

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



Dick Smith at Center Theatre 2/8 Robert Morton; Don Hall, Piedmont Chapter Chairman, and Sid Seymour, AGO Theatre Party Chairman.
Photo by Jim Sparks.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

The New York Chapter held its fourth meeting of the year at Long Island University, formerly the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre. On June 6, 1965 about 135 members and guests were thrilled at hearing and playing the 4/26 WurliTzer from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

The featured guest organist of the afternoon was Ernest Nichols, a native of Clarksville, Tennessee, who was house organist at the Malco Theatre in Memphis, Tennessee in 1959-1960. Mr. Nichols is now organist for Long Island University as well as at Christ Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. The organ is in better shape than it has been in recent



Bill Gage seated at the console of the 4/26 WurliTzer in the former Brooklyn Paramount.

years and has been used nearly every day during Commencement activities. At Baccalaureate Service the graduates marched in to the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar and left the auditorium hearing the March from "Athalia" by Felix Mendelssohn. Whether these young people remember the Baccalaureate Address "Don't Major in the Minors" or not is questionable, but how can they forget going out into this "space-age" to the tunes of a 4/26 WurliTzer post horn.

Quite a transformation has taken place since August 1962 when the Brooklyn Paramount closed its doors as the second largest cinema palace in the New York area. 80% of the orchestra seats have been removed and a highly polished basketball court has been constructed at stage level and far back into the orchestra section. The rear half of the balcony has been walled off with cinder blocks to provide office space for faculty members. By limiting the balcony space and raising the floor the hall has become considerably compressed which has heightened the acoustical qualities of the auditorium.

19 of our members had a chance to play the organ and examine the various tone colors.

While this may well have been the last meeting before summer, attendance was gratifying and from all reports it was a most enjoyable day for all. We are anticipating a busy fall season. Keep watch for announcements.

Program notes by
Allen W. Rossiter

PIEDMONT CHAPTER

The Piedmont Chapter along with the local AGO group held a theatre organ party at the Center Theatre in Durham, N.C., Monday evening, April 26, 1965. This concert was part of the 3 day AGO regional convention being held in Durham, Raleigh and Chapel Hill.

The artist for the evening was Dick Smith of Baltimore who played regularly at the Stanton Theatre there before its recent demise and who also was featured at the Radio City Music Hall ATOE meeting celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the club. Despite his age (only 19) he presented such a program of diversified music that everyone was satisfied. His version of the "Cuckoo Waltz" had the AGO members rolling in the aisle, as most of them had never really heard a theatre organ played before. After slightly over a hour of pure fun and enjoyment Dick played his final number. It began as the Widor Toccata but instead of the expected thundering pedal melody along came "Tea for Two." This one really brought the house down. Dick is now traveling for Wurlitzer and we suggest you go to hear him if he comes your way. He is equally at home on a pipe organ or electronic.

The organ was in excellent condition and sounded fine thanks to Don Hall and his crew, Neil Ludlam, Jim and Jane Sparks and Henry Aldridge. Dick remarked after the concert that this organ was second only to RCMH which is not bad considering the center has only a 2/8 Morton.

The Morton in the Carolina Theatre, Greensboro was played for the fashion show May 6 and the Carolina Organ Club will present a theatre organ party Monday, May 23 with Sid Hellier at the console.

OREGON AND PUGET SOUND CHAPTERS

The May 30 meeting of the Oregon Chapter was held at the Oriental Theatre, Portland, and featured James Roseveare, of San Jose, California, as the guest artist on the 3/13 WurliTzer. This was a joint meeting with the Puget Sound Chapter and we had many guests from Seattle and various points in Washington for a total attendance of 150.

Jim Roseveare gave a most enjoyable concert which featured several Crawford transcriptions that were a delight to hear.

After the meeting a buffet was held at the Rose Manor Inn with over 85 members of the two chapters in attendance. Three Oregon Chapter members held "open house" and immediately after the buffet and business meeting, the group headed for the homes of Bob Burke, Dave Markworth and Paul Turchan to enjoy these fine home installations.

The next meeting is planned for July or August at the Portland Paramount Theatre.

Brother Andrew, csc
Oregon Chapter, Secty.

theatre organ