

Decor Establishes Silent Movie Mood for MERRIKEN Home Installation

Throughout the country it is possible to see many, many excellent home organ installations. Most of these feature a well laid out organ chamber plan with the console dominating a living room.

George Merriken of Silver Springs, Maryland (ATOE Potomac Chapter), has gone a step farther. His theatre organ is installed in a barn adjacent to his home, the barn being decorated with furnishings from an old theatre in Baltimore, Maryland.

The listening room is draped in red velvet, with thick carpets on the floor (from the theatre lobby), and thin scrim type drapes over the swell shades. The theatrical effect is completed with the use of colored lights and dimmers.

George even obtained and equipped the room with period furniture and a beautiful candelabra. The candelabra is lighted by eight dimmer controlled spotlights, as the organ is played, the colors are changed from one shade to another for dramatic effect. The console itself is brightly lit by other spotlights.

The use of the drapes, lights, and furniture makes it possible for Mr. Merriken to transport his guests back to the 1920's even before hearing the organ.

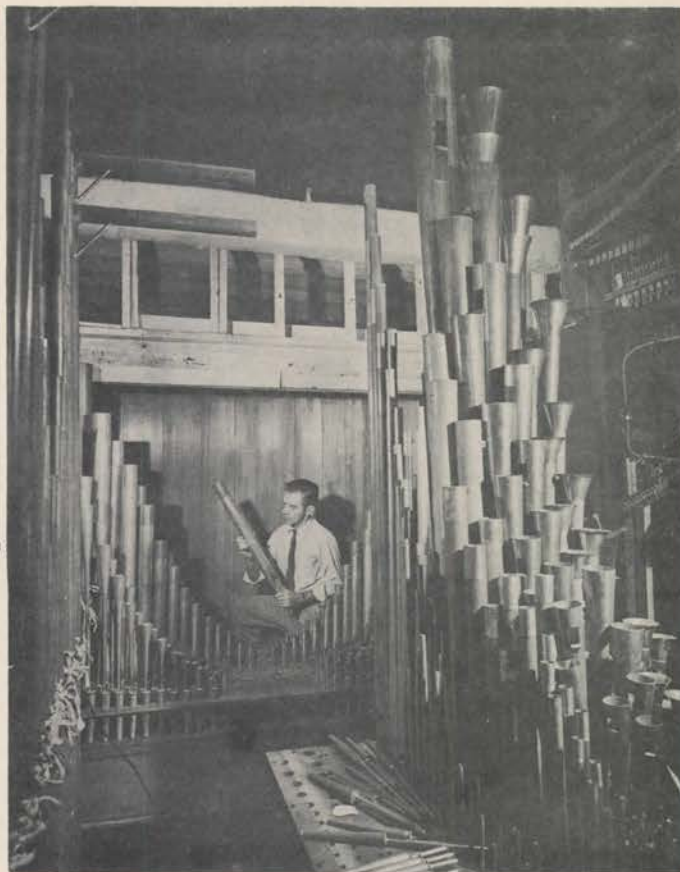
The organ itself is made up of several organs, mainly the Tivoli, Washington, D.C., Wurlitzer and the Steubenville, Ohio, Paramount Wurlitzer (opus 2159). George is using the Publix Style console from the Paramount to activate his installation.

The total organ boasts 22 ranks, at this time, (Fall 1961). There are eleven ranks playing, the other eleven are in place but not wired. Since George is working constantly on the installation the stoplist is somewhat fluid therefore only the ranks in the organ are listed, a full analysis not being practical at this time.

The list of ranks are:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Viole D' Orchestra | Diapason |
| Violin Celeste | Vox Humana |
| Solo String | Kinura |
| 16 Viola (Gottfried) | Kinura (Gottfried) |
| Concert Flute | Oboe Horn |
| Harmonic Flute | Orchestral Oboe |
| Dopple Flute | French Trumpet (Gottfried) |
| Tibia Clausa | French Horn (Gottfried) |
| 16 Tibia Clausa | |
| Tuba | |
| 16 Ophicleide | |
| Musette | |
| Clarinet | |
| English Post Horn | |

Chamber shot of the George Merriken installation at Silver Springs, Maryland.



Besides the usual Wurlitzer tuned percussions including a vibraharp, the organ contains a marimba, a second larger set of larger scale traps, grand piano 61 note metal harp converted to a vibraphone, a large persian gong, and a set of tubular chimes measuring 8' long, with a 4" diameter.

