

1964 ATOE ANNUAL MEETING BUFFALO — ROCHESTER, N.Y.

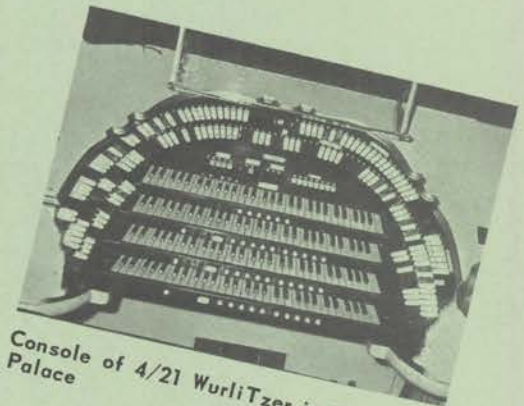


New ATOE President Carl Norvell (left), and retiring President W. 'Tiny' James (right) wish each other success as Norvell takes command of ATOE.

—Photo courtesy of Clifford J. O'Kane



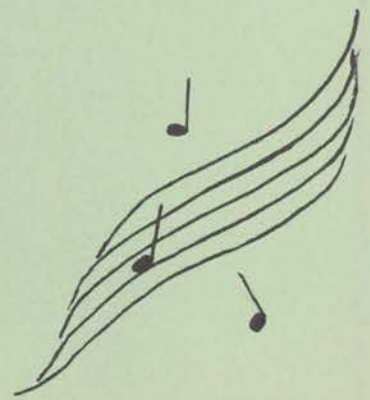
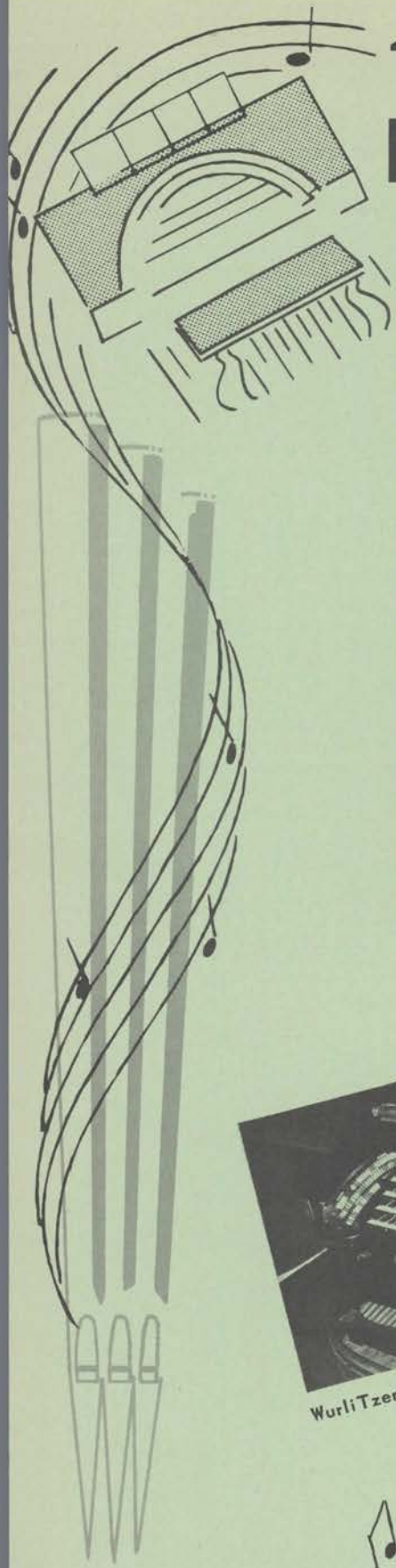
WurliTzer 4/28 in Shea's Buffalo Theatre



