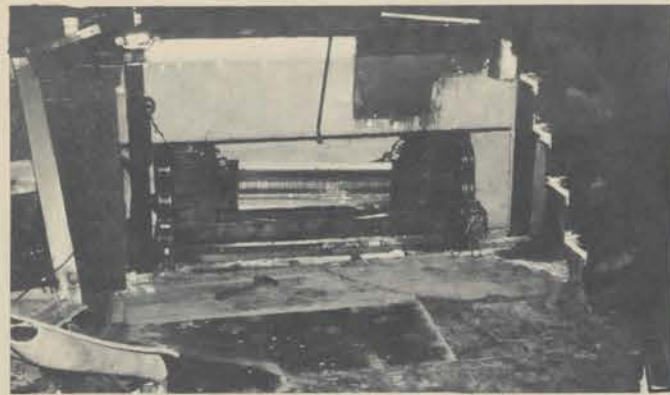


# Cleveland ATOE-ers Unearth Granada Theatre Wurlitzer



Arey and Kagy planning 'The Excavation'



'Pay Dirt' -- The organ lift is uncovered (Notice console tipped over on its back under the stage).



L to R - Arey, Bill Meier, Don Wheeler, Bob Kagy in 'Final Preparations'.



'Thar She Is At Last' -- L to R - Don Wheeler, Bill Meier, Kagy, Arey and Bob Bittner (note pleased expressions)



Wurlitzer 235 - 'Delightful'



'Looks Good From Here'



Granada - Cleveland, Ohio - 'A Front View' - Left Panel - Right and Left Revolve - Right Panel - Up and down Controls.



Kagy, Meier and Arey hard at it replacing flooring and installing protective rail around the console.

theatre organ

## WESTERN RESERVE CHAPTER OF ATOE CELEBRATES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

By Duey Arey

April 27, 1963 . . . a lovely balmy afternoon in Cleveland. Sixty-two members and friends, as well as many Granada Theatre personnel, were on hand at 2:15 sharp for the first annual meeting of the Western Reserve Chapter. This historic meeting, held in the Granada Theatre inner lobby, commenced with the cutting of a two-tiered birthday cake especially decorated for the occasion.

Following a visiting period, the group was conducted to seats in the Theatre auditorium, where the business portion of the meeting started with the election of the 1963 slate of officers, plus other pertinent business.

As the business portion of the meeting concluded around 3:00 p.m., the footlights dimmed, and a complete slide program of the restoration of the Granada Wurlitzer was presented with a step-by-step commentary as the show progressed. Following the slide program, the organ was heard softly in the background and the console started to rise from the base of the orchestra pit. When half-way up, the organ was picked up by a rose-colored spotlight, and a burst of applause from the audience showed their approval.

Don Wheeler, featured artist for this anniversary program, then put the Mighty Wurlitzer through its paces ending with 'No Business Like Show Business' as the organ sank once again to floor level. Don played one encore and then took a couple of well-deserved bows for a very fine and entertaining concert on Cleveland's Granada Theatre Wurlitzer, the first since 1931.

Following a short intermission, the organ was turned over to the membership to try out. Now at floor level again, within easy reach of everyone, the console was closely examined and approved by all. Bud Bartz, Brad Hille, Frank Shoop, Bob Bittner, Marlin Wasson, Lewis McNitt, and many others gave the old girl a workout such as she hasn't seen for years.

Thanks were extended to member George Rogers' wife Marion, who was responsible for the fine workmanship on the black corduroy which adorned the protective rail around the console lift, also the beautiful console cover of red velvet trimmed with gold braid and fringe.

Needless to say, the theatre management is thrilled with the results of our many months of effort in the restoration of this organ, and special thanks were extended to Vince Aldert, manager of the Granada, for his patience and cooperation through this restoration period.

On the opposite page will be seen a

## Record Reviews

"TOM GRIERSON PLAYS PALACE FAVOURITES" - Stereo only, available only by mail order, \$4.95 postpaid, from Daniel O. Schultz, P. O. Box 53, Fishers, New York.

