# **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

## CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

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

#### CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman - Everett Bassett, 312 Homestead Ave., Waterbury, Conn. 06701. Secretary - Judy Derby, 109 Layton St., West Hartford, Conn. 06110.

Picture a mirror lake nestled among sloping, tree-dotted hills. Picture an attractive studio, just a patio from the lake's edge, a wall of windows overlooking the lake. Visualize a gold and white three manual WurliTzer console in one corner of the big room, a two manual gold and white console opposite, and three chambers bulging with pipes and percussions. Make it a warm, blue, autumn afternoon -- and this is ConnChap's Oct. 12 meeting at George L. Shaskan's studio in Stamford. To the ardent ATOE-er, this is paradise; no wonder our meeting was so well attended!

In the evening, Rosa Rio played an informal and delightful concert for us. When we failed to coax her back to the console, Chairman Ev Bassett ran a rare, one-man show -- well, with some assistance from the distaff side. He projected silent movies (he got them running and wife Eleanor took over), and raced to the console to accompany the show.

A fitting follow-up, this, to the hilarious summer outing at the Orange home -and pool -- and organ -- of Jack and Ann Heavens. While the kiddies (of all ages) gurgled in the pool, us organ alligators gathered round to admire Jack's spanking new pride and joy: an Allen Custom Theatre Organ installed just the previous day. We all took a whack at the console, and Chairman Ev Bassett could scarcely tear away even for the pot-luck supper or the incredible sleight-of-hand session by Magician Al Wall, or even the vintage 1909 bathing togs modeled by our hosts.

Evening performances included a console-and-keyboard duet by Ev Bassett at the Allen and MikeFoley at the apartment grand piano, followed by a swinging combo composed of Host Jack Heavens at the Allen, son Johnny at the drums, and neighbor Gene Hubbard tooting a hot sax. That warm evening inspired real cool jazz!

#### CONNCHAP GOES BIG

In fact, ConnChap is being discarded in favor of embracing the entire Connecticut Valley area. At the October 12 meeting in Stamford, the members voted to change our name to the Connecticut Valley Chapter, and to add Western Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont to our geographical area which formerly included only Connecticut. The national organization was notified immediately and their approval requested.

So you may now call us ConnValChap! Any THEATRE ORGAN readers in them that hills are cordially invited -yea, even urged -- to contact any chapter officer at once and make yourself known. And if you jes' happen to have a 4m/36r WurliTzer of your own, we won't bar you on that account.

Very seriously, we are anxious to recruit members and locate organs north of the Connecticut state line, and we'd be most happy to hear from anyone in that area.

Eleanor D. Weaver

## DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

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

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

On Sept. 22, Delaware Valley Chapter members made their annual trip to the Surf City hotel, Surf City, N.J., to play and hear the 3/15 WurliTzer installed there.

Surf City hotel's regular organist, Frank Albanese, has performed there since 1961 and has quite a background on the "King of Instruments." He first played at the Strand Theatre in Union City, N.J., at the age of 13. He was heard over Stations WOR, WHN, and WAAT, broadcasting from the State Theatre, Jersey City, N.J., for 14 years. Also to his credit is the first jazz organ concert at Carnegie Hall. And he was official organist at the famous Stage Door Canteen of W.W. II in N.Y.C.

The meeting at Surf City was a bigger success than the one last year, indicating that the members look forward to this annual meeting.

On October 27 the chapter journeyed to Rahway, N.J., to hear an excellent 2/7 WurliTzer at the Rahway Theatre. The organ was restored by Michael Hughes and Wendell Rotter, who did a marvelous job. The theatre management opened the theatre to the general public for the last half of the meeting, drawing an audience of about 350 people in addition to AATOE membership.

Performing at this meeting were the following: Alan Day, Al Hermanns, Barbie Fesmire, Wendell Rotter, Bob Carson, Leo Bolbecker, George Miller, Gerry Glaze, Arnold Leeds, Garret Paul, Donald Leroy, and Dick Loderhose.