Another unusual and desirable feature of George Merriken's home installation is the placing of french doors which open from the barn "auditorium" onto an acre of rolling lawn. In this way, by opening the doors during the summer, George can accommodate several hundred people.

A visit to the Merriken home and in-

spection of the "Wurlitzer Music Hall", as the installation is labeled, was a highlight of the 1961 ATOE National Convention.

George T. Merriken, Age 44, married, father of 4 children, is Production Manager for Byron Motion Picture Co., Washington, D. C., producers of documentary films.

Mr. Merriken has been a theatre organ enthusiast since his boyhood. As a boy, his favorite theatre was the Tivoli in Washington because of the organ, the same "Mighty Wurlitzer" he now owns.

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NEXT PAGE



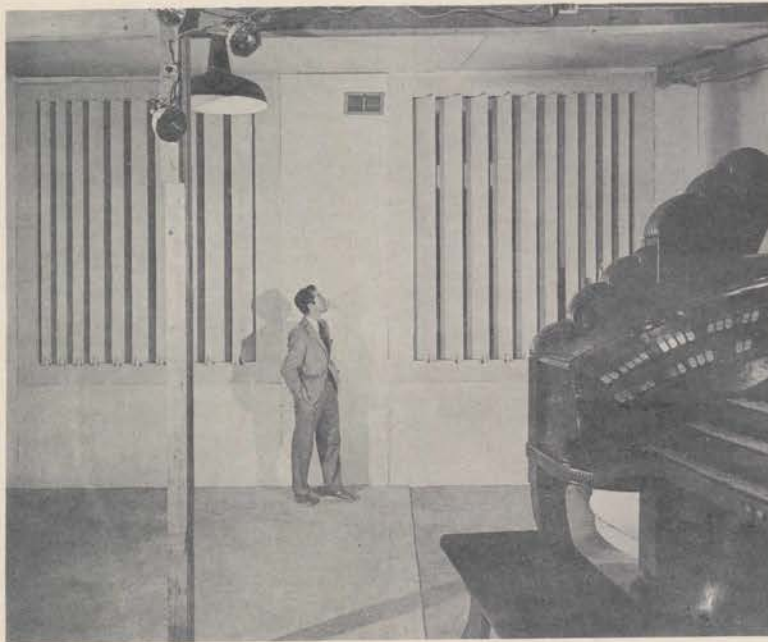
At right: Tivoli (Washington, D. C.) console, located in Merriken's Wurlitzer "Music Hall".

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Merriken Wurlitzer Music Hall



The Wurlitzer Music Hall of George Merriken



Merriken's Music Hall before installation of drapes, carpets and lights.

1962 CONVENTION SITE

(concluded from page 3)
sons, it was decided that A.T.O.E. can now follow a pattern of meeting locations across the country that will allow more members to attend. The west coast location this year, therefore, naturally follows after the eastern seaboard last year, with the possibility of a Mid-west location in 1963. This would be followed in 1964 with a meeting on the east coast. Such an arrangement, obviously will depend on invitations from Chapters who want to host the convention. It is hoped that the members will find this plan a reasonable approach to an equitable solution of this problem.

It was moved, seconded and un-animously voted to accept the offer of the Los Angeles Chapter to host the next annual ATOE meeting in Los Angeles, on July 7, 8 and 9, 1962. A complete program of the meeting will be announced in the next issue of "Theatre Organ."

Our thanks to Eddie Clifford, Sal Cargill and Reiny Delzer, Don Wallace and Charles Brown for their generous offers of convention sites.

Following a discussion regarding the use of electronic organ material in "THEATRE ORGAN" which was voted down, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

The directors and members present then returned to the Fox Theatre lobby to join their wives for the George Wright concert.

FLOYD WRIGHT

FLOYD WRIGHT, noted San Francisco Bay Area organist, passed away December 11, 1961.

Floyd played organ for silent pictures in many local theatres and with the advent of the big stage shows was the feature organist at such theatres as the Granada (Paramount), Golden Gate, Warfield in San Francisco and the Grand Lake, California, and United Artists in the East Bay Area.

He was also the staff organist for NBC and later CBS in the heyday of radio. He was also very popular as a night club and dance hall organist in the area.

His many friends and "THEATRE ORGAN" send their condolences to his wife Rosina. We will really miss Floyd.

"VOX"

"VOX", newsletter of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, covers organ activities 'down under'.

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