

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

ATOE continues to grow - We are glad to extend a hearty welcome to our newest chapter, THE PIEDMONT CHAPTER of North Carolina. This is Chapter Number 18. Officers and Charter Members are Paul M. Abernethy, M.D., Chairman; George T. Matthews, Vice-Chairman; Edwin G. Baldwin, Secretary-Treasurer; and

George Anthony, J. E. Barlow, Charles W. Cannon, Ray Euliss, R. A. Griffeth, Mrs. Belva Hanford, Burt James, Paul Maness, M. D., Fletcher Moore, Harry L. Rosier, L. P. Wilkins, Horace J. Lee, W. L. Shaffer, Mrs. Mildred Thomas, Charles T. Hunter, Nelson Guard, Sid Hellier.



Officers of Piedmont Chapter ATOE, L to r., Dr. Paul Abernethy, chairman; Ed Baldwin, secretary-treasurer; and George Matthews, vice-chairman.



Some of the members of Piedmont Chapter at the formation meeting in office of Dr. Abernethy, Burlington, N.C., on August 22.

interlude" including a few sing-a-long numbers.

Our congratulations to member Bill Werner, who after much painstaking work now has all 15 ranks working. Bill's 3/15 is a WurliTzer 260 which was originally in the Century Theatre in Chicago.



Bill and Doris Charles, Chicago Chapter, at the Senate Theatre 3/18 Kimball.



Valerie Tahlman, daughter of Chicago Chapter Vice-Chairman Tony Tahlman and Secretary Nancy Tahlman at the Senate Theatre Kimball.

CHICAGO CHAPTER

Chairman - William F. Barry, 620 Pleasant Ave., Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Secretary - Nancy Tahlman, 1280 So. Lloyd Avenue, Lombard, Illinois.

The Chicago Area Chapter succeeded in making Memorial Day, 1962, truly memorable to the many people who attended the open house at the Senate Theatre that early morning. Due to the efforts of Bea and Paul Lewis, Dean Mionske, Ken Bogda and Host Bob Montgomery, a bit of the past was brought back to life. The program began with a welcome and short introduction by Tony Tahlman, emcee, who brought up Bill Charles at the organ and his wife Doris on the organ. Doris, dressed in clothing of the '20's, sang a few songs and then led a genuine Senate sing-a-long, complete with song slides which had been left behind and forgotten when the era ended. Bill, a former theatre organist, then played more numbers that brought back memories, and when the lights came on for the intermission, many a nostalgic tear was being wiped away. (The second half of the program was presented by the dynamic Pearl White, who played some of the "Chicago Style" theatre organ music, including old time jazz and piano roll music. A stirring finale to the program was

Pearl's rendition of the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

In June, our members were at the Holy Family Church to hear a program by Brian Durack, a young man of which we are all proud. The program and the 3 manual/31 rank Austin organ were something quite different for most of our members but all who attended enjoyed it very much. Host Bob Montgomery gave us a concise and informative explanation of the organ; and after the program, we were treated to a tour through the "air chest". This is a rather unique experience that anyone interested in pipe organs would enjoy. Brian's program included some of his original compositions, which were very good. The only thing missing was a Crash cymbal to punctuate "Trumpet Voluntary", as he always does on a Theatre Organ.

At the time of this writing we are anticipating our trip to St. Louis for a visit with Stan Kann at the Fox and Ruggeri's restaurant on August 18th. August 18 is also the date on which the Montclare Theatre in Chicago will again use its organ. This Barton 3/10 has been restored by Wally Rathmann with the help of various club members. It will be "brought back to life" by member Jack Norgaard who will play an "organ

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

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

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

DALLAS CHAPTER

Chairman - Walter Kuehne, 4106 So. Better, Dallas, Texas.

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

DELAWARE CHAPTER

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

Secretary - Mrs. Roger Bloom, Ches-ter Springs, Penn.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

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

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

LAND O' LAKES CHAPTER

Chairman - Harry E. Jorgenson, 1711 Winnetonka, Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary - Harry Steege, 928 Grand Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

The regular bi-monthly meeting and annual election of chapter officers was held on June 19 at the home of Donald and Harold Peterson in suburban St. Louis Park, where a 1922 Barton split manual 3/9 organ has been installed and is in the process of being enlarged to 15 ranks. Jim Kennedy, formerly one of the original organists at the Ironwood Theatre in Michigan, had been scheduled to be the artist of the evening, but due to the press of business was unable to appear. Guess where Jim was unexpectedly? Playing the opening show at the Ironwood Theatre, on his former Barton Pipe Organ, which had recently been rehabilitated for use again! Members Ray Steffans, Byron Carlson, Harold Steege and Ed Borowiec, among others, pitched in for a wonderful evening. Chairman Harry Jorgenson gave an interesting review of the recent ATOE Annual Meeting in Los Angeles and some two dozen theatre organs he had heard.

