

LETTERS
FROM READERS

Gentlemen:

First of all, regarding the question "How does a skating rink organ differ from a theatre organ?" and the answer given by Chairman Ed Borowiec and the "Minneapolis Bunch" does not hold true here in the Pacific Northwest. I have made my living at playing for roller skating since I was sixteen years old, and so for the past 23 years and five different skating rinks, I have played pipe organs and they all had Tibias--some had two. Ed said in the December '64 issue of Bombarde he soft-pedals the sweet stuff--no tibia. This I cannot understand. I do not want to sound dogmatic, but to me, there is no difference between a theatre organ and a skating organ. Everyone that I have played has come directly out of a theatre and been reinstalled intact in the rink--sans shutters. So with this in mind, the only differences are (1) no shutters, and (2) one is in a theatre and the other is in a rink. I have been employed the past 10 years at the Roller Gardens skating rink which is located between Seattle and Tacoma. The Wurlt there came from the United Artist theatre in Portland, Ore. and was originally a 2/8. When Balcom and Vaughn reinstalled it, they added a third manual, two Morton strings, and a Post Horn, making it a pretty well rounded 3/11. Its on three chests (1) Vox, Tuba, and Tibia (2) Solo String, Celeste, and Post Horn, (3) Flute, VDO, Diapason, VDO Celeste, and Clarinet. It has the complete "toy counter" and glock and xylo. I play all kinds and types of music for skating and the public thoroughly enjoys it. At present the two most asked for numbers are Exodus and Baby Elephant Walk. Quite a contrast-huh? For Waltz Time there is everything from Kamenoi-Ostrow and Schuberts Serenade to The Gravy Waltz. The acoustics of the place are terrific and really show off everything beautifully. The Posthorn has lots of "pizzaz", the Vox is "breathy" and Tibias really "sob". With all the forgoing information, my main contention is born out--that there is no real difference in the two organs. I play "theatre organ" all the time, the only difference being there, is that I must play "tempo" and forget the ballads.

Now regarding the second article which appeared in the spring issue of Bombarde, (VOX POP pg. 26) Andy Crow (bless his heart) is not the only regular working (payroll type) organist in our fair state of Washington. I'm at it five nights a week, and have been, as you can see, "pretty regular". I would like to add in closing, that I feel that I am pretty lucky guy to be able to have a job like this. How many of us are able to join vocation and avocation together? My "job" has also helped my "hobby" by allowing me to get a nice 3/10 Wurlt for my basement, which I am in the process of installing at this time.

Well, now you have my side of the story, so hope all this has enlightened somebody. I know I feel better for getting it off my chest. My best wishes to you, and keep up the good work. I thoroughly enjoy the magazines - cover to cover.

Sincerely,
Don French
Chairman: Puget Sound
Chapter, ATOE



DAN BARTON, CHICAGO 1965

Oshkosh, Wisconsin
July 9, 1965

Dear Mr. Norvell:

The honor of being made the Honorary Member of 64-65 came as a great surprise but indeed a most pleasant surprise.

I had no reason to believe I would be considered. I am only courtesymember of the A.T.O.E. thanks to your kindness in return for the articles I have been writing for Stu Green's BOMBARDE and having worked only the middle west states except for some organs sent out of our territory by Publix, I was unknown to many of the members and many had never heard a Barton organ.

The announcement of my being selected was so unexpected that I just stopped thinking and instead of thanking the ATOE's for the friendship, goodwill and

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theatre organ

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS from p.11

Q I recently purchased an organ with several of the resonators on the metal ranks broken. What type of solder is best for repairing these?

A There is available through the organ supply houses regular "pipe solder."

This can be had in several proportions, 40-60 or 50-50 solder is most commonly used depending upon the size and weight of the material being soldered. A very soft solder, with a high percentage of tin, is necessary as it has a lower melting point and its use with a soldering iron whose temperature is carefully controlled will avoid melting the pipe metal before the solder melts. On small spotted metal pipes, great care must be taken to keep the temperature just right to avoid the problem of melting the pipe metal first. If possible, experiment on some scrapped or unused broken pipes before attempting to make such repairs for the first time.

Q I have noticed that in the name Wurlitzer, it is often spelled WurlitZer. I have wondered about this spelling and whether or not it is appropriate to capitalize the letter T. Can you give me any information about it?

A The spelling of the name Wurlitzer never utilizes the large T except in the actual trademark of the company. If you have an opportunity to see any of the brochures of the Wurlitzer Company for their theatre organs, which were printed in the early 20's, as well as some printings prior to that time and later than that, you will note that only on the trademark does the capital T appear. In the text of any of the brochures themselves whenever the word Wurlitzer is used, it is always spelled with a small t. Therefore, it would appear to be inappropriate to use the large T in the spelling of the name Wurlitzer other than shown on the trademark of the company. Incidentally, the trademark name is copyrighted by the company and cannot be used without official approval. The name Wurlitzer, as used in the context of an article or letter, is appropriate and can be used. It is recommended that if any commercial use of the name Wurlitzer is to be used, clearance should first be received from the Wurlitzer Company before any such plans are finalized.

