

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NIAGARA FRONTIER

The first fall meeting of the Niagara Frontier Chapter was held October 20 at the home of member Harold Logan of Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Following the business meeting, members and their friends were entertained by Don Scott on Harold Logan's 3/19 Wurlitzer, originally installed in Shea's Hippodrome Theatre in Buffalo in September 1922. Another artist at the console was Arthur Melgier, who presided over the console in the thirties.

Don Scott first entertained the chapter in April, when he appeared with his mentor, Tom Grierson, at the RKO Palace organ in Rochester. Don is one of an increasing number of young organists, who, though they might not have had the experience of seeing "the console ride up, bathed in a golden spotlight" in the old days, are indeed coming to the fore, playing theater organs for a new generation in concert at ATOE meetings. The members were so impressed by Don's April performance that they persuaded him to do an encore show for them. He plays an electronic at the Town Pump near Canandaigua, N.Y., but will play the theater organ at the drop of a hat—and play it well he does. He specializes in light classics,

(Editor's Note - We have just received the story, complete with pictures, of the Harold Logan home installation. It will appear in a future issue. Watch for it).

show tunes, and the raucous melodies from the Roaring Twenties which are so well suited to the theatre organ. He played an hour, and judging from his reception, will be called upon often in the future.

Following Don were Harvey Elsaesar and Harold Logan, who gave creditable performances. A guest of member Lou Rosa, Marvin Curinky, an employee of the Wurlitzer Company played requests in typical old time theater organ style.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled on November 19 in the Buffalo Museum of Science, at which time, the election of 1962 officers has been rescheduled.

Of interest to ATOE members is that Danny Schultz, who supervised the restoration of the RKO Palace Wurlitzer, is now in Germany where he and his family will reside for over a year. Schultz, a project engineer for General Dynamics Corp., is working from 7 to 7, five days a week. "No organs to work on as yet", he has written to chapter members in Rochester.

Lloyd Klos

OHIO VALLEY

Monday, October 30, was the date for the first meeting of the 1961-62 season for the Ohio Valley Chapter of A.T.O.E. The meeting was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Strader and was in the nature of a "special event" in that it was held around the

newly installed 3/15 Wurlitzer in the Strader home, originally installed in 1931 in the Paramount Theater located on Peebles Corner in Cincinnati, Ohio.

This was the largest turnout of the Ohio Valley Chapter thus far with a total of fifty-six people crossing the Strader threshold. Eighteen of this number came as guests and nine of these became members on the spot.

A brief business meeting was held at which time Mr. and Mrs. Strader offered their residence as the meeting place for the 1961-62 season for The Ohio Valley Chapter A.T.O.E. Prior to the business meeting a buffet dinner was served. A good time was had by all, and the organ blower was finally turned off at 2:00 A.M.!

Photographs taken at the above meeting, as well as a picture-story of the former Paramount Wurlitzer installation in the Strader residence, will be forthcoming for THEATRE ORGAN magazine.

Attending were: Joan and Herb Wottle, Mr. and Mrs. Stan A. Todd, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Strader, Bill Wayne, Al Meyer, John Scott, Glenn Merriam, Don Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, J. Andrew Sack, Mr. and Mrs. Steman, George Eaglin, Mike McLaughlin, Pat Gillick, Mr. and Mrs. Klensch, and Dr. and Mrs. Wippermann. New members attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Steinkamp, Justin Greiwe, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Shirley, Bob Read, Eddy Osborn and Stanley J. Landrum.

John J. Strader, Vice Chairman

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

On December 1, some 150 members gathered for a midnight meeting-concert as guests of the Fox Theater in San Francisco, and another chance to hear the magnificent Fox Wurlitzer in the hands of one of the few real artists of the orchestral organ — Gordon Kibbee.

President Fran Aebi called the meeting to order, and these officers for the coming year were elected: Fred Clap, chairman; Ron Bailey, vice chairman; and George Morris, secretary-treasurer.

Judd Walton was master of ceremonies for the concert, and before introducing Kibbee, he led the audience in an appreciative round of applause for those who had done so much for the Chapter — notably Fran Aebi and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bronson.

Gordon then took command of the organ for one of the most memorable performances this reporter has ever heard. Kibbee is a musician's musician! The best way to describe his playing is simply to say — tasteful. His technique is flawless, but above all he NEVER resorts to tricks or "gimmicks", but plays pure music.

The program included "Everything's Coming Up Roses", "Diane", "Louise" a medley of "Easy to Love" and "Under Paris Skies", a change of mood to a clever arrangement of "Never On



Don Scott at console of Harold Logan Wurlitzer

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Sunday", and conclusion of the first half of the show with two medleys from the Goldwyn Follies and "Flying Down to Rio".

The Fox organ, incidentally, must share the spotlight with Kibbee, for it never sounded better. It had been put in top mechanical and tonal condition by Judd Walton, Bob Jacobus, Bud Perry, and friends.

