? ?....Thanks to Stu Green for nice comments on our efforts....We enjoy yours too! !.... Our NEW mail address is P. O. Box 248, Alameda, California....Congrats to ATOE member Dr. John Klein of Muscatine, Iowa....His WurliTzer Opus 1780....received a nice spread in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST....

Seems that someone recently made the remark . . . 'Theatre Organ concerts . . . in the San Francisco area have not been sellouts' . . . This certainly does not apply . . . to two George Wright concerts at the big Fox . . . Both were sellouts . . . you have our word for it . . . we were there . . .

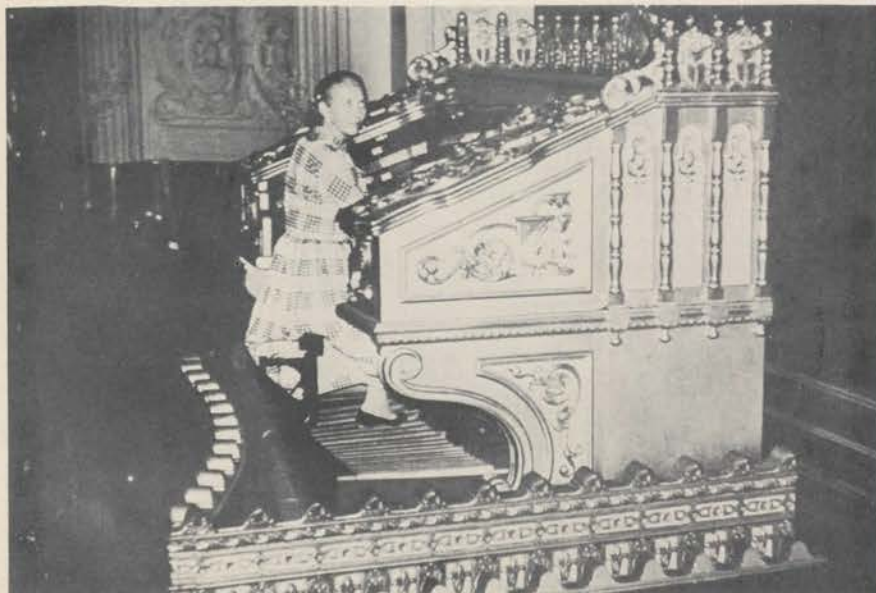
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NIAGARA FRONTIER

The desire of a famous organist and his wife to see Niagara Falls proved a boon to the Niagara Frontier Chapter during the month of August. The artist, Leonard MacClain -- the well remembered "Melody Mac" of radio, Epic recording artist, organ teacher, and one grand guy -- played his first concert Wednesday evening, August 23, at the 4/18 Marr & Colton in the Roosevelt Theatre in Buffalo. The second concert was held Sunday morning, August

27, at the 4/21 WurliTzer in the RKO Palace in Rochester, N.Y. One of the highlights of the Roosevelt concert was the use of song slides which brought the house down, as they harkened back to the golden days. A few mix-ups were prevalent, just like in the old days, too!

Vivacious Dottie MacClain added her talents to both programs acting as intermission performer, playing some delightful ballads, interspersed with talk about her famous husband.



Dottie MacClain at the Wonder Morton, Loew's Kings Theatre, New York.

Anyone witnessing these concerts will agree that the Niagara Frontier Chapter couldn't possibly miss. First, it had an artist of established stature who made use of every conceivable part of the organ, including all traps and toy counter. Next, two organs in tip-top condition were used. Credit must be given to Harry Radloff and Danny Schultz for keeping the Roosevelt and Palace organs, respectively, in perfect shape. Also, appreciation is given to Messrs. George and Morris Rosing of the Roosevelt Theatre, and to Jay Golden of the Palace Theatre for accommodating the members during these concerts.

An informal schedule of events was the order of the day for the chapter on July 8. First order of business was a picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thomas, treasurer and secretary respectively in Lancaster, N.Y. Following the picnic, formal ceremonies were held for the groundbreaking of a new addition to the Thomas' home. Having a Marr & Colton "Beast in the Basement", the Thomases are to build a 20' x 40' structure to house the instrument.

