

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

We are proud to announce three new ATOE Chapters, and to extend to them best wishes for a successful future. This is another step toward creating local interest in "The Theatre Organ".

- CHAPTER No. 15 - The Southeastern Chapter, Atlanta, Georgia
 CHAPTER No. 16 - The St. Louis Area Chapter, St. Louis, Missouri
 CHAPTER No. 17 - The Western Reserve Chapter, Euclid, Ohio.

CHICAGO CHAPTER

Chairman - William F. Barry, 620 Pleasant Ave., Glen Ellyn, Illinois
 Secretary - Nancy Tahlman, 1280 South Lloyd Avenue, Lombard, Illinois.

The Chicago Area Chapter held an election of officers January 16, and the following now head up the group: Bill Barry, chairman; Tony Tahlman, vice chairman; Nancy Tahlman, secretary; Bob Montgomery, treasurer, and Wally Rathman, sergeant-at-arms.

Prior to our first official meeting as a Chapter, we held a social in Bob Montgomery's basement at his 2/6 Wurlitzer, with Tony Tahlman and Frank Pellico as guest artists. On this occasion and at all C. A. T. O. E. socials, everyone present is welcome to play the organ.

Bill Barry's basement was the scene of our next social. His unusual 2/4 Reproduco with added traps and built-in roll player kept us all fascinated. Since there was a piano next to the organ, duets prevailed most of the evening. When Tony Tahlman arrived, he and Ron Bogda played a few duets and Tony gave a complete demonstration of this unique organ.

On December 22 we held a "rededication" of the Senate Theater's 3/17 (with Wurlitzer Tibias) Kimball. Despite blizzard conditions in Chicago, most of the members attended, plus

quite a few guests. "Al" Melgard played a program and afterwards everyone else was able to play.

Our first concert was at the Elm Skating Club, where regular organist Tony Tahlman, theatre organist George Strandt and classical progressive organist Les Strand presented a well received program (see last issue).

In February, we tried something different and had a "get acquainted with Al Melgard" social on a Gulbransen Rialto which was placed in a V. F. W. hall for the occasion by member Ray Tinucci.

March found us in Jack Gustafson's basement enjoying his 2/8 Special "hybrid". Jack played us a program in his usual terrific style, and Pearl White and John Seng also entertained us. Jack's organ is in beautiful condition and was a sheer delight to play and listen to.

After a lot of hard work and a bit of finger-crossing, April 14th found us at the Chicago Stadium for our first paid concert. "Al" Melgard played first, with selections that showed off those "wailing" Tibias that are heard on all his records and the Big Barton's own special type of Thunderstorm, complete with lightning. Guest artists Lou Frechette, Pearl White, George Strandt and Ron Bogda all did outstanding jobs. After the Concert most of the audience took advantage of Al's invitation to come up and see the gigantic Six Manual

Console. We learned a lot by having this concert, and with almost 1000 people attending, consider it a success.

Besides the organs mentioned above, various members are involved in restoring the Montclare Barton 3/10 which is in almost "mint" condition, and the Atlantic Kilgen 3/11. The Kimball 3/8 from the New Theater in Barrington, Ill., has been purchased by some of our members who plan to install it in a place where it will be available to members and usable for public concerts. One of our newest members has purchased the Gateway Theater Wurlitzer 3/11 and is now engrossed in the project of removing it.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite any fellow enthusiasts who might have occasion to come to the Chicago Area, to come and enjoy any of the organs mentioned above. Just contact the Chairman or secretary of our Chapter at any time.

Nancy Tahlman,
 Secretary

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Chairman - Allen R. Miller, 383 Forbes St., East Hartford 8, Conn.

Secretary - Miss Judy Derby, 109 Layton Street, West Hartford, Conn.

DALLAS CHAPTER

Chairman - Walter Kuehne, 4106 South Better, Dallas, Texas

Secretary - Grace Johnson, 5436 Glenwick Lane, Dallas, Texas

DELAWARE CHAPTER

Chairman - 'Dottie' MacClain "Melody Hill" Rees Road, Devault, Pennsylvania.

Secretary - Mrs. Roger Bloom, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania.

