

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



Uptown Theatre, Chicago, 4/28 WurliTzer and its new owners, left to right, Bob Montgomery, and Bea and Paul Lewis.

CHICAGO CHAPTER

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

Secretary - Walter I. Rathman, 1007 South First Avenue, Maywood, Illinois.

Members held their January meeting on a snowy night at the Bill Charles home, and enjoyed a go at the 2 manual Robert Morton installation. About 35 people braved the weather to attend.

The Chicago February meeting was set up on a 48-hour notice for the purpose of hearing a "goodby" program on the Uptown Theatre 4m/28r WurliTzer with Freddy Arnish of the Fleetwood Roller Rink presiding at the console. The Uptown organ has been purchased by Bob Montgomery and Bea and Paul Lewis. It will be put in storage until a new home is found for it.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Chairman - Everett Bassett, 312 Homestead Ave., Waterbury 5, Conn.

Secretary - Judy Derby, 109 Layton Street, West Hartford, Connecticut.

February 9 marked the second anniversary meeting of the Connecticut Chapter, with a meeting being held in the Senate Room of Mather Hall on the campus of Trinity College in Hartford.

Since no organ was available in this room, tapes made at past meetings, as well as programs broadcast over Trinity's FM station, were played on Allen Miller's excellent stereo outfit. The next meeting was set for April 20.

ATOE member Alan Miller is present

ting a series of broadcasts over WRTC-FM, Trinity College, Hartford. The program is titled 'Popular Pipes', and features the history of the theatre organ, its sound, comparisons, explanation of the mechanics, pizzicato, etc. and different stops and effects. The program will run thru the end of May.

DALLAS CHAPTER

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

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

DELEWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - John Armstrong, Mechanicsville, Bucks County, Penn.

Secretary - Laura T. Fesmire, 2411 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, Penn.

The chapter's first meeting for 1963 was held at the Sedgewick Theatre, Philadelphia, on January 20, and featured Leonard MacClain at the console of the completely restored 3/19 Moller. A short business meeting was held prior to the concert to elect new officers for 1963, including in addition to the above, Sam Daugherty as vice chairman and Russ Fesmire as treasurer.

The chapter's February meeting was an extremely enjoyable double-header. The morning portion was held at the Tower Theatre, and the afternoon session was at the Lansdowne Theatre in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. Following a short business meeting at the Tower, the organ was put through its paces by Dottie MacClain, Dick Kline, Mark Dresden, Al Hermanns, Barbara Fesmire and many others.

After luncheon at the Falson House on WestChester Pike, Upper Darby, everyone headed for Lansdowne. Snow conditions made the driving a bit hazardous but did not keep anyone from making the trip. At the Lansdowne, Leonard MacClain was presented as the feature organist, and rightly so, as he was the organist who played the opening of this theatre in 1927. Complete with spotlight and dimmed houselights, MacClain held his audience spellbound as he can easily do. The highlight of the program was three reels of silent movies for which MacClain ably provided the musical accompaniment. Following the movies, the organ was turned over to the membership for the remainder of the meeting.

We are all grateful to Bill Greenwood, William Crawford and Walter Stinger,

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Leonard MacClain at Lansdowne 3/8 Kimball. Rededication of organ silent since 1937. See Delaware Valley Chapter news.

-- Sam Daugherty Photo
theatre organ



Esther Higgins, former theatre organist at Tower Theatre 3/17 WurliTzer.



Dave Miller at the Tower WurliTzer. Dave helped on Lansdowne Theatre as well as restoring the 3/8 Kimball in the Broadway Theatre, Pitman, N.J.



Ed Weimer at the Tower 3/17 WurliTzer. Formerly organist at Academy Theatre, Lebanon, Pennsylvania.



Dottie MacClain, past chairman, Delaware Valley Chapter, receiving gavel for charm bracelet.

PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE
by SAM DAUGHERTY

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

Chairman - James Rankin, 73 Grand Street, Reading, Massachusetts.

