

.. NEWS.. AND VIEWS

Our thanks to Jim Connor and Walt Hanlon, top men of the Theatre Organ Club of El Paso, for the Annual Meeting pictures so graciously furnished . . . This El Paso group are true organ fans and we are glad to know that they are also ATOE members. They maintain a fine 3 manual WurliTzer in the Plaza Theatre in El Paso and invite all travelers passing thru Texas to stop and see them. . . . Our thanks also to Ray Brubacher and Fred Myers for their pictorial contributions to THEATRE ORGAN. . . . We received a nice letter from Clealan Blakely of Picton, Ontario, telling us how much he enjoyed the LA Annual Meeting and of the various organs that he was able to see on his way back home. . . . Patrick Shotton of Aylesbury, England, wants to know if any information is available on the WurliTzer in the Cathedral of Mexico City. . . . Does anyone have any such information? If so, we would like to carry the story in THEATRE ORGAN. . . . Charlie Edwards of the Detroit Theatre Organ Club advises us that the Detroit Fox Theatre with its 4/36 WurliTzer has been taken over by another interest and will remain open. . . Bill Hollman has been playing the organ there for several months during intermissions, however, the new management has not continued the organ programs to date. . . . Tom B'Hend of Pasadena reports that the

Stanley Warner officials are so pleased with the results of Los Angeles Chapter's rebuilding of the 4/37 Kimball in the Wiltern Theatre, that they are agreeable to entering into a like agreement with someone in the Milwaukee area. It seems they have an organ in one of their Milwaukee theatres that they will offer to ATOE members for rehabilitation. . . . Contact the Stanley Warner Management Company, 212 Wisconsin Avenue, in Milwaukee, for details

Laura Thomas, spark-plug of the Niagara Frontier Chapter, recently sent a lapel pin especially engraved for ATOE chapters. This pin is made from a stop tablet and the engraving is done by a member of Niagara Frontier Chapter. . . . Contact Laura Thomas if your Chapter is interested. . . . We had been asked if there was ever a service manual printed for WurliTzer pipe organs, so we wrote to Louis Rosa at the North Tonowanda WurliTzer plant and received the information that such a manual never was printed, each organ being a custom-built unit. . . .

ATOE gets nationwide coverage in two more big magazines - *The Catholic Digest* for June 1962 and *Life* magazine in its August 24 issue (thanks to Ben Hall). . . . Even the *New Yorker* magazine used a drawing of an organ console in The Movie House section of its June 16

issue - We must be getting through to them ATOE member Leonard C. Bleidt, M. D., writes to ask about Theatre Organ Masters who are now teaching in Philadelphia or New York In the Philadelphia area we can heartily recommend our new Honorary Member, Leonard MacClain In the New York area, we recently heard that Fred Fiebel is teaching, and Laura Thomas mentions Frank Columbus of Akron, New York, who is doing a lot of organ teaching

RAY BERRY

Billy Nalle has written to report the death of the internationally known and respected editor of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST, Ray Berry.

In the Twenties, he had been a theatre organist in the Chicago area. At every opportunity in his personal contacts, his writing, lecturing and publishing, Ray Berry had eagerly and proudly promoted all that pertains to the welfare and appreciation of the theatre organ and its players. In these things, he did great good and he did it far and wide in the music profession, not the least being in the straight organ field. All of us who care about the future of the theatre instrument and who enjoy the present fruits of its renaissance owe him a huge debt and his death deprives us of a wonderful friendship.

ATOE and all of its members send their condolences to his wife.

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