November 17 was the day many of us were waiting for, to hear and see the famed Atlantic City Convention Hall organ.

The program was opened by Barbie Fesmire who, it is understood, is the second woman ever to play this gigantic instrument, an honor in itself.

Following Barbie was Lowell Ayars, who gave an excellent performance as usual. It should be added here that both of these performers studied under Leonard MacClain, another testimonial to Leonard's ability to not only perform but to teach as well.

After this performance, we went to the Convention Hall Ballroom to hear the 4/55 Kimball. This organ was designed and voiced by the late Senator Emerson Richards, as well as the main auditorium organ.

While members were playing the ballroom organ, groups of 20 at a time were taken for a tour of one of the eight chambers of the main organ. William Rosser, organ chief, explained various workings of the chamber and one can appreciate the tremendous task of tuning and maintaining this gigantic instrument.

The following members had the opportunity to play the ballroom organ: Ed Weimer, Dick Loderhose, Wendell Rotter, Garret Paul, Al Hermanns, Esther Higgins, Olga Headley, Barbie Fesmire, Sal Trippey, Donald Leroy, Lowell Ayars, Leo Bolbecker, Frank Cummins, Mark Dresden, Robby Carson, George MacNeal, Kathy Woern, Clifford Welsh, and Jerry Glaze.

After the meeting, many members went to Luigi's Restaurant, where reservations had been made for the club.

R. A. Pfunke

### EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

Chairman – Jim Rankin, 73 Grand Street, Reading, Massachusetts.

Secretary - Elbert J. Drazy, 6 Amherst Road, Andover, Massachusetts.

The October meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Fucci in Waltham, and included the election of 1964 officers and preliminary plans for the Spring Concert. Following the business meeting, those in attendance had an opportunity to play Pat's Conn organ and to observe the progress being made on the 4/20 Robert Morton installation.

At the request of the membership, the November meeting was held at the Methuen Memorial Music Hall. This fabulous Welcker concert organ, a 4 manual, 80-100 rank instrument, is one of America's finest. It was built in Germany between 1857 and 1863, and arrived in Boston on March 22, 1863, after running the British blockade. The organ was originally installed in the old Boston Music Hall. In 1897, Edward Searles of Methuen purchased the instrument and had a special hall designed and built just for the organ.

The December meeting was held at the home of Chuck Whitehead. Chuck's organ is WurliTzer Opus 193 from the Codman Square Theatre in Dorchester, Mass.

David Hartshorn

\$5.00 - DUES ARE NOW DUE FOR 1964 - \$5.00

## LAND O'LAKES CHAPTER

Chairman - Ed Borowiec, 224 S. 5th Street, Delano, Minn.

Secretary - Burt Frank, 820 Hoyt Av. W., St. Paul, Minn.

Now that the Annual Meeting is a pleasant memory, we have been able to step up the frequency of our chapter meetings. Our new officers were elected and installed at the July 27 meeting, which was hosted by Harold and Don Peterson. We spent a most enjoyable afternoon with their 3/8 Barton, which nearly had to be blasted from the Uptown Theatre in St. Paul. This is a very unusual organ in which the top (Barton) manual is divided into a treble half and a bass half. Either portion may be coupled to the pedals, providing combinations which are out of this world. Barton only made 12 of these organs, so Harold and Don have a real rarity. We all had a chance to play it, but Bill Eden, home on leave from the U.S.A.F. in Germany, really showed us how to handle this wild beast. Come home to stay soon, Bill!