The second half of the program opened with selections from "Cancan", impressing us with Kibbee's restraint in using the organ. Never did he play a harsh combination or use tricks. A set of Latin tunes, a medley, and "Begin the Beguine" concluded the show. But the audience wouldn't let Gordon Kibbee go, so he obliged with "Sunny Side of the Street" (one of the best numbers of the evening, with some easy-going "ad-lib" trumpet solo work that would make Bobby Hackett jealous); and "Careless".

Club members were then invited to try their hand at the 4/36 Crawford Special. Everett Nourse, Fox staff organist, turned in a very fine performance, followed by Fred Clapp, Allen White, and Dr. Ralph Bell.

The meeting concluded at 3:30 a.m.

Jack Bethards

LOS ANGELES

On October 3, the second meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter was held at Lorin Whitney's Studio in Burbank. The following were elected the officers for the remainder of 1961 and the calendar year of 1962:

Chairman: Don Wallace; Vice Chairman: Dr. Philip Olson; Secretary: Chuck Baker; Treasurer: Dan Haworth; and Program Chairman: Gaylord Carter.

At this meeting the Wiltern Organ Rehabilitation was discussed and a committee, headed by Dick Simonton, formed so that the club project of rehabilitating the Kimball organ at the Wiltern Theatre would get under way. (By this time the project is well under

way, with many of the club members, working like beavers, re-leathering. We hope to have this organ playing within 2 or 3 months.)

At the meeting, which had an attendance of approximately 75, Gordon Kibbee gave a very fine concert on Lorin Whitney's Robert Morton.

POTOMAC VALLEY

The Potomac Valley Chapter is honored to have as two of its newest members, Peter Moller Daniels, member of the M.P. Moller family, one of the world's foremost pipe organ companies, and Ben M. Hall, no stranger to the theatre organ world. Mr. Hall's new book, "The Best Remaining Seats", has just hit the bookstands and tells the story of the Golden Age of the Movie Palace with some of the most spectacular photography you will ever see. The book is certain to become the authoritative work on this subject.

Eddie Weaver was presented at the Richmond Mosque Wurlitzer on Sunday the 12th, in a program which attracted more than 2,000 people. Those of you present for the National Convention will be reminded of Weaver's mastery of this organ. The entire orchestra and first balcony were filled. Eddie even had a community sing which had 'em shaking the walls. Our next chapter meeting is scheduled for November 19th at Erwin Young's home near Mount Vernon. Mr. Young is the proud owner of an unbelievably theatrical sounding Wurlitzer 2/7 home installation in his cathedral ceiling studio. Ray Jenkins will be featured at the console so a real program is guaranteed. Jim Boyce is progressing slowly but surely with his installation of the 4/34 Wurlitzer, formerly from the old Center theatre, N.Y.C. The console has been set into place on its loft, the relays are in place and are being wired, and all chests are now in their approximate places. Jim says he is going to experiment with placement before he builds his cham-

bers (3) in order to get the best results from this fabulous instrument.

The District Chapter of the A.G.O. got together for its annual picnic last September at the home of Mr. George Merriken of Silver Springs, Md. who has a combination of two Wurlitzers played from one console; the 3 manual golden beauty from the Paramount theatre, Steubenville, Ohio. Ray Brubacher was at the console to warm things up for the A.G.O. members, and then many of our church friends took their turns at the console and it is certainly surprising how well many of them did. Maybe it's because of their secret love for the grand old Wurlitzer that comes out when they actually come face to face with one, or maybe it's just because the urge and curiosity to try something far more elaborate than their usual fare overtook them. Our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Merriken who provided everyone with such an enjoyable time.

Woody Wise, manager of the Virginia Theatre, has persuaded a local organ firm to install a large Gulbransen "Rialto" in his theatre as a promotion to get organ music back in the theatre as part of the daily fare. Anyone know a nice ten ranker for him? The theatre is well provided for with two large rooms on each side of the stage.

Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Hill for allowing the club to use their fine Marr & Colton on September 10th for our last meeting. Thanks to Darrell Stuckey and Al Gasdor for the work they did on the organ prior to the meeting and to Ray Brubacher and Clyde Burke who entertained us with a nicely arranged program.

Win McDonald is doing a swell job with her "Organaires" over WAYE on Sundays at 12:00 noon in Baltimore. If you've heard the program I know she and the station would be happy to receive a card.

We're hoping to have our next meeting at the State Theatre in Baltimore about a week before Christmas. Dick Haffer, Harold White and several other members have nearly finished up their work with the State's 2/7 Wurlitzer. The pipes are now back in the reconditioned chamber and it is ready for a tuning. More about this meeting later.

Richard F. Kline, Jr., Chairman,
and Ray Brubacher



Newly elected officers of Los Angeles Chapter. From left to right: Chuck Baker, Don Wallace, Phil Olsen, Mrs. Gordon Kibbee, Dan Haworth and Gordon Kibbee.



Gordon Kibbee at console of Robert Morton in the studios of Lorin Whitney.

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