

# from the chapters

## NEWS OF ACTIVITY IN ATOE CHAPTERS AS RECEIVED FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

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Secretary - Roger Johnson  
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Secretary - Lucille Mitchell  
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**CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER**

Although it was the night of Chicago-land's first blizzard of the season, about 50 brave souls turned out for CATOE'S Annual Election of officers meeting, held this year at Karnes Music Co. in Des Plaines. Following the business part of the meeting, which included the voting of an Honorary Life Membership for Stadium organist Al Melgard, everyone gathered around the organs that Karnes Music had provided for the membership. Included were a 3 manual Rodgers and various models of electronic Wurlitzers.

CATOE'S Christmas Social was held at the MontClare Theatre with Tony Tahlman as featured artist at the 3/10 Barton. Tony's program included many favorites both old and new with the final part of the program being devoted to Christmas music including the rarely heard "Friendly Beasts" and "Rise Up Shepards and Follow". The conclusion of the program was the Barton giving its all as Tony played the regal Hallelujah Chorus, and the organ then descended into the pit.

**NEW YORK CHAPTER**

On November 29, 1964 over 150 members and guests assembled in the Rahway Theatre, Rahway, New Jersey. After the talented members tried their hand at the organ, Tom Wayne, the featured artist for the day put the beautiful 2/7 Wurlitzer to a real test.

The organ is Wurlitzer, Style E-X, Opus 1923 with the seven ranks divided left and right. The perfect condition of the organ is credited to Wendell Rotter, whose diligent and skillful work has placed this Wurlitzer in mint condition. The left chamber is on 10" of wind, while on the other side the Trumpet and Tibia are voiced on 16", with the Vox set on 5".



Wendell Rotter at the Rahway 2/7 Wurlitzer.

Wendell Rotter who is a professional musician and teaches accordian and organ opened and closed this meeting including in his program a tour through the organ showing off the percussions, traps, and fine pipework.

Allan H. Day, Program Chairman

**NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER**

Harvey Elsaesser, popular Buffalo organist, was the featured artist at the Christmas meeting of Niagara Frontier Chapter held on the evening of December 14th at Skate Haven Roller Rink.

Harvey had arranged a concert of familiar favorites intermixed with Christmas music that really showed off the beauty and variety of the Mighty Wurlitzer. Xmas Carols were sung by the members, led by the soprano voice of (Mrs.) Edna Elsaesser. An excellent way to get in the Christmas spirit.

**PUGET SOUND CHAPTER**

The last meeting held at Stan Smith's was one of the most enjoyable we can remember. It was kicked off by a performance of old favorites by our member Ken Gallwey presiding at the 3/8 Smith console. Smith's son and daughter, who are fast becoming excellent masters of the pipes followed their fathers performance.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 1965 and will feature EDDIE DUNSTEDTER at the 3/12 Robert Morton in the Bill Morrison residence, Everett, Washington.

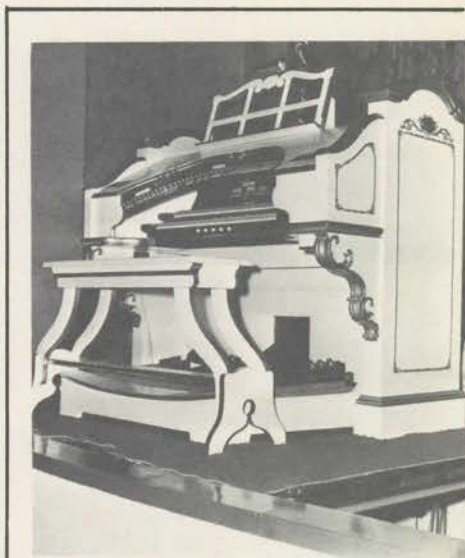
Roger Johnson, Secretary

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER**

The second meeting of this newly

formed ATOE Chapter was held Sunday morning September 28, 1964 at the Chief Theatre, Colorado Springs, Colorado. (See August, 1964 BOMBARDE for story on rehabilitation of this Wurlitzer) Dick Hull was the featured artist who presented an excellent and well rounded program. Following the performance by Hull, the organ was turned over to the members for a jam session.

