

# CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## OREGON CHAPTER

The Oregon Chapter of the A.T.O.E. met on Sunday April 4th at Dr. Dan Andrieson's home in Cottage Grove, Oregon. It was a special event for it marked the initial program on Dr. Dan's 21 ranks of Wurlitzer with the huge Barton console which came from the Highland Theatre in Chicago.

Don Simmons, the staff organist of the Oaks Rink in Portland, was the soloist and gave the assembled guests, numbering close to one hundred, a lively and varied program. The organ speaks into a large studio room which gives a full and lush sound without being overbearing. It is indeed an ideal set-up which Dr. Dan has every reason to be proud of.



Don Simmons at the Dan Andrieson Barton Console.

The business meeting preceded the concert with emphasis being given to the coming Gaylord Carter concert on May 7th. All members were urged to take as many tickets as they thought they could sell. The support of the Chapter members was gratifying and every hope for a successful affair seems to be due for fulfillment.

Special plaques were presented to Ted Marks and Bill Blunk by Don Meyers on behalf of our members as recognition of the work they both did in establishing organ clubs and the ATOE Chapters in the Northwest.

Next meeting was announced as being slated for the ORIENTAL THEATRE in Portland on May 30th with Pearl White, of Chicago, giving a special concert for us.

Brother Andrew, csc  
Sect'y Oregon ATOE

## NEWS FROM THE POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER

On Friday evening January 22nd, over one hundred and twenty members assembled at Baltimore's Stanton Theatre, to hear and play the 3-31 Kimball organ which has been restored through

the efforts of many of the Baltimore area members. At the console was Dick Smith, an organist who knows the resources of the Stanton organ better than anyone else because he has been featured frequently on the instrument for shows and numerous performances. Dick put the instrument through its paces and ended his program all too soon. At the time of the meeting, we did not know that this was to be our last meeting ever to be held at the Stanton, but perhaps the artists who played that evening sensed this, because of the little extra effort to make the organ sound even more wonderful than it has. The organ was then made available to all to try. At this writing, the organ has now been removed and is awaiting demise as pieces are being sold and disposed of. The theatre will be demolished around the middle of April. For all who have never heard the sound of this great Kimball, we heartily recommend Leonard MacClain's recording "MELODY MAC PLAYS BALTIMORE'S FABULOUS STANTON THEATRE ORGAN" RALBAR SOLP 6302. On behalf of this chapter, I must extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Ted Schiller, general manager of JF Theatres, for his full and willing cooperation with us for over three years, in permitting us access to the theatre and organ, and for supporting the MacClain recording project. I am certain that along with us, he feels a tremendous loss with the death of the Stanton which was the flagship of the JF theatre chain.

Saturday evening March 20th saw over seventy members present at a meeting held at the Tivoli Theatre, and the Lem Keller residence, in Frederick, Md. Members gathered at the Tivoli for the 9 p.m. show intermission played by Chapter Chairman Ray Brubacher. Following the break, members drove out to the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Lem Keller to hear the Keller organ installed in their recreation room. This unique instrument, much of it constructed by the owner, including wind chests, console, and combination action, now has fifteen ranks, and is in a state of polish and perfection matched by few residence organs. Many members got a chance to play which made for a large variety of styles in playing which were enjoyed by all present. Delicious refreshments were served by the host and hostess. Mr. Keller gave a short but enlightening talk on the history of the instrument.

At 11 p.m., members once more assembled at the Tivoli for the main business meeting and jam session. After a short program played by Ray Brubacher, Dick Kline, national treasurer of ATOE, and the one responsible for the upkeep of the Tivoli's organ, a style 190 2-8 Wurlitzer divided in two chambers on each side of the stage, played a delightful program for us. Dick plays the organ every day for the afternoon show intermission, and as many evenings as

his busy schedule which includes installation of his own 4-25 Wurlitzer, will permit. Among members who we noted at the console were John Steele, Bob Oberlander, Ted Niznik, and a new member, Mrs. Long who was trying a theatre organ for the first time. Her husband is planning to install a theatre organ in their home and wanted to see if the missus would approve, and from the way she handled her first theatre organ, the Long's should have a theatre organ in the very near future. Our appreciation is extended to manager Dan Weinberg, who permitted members to hear the 9 p.m. break and for the use of the theatre and organ.

