

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

ATOE GAINS ANOTHER NEW CHAPTER

We cordially welcome the "VALLEY OF THE SUN" chapter to the ranks of ATOE and extend to its members our wishes for a successful and happy existence. This new chapter is located in the State of Arizona, with headquarters in Phoenix.

This is an excellent organ area, having a 3/15 Marr & Colton in the Beef-eater's Restaurant, the former Vaughn 5 manual WurliTzer now owned by member

Bill Brown, and the Meisel and Sullivan organ (now mostly WurliTzer) in the Phoenix Paramount Theatre, which we understand is currently being used in conjunction with some of the regular performances.

Valley of the Sun Chapter officers are: Al Comtois, chairman; Warren R. Beckhoefer, treasurer, and Edna E. Huncutt, secretary.

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

Chairman - William F. Barry, 620 Pleasant Avenue, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.
Secretary - Walter I. Rathman, 1007 South First Avenue, Maywood, Illinois.

June 10 marked the first theatre pipe organ concert of 1963 for the Chicago Area Chapter. The meeting, at the Elm Skating Club, Elmhurst, Illinois, featured guest organist Pearl White and Elm staff organist Tony Tahlman, performing on probably one of the most ac-

tive theatre organs in the country. The organ is a composite of the best parts of many former theatre pipe organs completely rebuilt to assure day-in and day-out dependability. The installation is quite unique, with two big chambers suspended from the ceiling along the center of the skating floor with a full percussion section located between the chambers in the very center of the floor. In addition, six ranks of pipes are located directly behind the organ console and several tonal percussions are in-



Tony Tahlman at the Gottfried console in the Elm Skating Rink, Lombard, Ill. See Chicago Chapter story.



L to R., Bill Barry, CATO chairman; Tony Tahlman, Bob Montgomery, and Pearl White seen from floor of rink.

stalled on a shelf running the length of the building.

Basic ranks of the organ include a French Trumpet, Tuba Horn, 2 Post Horns, 2 Diapasons, 4 Tibias, 5 Strings, 3 Vox Humanas, Kinura, Saxophone, Clarinet, Oboe, and Flute. This unusual organ installation has been enlarged with the participation of many CATOE members and it is expected that it will finally have 24 ranks on 4 manuals.

This busy club in addition to working on the Elm Skating Club organ, is also helping with the removal and storage of the Uptown WurliTzer (See Spring THEATRE ORGAN), and has another project of installing a three manual Kimball in the Itasca Church complete with a full complement of theatre organ percussions.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Chairman - Everett Bassett, 312 Homestead Ave., Waterbury 5, Conn.
Secretary - Judy Derby, 109 Layton Street, West Hartford, Conn.

The Connecticut Chapter members journeyed to New York State for their April meeting, held at Bob Weber's home in Amsterdam in the afternoon and at Dick Weber's home in Mariaville in the evening. Both have excellent WurliTzers in tip-top shape, and both received a real workout during the meetings. Al Mills was the featured artist for the evening program.

The June meeting was held in the home of Stillman and Mildred Rice, North Haven, Conn., where following a short business meeting the Mighty WurliTzer was put through its paces. At 11 p.m. the meeting adjourned to the New Haven Paramount, where the WurliTzer 2/10 accompanied a silent movie.

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - John Armstrong, Mechanicsville, Bucks County, Penn.
Secretary - Laura T. Fesmire, 7411 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, Penn.

The house lights dimmed, and onto the stage into the spotlight walked organist Leonard (Melody Mac) MacClain. Such was the start of an evening of entertainment on June 5 that many in the Philadelphia area will long remember. It was also the climax of many hours of hard work put into the restoration of the Mammoth Moller DeLuxe organ in the Sedgwick Theatre, Germantown, Penn.

