

The President's Column

TIBIA • VOL. 2, NO. 1

Greetings to all of our members and friends of A.T.O.E.! There are several matters of interest that I would like to call to your attention through the medium of "The President's Column," a new feature of THE TIBIA. The American Association of Theatre Organ Enthusiasts was organized at a meeting held on February 8, 1955, which was, incidentally, the anniversary of the eve of Hope-Jones' birth date. From its inception, your officers have recognized the importance of providing a sound structure for the new organization. Many factors were taken into consideration: financial protection for the individual member against judgments, tax exemption, the responsibility of the officers, finances, and so on. It was at last agreed, after careful study of these factors and others, that a Corporation would be the strongest and most protective base onto which the A.T.O.E. could be soundly built.

Attorney Walter W. Weir Jr., of the firm of Dobbins and Weir of Vacaville, California, a friend of A.T.O.E., and also close personal friend of Everett Nourse the well-known San Francisco Bay Area organist, drew up the necessary incorporation papers. On April 12, 1956, Corporation No. 319022, The American Association of Theater Organ Enthusiasts was certified by the Secretary of State, State of California. Walter is to be commended on doing a fine piece of legal work, and the prompt manner in which he executed it. He is also an enthusiast and A.T.O.E. member in his own right!

Since incorporation, we have been certified as tax-exempt by the State of California, and exemption certification by the Internal Revenue Service is now pending—Most of our readers are undoubtedly familiar with this department.

In the beginning, it was decided that the A.T.O.E. would be an organization formed solely for pleasure purposes—there would be no formalities, no critical comments regarding the efforts of any artist to please his listeners—either through recordings or live concert—no attempt to "regulate" the pleasure of any enthusiast in the pursuit of his chosen hobby. We who are the officers of A.T.O.E. shall do our utmost to proceed along these lines.

With any organization, there are certain minimum requirements that must be attended to. These tasks have been entrusted

to a willing group of officers and directors; in addition to the President whose duties are administrative and executive, there is the Vice-President, Judd Walton, who handles correspondence and membership matters; Paul Pease, our able secretary-treasurer who maintains our bank account and bookkeeping; Mel Doner and Roy Gorish, Editor and Assistant Editor, respectively, of our journal, THE TIBIA.

Now that organization details have been completed we are turning our attention to the formation of Chapters. Officially Chartered is the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, Donald L. Phipps, President; the Delaware Valley Chapter, Willoughby W. Moyer Jr., President, and the Los Angeles Chapter, Dr. Howard O. Stocker, M.D., President, and the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Hastings Abel, President. Members are urged to attend to the matter of forming Chapters in their immediate area, and complete details may be had from National Headquarters. Chapter Activities will be reported as a regular feature in THE TIBIA.

In conclusion, and in response to many inquiries, I wish to point out that THE TIBIA is sent to each member of A.T.O.E., regular membership being \$4.00. Subscriptions without membership are available, but we urge all who are interested in THE TIBIA to help support A.T.O.E. by being a member rather than just a subscriber—without A.T.O.E. THE TIBIA would not have been born—and a lusty child it is. ALL inquiries regarding membership and THE TIBIA should be mailed to National Headquarters, 6906 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood 38, California. Inquiries about membership sent elsewhere will only be delayed while being forwarded.

To our members, may I urge that you aid in building the membership of A.T.O.E. by showing your copy of THE TIBIA to your friends, and if they are interested, asking them to join. Just forward their dues in to headquarters, and thus will grow A.T.O.E., our Chapters and THE TIBIA. We sincerely hope that A.T.O.E. will provide greater enjoyment of your hobby, heretofore impossible for most of us, and that you will join in the fun and fellowship with others.

Richard Simonton, President

News, Views, and Previews

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BILL BUNCH, who left Seattle last year to accept a position with Aeolian-Skinner, has been appointed to Shop Superintendent at A-Skinner plant. Congratulations! When Bill sits at a Unit Organ it pays to listen. . . . Thanks for this piece of good news; BOB JONES of Edmonds, Washington, joined the Seattle Musicians' Union last May (Local 76) to do occasional relief work at two skating rinks in the area. He enjoyed the 3m/12r Wurlitzer at the Rolladium where he filled in for Mahon Tullis during the latter's vacation. "I find the work very interesting and relaxing," comments Bob, "even after a five hour run for two sessions." . . . Anyone have the specs on the Chicago Wurlitzer store organ that Jesse Crawford used for his early Victor recordings? . . . Received a very nice letter from VENIDA JONES (remember her superlative work on the KMOX studio 4m Kilgen back in the good old days?) who states that she enjoyed the San Francisco Fox organ and meeting Everett Nourse during her vacation in the big city. Venida now resides in Chicago. . . . Miss EUNICE KANEY of Phoenix, Arizona thanks the Editor for sending her a tape of Crawford's Victor recording of "Hawaiian Sandman" and "I love to hear you singing" adding that this was a great favorite of her family and a holiday get-together would never be complete unless this music could be played "over and over again." . . . The organ business is good out on the West Coast according to JUDD WALTON. Another Fox organ, a six-rank Robert Morton down in Visalia has been sold, the seventh to go in recent months. . . . BEN HALL of New York writes that the Wurlitzer at Loew's Richmond has been completely rebuilt during the past year by Spring '64

Harold Warner, including new keyboards from Loew's Norfolk and a pedal clavier from REGGIE WATSON, origin unknown at present. . . . EDDIE WEAVER is still playing three shows a day there (twenty years at the same stand) and has an enormous following. "They really sing in Richmond," comments Ben. "Eddie came out dressed in a sailor suit (to match the movie "Away All Boats") and the entire 8-minute program was devoted to nautical music. The *piece de resistance* was a solo on 'The Sailor's Horn-Pipe' during which Eddie actually did a dance on the pedals. It brought down the house." . . .

Recordings on residence organs are becoming increasingly popular. RICH VAUGHN started the ball rolling with his magnificent Wurlitzer, then BUD WITTENBURG featured Bill Thompson on his own Wurlitzer, and more recently JAY QUINBY's Moller by LEE ERWIN on Zodiac label, and BUDDY COLE's famous Robert Morton which Buddy has exploited on earlier discs, similarly the Wurlitzer in the home of PAUL PEASE which was recorded by DR. ORRIN HOSTETTER some years ago. . . . Speaking of residence organs, HAROLD LOGAN of Niagara Falls is interested in data on how to install a residence organ and wonders if the TIBIA can carry an article covering the subject. Your Editors have had this in mind and we'll see what we can come up with.