The chapter has several theatre organ projects in full swing at the moment. Jim Boyce, owner of the 4-34 Wurlitzer in the Alexandria Arena, reports that his new recording for Century Records is about to be released soon. The big Wurlitzer continues to undergo tonal finishing. Members Bob Oberlander and Dick Sullivan are new owners of theatre organs. Bob has his second, a 2-8 Wurlitzer from the Colonial Theatre, Dayton, Ohio, which he is combining with a 2-6 Wurlitzer he already has playing. Member Sullivan has a 2-5 Robert Morton removed from a residence in Newport News, Va., which was in a theatre. Norm Ziegler's 4-18 Marr & Colton console is now being wired to the relay. Dick Barlow's 3-13 Wurlitzer is still dormant, awaiting installation when Dick completes his building addition to his Richmond, Va. home. Dick Kline's 4-25 Wurlitzer installation is now really moving. All chests have been put in place, and the console rebuild is about complete. All reservoirs have been re-leathered as well as all chests. The entire organ is being rewinded, with all regulators and reservoirs in a chamber in back of the pipe chambers. Among recent additions to the organ include several ranks of Moller pipes, including a 16' open string, from the Palace Theatre in Washington, D.C., and a rare Wurlitzer Musette.

Article on Rink organ 4-34 coming shortly.

Ray

## EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER, ATOE Chapter News

Like holly and-ah-mistletoe, a meeting at the Whitehead's cheerful home has become a tradition of the Christmas season for this chapter. As usual, Chuck's 2-8 Hope-Jones was in fine voice, with members supplying the talent. Featured items were silent movies, ably accompanied by Bob Riley, followed by an old-fashioned sing-along with Len Winter at the console. After enjoying Mrs. Whitehead's tasty refreshments, we heard some of Chuck's excellent tapes of the N.Y. Paramount finale, then took our leave-for once not in a snowstorm!

January 9 found us again at Stoneham Town Hall for our top event of the winter season--Don Baker, the Conn De-

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luxe Theatre Organ, and, of course, the Stoneham Wurlitzer. Don opened the program on the Conn with a fast and rollicking "Lady of Spain", then proceeded through twenty seven more numbers selected to display the many facets of the instrument, and many it has, quite authentic, too.



The console of Chuck Whitehead's Wurlitzer Opus 193. Secretary Elbert Drazy reads a notice in the background.

Following the intermission Don addressed himself to the Wurlitzer. For a time the beast seemed to be in a surly mood--gradually building up to a truculently ciphering Krumet. After a couple of shadowy forms were seen racing toward the chambers the cipher stopped and, with professional assurance, Don made friends with the monster. The characteristic flowing Baker style was soon heard unmistakably, giving us a tonal "trip through the ranks", to the delight of some of our younger guests whose previous ideas of organ music had been the Sunday Morning Diapasons.



Bill Bunch plays Chuck Whitehead's Wurlitzer. That's Chuck looking over his shoulder.

To the Don Phipps residence on January 22 to christen Don's new 2/8-and-6-to-go Wurlitzer. Don's home is especially designed to house an organ; a large well from living room to basement chambers very effectively conveys all the tonal brilliance to the listeners. The console, presently a modernistic case with straight stop-board, is to be replaced by a three-deck horseshoe next year. Bill Bunch, veepee of Aeolian-Skinner, did the initial honors by

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playing a half-hour concert of "Hits of the Thirties" in excellent skating-ring style. A wonderful guy, Bill showed that one can favor and promote the classic type of instrument for its own intended uses without being stuffy about the theatre organ in its own domain!

While we enjoyed Mrs. Phipps delicious refreshments, we were able to view Don's other love, a 60-foot all-steel cruiser a'building in the backyard "No organ on it", says he, "too damp". How about a Diaphone for the whistle, Don?

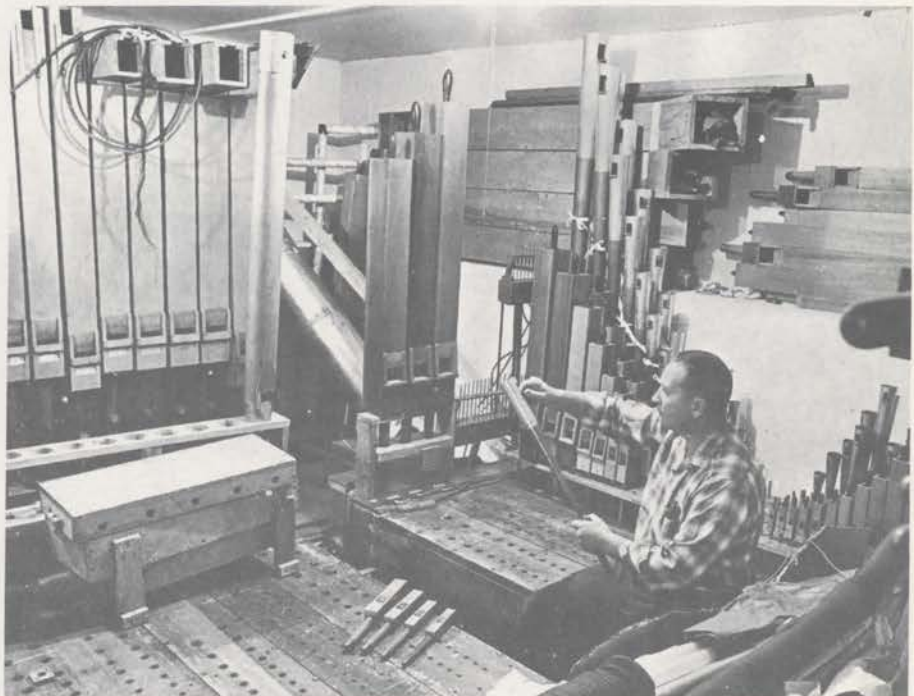
Once more to the Whitehead's on March 26, where plans for our Spring Concert were jelled, followed by a jam session. This year our artist will be Ashley Miller, of the Radio City Music Hall. Come if you can!