Console of 4/21 WurliTzer in Rochester Palace

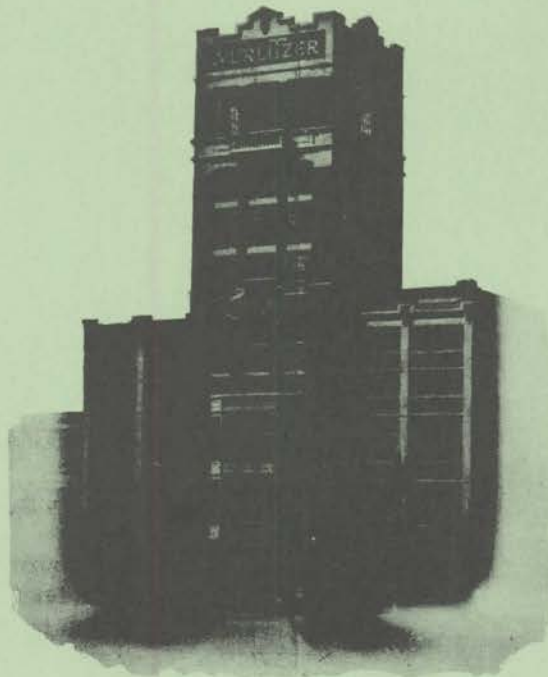


The Riviera Theatre 3/11 WurliTzer



A.T.O.E.

Melody Fair Program



WURLITZER Welcomes members of the A.T.O.E.

It is a pleasure to welcome the members of the A.T.O.E. on the auspicious occasion of their 1964 National Convention in Buffalo, New York. We hope this program of verbal and musical reminiscences of the Mighty Pipe Organ will prove interesting and nostalgic.

Following the program in the Melody Fair tent, a buffet luncheon will be served from the restaurant and enjoyed in the sylvan surroundings. May your visit be a pleasant one.



Left to right, Ben Hall, Farny R. Wurlitzer, Richard Noah, and Louis Hollingsworth.



Left to right, Dick Loderhose, Erwin Young, 'Tiny' James, and Jane Loderhose at Melody Fair, talking over the Farny Wurlitzer speech.



Don Keller of WKBW-TV of Channel 7, Buffalo interviewed Farny Wurlitzer prior to his talk. An interview was also given by WGR-TV Channel 2 and one and one half hours of the program were broadcast at 7:00 p.m. July 6th over WBEN-FM.



Left to right, Roy Waltemade, Harold Schwartz, Farny R. Wurlitzer, Richard C. Simonton, A. Donald Arsem, Louis Hollingsworth, and Gaylord Carter.



Your Host

FARNY R. WURLITZER

The surviving son of the founder of the Company bearing his name, Farny R. Wurlitzer is today the Chairman of its Board of Directors. Schooling in the United States and in Europe taught him the fine arts of musical instrument production.

He joined the Company in 1904 and became active in management of the North Tonawanda, New York plant in 1909. Under his guidance, Wurlitzer automatic instruments, pianos and the fabulous "Mighty Wurlitzer Organs" were produced. He was named Treasurer of the Company in 1912, held a position of President from 1932 to 1941, became Chairman of the Executive Board in 1941 and Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1942. His facile mind has retained much of the history and lore which made the Wurlitzer Pipe Organs synonymous with true voicing and the fine music throughout the civilized world. His talk today will touch on those matters in which his personal activity was such an important part of the immediate past.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THEATRE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS' 1964 ANNUAL MEETING



Mr. Wurlitzer accepts from Mr. W. 'Tiny' James, retiring President of the National A.T.O.E., a plaque honoring the Board of Directors' Chairman for his contributions in the development of the pipe organ and to the world of music. Grant Whitcomb indicates his approval with applause.



ATOE 1964 ANNUAL MEETING A BOMB!

Following pre-convention activity on the Canadian side of the border on Thursday, July 2nd, and the morning of July 3rd, things began happening around the Camelot Motel in Buffalo. As you walked into the lobby you could see groups of people clustered here and there and like as not you could recognize a familiar face or two in each group.

After the preliminaries of getting a room you wound up on the mezzanine where Laura and Joe Thomas, the hard working Secretary and Treasurer, and Grant Whitcomb, the Chairman of the Niagara Frontier Chapter (also a tireless worker) were swamped with the registration process. Following the registration and a further renewal of acquaintances, the move was toward the dining room for a chance to study the program for the next few days - and what a program it was!!

Friday at midnight, Radio City Music Hall organist Jack Ward started the official program on its way with a con-

cert at the 3/11 Wurlitzer in the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda. Jack performed as the true artist that he is and much credit is due Harry and Carleton Finch for their efforts in keeping this fine Wurlitzer in top shape. The following morning (Saturday) started with more registration, this time at the Skatehaven Roller Rink in Lackawanna, New York. This was also the scene of the Annual Meeting of the ATOE Board of Directors which convened at 9:30 a.m. With the reading of previous minutes, approval of the financial report, and other related business, it was then 3:00 p.m. and time to adjourn for the start of the afternoon concert at the Skatehaven Wurlitzer (formerly Shea's Seneca Theatre). The Niagara Frontier Chapter are certainly to be commended for the wonderful job that has been done in rehabilitating and installing this fine Wurlitzer. It is, without a doubt, the finest sounding theatre organ in the Buffalo area. Much credit must also be given to Sam Yoveen, the managing owner of the Skatehaven Roller Rink for his help and cooperation on this project.

