

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

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

Recent activities include the meeting of September 16, at the home of George Wine, Lombard, Illinois, where the center of attraction was the beautiful 2/4 Kimball Theatre pipe organ. On Saturday, October 5, the chapter was invited to visit the beautiful 3/9 Barton in the Al Ringling Theatre in Baraboo, Wisconsin, as the guests of Wally Rathman.

The first public concert sponsored by the chapter was an undeniable success with almost 500 people coming to hear Pearl White and Tony Tahlman perform at the Elm Skating Club Rink organ on June 10.

CATOE was also well represented at the 1963 Bismarck Annual Meeting, with Larry and Fern Coleman, Ed Boettger, Fred Krause, Bea and Paul Lewis, Lois and Wally Rathman, and Jim Stemke enjoying a week-end that they will remember for quite some time.

HERE AND THERE

The Elm Skating Club celebrated its seventh anniversary on September 6, with Tony Tahlman at the recently enlarged Elm pipe organ . . . The Tivoli (Crawford's favorite organ) was sold to Leroy Conrad of Hinsdale . . . Tom Sheen acquired Conrad's first organ, the Forest Theatre 2/6 Barton, which is to be installed in a Downers Grove residence . . . John Prezcell has the United Artists 2/10 WurliTzer, all or part, for sale . . . Bill Barry recently acquired a very nice 3/8 WurliTzer from Kenosha . . . The Capitol 3/17 WurliTzer was recently sold for a fantastically high price, considering its difficulty of removal.

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - John Armstrong, Jr., Mechanicsville, Pennsylvania.

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

Delaware Valley's July meeting was another double-header, with the first half held at our Chapter home, the Sedgwick Theatre in Phila., Pa. Attendance at the Sedgwick was relatively light, due to the fact that many members show up on the second Tuesday of every month where the organ is open for all to play. After the Sedgwick, dinner was enjoyed at the Falcon House, Havertown, Pa.

At 2:00 p.m. we met at the Lansdowne Theatre in Lansdowne, Pa. Here we had a very large turnout, with several hundred people in attendance. The program was started with Don Kinnier, house organist, who played a number of selections. William Crawford, Delaware Valley
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ley's newly appointed M.C., gave a talk on the 3/8 Kimball, telling about its original installation and its recent restoration. After Bill's talk we enjoyed an hour of music by Lowell Ayars. Lowell is an excellent organist and it is always a treat when he is able to attend the meetings and play for us.

After Lowell's fine performance we were entertained with silent movies, accompanied by Sam Dougherty at the organ. Following the movies, Leonard "Melody Mac" MacClain topped off the program with his superb mastery of the theatre organ. The console was then turned over to the members and the following played:

Esther Higgins, Al Hermanns, Pearl Kluth, Herb Cooley, Leo Bolbecker, Barbara Fesmire, Wayne Hawthorne, George Miller, Wendall Rotter, Bob Taylor, and Dottie MacClain.

Our August meeting was held at the Brooke Theatre, 14 Hamilton St., Bound Brook, N.J. Here we heard a 2/4 WurliTzer, style B, Opus 1519. The meeting was from 10:00 a.m. til 2:00 p.m. The theatre was open to the public from 12 noon and an estimated 250 people showed up, not including AATOE members. This in itself shows that there is quite an interest in the theatre organ by the general public.

Musings about a middle-aged type organist
by Donald L. Pierce
(Member of the Delaware Valley, AATOE)
1-28-63

Tibias, snibias, diapasons and flutes,
Kinuras, trumpets, and unworldly toots -
You miss with your fingers, you miss
with your feet
What comes out of that box mimics fifty
lost sheep.

But after a while, with that system
called "pointer,"
You become quite adept; you're an organ
club joiner.
And then one fine evening you get up to
play,
You've become quite proficient, you've
practiced since May.

The "Doll Dance," or "Sparklets," or
maybe it's "Nola."
You've mastered a number to play as
your solo.
You sit at the organ, you spread out the
score,
And your audience numbers a hundred or
more.