Program Chairman Clyde Olson hints that he has some very exciting things planned for our meetings, but that's about all he'll say. He made an excellent start by having the gang out to his "ranch" for a picnic on Sunday, August 25th. We were treated to some very pleasant and pipe-like sounds from the Allen theatre and church organs at the Schmitt Music Company auditorium the evening of September 19. The electronic organs are closing the tonal gap between them and the pipes rapidly. They're even driving the generators with the sound of wind ("Whind," Allen calls it). What next? Ron Brownell ruined his reputation for never finishing a piece by finishing no less than three, and beautifully, too. A special treat was the playing of Paul Quarino, a young organist from Milwaukee who is studying music in Minneapolis. He is definitely a "Jack of all musical trades," and a master of all of them. You haven't really heard the "St. Louis Blues" unless you've heard Paul do it on the large church organ, right after a very intricate improvisation of a heavy classical selection. Take it from us, you'll hear more from this fellow!

John Zetterstrom

## LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

Chairman - Jack Shemick, 4311 Stewart Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Secretary – Miss Constance Brenner, 1914 South Vermont Avenue, Suite 12, Los Angeles, California.

#### NEW YORK CHAPTER

Chairman - James Dougherty, 314 East 196 Street, Bronx, New York. Secretary - Mary Dougherty.

#### NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

Chairman – Grant Whitcomb, 19 Church Street. East Aurora, New York.

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

What a wonderful experience it is, to have the privilege of hearing a truly great theatre organist play a concert on a fully restored WurliTzer in its natural setting, a beautifully maintained movie palace! Such was our good fortune Sunday, October 13th, when we heard the world-renowned Reginald Foort present an unusually enjoyable program of classical, concert and popular music on the magnificent 4-21 WurliTzer in the RKO Palace Theatre in Rochester, N.Y.

Pre-concert excitement had reached a peak when the big red curtains parted slightly around the microphone, and Niagara Frontier President John Spalding and Concert Chairman Dick Britton introduced Reginald Foort at the centre stage. The beautiful ivory and gold console rose majestically from the left side of the pit, and Reggie climbed aboard to open with his familiar signature, "Keep Smiling."

It rapidly became evident that Reggie had the audience right in his hand; his informality and his humorous comments in a refined British accent brought many a spontaneous chuckle. (He informed us right at the start that he was to be called Reggie). His playing seemed faultless, and deceivingly effortless. It is quite possible to render the works of the great masters in a manner understandable and enjoyable to everyone, as Reggie very convincingly demonstrated. He had no difficulty in getting his right foot down on the pedalboard as well as the left, or cancelling tremulants when the music required it; however, when the tremulants would contribute to the desired effect, they were used, thanks be.

A well-deserved tribute was given to Danny and Oline Schultz and their associates for the splendid condition of the organ; Reggie remarked that it was wonderful to find such a magnificent WurliTzer in mint condition. One dead note on the Brass Trumpet was the only flaw in evidence throughout the entire concert, which is remarkable considering the extensive use of solo voices. Reggie mentioned the excellence of the tuning, which was very evident in the trems off passages.

All too soon the concert ended; however, when some encores were suggested, the applause brought Reggie back. The climax of the encore numbers was reached with his stirring rendition of "Finlandia," then a few lines of "Keep Smiling" brought the concert to a close. A large crowd quickly gathered around the console, eager to meet Reggie and get his autograph. He graciously complied to the many requests. Annette Maclean was in the audience, and Reggie was quite delighted to meet her, as her late husband, Quentin Maclean, was his colleague in England.

#### H. Clealan Blakely

EDITOR'S NOTE: A fine story of the Niagara Frontier week-end meeting in Toronto was received too late for this issue. Watch for it in the new ATOE Newsletter, under the able editorship of Stu 'Postborn' Green.



Harry B. Picken, Niagara Frontier Chapter director and former theatre organist, at console of 4/28 WurliTzer, August 4 concert.



Arthur Melgier, member of Niagara Frontier Chapter, and a former theatre organist, at Shea's Buffalo Theatre WurliTzer during August 4 concert.



Reginald Foort and Annette Maclean at console of RKO Palace Theatre 4/21 WurliTzer, October 13 Niagara Frontier ATOE concert, Rochester, N.Y. — Photo by Clifford O'Kane.

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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

Secretary - Gordon Walker, 4678 Belfast Avenue, Oakland, California.