This record marks a pair of "firsts". It is the first time on record for the Rochester, N.Y. RKO-Palace Wurlitzer, and the first recorded appearance for Rochester's Mr. Theatre Organ, Tom Grierson. If this disc is any indication, it's a shame that both of these didn't occur years ago! Here is a master musician at a beautifully maintained instrument, one with which he is completely familiar. According to the notes on the album there is good reason for this familiarity, since Mr. Grierson designed the instrument and was featured at the console for 17 years and 10,000 radio broadcasts.

From the technical point of view the record has much to recommend it. This is as close to full frequency range and full dynamic (loudness) range as any

heard by this reviewer. Anyone acquainted with the Grierson/Palace Wurlitzer duo will realize how faithfully this combination has been transferred to disc. Here are NO tricks, NO gimmicks. Just beautiful and magnificent music, running the gamut from pops (Green Leaves of Summer; I Enjoy Being A Girl) to the weightier classics (Excerpt from Mozart's Magic Flute; Tschai-kovsky's Sleeping Beauty Waltz; Sibelius' Finlandia). All elaborately orchestrated for Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra.

The opening selection on the album "Hello! Hello! The RKO" was recorded with a full house, during a radio broadcast at a local movie premiere, and the applause shows the audience's delight at hearing this great instrument again. The record is available only in stereo, and only by mail.

Here is an "in-theatre" pipe organ sound. A worthy addition to any record collection, like no other you've ever heard.

## .. NEWS.. AND VIEWS

Our Portland member Fred Myers writes to say that BOXOFFICE, trade publication of the movie industry, carried articles in four recent issues regarding the usage of Theatre Pipe Organs in connection with various shows, a couple of the articles mentioning ATOE . . . Reginald Mander says that four English ATOE members were treated royally on their recent visit to the U.S., giving particular thanks to Erwin Young and Dick Kline for a wonderful organ tour . . . Bill Blunk of Astoria, Oregon, wants to set the record straight regarding the story that we ran on his 5 manual Marr & Colton . . . He attended Indiana State Teachers' Col-

pictorial view of the steps leading up to getting this late model 235 special (3/11) Wurlitzer out in the open after having been hidden under the floor all these years.

Thanks for assistance on this Granada Wurlitzer restoration are due to Bob Kagy, Don Wheeler, Bill Meier, Don Keiffer, Bob Bittner, John Klacik, Don Borden, George Rogers, Nelson Rogers, Clayton George and Walter Hoag. Duey Arey writes that without their help the job could not have progressed well enough to ever have been ready for this first anniversary meeting.

lege, and Leonard Vernon did the re-finishing job on his Marr & Colton console . . . Romance department: Elaine Anne Ulman is now Mrs. Gary N. Franklin . . . result, one less ATOE member. Congratulations, Elaine and Gary . . . Regret to announce the loss of a very special member C. M. 'Pat' Gillick of Columbus, Ohio, a true theatre organ lover if ever there was one . . . The Organ Literature Foundation, Nashua, N. H., has quite a list of organ publications and would like us to mention that their catalogue listing is available gratis upon application . . . S. Berne, Montreal, Canada asks for info on a singing organist broadcasting from Chicago named Eddie House, also a Doc Whipple who broadcast over NBC from Chicago. He says that's how they sounded to him over the old Atwater-Kent. Can anyone help? . . . Walt Hanlon of the Theatre Organ Club of El Paso, editor of the club's publication, "The Relay Room", has a new address - P.O. Box 3807, El Paso, Texas . . . Australian ATOE member John Gardiner is requesting information about two former Los Angeles musicians, Ted Henkel and Fred Scholl, who worked at the Capitol Theatre in Sydney in 1928 . . . Information may be routed through ATOE National Headquarters, P.O. Box 248, Alameda, California, where it will be forwarded.