



Ramona Gerhard Sutton and Judd Walton (right), formerly of Minneapolis, and Mel Doner of Winona, Minnesota, share the spotlight in front of Dick Simonton's concert organ console.



Old friends meet once again—Dr. Orrin Hostetter (left) and Buddy Cole pull all stops in memory contest which goes something like this, "Remember the time that . . ."



Above: Better seen than heard—a typical gab session. Below: the entire assemblage. Left to right, top row: Bob Jacobus, Tiny James, Frank Bindt, Dave Kelley, Richard Vaughn, Gordon Kibbee, Harvey Heck, Bob Olson. Center row: Jerry Sullivan, Judd Walton, Gordon Blanchard, Archie March, Roy Booth, Ray Webber, Don George, Merle (not Oberon). Eddie Cleveland, Lloyd Darey, Buddy Cole. Seated: Marie Kibbee, Bud Wittenburg, Helena Simonton, Francis Sullivan, Ramona Gerhard Sutton, Paul Pease, Mel Doner, Dick Simonton, Orrin Hostetter, Keith McCaleb, Kenny Wright.



## REPORT OF THE CHARTER MEETING

THE NIGHT OF TUESDAY, February 8, 1955, will long remain a memorable one for those who responded to pro-tem President Richard Simonton's invitation to attend a meeting in his palatial Hollywood home to participate in the formation of the "American Association of Theatre Organ Enthusiasts." Mr. Farney Wurlitzer, and many others too numerous to mention, sent their regrets in being unable to attend; Jesse Crawford was out of the city at the time. Dr. Orrin Hostetter, whom many of you will remember for his Capitol recording of "Doll Dance" and "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" traveled from Honolulu to attend this meeting. Dr. Melvin Doner of Winona, Minnesota was runner-up for honors in the traveling department. The delegation from the San Francisco Bay area included Bob Jacobus, "Tiny" James, Frank Bindt, Gordon Blanchard, and Judd Walton. Buddy Cole, well known in America and abroad through his transcribed organ programs under the name "Edwin Le Mar" participated in the sociality, as similarly did Don George who will always be remembered for his Victor recordings of the Princess Theatre Wurlitzer in Honolulu. The fair sex was represented by Mrs. Sutton, the former Ramona Gerhard, well known staff organist and pianist of radio station WCCO, Minneapolis, Minnesota and now active TV artist in Los Angeles. Other distinguished guests representing nearly every field of theatre organ activity were present.

After a tour through Mr. Simonton's exquisite home, and inspecting his Wurlitzer project, the meeting was called to order by Judd Walton to resolve the business at hand. The following officers were elected:

President	Richard C. Simonton, 10100 Toluca Lake Avenue, North Hollywood, California
Vice President	Judd Walton, 227 Texas Street, Vallejo, California



Left: Dr. Orrin Hostetter dishes up some of the refreshments—which just possibly might be ice cream—at the Charter meeting, while Dave Kelly reaches for the cake. Center: Host and hostess for the gala occasion—President and Mrs. Richard Simonton. Right: Even the host and ATOE President must sign the guest register, even in his own home.

- Secretary-Treasurer Paul Pease, 914 Sherlock Drive, Burbank, California
- Executive Committee Buddy Cole, Orrin Hostetter, Gordon Kibbee, Richard Vaughn, Bud Wittenburg.

Next in order of business was formal action to establish THE TIBIA as the official organ of the Association. The following officers were selected:

- Editor Dr. M. H. Doner, 414 Winona Street, Winona, Minnesota
- Assistant Editor Roy Gorish, 2137 E. 16th Avenue, Apt. B, Denver 6, Colorado.

The avowed purpose of A.T.O.E. is set forth as follows:

“Organized for the purpose of preserving the tradition of the theatre organ and to further the understanding of this instrument and its music through the exchange of information.”

The Executive Committee was instructed to draft a set of by-laws defining the purposes and rules of the Association. Formal action was taken by the group to allow any who wish to enroll as charter members by payment to the Secretary-Treasurer a minimum of ten dollars, the closing date for such memberships to be set by the Committee.

Following the cessation of the business meeting, the balance of the evening was devoted to renewing friendships, meeting new friends and discussing organ lore. The photos accompanying this report describe better than words the conviviality of the group. This reporter also finds words inadequate to express appreciation of the group for the delicious refreshments served by our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Simonton, and for making this meeting possible. As proof of the meeting's success, the last guests bid farewell at three o'clock in the morning, the Bay delegation three hours later by plane!

Thus was born A.T.O.E. Long shall we recall this memorable experience.



Above: Gordon Kibbee in unmatching dark trousers, and Orrin Hostetter in unmatched dark jack have Rich Vaughn in the middle as they listen to a tape-recorded sample of Gordon's wizardry on Vaughn's 5m Wurlitzer. Below: ATOE Executive Committee—(left to right) Judd Watson, v.p.; Bud Wittenburg; Paul Pease, sec-treas.; Richard Vaughn; Melvin Doner editor; Richard Simonton, pres.; Gordon Kibbee; Dr. Orrin Hostetter. Absent was Buddy Cole.