Then you're suddenly seized with a
horrible doubt
And wonder in panic just how to sneak
out.
An idiot's plight, yours greatly out-
classes,
Because safely at home - - -
Are your bi-focal glasses!

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

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

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 Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

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

Secretary - Catherine E. Lynch, 4001 Allan Avenue, Burbank, California.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

Chairman - James Daugherty, 314 East 196 St., Bronx 58, New York.

Secretary - Mary Daugherty.

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

Chairman - John Spalding, 289 Fayette Avenue, Kenmore 23, New York.

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

Business as usual is certainly the byword of the Niagara Frontier Chapter, which had a concert all lined up (the first one) at Shea's Buffalo Theatre only to have the entire town and surrounding area flooded by an unseasonable storm. But like the troopers that they are, all pitched in with mops and brooms, pushing water down every available drain in the theatre, then drying out the organ itself so that the meeting could go on as scheduled.

The concert was a terrific success even though the place smelled like a musty old barn and the carpets were still squishy with water, to quote Laura Thomas.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

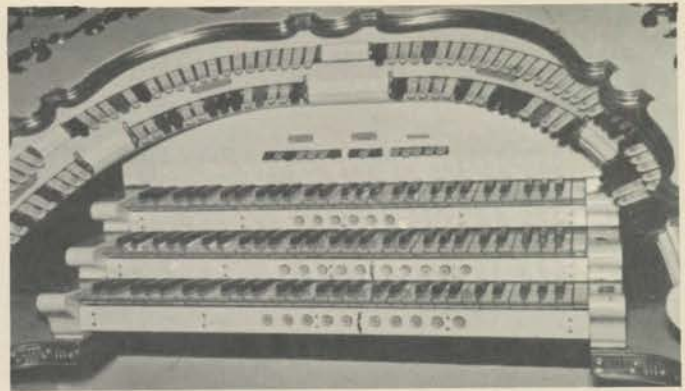
Chairman - Fred Clapp, 5610 Castle Drive, Oakland 11, California.

Secretary - George Morris, 3172 24 Street, San Francisco 10, California.

August 18 saw over 150 members attend a meeting at Ye Old Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo, wherein reposes a 10 rank WurliTzer boasting two consoles. The original two manual console came with the organ, which started its life in the State Theatre, Fresno, California. It was purchased from the theatre by a local radio station, which never did get around to installing it, but ended up selling it to Bob Kates, who installed it in his home in Berkeley, California. Bob then sold the organ to Vern Gregory in San Francisco, who in turn sold it to Babe Marsh who installed it in his home in Vallejo, California. The next move for this travelling organ was to Ye Old



The new 3 manual console in the Pizza Joynt, San Lorenzo, Calif. Note unenclosed sleigh bells in back of console.



A close-up of the newly-refurbished Wurlitzer console in the Pizza Joynt.



Bill Langford at Ye Old Pizza Joynt Wurlitzer.



The original two manual console of the Pizza Wurlitzer.

-- Photos by Gerald Stevenson.

Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo, with Carsten Henningson as the new owner. Here the organ has played for thousands of pizza patrons, with genial Dave Quinlan presiding at the console nightly. (This joynt really jumps).

Recently a 3 manual console (formerly at the Loew's Warfield, San Fran-

cisco) was available, and organ lover Henningson snapped it up and had it put in shape, gave it a lovely white and gold paint job and placed it next to the two manual console in Ye Old Pizza Joynt.

The August 18 meeting featured popular Bay Area organist Bill Langford,

who, in addition to being a terrific organist, is a master showman. Following the regular program, the organ was turned over to the membership for a jam session which came to an end only because Ye Old Pizza Joynt had to open to the regular public.

OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

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

Secretary - Mrs. Glenn E. Merriam.

The home of Ken and Ruth Hunt, Dayton, Ohio was the scene of the fall meeting of the Ohio Valley Chapter. Ken is the proud owner of the former Chicago Terminal Theatre, 4-17 Wurlitzer. The entire second floor added to Ken's ranch home provides a beautiful setting for the organ and auditorium seating 150.