Elbert Drazy, Sec.

### NEW YORK CHAPTER HEARS UNUSUAL INSTRUMENTS

There is an old saying "the cobbler should stick to his last," but the March 13, 1965 meeting of the New York Chapter perhaps took some of the truth from this old adage. The meeting was held at three locations. We like to think of this as a "progressive" meeting. Starting at 1:00 P.M. we gathered at the Essex Catholic High School at 300 Broadway in Newark, N.J. From there the meeting moved to the Sacred Heart Cathedral also in Newark and finally to Snuffy's Steak House in Scotch Plains, N. Y.

The Essex Catholic High School houses an unusual 3 manual instrument--an E.M. Skinner "Theatre-Concert" organ of 32 ranks including a large assortment of percussions and traps.



DUANE E. SEARLE, Chairman of the Rocky Mountain Chapter is seen in the midst of his organ installation, now in progress in his Aurora, Colorado home. The organ (make unspecified) is from a Boise theatre. Searle's interest in organs came from his grandfather, who was an organist in Salt Lake from the time he was 15.

This organ is one of the last personally designed by E.M. Skinner and was built for the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. Bill Floyd, formerly of the New York Paramount, was the featured artist and displayed the organ's versatility in both popular and classical renditions. Credit for the instruments fine shape goes to Walter Froehlich, New York Chapter member, and Herbert Hansen.

The Sacred Heart Cathedral is one of the largest Cathedrals in the United States. The organ is a 146 rank Schantz. Dr. James Phillip Johnston, a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, and music director of the Cathedral, demonstrated the organ's resources which includes two three manual consoles and a four manual console in the gallery. Members were permitted to play and all thrilled to the combination of acoustics and wide range of tones.

We ended the day by taking the opportunity to fill our stomachs and "tickle the plastics" of a three manual Rodgers at Snuffy's Steak House. Some stayed late into the night listening to Bill Floyd play "Pop" selections which constitute only a small portion of his vast repertoire.

### MEETING NOTICE N.Y. CHAPTER

Place: Loew's Kings Theatre  
1029 Flatbush Avenue  
Brooklyn, N. Y..

Date: April 25, 1965

Time: 8:30 A.M. until 12:00 Noon

The Loew's Kings Theatre is an impeccably kept-up showcase in a good neighborhood with 3300 new seats and a deep carpeted lobby with costly objects d'art.

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The organ is a 4-24 "Wonder" Robert Morton. (ed. note; we hear the organ is really a 4-25 plus 12 pipes. With any kind of good fortune it could be a 4-26 by meeting time.)

We are indeed grateful to Mrs. Dorothy Solomon and Mr. Harold Graff of the Theatre's management for making this meeting possible.

An important business meeting will be held during the morning to discuss the possibility of arranging a future money-making organ concert as proposed by the management of Loew's Kings Theatre. Please make an effort to attend this meeting so we hear your ideas.

The Loew's Kings has specified that they are not permitted to provide any 110 volt outlets for tape recorders. They seem to have no objection to battery operated recorders.

For those who are not familiar with the location, Flatbush Avenue is a continuation of Flatbush Extension which runs off the Manhattan Bridge. The Theatre is about 3 miles from the Bridge.

1965 A.A.T.O.E. National Convention starts Saturday noon on July 3, 1965 and continues until Tuesday noon, July 6, 1965 in the Chicago Area. Will feature two, three, four, five, and six manual consoles, Sounds interesting. Why not plan to go? More details later.