Secretary - Dave Hartshore, 8 Little Tree Lane, Framingham, Mass.

Activities for January included an interesting meeting at Stoneham Town Hall WurliTzer featuring Dick Frank at the console. Attendance and the program were excellent.

The February meeting was held at the Leonard Alpert home and featured the 3/13 WurliTzer originally installed

in Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady, New York.

The March 22 meeting was at the Lynn Paramount in Lynn, Mass., with Arthur Martell, former organist at the Metropolitan Theatre, Boston presiding at the console of this terrific 3/19 WurliTzer.

LAND O'LAKES CHAPTER

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

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

Busy preparing for Annual Meeting.

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (Continued)

who have put the organ back in playing condition, also to Les Ross, Bob Haines, Bob Bolrath and Don Kinnier (now house organist), Dave Miller and Dave Davis, who served as helpers and technical advisors.

The organ is now being played regularly between shows on Friday and Saturday evenings by Don Kinnier.

R. A. Pfunke
Publicity Director

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

Chairman - Dr. Phil Olson, 10447 Bloomfield St., North Hollywood, Calif.

Secretary - Catherine E. Lynch, 4001 Allan Ave., Burbank, Calif.

Dick Aurandt, well known Bay Area and Los Angeles organist, was featured in concert at the console of the Wiltern Theatre Kimball on March 10. Aurandt, it will be recalled, was the last solo organist to play the San Francisco Fox during the years the house was a deluxe presentation spot.

Tom B'Hend

MID-WEST CHAPTER

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

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

NEW YORK CHAPTER

Chairman - David C. Schmidt, Lowery Organ Studios, Roosevelt Field Shopping Center, Garden City, New York.

Secretary - E. A. Marten, Route 2, Half Hollow Road, Melville, Long Island, New York.

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

Chairman - John Spaulding, 289 Fayette Avenue, Kenmore 23, New York.
Secretary - Laura Thomas, 3534 Bowen Road, Lancaster, New York.

The always active Niagara Frontier Chapter has been successful in getting two theatre organ programs on the air. WADV-FM Buffalo's first stereo station plays members' records every Sunday evening between 10 and 11. Station WBER, AM-FM, has made its Organ Loft program Sunday evenings between 11:15 and 11:30 a theatre organ venture. Credit is always given to the Niagara Frontier Chapter whenever any members' tapes or records are used.

The chapter also has its own organ obtained through the efforts of the past chairman, Irv Toner. Hearing that the Havens Theatre, Olean, New York, was to be demolished and bids were being taken for the organ, Toner lost no time, got pledges from eight other chapter members and was successful in having the top bid. The organ is a WurliTzer, Style D, Opus #566 shipped in August 1922. The chapter obtained the organ for a little over \$200.00, and it is complete.

The Niagara Chapter's present efforts in the restoration of the two theatre organs in their area include Shea's Buffalo in Buffalo and the Elmwood in Utica, New York. Latest reports reveal that work on both is progressing nicely.

The February meeting was held at the home of Chairman John Spaulding and featured Harry Picken, who really had the place jumping with his performance at the three manual Spaulding special. Some 75 members and guests were in attendance.

The March meeting was held at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, and featured Carlton Finch, who with his father has handled most of the maintenance on this organ. In addition, Arthur Melgier was featured. He is a former theatre organist of the area having played the Elmwood and Shea's Hippodrome WurliTzers.

Bill Kessel

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Chairman - Fred Clapp, 5610 Castle Drive, Oakland 11, California.
Secretary - George Morris, 1447A Silver Ave., San Francisco 24, Calif.

Fred Clapp, chairman, reports that the meeting held at the California Theatre in Santa Rosa January 5 was a resounding success; Harold Wright, theatre manager and old-time silent organist, officiated at the trim little 2/7 WurliTzer. At the conclusion of his program, members were all given the opportunity to play. About 170 enthusiasts were in attendance.