The first meeting in several months for the normally very active Northern California Chapter was held at San Francisco's spacious Paramount Theatre on December 7. The big 4/33 WurliTzer was found to be in fine fettle after undergoing extensive overhaul by a crew under professional organ-man Ed Stout.

People began entering the darkened auditorium a few minutes after 8 a.m. on this rather dark and sprinkly Saturday, and the program began about 9 a.m., following considerable picture taking of the partially-raised console. Following a few announcements, the music was started by Jim Roseveare of San Jose. While Jim played a variety of music, the



Allen Mills at console of 4/21 WurliTzer RKO Palace Theatre, during his concert performance on August 18.

numbers which set tongues wagging were his amazing reproductions of several of the early Jesse Crawford records. The voicing of this organ, plus Jim's uncanny choice of registration, made one feel that the "Poet of the Organ" could not be too far away after all.

Following this auspicious beginning, the 200 members and guests reveled in the "Big Sound" for some two hours with groups being offered by Aura Edwards (looking very cute in red dress and pert modern hair-do), and Chapter Chairman Fred Clapp, and polished off in great style by old pros Dave Quinlan and Larry Vannucci.

Paramount member-manager-enthusiast Earl Long was obviously pleased at the big turnout and the music, promising even more of the past hospitality and cooperation for which we are all very grateful.

A meeting was promised for January, to kick off another big year for the Nor Cal Chapter, now the largest organ club in Northern California, itself a hotbed of \*Please turn to next page ORGAN RECORDINGS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

## BUDDY COLE - Modern Pipe Organ

Just released and we have it. Buddy Cole at his own studio organ. Many thrilled to this combination at the 1962 ATOE convention. This album includes many color photos of the console and pipe work. The fidelity we find superb.

## DON BAKER - Sound Showcase

Baker's latest theatre pipe organ recording showcases many of the unique effects available only on such an organ. Photos of the Lorin Whitney organ, one in full color, adorn the album jacket.

#### JESSE CRAWFORD - Poet of the Pipe Organ

Expertly performing the music of Irving Berlin, this is a masterpiece of an album by the recognized master of the art of theatre organ playing. This is Crawford's first recording since the advent of long-playing, high fidelity techniques. MONO ONLY.

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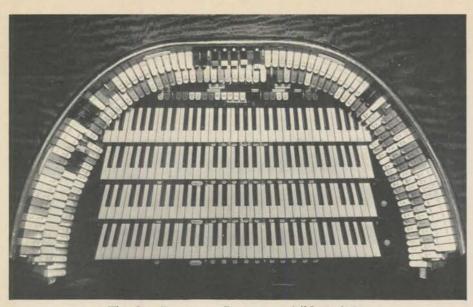
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The San Francisco Paramount 4/33 WurliTzer.

organ activity of all types. Eight big affairs were held in 1963, with heavy attendance at every one. Membership has been rising steadily without any membership drive, merely because of the steadily increasing interest in our music, and underscored by an increasing number of organ concerts by other organizations.

### PIEDMONT CHAPTER

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

#### OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

Chairman – Glenn E. Merriam, 548 Terrace Ave., Cincinnati 20, Ohio. Secretary – Mrs. Glenn E. Merriam. While several favorite haunts disappeared or became unavailable during 1963, there are a number of new installations which will become available for meetings in the coming year, so there should be plenty of variety ahead for chapter members.

Fred Clapp

## POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER

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

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

On Friday evening October 25th, a Chapter meeting was held at the "America on Wheels" rink, Alexandria, Va. Members from as far away as Richmond and Baltimore were present to hear Jim Boyce premiere his big 4/34 WurliTzer, of which 21 ranks were playing.

Jim began his program with a medley of songs from "Porgy and Bess," and after taking us through many delightful tunes, finished with a fantasy on "West Side Story." The organ, still to be enclosed, sounded very good, even though there are places in the vast arena which tend to harm the sound of this fabulous instrument. But in general, those who recorded the concert probably got very good tapes.