Sunday, March 25 was the date of a most successful and interesting theatre party held by the Delaware Valley Chapter of ATOE, according to Dorothy Bloom, Secretary. The scene was the RKO Lincoln Theatre, Trenton, N.J., with its 3m/15r Moller DeLuxe installed in 1927.

Bolton Holmes, house organist for the Lincoln Theatre since 1936 was the featured artist presenting a very entertaining and varied program for about 100 members and invited guests. Mr. Holmes is heard playing this organ every Sunday over Station WBUD (1260) Trenton, N.J. at noon in a pre-taped program. Our thanks to John Armstrong for making all the arrangements for this meeting.

Announcement was made of the Delaware Valley official project, the rehabilitation of the Moller Theatre Organ in the Sedgewick Theatre, Germantown, Penn. This location will become the 'home' of the Chapter.

The next meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre, and will feature house organist Bob Mack play-



"Al" Melgard at the Stadium Barton

ing a final program on Opus No. 1984, a special 4m Wurlitzer installed in November 1928. Ben Hall, author of "The Best Remaining Seats" will be on hand to give a brief talk on the history of the Brooklyn Paramount. The theatre is scheduled to be demolished and the property used for expansion of the main campus of Long Island University. (Editor's Note - They will probably tear down an excellent facility and rebuild practically the same thing).

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

Chairman - Al Winslow, 1 Fairbanks Rd., Foxboro, Mass.

Secretary - David Hartshorn, 8 Little Lane, Framingham, Mass.

Leonard (Melody Mac) MacClain presented one of his excellent programs on the Mighty Wurlitzer in Stoneham Town Hall, Stoneham, Mass. on Saturday, May 12. All Theatre Organ lovers were invited to come hear the best, and thrill once again to the whispering of the lush tibias and throaty grandeur of the tubas of the 'King of Instruments' at its greatest.

LAND-O-LAKES CHAPTER

Chairman - Al Schmitz, 3404 - 27th Ave., N. Minn. 22, Minn.

Secretary - George Rice, 5005 Moore Ave. Minn. 24., Minn.

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

Chairman - Don Wallace, 2736 Hollywood Drive, Hollywood 28, Calif.

Secretary - Chuck Baker, 829 Grand View, Fullerton, Calif.

MID-WEST CHAPTER

Chairman - Kay McAbee, High Road R-3, Lockport, Ill.

Secretary - John Seng, c/o Jack Gibbs, 7333 N. Bell Ave., Chicago 45, Ill.

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

Chairman - Irving J. Toner, 703 Main Street, East Aurora, New York

Secretary - Laura Thomas, 3534 Bowen Road, Lancaster, New York.

A resume of the Niagara Frontier activities during the Spring of 1962 indicates many hours of good theatre organ listening and unbounded enthusiasm by the members according to Chapter Chairman Irving J. Toner.

The chapter has extended Honorary Memberships to Tom Grierson, long time RKO Theatre staff organist who held the post at the Mighty 4m/20r Wurlitzer in the RKO Palace Theatre in Rochester, and to Harold Jolles, regular organist at the Roosevelt Theatre, Buffalo, N.Y.

Sunday, March 18 was the date of the meeting held in the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, N.Y. The proceedings were open to the public and the theatre management was more than pleased to announce 249 admissions were paid to hear the Wurlitzer Opus 1524, a 3 manual special, which was used by the Wurlitzer sales staff as a demonstrator in the 'good old silent days'.

Carlton Finch and his father Harry have restored this instrument to near-perfection, and it was therefore proper to have Carlton play a program interspersed with community singing, led by Mrs. Rhoda Wolfe.

At the conclusion of the Riviera program ATOE chapter members adjourned to the home of John Spalding to enjoy his 3m/9r Marr and Colton. John Spalding, Program Chairman has listed at least fourteen organs available for meeting in the area.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Chairman - Fred Clapp, 5610 Castle Drive, Oakland 11, California.

Secretary - George Morris, 1447A Silver Avenue, San Francisco 24, Calif.

About 100 members journeyed to North Sacramento's Grant Union high school on Saturday, May 5, to enjoy an afternoon of pipe organ music played on the Mighty Wurlitzer that was a George Wright 'first' some years back. This wonderful instrument with its three

Tibias, Saxophone, Krumet, English Horn and 16' String has a specially built Kilgen 4 manual console and is installed on either side of the stage in an auditorium of about 1200 seats.