Artists for the afternoon concert included Leonard MacClain, Tom Sheen, Lowell Ayars, and Harvey Elsaesser on the regular scheduled program. Each artist in turn did an outstanding job to the keen delight of the more than 400 in attendance. An extra attraction was a silent movie played by Art Melgier, well known Buffalo theatre organist.

Saturday midnight the conventioners took over Shea's Buffalo Theatre for a program that started off with a real bundle of dynamite in the person of Pearl White presiding at the console of the 4/28 Wurlitzer. This slim little gal played one of the outstanding programs to be heard at this 1964 convention. This big organ speaks out very clearly into the 3000 plus seat theatre and Pearl White quickly proved that she was its master by providing a fast-paced program played in the old 'theatre organ style.' Next on the program was Gaylord 'Flicker Fingers' Carter who had been asked to fill in for Art Melgier. Gaylord had not been able to familiarize himself with the organ, so he took the audience for a trip thru the organ while he found where everything was located, after which he played a program of old movie favorites, including some of the old time chase music, which he does so well. His program concluded with a medley of Gershwin tunes highlighted by excerpts of *Rhapsody In Blue*.

Sunday started with a buffet luncheon at Skatehaven Roller Rink followed by informal concerts during the afternoon. The Annual Banquet and Business Meeting were held in the Skatehaven Dining Room Sunday evening presided over by retiring ATOE President W. 'Tiny' James. The business portion consisted of advising the members of the financial status of ATOE, and the actions taken during the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting the previous day. The meeting concluded with the introduction of the new ATOE President, Carl Norvell, of Griffin, Georgia, who



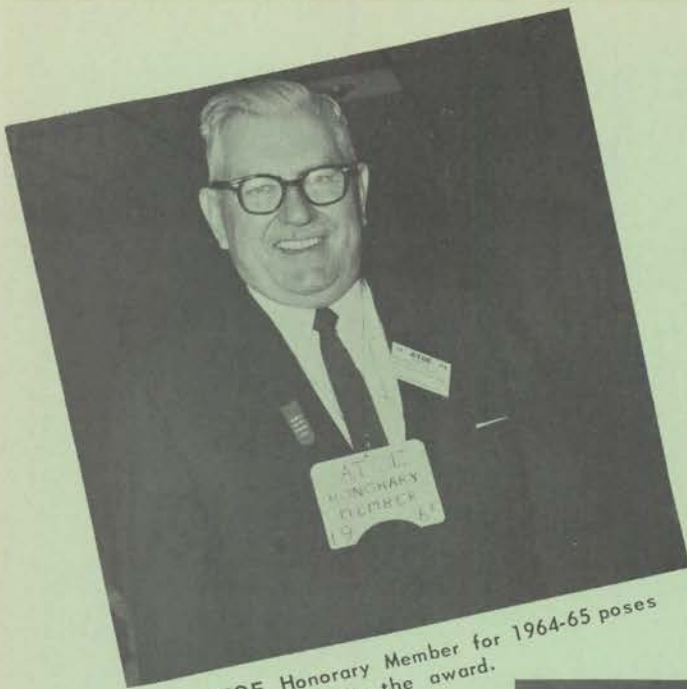
Program participants in the A.T.O.E. Melody Fair program sponsored by Fanny Wurlitzer and the Wurlitzer Company include left to right: W. 'Tiny' James, retiring President of the National A.T.O.E.; Grant Whitcomb, President of the Niagara Frontier Chapter A.T.O.E.; Mr. Wurlitzer; and Marvin Korinke.

accepted the organization's emblem of authority (A Tibia Pipe) and announced that he would do his utmost to carry on the fine work of previous ATOE Presidents, and his current Board of Directors.

Sunday midnight saw the conventioners once again assembled at the Buffalo Theatre, this time to hear from Lowell Ayars and Tom Sheen. Lowell Ayars gained much fame with ATOE members who heard him at Bismarck last year, and he turned in a superb performance on the Mighty Wurlitzer, as did the popular East Coast favorite Tom Sheen. Once again an excellent evening of pipe organ entertainment by real artists.