Rodney Stich,  
Secretary/Public Relations



The above photos are reprinted with our apologies for the excessive cropping that occurred in the last issue of BOMBARDE. (Upper) Wurlitzer 190 Special, Opus 2067, in the State Theatre, Portland, Maine. (Lower) Pine Tree Chairman, Forest Perkins going over plans for chapter's October concert with Mrs. George E. Francis, Manager, State Theatre.

-Photos courtesy of Gannett Publishing Company

VALLEY OF THE SUN

The January meeting of the Valley of the Sun Chapter was held on Sunday evening, January 17th, at the warehouse home of Southwest Organs, Incorporated. This relatively new Phoenix firm deals primarily in restoration and resale of pipe organs, and the occasion was the first public performance of the restored 3/23 Moller church organ removed from Mt. Sinai Jewish Church in El Paso, Texas, last summer. Host for the evening was Al Comtois, vice-president and general manager of the corporation.

The organ was not under expression, and the console and pipework alike were most effectively lighted. Trems were jacked up to please theatre organ buffs in the audience. Southwest Organs' staff organist, Donna Bechhoefer, was first artist of the evening and demonstrated the theatre organ sound with the popular portion of her program, particularly pleasing the crowd with "Exodus." Her classical selections closed with Bach's "Tocatta and Finale in D Minor."

After a brief intermission the audience was treated to Wade Bray, a young man whose classical and popular talents are becoming increasingly admired and respected. His crisp style caused much favorable comment from his opening of "There's No Business Like Show Business" to his "Psalm XIX" by Marcello, and he was called back to demonstrate the individual stops of the instrument.

Voting members remained after the program to elect the following slate of officers for 1965: Chairman, Karl Warner; Vice-Chairman, Don Story; Secretary, Laurel Ruby; and Treasurer, Ron Cress.

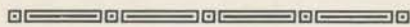
Respectfully submitted,  
Karl R. Warner



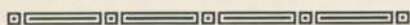
NEWS FROM HARVEY ROEHL  
Vestal, New York

Harvey's Welte Automatic Pipe Organ expected to be playing in mid-January.

Edwin A. Link has purchased (re-purchased) the 12 rank Link Theatre Organ from Duane Arey. After a complete refurbishing, it will be installed in the Roberson Memorial Building in Vestal, New York. Luckily, the auditorium is being planned around the pipe-organ installation instead of the other way around as is so often the case. Link is anxious to locate more chests for the instrument for planned enlargement. Readers knowing of any should write Harvey Roehl, 3533 Stratford Drive, Vestal, N. Y.



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LLOYD KLOS REPORTS

The plant of the Wurlitzer Company in North Tonawanda, NY is being sold to Irving Levick, a realtor, who owns millions of square feet of industrial and commercial property in the Buffalo area.

Wurlitzer will lease back about 60% of the 750,000 square feet of plant facilities where it will continue the production of juke boxes and certain defense products. Mr. Levick is also acquiring the Wurlitzer-owned Melody Park which surrounds the plant. Altogether, he is buying 160 acres, which lends itself to housing development. The price of the property was not disclosed, but it runs into the millions of dollars.

Wurlitzer has owned the plant since 1908, when it manufactured the earliest versions of automatic music-making machines. Later it became the home of the "Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ, and advertised this with a huge sign atop the main building which showed a horse-shoe console. When the theater organ died out in the 1930's, the juke box came into its own which Wurlitzer pioneered and is still the leader in their manufacture.

The company has been following a policy of disposing of real estate, mostly stores. This transaction is the first of its major plants to be sold in a leaseback arrangement. Part of the plant has been unused for some time, and has been for rent with no takers.

Wurlitzer's headquarters are in Chicago. R C Rolwing, president, said that

the firm bought the surrounding area many years ago as an investment. The sale of this property opens the way to development of the area.

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Mrs. David J. Marr, widow of the founder of the Marr & Colton Organ Co. will celebrate her 83rd birthday on January 29. ATOE fondly wishes her many happy returns.

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According to Bob Wilson, ATOE'r from Yakima, Washington, the Capitol Theater in Vancouver, BC is about to be extensively remodeled, reducing the seating from 4,000 to around 1,800. Fate of the Wurlitzer 260, opus No. 1657 is uncertain in view of plans to install a wide screen.

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