After the business meeting conducted by Chairman, Glenn El Merriam, the membership was favored by the console artistry of Mr. Robert E. Kline, President of the Dayton Board of Education and Director of Education and Training for National Cash Register. In the latter capacity, Mr. Kline plays a 4-43 Estey concert organ. During the first portion of the program, Mrs. Robert Kline conducted a song fest which served excellently as an ice-breaker.

A surprise feature was Leon Berry, recording star and Organist at Chicago's Hub Roller Rink. Leon had played Ken Hunt's organ in its original setting at the Terminal Theatre.



Leon Berry, recording artist and organist at Chicago's Hub Roller Rink thrills audience at Ohio Valley Chapter Meeting.

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 - Ray Brubacher, 1706
Mayhew Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland.

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

On Sunday, June 16, the Potomac Valley Chapter met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bartlett of Oakton, Virginia, to elect new ATOE chapter officers, and to hear the 2/7 WurliTzer recently installed in the Bartlett music room. Ray Brubacher was elected chairman to replace Dick Kline, who has ably fulfilled this duty for two years. Norman Ziegler was named vice chairman and Woody Wise secretary-treasurer for his second term. The 2/7 WurliTzer was dedicated by Jim Boyce, its former owner, the organ having been previously installed in the Alexandria Arena by Boyce. This organ was originally installed in the Apollo Theatre in Washington, in 1923, then it was moved to a church, then installed in the rink, and is now, we hope, finally at peace in the beautiful surroundings of the Bartlett's music room. About 70 members were present for the meeting.

Saturday night, July 27, saw Potomac

Valley Chapter members at the Tivoli Theatre, Frederick, Md., for their July meet. Members assembled in the lobby and through the courtesy of Dan Weinberg, Tivoli manager, were allowed to attend the 9 p.m. organ intermission, played by John Steele, on the 2/8 divided WurliTzer. The members then departed en masse for the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lem Keller of Frederick, who have installed in their home what Mr. Keller calls his "Keller Special" 3/14. The chapter is proud of Mr. Keller, because not only has he installed this organ, but has also built the console, most of the chests, and his own motor driven tremulants. The pipework is by Kimball, Moller, Reuter, and WurliTzer, and the entire organ possesses a very refined quality of tone. It is an organ that you want very much to hear over and over. Guest artists were John Steele, Jim Boyce, and John Varney, and needless to say, these professionals were up to their usual high standards.

Mr. and Mrs. Keller served refreshments to the hot and thirsty crew, with about 45 to 50 in attendance. At 11 p.m., it was back to the Tivoli Theatre, downtown, for the business meeting, and the main program. Erwin Young reported on the convention, and we are proud that both the ATOE Vice President, Mr. Young, and the secretary-treasurer, Dick Kline, are members of our chapter. Progress reports from pipe organ owners Norm Ziegler (4/17 Marr & Colton), Jim

Boyce (4/34 WurliTzer), Warren Thomas (3/8 Robert Morton), and Dick Kline (3/15 WurliTzer), all of which are not yet playing, were heard. Dick Haffer of Baltimore reported that the big 3/32 Kimball in the Stanton Theatre, Baltimore, will be shut down for major re-leathering, for a planned concert by Leonard MacClain, sometime this fall.

After the business meeting, the chairman called on our guest, John Steele, to start the musical part of the program. After this, the organ was made available to all members. Thanks go to all the members who did a crash job on the Tivoli organ, getting it in top shape for the meeting, and to Dick Myers, who furnished the very informative reports on the history of the Tivoli Theatre and its organ.