BULLETIN

The Niagara Frontier Chapter A.T.O.E. has negotiated for the purchase of the Wurlitzer in the Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto.

We understand the organ was sold for removal as the arena is being enlarged and no room is provided for retaining this large theatre organ.

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the great honor bestowed on me I only read my prepared statement thanking the A.T.O.E. for what they have done in conserving theatre organs.

I would like to thank each one of the A.T.O.E. members for the fine treatment I received at the convention but this being an impossibility I write you as National President to express my heartfelt thanks to all the A.T.O.E. members and especially to you and the members on the committee for the honor conferred on me as the Honorary Member of the A.T.O.E. for the year 1965-66.

With thanks,
DAN BARTON

Organ "Widow" Speaks

Hempstead, New York 11550

Dear Sir:

When I got married five years ago, I don't remember promising to love a T.O., but I found out I must. You see, it all started when my hubby was single and an uncle played a George Wright theatre organ record for him. Not too long after, he went out and purchased a Wurlitzer (electronic) organ - then a Leslie - then came me. Well, I love music and play French horn and cornet so I didn't mind until

The first Christmas I asked what he wanted. A ridiculous question? No. A ridiculous answer? Yes! He wanted a theatre organ pipe. Now, where can you get a theatre organ pipe, especially if you don't have a theatre organ or know a theatre which has one or even what chambers look like. I remembered that Mr. Loderhose lived in Jamaica Estates not too far from us and, being determined (and probably half-nuts), I called him and asked if I could purchase a pipe. He didn't think I was nuts and he asked me on the phone if I wanted a metal one, a wooden one, six-inches long or eight-feet long. Now I began to wonder! He invited us up, so we went and my hubby got his pipe (a metal flute) and I saw the workings of a theatre organ - the pipes, console, etc. Up to this time, my only knowledge of organs was at church until Walt dragged me to Radio City.

Walt then went weekly to Dick's to help him on the removal and whatever else they did up there and we became very good friends.

Our first son, Walter John, was born that spring and with a baby and only three rooms, the place was crowded. Then he talked about buying a house. By now, I'd seen loads of theatre organs and even a couple of home installations. The first thing Walt said when he saw the house was, "Gee! An organ would probably fit in there!" But . . . guess what?? we found out number two was due. On Christmas morning, Robert David made his appearance. I've often wondered why it wasn't Rob-

ert Morton like the organ his Godfather owned or if my hubby named him after a close friend and organist, Robert. Whichever, he's not telling!

Still no word on the organ he wanted and I was pretty happy. Two boys are plenty of work but whenever he talked - it was of his organ. On July 19th he called from work all excited. They were accepting his bid and he could start removal!! OH, JOY!!!!

On July 24th at 12:15 p.m. I became an organ widow. It started really at 5:00 a.m. fixing breakfast for him and a volunteer. At 6:00 a.m. they left. Then I baked a cake, prepared lunch, and did my other normal everyday chores and at 12:15 p.m. the first wagon-load of pipes came. Five minutes later the second load. Then they unloaded pipes all over the patio, kitchen, garage, etc. After lunch the boys left and I wished I could have too. Walt started to wash pipes and my job was to carry them downstairs into the basement. Wow! Was I black! The baby thought the noise was great, the neighbors thought us a "wee-bit touched", and Walt was tired. Many more loads were to follow. I hear it's great for losing weight, gaining muscles, getting dirty, etc.

Incidentally, Walt is the proud owner of a Wurlitzer organ, 3m/11r, from the 167th Street Theatre in the Bronx and I am an organ widow, mother of two precious boys, and in love with a man with BIG pipe dreams. Most of all, we found out our house will not house the theatre organ so it will put us out of our home. When it's rebuilt, we'll have to move so it can be installed.

There are advantages and disadvantages of owning an organ but I'll learn to live with it. It's a bit more cumbersome than stamp collecting but a stamp can't produce sound, challenge you, or enhance your living. So, I'll stay by the theatre organ. If Jane Loderhose can stay so cheerful and lovely and gracious, I can at least try. I only hope Walt stops at three manuals. There can't possibly be two Dick Loderhoses . . . can there?? Peter Schaeble has an ideal installation, I think, but I'm a woman and not as smart as you men.

A toast from a new organ widow to the other widows who have stood by their hubbys. (Someday I may even get to play one of those confounded gadgets!!)

JUANITA HILSENBECK
5 Manor Court

P.S. Love the ATOE, its publications, etc. - read them all!!

IT'S PORTLAND
FOR 1966

theatre organ