ATOE member Clyde Derby of Carmichael (near Sacramento) played the main portion of the program presenting a varied program of pops and old time favorites that showed off the various ranks and percussions to their best advantage.

Following the regular concert, names were drawn from a hat and each person was allowed ten minutes at the console. An egg timer with a loud bell was used to indicate 'time'. This is an excellent procedure as it gives everyone an equal opportunity to try his hand at playing during one of these meetings. Chapter members that had their name pulled from the hat included Fred Clapp, (who claims his wife put his name in the hat) Howard Weil, Larry Vannucci, Frank Bronson, Dave Schutt, Tiny James, Lora Edwards and Herbert Dunkley. This last named member, recently moved to California from Edina, Minneapolis, and proved himself to be no stranger to a pipe organ. He was doing an excellent job on 'Dance Of The Hours' when the bell caught him. It is too bad that he didn't ignore it and go on, as we are sure nobody would have protested. We shall look forward to hearing more from this gentleman.

Following the meeting most of those present adjourned to Sam's Hof Brau for an excellent repast. Many members in 'caravan formation' then journeyed to Clyde Derby's home to hear and play his fine two manual Wurlitzer home installation. All in all, a very fine day of organ music, talk and just good friendship.

OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - Pat Gillick, 2651 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati 6, Ohio

Secretary - Mrs. John Strader, 3630 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati 20, Ohio.

The regular meeting of this Chapter was held on Sunday, March 18th. After roll call, minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Member Robert Steman gave a brief explanation of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Ohio Valley Chapter. Mr. Steman put a motion to the floor, which was seconded by Pat Brady, that the Constitution be adopted, and the motion was carried.

Michael McLaughlin nominated Robert Steman and Stan Todd for the Executive Board of the Chapter. Motion seconded by Pat Brady and carried. Herbert Wottle, past year's Chapter Chairman, automatically became the third member of the newly formed Executive Board under the Chapter Constitution.

E. Jay Quinby of Summit, N.J. ATOE member and guest of the John Straders, spoke a few words and in turn introduced Dick Simonton, ATOE member from North Hollywood, Calif. Dick gave a brief sketch on the initial formation of ATOE. In response to the question



Organist Tom Grierson, 1962 Honorary Member, Niagara Frontier Chapter.



Ohio Valley Chapter membership listens as Dick Simonton describes plans for 1962 ATOE annual meeting. Directly behind Simonton is Chapter Chairman Pat Gillick. Center is Mrs. John Strader, secretary.



Jay Quinby and Dick Simonton look on as Stan Todd executes a maneuver on Wurlitzer in John Strader residence, Cincinnati.

by Chapter Secretary Mrs. John Strader, Simonton gave the group a description of the upcoming National ATOE Meeting scheduled for July in Los Angeles. He was also questioned on the Wiltern Kimball project and gave a most interesting description of the work and progress.

Concluding the business meeting at this time, Pat Gillick played a few Irish pieces in honor of St. Patrick's Day. The formal organ program was played by Stan Todd.

PUGET SOUND

Chairman - Bill Blunk, Viking Roller Rink, Astoria, Oregon.

Secretary - Leonard G. Vernon, 962 - 14 Street, Astoria, Oregon.

The second 1962 meeting of the Puget Sound Chapter of ATOE officially started at 2:00 p.m. at the Rodgers Organ Factory Hillsboro, Oregon on Saturday, April 28, at which time the doors of

the factory were opened to chapter members and friends. The members were allowed to browse thru the factory and play the theatre and classic model organs on display in the show room. At 3:00 p.m. guided tours were made thru the factory and division heads were present to answer any questions. At 4:00 p.m. William Anderson, general manager, gave a talk on the history of the Rodgers Organ and a demonstration of the theatre organ stop by stop, after which Mrs. Jane McKee of the McKee Piano & Organ Company, Tacoma, Washington, played an excellent program on the theatre organ.

Anderson then demonstrated the classic organ stop by stop and played an all-too short program. At 6:00 p.m. all moved on to Merrill's Cafe for a roast beef dinner.