The program for Monday started at Melody Fair adjacent to the Wurlitzer factory in North Tonawanda, and the events are covered on page two of this supplement. Our thanks to the Wurlitzer Company for their part in this important and informative addition to our Convention. Following the formal portion of the program, a buffet luncheon was served to all in attendance with the compliments of the Wurlitzer Company.

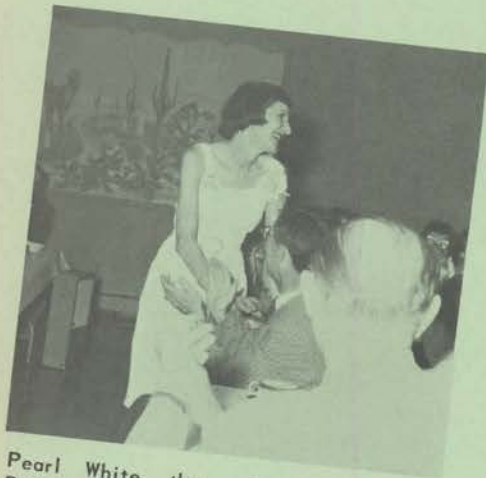
Monday evening ATOE members descended on Rochester, New York, for a concert by Tom Grierson playing Hope-Jones Opus No. 2. This fine three manual organ is installed in the First Universalist Church in Rochester, and is certainly a beautiful instrument to hear. Once again at midnight ATOE's assembled to hear the pride and joy of one, Danny Schults, - the 4/21 Wurlitzer in the RKO Palace Theatre. Featured artist for the evening was ATOE's Honorary Member for 1964-65, Reginald Foort. Needless to say, Reginald Foort presented a well rounded, expertly played program that certainly showed off this wonderful instrument. Foort was very genial in his presentation, as well as gracious with his encores. A magnificent concert. Following the Foort concert and a brief intermission, the organ was made available for a jam-session that was well received by the now tired conventioners.



ATOE Honorary Member for 1964-65 poses after receiving the award.



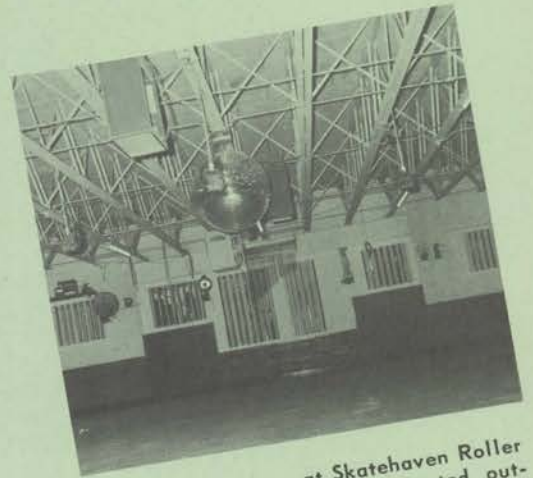
Lowell Ayars acknowledges applause at the Shea's Buffalo WurliTzer.



Pearl White, the gal that made the Buffalo WurliTzer sit up and talk, takes a bow at the Annual Banquet.



Leonard 'Melody Mac' MacClain receives Honorary Membership in Niagara Frontier Chapter from Chairman Grant Whitcomb (Left). Niagara Frontier Secretary Laura Thomas looks on approvingly (Left Rear). Lowell Ayars (Right) seems to be enjoying the ceremony as much as 'Mac'.



The organ chambers at Skatehaven Roller Rink. All percussion are located outside the chambers. Note Chimes and drums. Harp and Chrysoglott are not shown but are located left and right of this picture.



Leonard MacClain at the Skatehaven WurliTzer, and Pearl White at the Hammond give an impromptu concert Saturday afternoon.



A shot of the audience listening to Harvey Elsaesser of Buffalo, New York. Harvey was one of the many artists that appeared at the Skatehaven WurliTzer during the program.

ATOE's Officers and Board of Directors wish to extend their thanks to the Niagara Frontier Chapter for all the hard work and excellent planning that were so evident in the entire convention program. They should also be proud of the fact that over 256 ATOE members registered, accounting for over 500 people in attendance. This is a new record.

Words cannot express the gratitude of all ATOE members for the wonderful job done by Chairman Grant Whitcomb, Treasurer Joe Thomas, and last and by far the most hard-working Chapter Secretary we have ever seen, Laura Thomas. Laura, our hats are off to you.

-Photos courtesy of Raymond Brubacher and John Gallagher