It was good to see members from all areas of the chapter, as far south as Richmond, Va., Washington, and Baltimore, at the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORTS - - -

Jim Boyce has 21 ranks of the 34 on his WurliTzer organ, the former Rockefeller Centre Theatre organ, in good playing order. It sounds unbelievably good in the vast area of the Alexandria Arena where he is installing it. Dick Kline is progressing on his new home for the ex-Capitol Theatre 3/15 WurliTzer. Dick's listening room will be 65 x 25 x 22 feet. The room overlooks an abandoned stone quarry filled with 80



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feet of ice blue water, a very beautiful setting for a very beautiful instrument. Norm Ziegler has about all of his 4/17 Marr & Colton home, with one more load to be gotten from its former home, the Capitol Theatre, Wheeling, West Virginia. Norm will install the organ in two huge basement chambers, with grille work in the living room floor. Warren Thomas's 3/8 Robert Morton is close to playing condition, and Morton really built those consoles BIG! He has managed to get the eight ranks with a wood diaphone compactly installed in his recreation room of his Gaithersburg, Md. home. In Richmond, things are going very well, with Eddie Weaver still thrilling theatre goers at the Byrd. Tommy Landrum had us really worried when he told us that the Mosque was recently condemned electrically, but it was for outmoded wiring, and the city fathers have appropriated the money for re-wiring (bless 'em), so the organ will still be in regular use.

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

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

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

THE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

Chairman - Carl Norvell, Rt. 3, Box 249, Griffin, Georgia.

Secretary - Bob Hill, Shurlington Plaza, Macon, Georgia.

Sunday morning, September 22, the Southeastern Chapter of ATOE held its first anniversary meeting at the Georgian Terrace Hotel, Atlanta, Ga. Visitors welcomed included ATOE President W. 'Tiny' James, Vice President Erwin A. Young, and ATOE member John Gallagher of Alameda, California.

Officers elected for the coming year were: chairman, Carl Norvell; vice chairman, Bob Van Camp; and secretary-treasurer, Bob Hill. Following the business session, the meeting adjourned to the Mighty Atlanta Fox Theatre for the "piece de resistance."

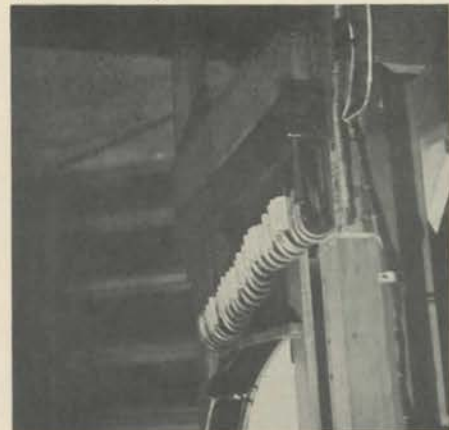


Bob Van Camp presides at the Fox, Atlanta, Moller.

-- Photos on this page courtesy John Gallagher.

At 10:45 a.m., the house lights dimmed and the Mighty Moller (4/42, 376 tabs) rose out of the pit with Bob Van Camp at the console. As the strains of "Valencia" came forth from the five chambers, the crowd rose in a thundering ovation to welcome back the magnificent sound of the pride of the Moller Company and to pay tribute to the chapter members, spearheaded by Joe Patten, who worked so tirelessly to restore the instrument, which is probably the largest installation ever restored by an ATOE Chapter. This thrilling moment fulfilled a long awaited dream of the chapter and there was more than one handkerchief brought hastily out of hip pockets and purses.

After playing a most enjoyable selection of favorite numbers, Bob relinquished the organ to the one and only 'Tiny' James, who gave his usual sterling performance in his free and easy style. This was a real treat for everybody, especially those who had not had the opportunity to hear him before. Both artists completely captivated the audience with their masterful handling of this tremendous instrument. While Bob and 'Tiny' took a well deserved intermission, the members were invited to



View of the tuned bird whistles found on the Fox, Atlanta, Moller.

play, each being allotted five minutes. This revealed much hidden talent in the chapter, which indicates there will be many good 'jam sessions' at future meetings. 'Tiny' James returned to the console and played requests and many selections from his recordings. Bob Van Camp completed the memorable morning with more fine selections. As the great Moller descended into the pit, the crowd left their seats to stand around the pit railing and see it safely put to sleep.