The business meeting was called to order by President Bill Blunk at 7:45 p.m. Under old business, the president told of a meeting to be held at Dave

Markworth's home in Portland April 29 in regard to forming an Oregon Chapter of ATOE.

President Bill then called for new business and discussion on the next meeting that is to be held up North sometime in August. Alden Bice suggested a Fair trip and a tour of home organs in the Seattle area. Dick Warburton offered the Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham, Wash. and also the classic organ out on Orcas Island. The Fox Theatre in Centralia, Wash. was suggested. Reggie Stone's Theatre project in Victoria, B.C. was also suggested, and the idea well received. Mrs. McKee suggested theatres in Tacoma, Wash. She will look into the arrangements and report back to the president.

Meeting number 4 is set for sometime in November. President Bill reported that he had heard from Leonard McClain and that he will be in Astoria sometime this summer, as will Eddie Layton. A announcement will be sent to members if we learn the dates soon.

The Secretary then read a letter from Don Baker wishing the Chapter the best of luck at the meeting and expressing regret at not being able to attend.

President Bill called for a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Everyone then moved on to the Oriental Theatre in Portland for the last showing of "Pinnocchio" and "Mysterious Island", and at 1:00 a.m. the organ and theatre were turned over to the Chapter for the rest of the night. Andy Crow from Tacoma, Wash. played a very entertaining program after which Dennis Hedberg played a short program and told about the Oriental 3m/13r Wurlitzer. Others present there tried their hand, and 7½ hours later the organ was shut down and a tired group of enthusiasts left the theatre. Attendance figures showed 52 at the Rodgers Organ Company; 47 at the dinner and business meeting and 80 at the Oriental Theatre.

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

Chairman - Dr. C. E. Holbrook, Jr. - 741 Central Avenue, Hapeville, Georgia
Secretary - A. W. Southerland, 1039 Ralph Road, N.E., Atlanta 5, Georgia

This is the first of our NEW chapters, and we are particularly glad to now have representation in this area. There have been two preliminary meetings to elect officers and establish policy as well as get acquainted with fellow organ enthusiasts. Eastern Regional Vice-President Erwin Young is scheduled to be present at the May meeting to answer questions and see that this 'baby' chapter gets off to a good start. Arli Southerland advises that we shall hear more from the Southeast in the near future.

ST. LOUIS AREA CHAPTER

Chairman - Edgar 'Ned' Lustig, 10117 Carolynne Drive, St. Louis 28, Mo.
Secretary - Wendell Whitcraft, 445 Baker Avenue, St. Louis 19, Mo.

The first "Chartered" meeting of the new St. Louis Area Chapter ATOE was held Sunday evening, May 6, at the home

theater organ



Some of group at first "chartered" meeting of new St. Louis Area Chapter. Bill Greebe at the console.

of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Whitcraft. Sixteen local enthusiasts elected officers and discussed plans and format for the progress of the Chapter, its growth and success.

The Chapter officers are: Edgar "Ned" Lustig, Chairman; Fred Pillsbury, Vice-Chairman and Wendell Whitcraft, Secretary.

Among those in attendance were: Stan Kann, local organist who plays daily at the Fox 4/36 Wurlitzer; John



St. Louis Chapter officers. L. to R., Ned Lustig, chairman; Wendell Whitcraft, secretary; Fred Pillsbury, vice chairman.

Ferguson, Art Edinger, also local professionals. Jerre Cammack, who was playing for "silents" before most of us were around, was also at his best.

Practically all tried their hands (and feet) on Wendell's 3/13 Wurlitzer, formerly the WENR - Chicago organ and the original "Amos and Andy organ". The installation is noteworthy and will receive later reporting.

Refreshments wound up a well rounded meeting. It is our hope to at-



John Ferguson at Wendell Whitcraft's 3/13 Wurlitzer during first St. Louis Area Chapter meeting held May 6.

tract other local enthusiasts and if possible restore to "new" the only two remaining theatre organs in St. Louis, the Fox (playing but in need of work) and the 4/26 Ambassador which besides a chopped cable needs months of work.

(Editor's Note - This looks like a real 'live wire' chapter. We shall be looking for great things from the St. Louis Area. Congrats and Good Luck!)

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - Richard Kline Jr., Frederick Maryland.

