

mana. Also in the Great is a full upright piano and a huge Marimba. The chambers are very large and would hold twice as much organ. All ranks are extended up to 2' so that there are no silent notes on the upper registers. This specification would possibly suggest that the organ was de-

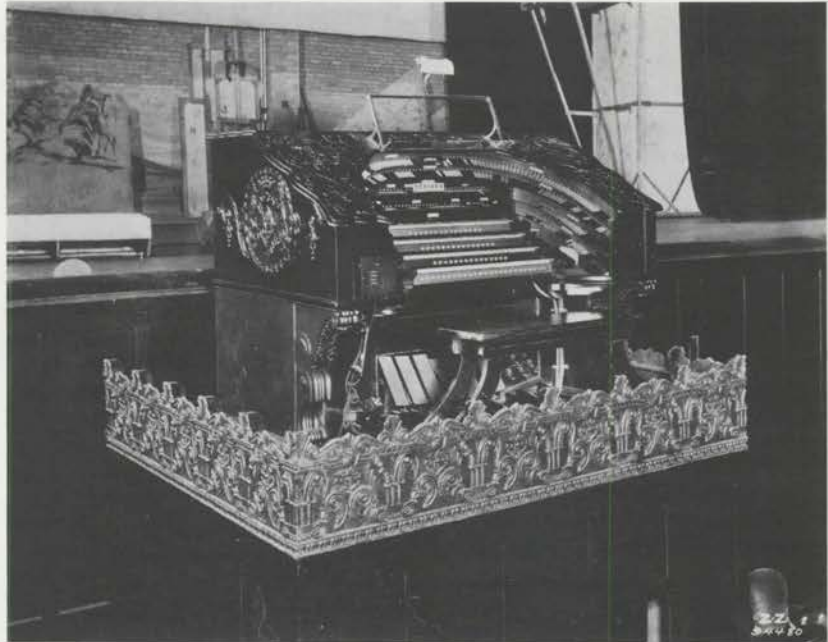


Hibbing Barton showing Great chamber. Left to right is the concert flute, clarinet, strings, quintadena, and vox.

signed to yield church sounds as well as theatrical effects.

Presently the organ is in full glory again especially with the dyed-in-the-wool organ enthusiasts of Hibbing. The theatre organ doesn't seem to offer much to the high school students with competition from the Beatles and Herman's Hermits reigning supreme

1967 NATIONAL A.T.O.E. CONVENTION



Detroit Fox Theatre's Wurlitzer 4/36 Crawford Special shown here, will be one of the 1967 National Convention attractions in Detroit July 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Photo by Manning Brothers

LOEW'S OHIO THEATRE ROBERT MORTON

Don Hall

Until recently, Columbus, Ohio has been untouched by the current renaissance in theatre organ enthusiasm, while right across the street from the state capitol building is the largest theatre organ in central Ohio. Loew's Ohio Theatre is the largest and most ornate in Columbus and like so many other Loew houses, is the home of a Robert Morton organ. This particular Morton is a 4 manual, 18 ranker, installed in March, 1928. Henry Murtaugh was the first organist, Roger Garrett the last regular one. Garrett took over in 1932 and starred for 10 years when the organ was put into semi-retirement and over the years got itself into pretty bad shape. Recently through, two Columbus business men have plunged into the heart of the matter and the Morton is beginning to throb once again. Ohio manager Sam Shubouf, realizing the worth of the instrument, has encouraged the restoration work and use of the organ during weekend evening intermissions.

Carlos Parker heads up the rebuilding project which is now about 80 percent complete. During the week, Carlos masquerades as the purchasing agent for Ross

Laboratories and it is only on weekends that his Hydian nature becomes known. His assistant is Tom Hamilton, vice president of the Diamond Milk Company. Tom usually occupies the Morton's Howard Seat during the weekend organ interludes. Current work by the pair has been centered on re-leathering the combination action, which is surely a final touch.

The white and gold console sits on a lift at stage right. The organ's two chambers are located one on each side just next to the proscenium and above the boxes. They are hidden behind yards of draperies which somewhat muffle the otherwise gorgeous sound. Whenever the organ is used, Joe Worman, the stage electrician is on hand to provide a changing display of lights on the console, boxes and house curtain.

Also in Columbus is a 3 manual, 14 rank Wurlitzer in the RKO Palace, just a short walk from the Ohio. The Palace instrument was installed on November 8, 1928. With two good organs in theatres and many smaller instruments around central Ohio, it's a wonder there's not a flourishing ATOE chapter there.

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