As the result of over a year's work by the membership of the Delaware Valley Chapter of ATOE, a final decision was made to present this June concert. As chapter funds could not be used to promote the concert, a group of the directors of the chapter financed this first concert, with everyone working feverishly to have everything just right. As the big night drew near, tension mounted. Would it be a success or a failure? Standing in the lobby that night, all fears were washed away by the steady stream of people coming through the door. The lobby gave the impression that it was a 'first night' Broadway show, with people milling

theatre organ



Leonard MacClain at 3/19 Moller Deluxe during Sedgwick Theatre Concert for Delaware Valley Chapter.



Audience at Sedgwick Theatre for Delaware Valley Leonard MacClain concert June 5. -- Photos by Richard Neidick.

around and passing through to their seats. The theatre manager remarked that it was the biggest audience the theatre had enjoyed in 15 years, and that the phone had been ringing all day with people inquiring about the concert.

The show started with slides called "A Trip Through The Organ," in which Leonard demonstrated the voices and effects of the organ, followed by a superb performance including pop tunes, old standards and semi-classical music, all received by tremendous applause. Next came the song slides, mostly originals that Melody Mac had used in the earlier years of show business. The audience showed its enthusiasm by their singing along.

During the intermission, Leonard MacClain called the people who had worked on the organ to the front and explained to the audience some of the work involved in its restoration. After the intermission, an hour of silent movies was shown with the Mammoth Moller providing the accompaniment. Again, MacClain showed his mastership of the theatre organ with his excellent cueing.

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After the show, many of the over 800 in attendance swarmed around the console asking questions about the organ and the artist. Many of the older folks probably went away that night remembering the old days of silent movies and theatre organs.

R. A. Pfunke
Publicity Director

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

Chairman - James Rankin, 73 Grand Street, Reading, Mass.
Secretary - Dave Hartshorn, 8 Little Tree Lane, Framingham, Mass.

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.

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

Chairman - Dr. Phil Olson, 10447 Bloomfield St., North Hollywood, Calif.
Secretary - Catherine E. Lynch, 4001 Allan Ave., Burbank, Calif.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

Chairman - David C. Schmidt, Lowrey Organ Studios, Roosevelt Field Shopping Center, Garden City, New York.
Secretary - E.A. Marten, Route 2, Half Hollow Road, Melville, Long Island, New York.

A business meeting of the New York Chapter was held on February 10. At this meeting several committees were appointed to work on some of the organs available to New York members. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Day volunteered to take charge of the refreshment committee, so the members could have a good hot cup of coffee at some of the early morning meetings.

On March 31, a meeting of the Chapter was held at the "Home Organ", the 3/12 Welte Theatre Organ located in the Wakefield Theatre in the Bronx. Work has progressed very well on this organ. Most of the members were surprised at the amount of work done since the November meeting at the theatre. This organ was originally installed in two chambers next to each other, and Jim Daugherty, the project chairman at the Wakefield, decided to move five ranks to the other side of the theatre, where space was available for another chamber. The entire five ranks are now in place, the new chamber has been constructed, and a temporary wind line (made of collapsible plastic tubing) has been rigged up. And at the meeting in March, the 16 foot Bourdons were playing. A big vote of thanks goes to Jim Daugherty and his crew.

Coffee with donuts was served at this meeting made on the Chapter's new coffee-pot. All members appreciated the refreshments, as it is difficult to find a restaurant open at this hour in the morning. Chairman David Schmidt announced that he had just acquired a 2/7 Wurlitzer theatre organ, and was in the process of installing it in the concert hall of his Lowrey Organ store in Garden City. All the members had a chance to play the Welte organ, and a new member, Ed Fritz of New Jersey, played it like a professional (tho Ed claims to be an amateur). Cliff Goodman and Arnold Leeds, two of the area's fine professionals, played for the members, and it is always good to hear what these professionals can do with the Welte.

The meeting broke up around noon-time.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Chairman - Fred Clapp, 5610 Castle Drive, Oakland 11, California.
Secretary - George Morris, Vincent Hotel, 459 Turk Street, San Francisco.