Sec.-Treas. - Ruth L. Hill, 1301 Chalmers Road, Silver Springs, Maryland

The Potomac Valley Chapter of ATOE held its mid-winter meeting on January 27 at the Tivoli Theatre, Frederick, Maryland and at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lem Keller.

Chapter Chairman Dick Kline played the intermission program at the Tivoli

Theatre, then members with their guests drove to the Keller's to take a crack at the unusual 3m/12r Lem Keller pipe organ. (Editor's Note - This organ described in Volume IV, Number 1 of Theatre Organ.)

Sunday, March 18, a meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Hill in Silver Spring, Maryland. Member Jim Boyce presented an outstanding program to about 65 appreciative members and guests. The organ is a fine 2m/5r Marr and Colton formerly

in the Hiser Theatre, Bethesda, Maryland. The Hill's have a very fine home installation in their basement rumpus room.

Another 'new' organ has been added to the growing list of Potomac Valley residential installations. ATOE member Warren Thomas of Gaithersburg, Maryland has just purchased the 3m/8r Robert Morton from the Carolina Theatre in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and is now in the midst of removing the organ from the theatre. He hopes to have it installed and playing in his home by late fall.

WESTERN RESERVE CHAPTER

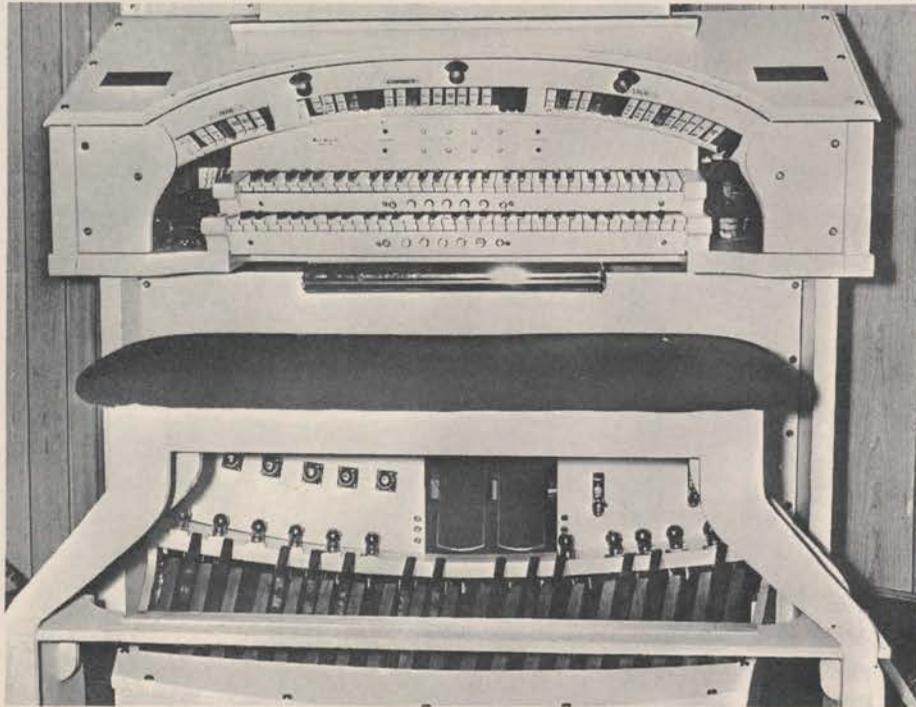
Chairman - Duane D. Arey, 215 East 206 Street, Cleveland 23, Ohio.

Secretary - Clayton D. George, 20101 Beachview Drive, Cleveland 17, Ohio

This is the third of our new 'baby' chapters and we are very glad to welcome its members to the ever-growing number of ATOE enthusiasts. The preliminary meeting was held April 29, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Borden, with 45 people in attendance. Following election of officers and a discussion of national ATOE by-laws, a program of six regular meetings per year was established. After a "thank you" to the host and hostess, the meeting adjourned for a buffet luncheon and a get-acquainted period, plus organ talk. (what else!!)