Howard A. Day, Chairman  
Allen W. Rossiter, Secy. -Treas.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

The March meeting was held at the home of Bob Arndt, and featured our host at the console of his new Allen Deluxe Theatre Organ Bob has played in roller rinks for over two years and turned in a very fine and entertaining program, after which several of the members took advantage of the opportunity to try the new instrument.

Bob Arndt comes from Des Moines, Iowa, and is the proud owner of a 19 rank Barton that is in storage.

### NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

As we go to press we hear that the Niagara Frontier Chapter are planning their "Week-end In Canada" for April 24 and 25. Plans include the Hal Logan Wurlitzer in Niagara Falls, Ontario; The Odeon Carlton Theatre (3/19 Hillgren-Lane); and the 5/21 Wurlitzer in the Maple Leaf Gardens. Also planned are visits to home installations as time provides.

The Niagara Frontier Chapter and the Rochester Theatre Organ Society will jointly sponsor a concert at the RKO Palace Theatre, Rochester, N.Y. on Sunday, May 23, at 9:45 am. The featured artist will be the one and only ASHLEY MILLER. This theatre is the latest addition to the casualty list as it is scheduled for demolition the end of this summer.

Chairman Grant Whitcomb is checking into the possibility of leasing a local theatre to house the former Kenmore 3/11 Wurlitzer, and the Haven 2/6 Wurlitzer. Both instruments are owned by Chapter members, and plans are to combine the two into a 4/17 instrument. This is certainly a worthy endeavor and we congratulate the chapter membership for their good planning.

### CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

The April meeting featured the 3/8 Marr and Colton in the Garden Theatre, Greenfield, Massachusetts which member Al Straus has been busily rebuilding for the past year. Al's helpers on this project are John Angovine, Gene Bowers, and Buddy Gass. The second meeting for April is scheduled for Sunday the 25th at 9 am at the Paramount Theatre in Springfield. The organ is a 3/11 Wurlitzer and is believed to be the largest operating organs still in a theatre in chapter territory. This is not an official chapter meeting as such. There appears to be a group of theatre organ fans in the Springfield area who have been permitted to go in and play this organ on Sunday mornings from time to time, and now the theatre is interested in finding out whether there is sufficient interest to make use of the organ feasible.

Another 'first' for our chapter--the marriage between two ConnValChap members! The lucky pair are Ken Alexander and Mary Stratford (It was best man Malcolm McKinney who whispered the hot scoop in your reporter's ear).

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

April 11, 1965, the Orpheum/Cinerama Theatre, San Francisco--a 4/21 Robert Morton and Bill McCoy. This was the menu for early Sunday morning risers (about 250) in the San Francisco Bay Area, when the Northern California Chapter presented its first meeting of the new year. And a terrific meeting it was! Bill McCoy, the artist for this meeting is a native of the Mid-West and a veteran in the entertainment world. He began his career in Omaha, Nebraska, where he served as organist for the Omaha Cardinals, the Omaha Knights, and for Arthur Godfrey at the Omaha Rodeo. Later Bill accepted a position as staff organist for KOLN-TV and KOLN Radio in Lincoln, Nebraska, and for more than 3 1/2 years appeared on better than 500 TV programs. When Bill moved to the West Coast he became an employee of the Baldwin Piano and Organ Company in San Francisco, where he has gained a wide following with his warm personality and marvelous playing ability.

Bill McCoy's program lived up to his reputation (we never heard the Orpheum Morton sound so good) with a wide variety of numbers ranging from waltzes to ballads, to real up tunes for which he has a special feel.

Northern California Chapter members wish to thank Mr. Sam Pearlman, Manag-



Bill McCoy at the SF Orpheum Robert Morton.

ing Director for Cinerama Theatres for his fine cooperation in allowing us to meet in and hear the Orpheum Robert Morton. Special thanks also to chapter members Ernie Langley (chief projectionist at the Orpheum), Ron Downer, Bob Rhodes, and Tiny James for their work on the organ.

Al White,  
Program Chairman



(L to R) Stagehand; Sam Pearlman, Manager; Bill McCoy, Tiny James, and Ernie Langley at the SF Morton.



Doctor Bruce O. Belshaw of Englewood, Colorado is the proud owner of this beautiful 3/15 Wurlitzer which he bought from the Nortown Theatre in Chicago in 1959, while serving his internship in the emergency room of a Chicago hospital.

In September of 1964 with the help of a used truck, which made three trips from Denver to Elgin, Illinois in two weeks, he was finally able to bring the organ to Denver. Dr. Belshaw is presently working on re-leathering the percussions, and a new house is on the drawing-boards. Completion of the house is expected this summer with installation of the organ following. We shall be looking forward to hearing and seeing more of this installation.

theatre organ