Console of the Fox ,Atlanta, 4/42 Moller.



'Tiny' James at the Moller console, Fox Theatre, Atlanta.



Joe Patten, left, explains the various percussion found on the mighty Fox Moller, Atlanta. Bob Van Camp, right, looks on.

Photo courtesy John Gallager.

Chairman Carl Norvell expressed the appreciation of the Chapter to the theatre management for its co-operation in making this wonderful organ available to the chapter. He also thanked President 'Tiny' James and Vice President Erwin Young for being the guests of the Southeastern Chapter on this occasion.

Members were present from four States, and among the guests present, thirteen new members were added to the rolls. All in all, it was a fine day for the Southeastern Chapter of ATOE, and provided a real send-off into their second year.

EDITOR'S NOTE - The next issue of THEATRE ORGAN will feature a complete illustrated story of the Fox Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia, and its mighty 4/42 Moller. Watch for it!

ST. LOUIS AREA CHAPTER

Chairman - Edgar 'Ned' Lustig, 12226 Mentz Hill Rd, St. Louis, Mo. 63128
Secretary - Wendell Whitcraft, 445 Baker Avenue, St. Louis 19, Missouri.

VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER

Chairman - Al Comtois, 3508 West McClellan Blvd., Phoenix, Arizona.
Secretary - Edna E. Hunnicutt, 3026 East Garfield Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

Hospitality overflows in Phoenix when any ATOE member visits the new Valley of the Sun Chapter there. Two well known members of the organization recently visited the town and received the 'red carpet' treatment.

On Tuesday night, July 16, Bill Blunk -- who owns, operates and acts as organist at his Viking Roller Rink in Astoria, Oregon, where he has the former Rochester Theatre five manual Marr & Colton installed -- played the Phoenix Paramount 3m/13r Wurlitzer/Meisel and Sullivan before the motion picture presentation of "Cleopatra." His name was

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featured on a lobby poster (see photo) advertising his appearance at the theatre.

Blunk, who was just passing through Phoenix on his way home from the ATOE convention at Bismarck, was accompanied by his son. He also met Bob Read at the Beekeepers Inn and listened to the artist play several selections on the Marr & Colton.

On Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14, immediate past president Dick Loderhose and his wife were in Phoenix. Dick was guest artist Sunday morning at the console of the Paramount organ for the Valley of the Sun Chapter.

Theatre manager Fred Brockman was given honorary membership in the club for the excellent cooperation he has given the group in their refurbishing work on the Paramount instrument.



Bill Blunk in the lobby of the Phoenix Paramount.

WESTERN RESERVE CHAPTER

Chairman - Duane D. Arey, 10718 Johnnycake Ridge Road, Concord Township, Painesville, Ohio.
Secretary - Clayton D. George, 20101 Beachview Dr, Cleveland 17, Ohio.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is my check to cover 1963 dues for National ATOE membership.

Reading about all of the mainland TO activity is a real thrill, as the only TO's in the Hawaiian Islands which are in playable condition are two Robert Mortons (4/13 & 4/15) in theatres, and a 3/10 Morton (?) which was moved from theatre to church about 6 years ago. Since these three will probably stay where they are for quite a while, about all we can do is look up their histories and keep the termites out of the two still in the theatres. It's still fun, though.

ALOHA
Roger Angell
3040 Manoa Road
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

Dear Friend:

I am just 23 miles west of Tokyo. Went to see my old friend Heroshi Matzuzua last Sunday. The old organ is still playing. It needs a lot of work to put it in first class shape. Not many here who love organs the way we do.

Sure would like to see George Wright and hear him play at Bismarck, but that is hopelessly out of the question.

Personal regards to Judd, Gaylord and Tiny.

Louis E. Miller



Bill Blunk as guest artist at the Meisel and Sullivan console in the Paramount Theatre, Phoenix.