The console was later turned over to other members who wished to try their hand. Our thanks to the management and to Jim Boyce for their cooperation. There were approximately 150 in attendance.

On November 17, at 8:30 p.m., the Potomac Valley Chapter and JF Theatres presented Leonard MacClain in a special Theatre Organ Party with silent movies, song slides and all of the Leonard MacClain special arrangements played on the Giant Kimball Pipe Organ in Baltimore's Stanton Theatre. With over 1000 in attendance, this was an evening that will long be remembered.

On December 1, a last-minute meeting was held for all to hear, for the final time, the 2/7 WurliTzer in the State Theatre, Baltimore. News of the closing of the theatre was made public on November 25th, leaving little time to notify all members. We saw many new faces at the console, among them, Charlie McClellan, Frank Myers, and a new member, Roger Goodell.

Our member John Steele has purchased the 3/32 Moller in Loew's Palace Theatre, Washington, D.C. John will remove and store the instrument until he finds a suitable home for it. Congratulations, John. It's going to someone who will really appreciate it!

Ray Brubacher



New officers of Ohio Valley Chapter. L. to r., Glenn E. Merriam, chairman; Mrs. Merriam, secretary-treasurer; Ev; erard Pratt Jr., vice chairman. — Photo by Jack Foster.



With Mayor Frank R. Somers of Dayton, Ohio, looking on approvingly, Robert E. Kline, president of Dayton Board of Education and Director of Education and Training for National Cash Register, plays Ken Hunt's WurliTzer at Ohio Valley Chapter meeting.

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## PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

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

Secretary - Dick Schrum, 12258 12 St. NW, Seattle, Washington 98177.

The third meeting of 1963 was held over Labor Day Week-end, with a visit to two theatres, starting out the night of August 31 at 8 p.m. with Andy Crow presiding at the Music Hall Morton. After a brief enjoyable concert, the organ was turned over to the membership. At 11 p.m., the meeting broke for refreshments until the late show was over at the Paramount. A little after 1 a.m., Dick Schrum brought the 4/20 WurliTzer out of the pit and gave a short concert, followed by the members again. By this time, some of the organists around town had shown up, such as Don French and Woody Pesho, and this added a spark to a rather happy-tired group. The meeting ended about 3:30 a.m.

At 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, the meeting got under way again, this time at the Jim Collier residence, where the organ is a three manual (2 operating) 11 rank Kimball located on the top floor of a large barn in North Bothell, Washington. The meeting opened with a fine concert by Roger Johnson, with a short business meeting following. Then all adjourned to a wonderful dinner arranged by the wives of Don French, Woody Pesho, Bill Carson, Harold Shawver, Jim Collier and Dick Schrum.

Following a jam session that lasted until 7:30 p.m., the crowd split up to take in the Morrison's 3 manual Marr & Colton, and Roger Johnson's WurliTzer-Morton-Wicks combo.

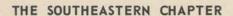
Dick Schrum



Dick Schrum brings up the Seattle Paramount WurliTzer.



Woody Fresho at Collier's Kimball.



Chairman – Carl Norvell, Rt. 3, Box 249, Griffin, Georgia. Secretary – Bob Hill, Shurlington Plaza, Macon, Georgia. 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.



Bob Jones at the Collier Kimball.



Jim Tarling, Roger Johnson, Don French, Royden Morrison, socializing at the Collier barn.

VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER

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

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Winter 1963-'64

### OREGON CHAPTER

Chairman – Ted Marks, 706 N. E. 165th Ave., Portland, Oregon. Secretary – Bill Peterson, 2708 N.

Portland Blvd., Apt. 2, Portland, Ore.

The first meeting of the Oregon Chapter was held October 20th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Phillips. A group of 41 were entertained by Bob Rickett at the 2/7 Wick organ in the Phillips home. The organ was just finished in time for this meeting, having been enlarged from 4 ranks. It sounded very beautiful, as Bob recreated some of the memories of Crawford, Dunstedter, and others, in a very clever presentation.