During this recess the augmented Style D Wurlitzer was cranked up and many of the guests tried their luck and produced many interesting musical renditions. The organ remained on through the best part of the evening. The pro-

(please turn to page 19)



Former Hiser Theatre 2m/5r Marr & Colton now in home of the Wendell Hills, Silver Springs, Maryland.

of Toledo, integrated labor and material as well as financial forces into rebuilding the Mighty Wurlitzer. In actual dollar value, this amounted to about \$2,000 in material and at least a similar amount in labor. On a contract basis the job would have cost the theater approximately \$5,000. It was only because of the careful storage of pipes and wind chests at Toledo Pipe Organ and much volunteer labor from both companies that such an undertaking could even be attempted. To further culture in Toledo, and to have tangible evidence of leadership of local Toledo concerns--the above two companies agreed to do the repair and rebuilding of the Paramount Theatre Organ FREE OF CHARGE to the theater.

(Ed note: Virg Howard volunteered to fix the organ, so we'll let him tell the details).

"For the most part repairs went smoothly, just being very time consuming. We refinished the pedals, and while they were removed, discovered that nearly all of the pedal contacts were badly bent, twisted together, etc. These required straightening, and as we progressed with this job we continually got more ciphers, and more shorted notes as we went up the scale, (a two day job), but miraculously, as we finished with the last pedal contact and again tried the pedals--everyone of them worked perfectly.

"With the installation of the Cinerama screen which circles around the theater, the console would rise directly under the screen. This necessitated moving the console on its elevator. We had just 18½ inches that we could move the console to the right, and it took three of us one full day to accomplish this, the main problem being to cut a new wind hole through the floor of the elevator which was five inches thick (The top inch being hard wood) and the space available only permitted use of 1/4 inch electric drill. It took a lot of 1/4 inch holes to cut out a 4 x 4 inch square.

"When we finally got to the necessary

console work, we discovered that all the Great Pistons were Generals on first touch. After lifting the manuals, we found all contacts were working perfectly and could see no immediate reason for the malfunction, however upon checking further we located some extra wiring in the console and determined that someone had gone to a lot (and I do mean a lot) of extra work, permanently wiring all the Great Pistons to ALL keyboards. We started on this mess by cutting all the extra wiring--nearly half a bushel basket full, upon completion of the cutting, the entire combination action worked correctly.

"A similar experience occurred in the relay room. There were a few shorts in the organ wiring, so that when one note was played you got another along with it. We discovered an extra cable wired into three or four places of the relay. As we would cut one of these extra wires a short would correct itself, but in turn this same note would go out on the piano. From this we decided the piano must have been rigged up after the main organ wiring was in. We complained about this to the head electrician of the theatre. He asked if we knew about the extra keyboard? We didn't know anything about it, so he took me to the basement and presented me with a standard 61 note keyboard with 4 combination pistons on it. This was a homemade device using the keyboard from an old Wurlitzer player piano-organ. It only took a moment to discover the cable attached, was the same cable we had discovered in the relay room. This cable had been crudely disconnected and coiled up which was the cause of the remaining shorts in the organ."

Wire tracing, tuning, rebuilding, and regulating was finally completed and at long last another Mighty Wurlitzer was brought back to life for enjoyment of Cinerama patrons in Toledo, Ohio. Theatre Organ Enthusiasts everywhere are grateful to Virg Howard, The Bleckner Music Company and the Toledo Pipe Organ Company, for the efforts put forth.

CHAPTER NEWS (cont.)

gram was completely unplanned but a great talent was discovered in the person of Dennis Awe of Mineola, New York. His styling and artistry were beyond our greatest hopes and the organ never sounded better than when under the control of this young man.

Mid-evening we were pleasantly surprised by the showing of three sound sing-a-long films featuring Dick Liebert, Don Baker and Lew White at the Paramount Studio Wurlitzer. These were real gems and everyone participated in the singing. An ex-theatre organist of Cleveland, Paul Heideman then took over the console and played for the Keystone Cops' pie-demolishing "Keystone Hotel" comedy, and finally the Our Gang troupe in the "Haunted House".

By this time it was nearing midnight and good-byes were said with the hope that this was only the send-off for a very active and enjoyable chapter.

(continued on page 23)

PROFILE VIRG HOWARD

Virg Howard was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1930, and moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 1940. At the completion of high school in 1947 he worked one year prior to entering college at the University of Cincinnati. It was during this year that he attended the Ohio State Fair and happened upon an exhibit of electronic organs. Arrangements were made, and Virg started taking organ lessons the next week.