Alden E. Miller

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

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

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

In answer to the request of members who work nights and are unable to attend regular meetings, Los Angeles Chapter held a picnic on Sunday, August 19th at Hollywood's Pilgrimage Theatre, where a 2m/4r Robert Morton has recently been installed.

ATOE was instrumental in securing donation of the organ to the theatre; it was removed from a residence in the Silver Lake District of Los Angeles, and was originally installed in a local theatre. The instrument was rebuilt by Pipe Organs, Inc.

Erected on the third level of the south stage light tower, about 40 feet above the stage floor, the chamber opening faces away from the audience—the organ speaks out to the hill which forms a natural back drop for the stage. There are two sets of shutters for the single chamber that open opposite to one another and are controlled by two swell pedals on the console. The instrument has a complete set of traps.

The trim two manual console and blower are housed immediately below the chamber area in the second level of the tower. At the present time a wooden partition encloses the blower. The noise has proved distracting to organists who have played the lively small box of whistles and it is planned to build a

theatre organ

cement wall around it to deaden the sound.

Even though the chamber opening faces away from the outdoor auditorium, the organ can be heard distinctly and does not need amplification as originally thought.

Headed by Gaylord Carter, who opened the impromptu afternoon concert, ATOE's attending the picnic also heard other club members present several selections each for their enjoyment. In addition to Carter, Mike Cahill, John Von Eckh, and Dr. Phil Olson presided at the console.

It was also announced at the meeting that members would be requested to state their preference for regular club meeting hours at the Wiltern Theatre. Times available are either Friday or Saturday at midnight, or Saturday or Sunday mornings from 8 to 11:30.

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, Illinois.

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

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

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

Just as every boy needs a dog, so every Theatre Organ group needs an organ. Niagara Frontier suddenly has two restoration projects. They will be handled by a captain-and-helpers system for several reasons.

One, of course, is to maintain control of the jobs. The other is no less important: to allow the novices to work along with the experts. "At least the unskilled people can vacuum-clean the lofts!" commented one director at a meeting at the Joe-and-Laura Thomas house, as Joe recuperated from an operation.

The 4/28 WurliTzer at Shea's Buffalo Theatre has been worked on for several years by a succession of fans even before organization of the Niagara Frontier group. Recently member Dave Vanderhoek approached a new manager and work is again in progress after a brief shutdown. Even though daily shows at 11 a.m. make access difficult, the feeling is that this organ must be restored. "Member Don Hyde spliced a tape with that from another much-touted organ," reported Dave, "and everyone in the room snapped to attention as soon as the Buffalo organ came on, even tho' they didn't know just what trick was being played."

Pres. Irv Toner added, "It's an exceptionally fine organ, even if the poor organist is the only man in the house who can't hear how good it is!" There is plenty to do, but it's mainly keeping a project going.

The Elmwood Theater manager, a man who has brought crowds into other houses on a scale comparable to the old days by clever promotion and atten-



Harry Pickens, former theatre organist at the 2/8 WurliTzer in the Rapids Theatre, Niagara Falls, N. Y., at May meeting of Niagara Frontier Chapter.

tion to detail, called Member Lou Rosa at the WurliTzer plant for help. Lou, knowing Toner's work on the small unit in East Aurora's Masonic Temple (which was threatened by one of those "You gotta buy an electric, cost too much to fix this one" deals), referred him to Niagara Frontier's President.

Irv, John Spalding and others looked over the Elmwood's 3/15 WurliTzer. Cables were chopped twice; ductwork was removed for air conditioner. Advantage: unrestricted access (only Sat.-Sun. matinees and the evening performances, but loft work possible even then.) Advantage: a manager who wants the organ restored. Advantage: willingness of manager to buy necessary materials. Disadvantage: the Buffalo project barely under way again. But the directors, feeling that the opportunity was too good to miss, authorized Toner to act for them. He'll accept, of course.

Maybe it is a big pair of bites. But the Niagara Frontier Chapter is at peak membership (90 - more than a year ago - more than ever before). And the enthusiasm of Irv, Dave, John and the rest of the gang will rub off on the membership.



Dave Vanderhoek, who is responsible for restoring and maintaining the Rapids Theatre 2/8 WurliTzer.



Carlton Finch at the Rivera Theatre (Tonawanda, N. Y.) 3/11 WurliTzer Special. Carlton and his father, Harry Finch, have recently restored this organ to use. Photo was taken during March 18 meeting of Niagara Frontier Chapter.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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

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

OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - John J. Strader, 3630 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati 20, Ohio.