Following the concert, Harry E. Carruthers was introduced to speak of his recollections and to show old photos. Carruthers recalled, as a small boy in England, his earliest knowledge of Hope-Jones, who used to shake his hand by extending his little finger. After coming to the United States, Mr. Carruthers and his father both worked for, and were stockholders in, the Hope-Jones Organ Company. He also worked for WurliTzer, Kimball, Skinner, and Robert Morton. While at WurliTzer, he developed the brass trumpet. He came to Portland in 1922 to stay 3 months, but has been here ever since. Carruthers installed the WurliTzer organs in the Paramount, Oriental, and Broadway theatres in Portland.

His talk proved very interesting, and the membership enjoyed it. A motion was passed to make Mr. Carruthers an honorary member of the chapter.

The meeting concluded with a "jam session," and the serving of coffee and dessert. The Chapter would like to thank the Phillipses for the warm hospitality they extended in hosting this meeting in their home.



Officers of the new Oregon Chapter, I. to r., Dennis Hedberg, vice chairman; Bill Peterson, secretary; and Ted Marks, chairman.



Harry E. Carruthers, guest speaker at Oregon Chapter meeting October 20, one of the original stockholders and workmen in the Hope-Jones Organ Company . . . also the developer of the Brass trumpet while at WurliTzer in N. Tonawanda.



Bob Rickett seated at the Wick 2/7 in the Doug Phillips home, where he was the featured artist at October meeting of Oregon Chapter.

## Complete WurliTzer List Available

The WurliTzer list recently published serially in TH EATRE ORGAN has been the subject of many inquiries since it first began to appear in print. It has been pointed out that the list would be much more valuable and interesting from an enthusiast's standpoint if it were available by state and city. With this thought in mind, former ATOE President Judd Walton has had the entire listing punched on IBM cards and can now produce an IBM run or listing in any of the following sequences:

1) The list by Opus Number (as it appeared in THEATRE ORGAN).

2) A listing by state and city by Opus Number.

This No. 2 listing shows a grouping by state, and then by cities with that state alphabetically. And then if more than one organ was shipped to a city, the instruments are listed by Opus Number for that city. Thus, Phoenix, Arizona WurliTzers are found on this list under, Arizona, Phoenix, Opus No's. 408, Style B, Rialto Theatre; No. 2088, Church 3M, 1st Baptist; No. 2155, RJ8, Mr. & Mrs. Gibbs.

3) A listing by Style Number and

Opus Number.

This No. 3 list shows the organs by style groupings, and by Opus Numbers. Thus, all of the Style D's are listed by Opus Number, with variations shown. A Style DX, for instance, means a divided organ. An SP is a special; PL means a player attachment.

A copy of these listings with a clip binder is now available by writing to:

Judd Walton

California Farm Bureau Federation 2855 Telegraph Avenue Berkeley, California, 94705.

The cost is Ten Dollars (\$10.00), which includes mailing charges. These lists are priced at cost, including mailing, without profit, as a service to ATOE members who are interested. It will be necessary for you to assemble the sheets. At least two weeks should be allowed for the run to be made after ordering, plus mailing time. For further information, contact Judd Walton at the above address.

### TRY A CLASSIFIED!

## 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.

## LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED

Upper 49 notes WurliTzer Tibia, \$50.00, Bottom 12 notes WurliTzer Violin, \$25.00 William O. Morrison, 5152 Sound Ave., Everett, Washington.

Kilgen 3m/8r in playing condition. Complete traps, percussions, and toy counter. In home of Dallas, Texas suburb. \$5400 FOB. Details on request from Bill Thompson, 1408 Beacon St., Brookline 46, Mass.

WurliTzer 16' Wood Diaphones, 12 notes, with chests. Late Model. Phillip Stock, 1232 Farmongton Ave., West Hartford, Conn.

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