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

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

St. Patrick's Day again found Niagara Frontier Chapter, ATOE, in the Riviera Theater in North Tonawanda, to hear the Wurlitzer which was the demonstration instrument shown to prospects who wanted to hear an organ actually played in a theater. More than 200 were present for the 12:30 noon - 2 p.m. program.

Carlton Finch, who with his father Harry has kept the organ in fine shape, played most of the performance. The wind noise in *Andalusia* was a high

point with the children who accompanied many of the members.

Art Melgier came out of musical semi-retirement to show how he handled sound effects at Buffalo's Elmwood, Hippodrome (theater now Center, organ now at Logans in Nia. Fls. Ont.), and Great Lakes (theater now Paramount). He played such traditionals as "Eyes and Ears of the World," and "Hello, Hello, the RKO," too.

Columnist Jerry Evarts of the Buffalo Courier-Express, who has worked with Photographer Melgier for years, hadn't known of Art's musical background; and gave Art and ATOE a good plug.

President John Spalding, sporting a green topper, led some "singalong",

bringing Erin into the house. He announced that Shea's Buffalo would be ready for a program in weeks; and the Elmwood, complete with new ductwork and with many of the 14,000-16,000 cable ends spliced, could be heard before the end of 1963. A boomlet for a 1964 ATOE convention was mentioned by John. Movement of the Seneca organ, one of the finest neighborhood theater installations, into Skatehaven Roller Rink is progressing, too. Irv Toner, last year's president, is coordinating the crews.

Secretary Laura Thomas presided over the lobby display of ATOE material - our own photos, TO covers, etc.; and garnered a few new members including Recorder Grant Whitcomb's 8-year-old son who is competing for title of youngest member. The 1963 paid enrollment is well over 100, and will peak 130 by the time this is printed.

NF-ATOE continues to get a weekly plug on WADV-FM (Stereo), and supplies broadcast tapes for 15 minutes on WEBR AM and FM. For Palm Sunday and Easter, Harvey Elsaesser (who has taped most of the Sunday night programs), went to the Wurlitzer which has journeyed from Lockport's Rialto to a radio studio to Transfiguration R.C. Church. The present church location offers the best acoustics that a Wurlitzer could want.

Afterthought: Mrs. Quentin Maclean was in the North Tonawanda audience; and NF member Holywell is spearheading a restoration project in Toronto, too.



Harvey K. Elsaesser, Niagara Frontier Chapter member, seated at console of his 3/7 Wurlitzer-Marr & Colton. Harvey is organist and choir director at St. Paul's United Church in Buffalo, where there is installed a Tellers 2/23 which was rebuilt by member Robert Po-Chedley & Sons of Buffalo. Harvey is employed by Buffalo Evening News as librarian. He has been featured in N.F. concerts many times and has been featured organist for most of the tapes made that were used on WEBR-FM "Organ Loft" radio program in Buffalo.



Arthur W. Melgier, former Buffalo theatre organist, member of the Niagara Frontier Chapter. Seated at console of the John Spalding 3/10 Marr & Colton. Console was built by John. Art is presently a staff photographer for the Buffalo Courier-Express and teaches organ on the side.



The Sunday supplement of the Buffalo Courier-Express was recently devoted to organs in homes of Niagara Frontier Chapter members. The cover photo featured the organ of John R. Spalding, shown above in another featured photo working on the organ which he has built into his home at Kenmore.

OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - Glenn E. Merriam, 548 Terrace Avenue, Cincinnati 20, Ohio.

Secretary - Mrs. Glenn E. Merriam, same address.

The third regular meeting of the Ohio Valley Chapter ATOE was held on Friday, April 5, in The Annie Laws Auditorium at The University of Cincinnati. This was a combined meeting of ATOE and the Baldwin Organ Club.

The D. H. Baldwin Music Company supplied two Baldwin organs and a system of tone cabinets. The evening's program featured Fabulous Eddy Osborn, wizard of the manuals. Eddy was assisted in the program by Add Lovejoy.