On January 25, the members trekked to the giant San Francisco Fox for a mid-

night meeting of members only. Featured organist was Everett Nourse, who turned in his usual excellent performance. Many other well known Bay Area organists followed and had one last fling at the fabulous 4/36 WurliTzer. The last one wound up somewhat after 5 a.m. in the morning! The thanks of all concerned go to Bob Apple, manager of the Fox, for allowing us this one last night with the Mighty WurliTzer in its natural surroundings. It is our opinion that manager Apple is on top of the entire pile when it comes to interest in theatre organs. Bob, we all take off our hats to you!

PIEDMONT CHAPTER

Chairman - Paul M. Abernathy, M.D.
1610 Vaughn Road, Burlington, N.C.
Secretary - Edwin G. Baldwin, 2711 Bedford Street, Burlington, N.C.

On Friday, December 7, Prez 'Tiny' James and Eastern Regional Vice Prez Capt. Erwin Young arrived at the home of Dr. Paul Abernathy, chairman of the

Piedmont Chapter. After being joined by Mrs. Belva Hanford and George Anthony, the guests were invited to the Country Club for dinner. Other members of the chapter joining in the dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cannon, Ed Barlow, Levi Wilkins, Don Hall, Nelson Guard, Harry Rosier and George Matthews.

Following dinner, an informal discussion was held among the members and the two national representatives about our chapter and what other chapters were doing. The Piedmont ATOE chapter is growing, including members from Burlington, Greensboro, Graham, Elon College and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The evening of music got under way at Elon College, with 'Tiny' trying his hand at the newly rebuilt Skinner-Reuter, which stands presently at 41 ranks on 3 manuals, with more to come. From Elon College the group then moved to Greensboro and the Carolina Theatre for a gala night of pipe organ music at the chapter's recently restored 2/7 Robert Mor-

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ATOE President "Tiny" James at Elon College Skinner-Reuter (trying to play it like a theatre organ!)



Left to right: Erwin Young, Belva Hanford, W. "Tiny" James, George Anthony, George Matthews, Harry Rosier, Nelson Guard, Mrs. Chas. Cannon, Don Hall, Charles Cannon, Levi Wilkins and Ed Barlow, at Piedmont Chapter session.



Piedmont Chapter member George W. Anthony has just purchased this 3 manual Robert Morton from the Paramount Theatre in Lynchburg, Virginia. Details to follow later.

PIEDMONT CHAPTER (Continued)

ton. Sid Heller, an old-timer at the theatre organ, turned in a magnificent performance, after which everyone had an opportunity to play this fine little instrument. A wonderful evening!

ST. LOUIS AREA CHAPTER

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

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

THE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

Chairman - Carl Norvel, Griffin, Georgia.

Secretary - Charles Walker, Room 616, YMCA, Atlanta, Georgia.

Breck H. Camp reports that Southeastern Chapter members were guests of Birmingham, Alabama, ATOE's in January for a meeting at the Alabama Theatre and its 4 manual WurliTzer. A good turnout and fine music made for a perfect day.

The February meeting of the chapter, held at the home of Joe Patten, in College Park, Georgia, featured a Hi-Fi stereo record and tape session with members bringing their favorite records and tapes.

Big plans are shaping up - details later.

WESTERN RESERVE CHAPTER

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

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

Through the efforts of chairman Duey Arey, an agreement has finally been Spring 1963



February 18 Ohio Valley meeting. Host Harry Garrison at right of Seeburg nickelodeon, with Ray Arnold on left.



Harry Garrison demonstrates an old STRAD player piano for members of Ohio Valley Chapter.

PHOTOS BY JACK FOSTER

reached with the management of the Granada (ex-Loew's) Theatre for the rehabilitation of Opus #1725, a 235 WurliTzer. We will have a complete story on this organ that has been buried under the floor for about 18 years. Congrats to Duey and the Western Reserve Chapter.

OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

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

Secretary - Mrs. John Strader, same address.