The assembled members then made their way to the 1500-seat Bellevue Theater in Niagara Falls for an informal hearing of that movie house's WurliTzer. This instrument, a 2-manual, 8-ranker was installed in August 1921. It is opus 442, Style 185, and situated in front of stage center. For the past several years, the organ has been kept in good condition by Chapter Member Dave Vender Hoek. The theatre at present is undergoing complete refurbishing with new seats, new paint and decor scheme, and will open under new

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theatre organ

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

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management as "The Rapids Theater." - Lloyd Klos, Publicity Chairman.

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER RE-ACTIVATED

The long inactive Los Angeles Chapter of ATOE was sparked back to life on Monday, August 28, at the home of past president Dick Simonton in North Hollywood, with an outstanding program featuring Gaylord Carter playing the musical background to the original silent version of Lon Chaney's 'Phantom Of The Opera'. The 4 Manual, 36 rank Wurlitzer located in the Simonton home provided Carter with everything an organist could ask for to provide a superb musical accompaniment. Following the showing of the picture, approximately 90 persons adjourned for refreshments, then reconvened

once again for the ATOE meeting, which was called to order by Acting Chairman Don Wallace who read the welcoming telegram from National President Tiny James. After a discussion period the motion was made to form an active chapter under the charter which had been held inactive for the past several years. A nominating and steering committee was formed, which will meet within a few days for a slate of officers which will then set a schedule for regular meetings which will be at the rate of one per month, at least for the winter season. The major project of this chapter will be the restoration of the mighty Fox Wiltern organ in Los Angeles.

The meeting was adjourned about 12:00 midnight at which point other organists came forward to try their hand at the mighty Wurlitzer and the last guest departed about 1:30.



Presented in private screening at
THE BIJOU, Toluca Lake, Calif.

DICK SIMONTON, Director

Monday, August 28, 1961

for the Los Angeles chapter of the
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
THEATRE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

Incidental music arranged and played at the
4 manual, 36 rank Wurlitzer theatre organ by
GAYLORD CARTER

A FLICKER FINGERS PRESENTATION

Program design, JIM DAY

OHIO VALLEY

Sunday, June 25th, was the date of the fourth meeting of the Ohio Valley Chapter of ATOE. This meeting was held at the home of member Cal Baker. The business portion was conducted by Herb Wottle, chairman.

Bill Wayne and John Scott will serve as nominating committee for new officers for the coming year.

John Strader gave a run-down on the progress of the installation of the recently acquired Cincinnati Paramount 15 rank Wurlitzer which he is installing in his home. (Editor's note - We have some beautiful pictures on hand and the promise of a complete story of this installation for a future issue of THEATRE ORGAN.)

Following the meeting, everyone had a very enjoyable day picnicking in Cal's lovely yard and playing his 2/6 Wurlitzer.

Mr. and Mrs. John Strader, Bill Wayne, John Scott, Glenn Merriam, George Eaglin, Mr. and Mrs. El Marlowe, Don Campbell, Cal Baker, Webb Bond and Mr. and Mrs. Herb Wottle were the lucky ATOE members present. - Joan A. Wottle, Secretary

LAND O'LAKES

The Land O' Lakes chapter met July 15, in the home of S. H. "Sal" Cargill, on the shores of beautiful lake Minnetonka, just West of Minneapolis. A large crowd was in attendance, since this was a family affair. Many children got an idea of what their folks mean when they say, "There's nothing like a theatre organ, Kiddies". The organ in this case was Sal's 3/26 Wurlitzer, uprooted from the Garrick (Duluth) and State (Minneapolis) theatres. The pipes are housed in two basement chambers and speak into a space at the end of the living room through a planter-grille arrangement. Hi-fi speakers relay the sound to other parts of the house, for a fine surrounding effect. The generous State console is recessed into the living room floor, losing the feeling of bulkiness due to reduced height.

Following the picnic supper, a business meeting was held. This marked the second anniversary of the forming of the chapter. An election of officers was held. The new president is Al Schmitz, secretary is George Rice, and program chairman, Harold Peterson.

Where else but at an ATOE chapter meeting could one enjoy a barbecued picnic supper by a shimmering lake with live pipe organ music in the background? - Don Taft.

TRY A CLASSIFIED!

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