Secretary - Mrs. John Strader, same address.

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - Richard Kline, Jr., Frederick, Maryland.

Secretary-Treasurer - Woody Wise, 413 Farmington Dr., Alexandria, Va.

The June 10 Annual Meeting and Outing were held at the Silver Spring home of Mr. and Mrs. George Merriken. The program was played by three guest organists, two out-of-staters and our own John Varney. Members and guests were delighted with the new additions to the posh Merriken organ studio and the new pipework now playing from the gold console. About 85 members attended. The next meeting is scheduled for September, most likely in the home of Eastern Regional Vice-President Erwin A. Young in Alexandria, Virginia. The Stanton Kimball in Baltimore was used for the first time in over a decade on Tuesday evening, July 31, for the premier of "The Music Man". Nearly 3,000 were in attendance and the organ was most warmly received. Dick Haffer and his helpers worked for more than three weeks to get the big organ in shape for the affair. By the 31st, all 31 ranks were tuned, one entire chamber scrubbed from top to bottom (all 22 ranks of pipes were removed and cleaned before being

returned) and the chests and walls vacuumed. Unfortunately there were no pistons working on the console, as the pneumatics involved are in sad shape and must be recovered. Also within this period the entire relay was recovered! We hope to have a fall meeting at the Stanton and by that time perhaps the remaining mechanical 'bugs' will be checked.

Chairman Dick Kline was organist for the opening. After the trailer, several hundred people gathered at the front of the auditorium to get a better look at the big gold and white console. The management is very enthusiastic about the "new" organ and hope to use it from now on regularly. Dick Haffer's moonlighters included: Al Crawford and his daughter Pamela, Dick Hartley, Warren Thomas, Charley McClelland, Stan Hendricks and many others.

In the Good News Department - Ann and Norm Ziegler are the proud parents of a 4/17 Marr & Colton, presently sleeping in the Capital Theatre, West Virginia. Plans for their new home this fall include a large basement music room.

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

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

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

The third 1962 quarterly meeting of the Puget Sound Chapter of A.T.O.E. was held in Tacoma, Washington on August 25. The members assembled at the McKee Piano and Organ Co. show room at 7:00 p.m. where many electronic organs including Theatre models were set up for members to play. After a get-acquainted period with cookies and punch, Reginald Stone of Victoria, B.C.,

played for two Silent Shorts on the Rodgers Theatre Organ. This proved very entertaining to those present. At 9:30 p.m. the group left for "Steve's Gay 90's" for the dinner and business meeting.

President Bill Blunk called the meeting to order at 11:25 p.m. The minutes of the April 28, 1962 meeting were read and approved as was the treasurer's report. President Bill reported on the National Convention held in Los Angeles in July. Don Myers played a tape made at the Convention. Members Andy Crow, Bob Jones, and Reg Stone reported on the progress of their Organs. The Secretary reported that member Roy Carnathan was seriously ill in a hospital in Portland, Oregon.

President Bill called for suggestions as to where to have the next meeting. Bob Jones suggested the Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham. Art Spisak suggested the Olympic Theatre in Olympia. Bill Morrison suggested the Fox Theatre in Victoria, B. C. Reg Stone said the Fox would be available and the members voted unanimously to go to Victoria, B. C. for the next meeting and a discussion of dates followed, with right after Thanksgiving being favored by most. Final date will be determined in correspondence with Reg Stone. President Bill then thanked the McKees for arranging a very fine meeting and for opening their store to the Chapter.

The group then departed for the Music Box Theatre and a gala night of Pipe Organ Music. The program got under way at 12:15 a.m. with Frank Chidester demonstrating the 3/12 Robert Morton. Frank has put in many hours getting the Morton back in shape. Jane McKee then played a short program followed by the following Puget Sound Area Organists: Don French, Woody Presho, Dick Schrum, Andy Crow, Reg Stone, Clayton Wilson, Phil Raboin, Bill Blunk, and others, after which the Organ was turned over to the membership to play until the janitor arrived at 3:30 a.m. to clean the house.

Attendance figures showed that 65 assembled at the Store, 67 at Steve's for dinner and the meeting, and 75 at the Music Box Theatre.

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

Chairman - Dr. C. E. Holbrook, Jr., 741 Central Ave., Hapeville, Georgia

Secretary - A. W. Southerland, 1039 Ralph Road, N. E., Atlanta, 5, Georgia

ST. LOUIS AREA CHAPTER

Chairman - Edgar 'Ned' Lustig, 10117 Carolynne Drive, St. Louis 28, Mo.

Secretary - Wendell Whitcraft, 445 Baker Ave., St. Louis 19, Mo.

WESTERN RESERVE CHAPTER

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

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

theatre organ