No, he didn't buy one! All practice was done at one of the local churches for the nominal sum of \$.35 per hour for the use of the largest church organ in the city. Having had piano background, the organ work came fairly easy, and two months after starting lessons he played a wedding at this church. He continued organ lessons for a two year period when not in school, and while in Cincinnati, played the Paramount Theatre Organ prior to showtime in the evenings. He also did some outside sales work for the Wurlitzer store in Cincinnati.

After two years in Cincinnati, Virg transferred to Ohio State University and played Smith's Roller Rink in Columbus to provide additional funds while in college. His college major was Industrial Engineering and Industrial Photography which he did for three and one-half years with the U. S. Army as Chief of the Photo Branch of the Army Electronic Proving Grounds in Arizona.

While in the service, Virg organized a trio (Organ, Sax, and Drums) and played extensively through central and southern Arizona, with programs broadcast by the Army featuring his trio aired over a dozen or so local stations. He also appeared as a weekly soloist via tape recording on Concert in Khaki, a half hour radio show sponsored by 4th Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, which is aired over more than 100 radio stations throughout the south and west.

Upon return to civilian life, Virg moved with his family, wife-Elizabeth, and daughter-Lisa Anne, to Toledo, and accepted a position with the Bleckner Music Company where he is presently employed. He still maintains his Commission in the Army Reserve and holds the rank of First Lieutenant.



Reprint from
WURLITZER
"FIELD AND FACTORY"

BLECKNER'S REBUILDS MIGHTY WURLITZER FOR TOLEDO CINERAMA THEATER

The Mighty Wurlitzer builds recognition for Wurlitzer and Wurlitzer Dealers year after year. Virg Howard, Manager of the Organ Department of Bleckner Music Company in Toledo, is the official organist for the Paramount Theater Cinerama productions, and he is at the console of this Mighty Wurlitzer practically every evening. When the Cinerama films came to Toledo, the Bleckner Music Company provided organists and Wurlitzer Organs

for pre-show entertainment and for music during the intermission. A later discovery revealed that the Paramount had a Mighty Wurlitzer, installed in 1929, but water had damaged it in 1933, and it had remained idle for over a quarter century. Virg Howard conceived the idea of restoring the organ.

Cooperating with Toledo Pipe Organ Company, Bleckner's effected a complete restoration of this majestic instrument.



WURLITZER
OFFICIAL ORGAN
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Presenting
Virg Howard
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BLECKNER MUSIC CO.
187 Jefferson Ave. Phone 6-6123 Toledo 2, Ohio

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

The Eastern Massachusetts Chapter meeting on May 12 at Stoneham Town Hall with Leonard MacClain was followed on Sunday with a tour of the organs in the area including the Lynn Paramount's 3/22. Chuck Whitehead's 2/8 and Lennie Alpert's 3/16 - All WurliTzers. This annual Spring concert is becoming an eagerly anticipated and festive occasion for this chapter. It is followed by a reception for the artist plus the coffee and goodies and a feeling of well-being and satisfaction with the club's activities that seems to pervade the night air. This program provides an excellent modus-operandi for any chapter. The concert brought in about 75 requests for ATOE information.

On May 25, the Chapter were entertained at Bethany Congregational Church, Foxboro, where Chapter Chairman Al Winslow is the incumbent organist/director. The organ is a 3/37 Skinner-Frazees and has three enclosed sections, plus exposed Diapason chorus. The tremolos are just right and Al's program of well known classics together with a collection of Leroy Anderson's rhythm numbers rattled the old church rafters to everyone's delight. Chapter activities come to a close for the summer with a banquet and concert at the Stoneham Town Hall WurliTzer on June 23.

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

Roy H. Caruth of the Delaware Valley Chapter advises that the word is now official that the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre will close in August 1962. Long Island University, owners of the building, wish to use the building for the expansion of their main campus in downtown Brooklyn, N.Y.