It was announced by chairman John J. Strader that by unanimous vote of the Executive Board, Dr. Walter C. Langsam, President of The University of Cincinnati, had been made an Honorary member of the Ohio Valley Chapter ATOE.

Of the total 233 in attendance, sixty-six were Ohio Valley Chapter members and their guests. Refreshments were served following the program in The Annie Laws Drawing Room.

PIEDMONT CHAPTER

Chairman - Paul M. Abernathy, M.D. 1610 Vaughn Road, Burlington, N.C.

Secretary - Edwin G. Baldwin, 2711 Bedford Street, Burlington, N.C.

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - Richard Kline Jr., Frederick, Maryland.

Secretary - Woody Wise, 3701 Eaton Place, Alexandria, Virginia.

Any Potomac Valley Chapter ATOE member missing the April 21 Chapter meeting, held at Erwin Young's home, missed what was perhaps the finest meeting we have had to date. Over 100 people were in attendance in the spacious studio in the rear of Erwin's home which houses a very fine two manual Wurlitzer.

Following a business meeting, which included reports from pipe organ owners Jim Boyce, Warren Thomas, Harvey Bartlett, Norm Ziegler, and George Merriken concerning progress on their installations, Erwin Young gave the story of his installation. In the audience was a good representation of members from Winchester, Richmond, and Baltimore.

Starting the organ part of the program was Jim Boyce, followed by John Varney and Ray Brubacher. The featured artist was Leonard 'Melody Mac' MacClain, who had arrived just in time after a hair-raising trip from Philadelphia in something less than three hours. Following the usual excellent MacClain performance, the movie screen was set up and Frank Myers' contribution to the program, consisting of three silent comedy films, was shown, with Leonard providing the organ background.

After the movies, Dottie MacClain

came forward to continue the entertainment, and this part of the program ended with Leonard accompanying his lovely wife on the Hammond in some very amusing duets. Mac then took over at the Wurlitzer to finish the program, following which the instrument was turned over to the members present for their use.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bartlett in Oakton, Virginia, wherein resides the 2/7 Wurlitzer from the Apollo Theatre, Washington, D.C.

This is the organ that Jimmy Boyce had used in the Alexandria Roller Rink prior to purchasing the 4/34 Center Theatre Wurlitzer which he is now installing.

DICK KLINE BUYS CAPITOL THEATRE WURLITZER 260

On May 1, Dick Kline, Potomac Valley Chapter chairman, purchased the Wurlitzer 3/15 (Model 260) installed in the Loew's Capitol Theatre, Washington D.C. Needless to say, Dick is in somewhat of a daze, almost not believing it to be true. The organ, in two chambers on the right side of the house, was installed in May 1927. The theatre, originally named the Fox, was opened in September of the same year by none other than Samuel ROTHAFEL-ROXY. The organ has been played by many well-known organists including the late Milton Slosser, and Art Brown. Several attempts by ATOE to get the organ going have proved fruitless. Since the fate of the Capitol is still pending, Loew's put the organ up for sale, and the rest has been told. The organ is now being removed and will be installed in a special room 65 feet long, 25 feet wide, and 22 feet high, which Dick is including in his new home, near Thurmont, Maryland. Congratulations, Dick, there's not another fellow any more deserving of this instrument.

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

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

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

THE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

Chairman - Carl Norvel, Griffin, Georgia.

Secretary - Breck H. Camp, 2019 Clairmont Terrace, Atlanta 6, Georgia.

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 November meeting of the St. Louis Chapter was held at the home of member Stan Kann, with the guest of honor being George Wright. The meeting reception followed a great concert by George Wright on the Allen Organ sponsored by the House of Organs of St.



George Wright chatting with the late Jerre Cammack (see story below) at St. Louis reception.