On January 14, Mr. and Mrs. John Strader of Cincinnati opened their home

and made available their 3/18 WurliTzer to the local A.G.O. Chapter, for an evening of theatre organ music. A twin bill featured Fabulous Eddy Osborn (Baldwin organ recording artist) and Stan Todd (former protege of the late Jesse Crawford) at the console.

A.G.O. Chapter Dean, Albert Meyer, called the meeting to order with about fifty A.G.O. members (and a few ATOE's too) on hand. Following a brief business meeting, the expectations of all those assembled were more than satisfied by the excellent techniques of the evening's artists.

A special meeting of the Ohio Valley

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OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER (Concluded)

Chapter was held on February 18 with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Garrison of Cincinnati acting as hosts. The meeting was especially interesting, as Mr. Garrison, owner of the Player Piano Shop of Cincinnati, showed the ATOE's some interesting antiques including an old Seeburg nickelodeon and a WurliTzer carousel organ.

After demonstrating some of the older automatic instruments, Mr. Garrison introduced Ray Arnold, who at one time was organ installer for WurliTzer. Arnold held the members' close attention with his talk on experiences encountered while installing Mighty WurliTzers throughout Ohio. A vote of the membership made Arnold an honorary member of the chapter.

Editor's Note - We are sorry to have to report that we have just been advised that Ray Arnold passed away February 28. ATOE, as well as his close friends in Cincinnati, extend their condolences.

The April 5 meeting of the Ohio Valley Chapter was held in the Annie Laws Auditorium at the University of Cincinnati, and featured Eddie Osborn and Add Lovejoy. This was a combined meeting of ATOE and the Baldwin Organ Club.

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

Chairman - Andy Crow, 605 South 120 Street, Tacoma 44, Washington.

Secretary - Dick Schrum, 4616 Lindend North, Seattle 3, Washington.

The first meeting of 1963 was held at the Paramount Theatre, Portland, Oregon, with Don Simmons holding forth at the theatre's WurliTzer Publix #1. Follow-



Don Simmons at the console, Portland Paramount Publix #1, during Puget Sound Chapter's first 1963 meeting.

ing the featured artist, the console was turned over to the membership to play until theatre opening time.

The meeting then adjourned to the Portland University for lunch and a business meeting, following which Brother Andrew Corsini presented a program of Sing-A-Long movies and colored slides of theatre organ consoles, pipe work and various theatres. The slides as well as a large collection of mounted pictures pertaining to theatres, organists and organs are from the large collection belonging to Brother Andrew. The members

departed for home at 5:30 p.m. after a wonderful day of theatre pipe organ.

Leonard Vernon

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER

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

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

NEWS FROM ROCHESTER

By Lloyd E. Klos

Another delightful organ concert, the fifth this year for Rochester area enthusiasts, was held March 10 at Buffalo's Roosevelt Theatre. As he has done so many times before, Dr. Edward Bebko again was in supreme command of the 4/18 Marr & Colton. This program, of 3½ hours' duration, was composed mostly of the raucous melodies which had their heyday during the 20's and 30's, but still have immense appeal to the organ lover of today. Dr. Bebko's rendition of "Wang Wang Blues", to the writer, was one of the most remarkable pieces he has ever heard on a theatre organ. Certainly no orchestra could have approached the brilliance displayed by Western New York's "Mr. Theatre Organ." Another dandy was "Zero Zero", a real foot-tapper.

The organ continues to sound brilliantly. Harry Radloff, its ace engineer, has been putting in much time on weekends to add additional ranks, and improve the various speaking voices. The orchestra bells, which were always one of the organ's strongpoints, are even more brilliant after new felt has been installed. In time, Harry hopes to have the additional ranks installed to make it a

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New and old officers of the Puget Sound Chapter, ATOE. Left to right, Dick Schrum, treasurer/secretary; Andy Crow, president; Bill Blunk, past president, and Len Vernon, past secretary/treasurer.