On Sunday, May 6, the Delaware Valley Chapter converged on the Brooklyn Paramount for a last look, see, and hear, of this mighty 4/27 WurliTzer with its twin consoles in the pit. This vast house with its gaudy and beautiful multi-type forms of architecture, the last word in theatre palaces, held many youngsters (and oldsters) in awe. The thrilling WurliTzer sound soon filled the house and Bob Mack, host organist, started his recital as the console rose into view. Following his recital Mr. Mack welcomed the chapter and its friends and turned the console over to the group for an open house.

Many of our professional members had a try at this wonderful WurliTzer, including former chairman Reverend G. MacNeal, Dick Loderhose, Garrett Paul and Jack Ward, who has just returned from a triumphant tour in Europe. Jack is staff organist at Radio City Music

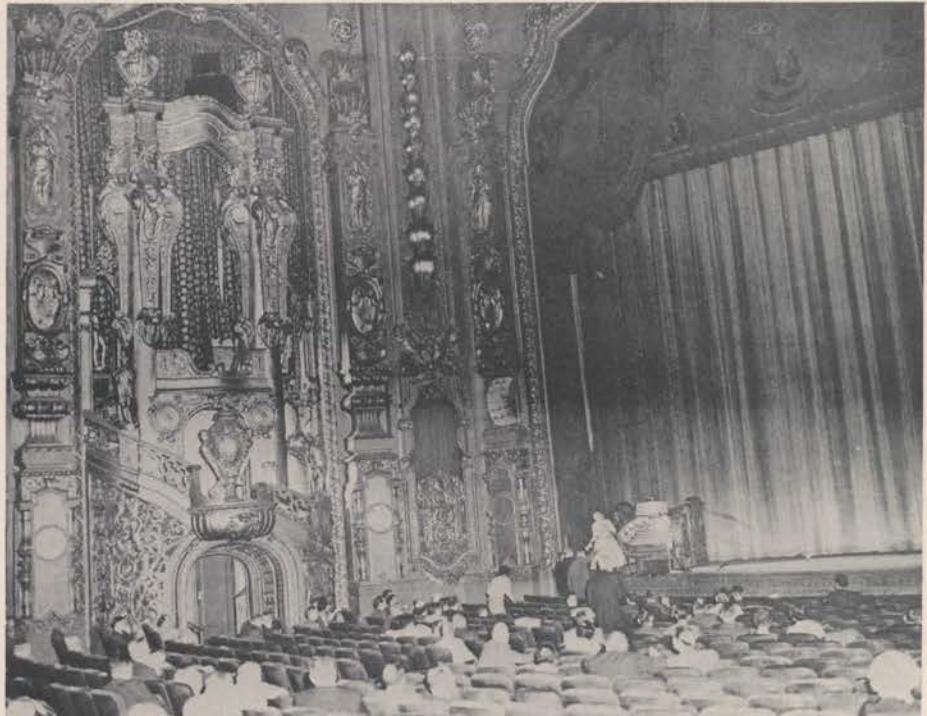
Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Weimer had intended a two console duet, but the lift for the slave console failed to operate.

The highlight of the program came when Ben Hall, associate editor of Time Magazine, author of that 'must have' book, "The Best Remaining Seats", an ATOE member, spoke about the beautiful Brooklyn Paramount Theatre.

Taking us back to 1928, Ben told of the opening night theatre program. Of the thrilling effect when the TWIN consoles thundered forth the organ interlude, and when the slave console lowered into the pit, leaving Mr. Henry Murtagh, to perform his organ solo - - -

the grand orchestra on the pit elevator, and that inimitable personality Paul Ash on the great stage - - of that former chorus girl who later went to Hollywood, Miss Ginger Rogers, and of the personalities that were to come to this exciting mecca of entertainment. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Crawford at the dual consoles, and Dick Liebert, who stayed while, before going to Radio City Music Hall as chief organist there.

We are indeed grateful to the manager of the Brooklyn Paramount, Mr. Pleshette for having the theatre with its WurliTzer available to the Delaware Valley Chapter and for having the stage and house crews on duty to afford us every comfort.



Interior of Brooklyn Paramount Theatre taken during recent Delaware Valley Chapter Meeting.

NOTICE

FIRST ANNUAL ATOE

EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 1962

HERSHEY THEATRE

HERSHEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Contact Erwin Young or

Dottie Mac Clain for Details