George Wright with St. Louis organists. L to r., Johnny Ferguson, Stan Kann, George Wright, Bobby Heil, Art Edinger, Walmera (Gus) Brummer, and Dick Balsano.

Louis. His concert featured many of his recorded favorites and some new ones all interspersed with the typical Wright humor and imagination.

At the reception, members and their guests were privileged to meet and chat with George on his first visit to St. Louis. It is our hope that we as a chapter can sponsor George in the future in another concert.

JERRE CAMMACK

On Sunday night, January 20, the St. Louis Chapter lost one of its best friends, Jerre Cammack. The beloved "grand old man" of St. Louis organists, whose career had spanned St. Louis theatres, radio, and restaurants, to theatre and road show tours of most of the 50 states, passed away at the ATOE meeting doing the thing he liked most, playing the organ.

In the days when the theatre was at its peak, the name Jerre Cammack ranked alongside those of Stuart Barrie, Milton Slosser, Ernie LaPique, and Tom Terry. Though he often substituted at the Ambassador and Missouri theatres, Jerre played most often at the St. Louis theatre's large Kimball. He was

the first staff organist for Station WIL, having designed its Wicks studio organ. He traveled many states for the International Harvester Company in a touring road show using his concert Hammond, and played a stint for Walt Disney at famed Disneyland and for many other

touring shows too numerous to mention. More recently, being semi-retired, he limited his activities to substitute church work, teaching, and occasional banquet work. His infectious personality and hearty enthusiasm for organ music and the cause of the organization

were a never ending source of encouragement to those of us who knew him. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Mary, and his family.

Edgar 'Ned' Lustig

WESTERN RESERVE CHAPTER

Chairman - Duane D. Arey, 215

East 206 St., Cleveland 23, Ohio.

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



Western Reserve members at a recent meeting gather 'round the Wurlitzer 240 Special (ex Uptown Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio) now installed in the home of Don Wheeler, shown seated. Standing L to R are Franklin Shoop, Duane Arey, and Don Borden.



Bulletin board of Western Reserve Chapter.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from Page 21)

include the following items:-

One Wurlitzer reservoir, 20" by 30" complete with 4 - 25# springs, hooks, etc.

One small Wurlitzer Tremolo.

10' to 15' of 2½" galvanized duct, and at least three 2½" adjustable elbows.

10' to 15' of 4" galvanized duct and at least three 4" adjustable elbows.

4 dozen pan head sheet metal screws 3/4" x 10 to screw on flanges.

3 square feet of 1/8" cork gasket.

Miscellaneous round head wood screws as needed, and wire to connect tremolo electrically.

(On method Number 2 only) One 7" x 7" x 9" Wurlitzer Wind Junction box, or equivalent.

THE SANTA FE'S MAESTRO OF THE MIGHTY WURLITZER

A neighborhood of Wilmette, Illinois, was badly shaken last year when several coffin crates were deposited on the lawn of the Russell Joseph residence. They didn't realize the contents were pipes for a theatre pipe organ, and that Russell Joseph was an enthusiastic booster of this type of music maker.

The delivery of the coffin crates to Mr. Joseph was the culmination of a dream, (or nightmare, depending on your point of view), for owning a theatre organ had been his idea of heaven on earth for more years than he cares to state.

It all started back in the glorious days before the arrival of talking pictures. As a child, Russell collected organ catalogs as others collected pictures of athletes of the day. He spent many hours investigating the organ manufacturers, such as Kilgen and Wicks, whose factories were near his boyhood home. After taking a few organ lessons he became organist for his church, and spent a summer with Milton Slosser learning the intricacies of the organ in the Missouri Theatre, St. Louis.

As the years passed, Mr. Joseph followed his career as an executive with the Santa Fe Railroad, while his dream of pipe organs lay dormant until one day in 1960 when his son, Fred, a student at the University of Wyoming, called and advised that the old pipe organ in the auditorium was being replaced. He wondered if Dad would like to enter a

theatre organ