

That Toddlin' Town JUMPS!

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER "BLASTS OFF"

Enthusiasm, Planning, Hard Work Pay Off in 100% Increase in Membership and Good Times for CATOE

From reports received by the Editors of THEATRE ORGAN BOMBARDE, the Chicago Area Chapter is not only one of the most enthusiastic, but also one of the busiest and most active in A. T. O. E.

The following material and pictures shows the frequency, quality and attendance attracted by their activities. THEATRE ORGAN BOMBARDE is indebted to Tom Yannitell, Editor of CATOE VOX NEWSLETTER, and to Bill Benedict, Publicity Director, for the detailed reports and pictures submitted. The active membership must also be commended. The chapter gives a vote of thanks to Fred Kruse for securing the excellent projection crew and equipment which gives the professional quality to CATOE

presentations. Many favorable comments have been made concerning this facet of the programs.

It is of special note that the *Chicago Tribune* has given considerable space to reporting and reviewing the chapter programs, thereby increasing public interest. Will Leonard, entertainment critic, and Walter Neal, photographer, attended the Gaylord Carter program at the Patio Theatre on September 28. A review of the event appeared in the *Tribune* Sunday, October 1 in the "Weekend Happenings" section. The chapter is grateful for the *Tribune's* support, as well as to the *Chicago Daily News*, whose initial story of the Patio Theatre brought recognition to CATOE.



INDIANA THEATRE, East Chicago, Illinois.

TOM SHEEN Plays For CATOE Social Oct. 14, 10 a.m., Patio Theatre

Over 200 members and guests gathered at Chicago's Patio Theatre for a Saturday morning "Theatre Organ Party." Mr. Tom Sheen, organ instructor for Lyon and Healy's Oakbrook store, was the guest organist.



TOM SHEEN at the Patio Barton.

Tom, born in Chicago in 1939, began the study of piano at the age of 5 and later studied organ. During his high school years he was recognized as an outstanding organist. His credits include being a featured artist at the 1964 ATOE Convention in Buffalo, N.Y.

Tom's mastery of the Patio's 3/17 Barton Pipe Organ was evident as he presented varied selections by LeRoy Anderson, George Gershwin and Jerome Kern. He closed the program with a brilliant rendition of "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

A PROGRESS REPORT FOR "ACTIVITISTS" ENTHUSIASTS

By Richard Sklenar

Those of you who are new at being enthusiastic about theatre organs might never have experienced the joy of climbing about an organ chamber with a thousand pipes and forty years of dirt. There are those of you who will be content to listen and never see the pipes or dirt. And there are those who will be "activists," ready to re-leather, resolder, and get dirty—if you are lucky enough to find an organ. You activists are ten years late. Ten years ago the organs were still in Chicago. Today they are either gone, "staked out" by other enthusiasts, or locked away from our loving hands.

But if you insist on being an "activist," you can expect to encounter about what ATOE's Patrick Chambers, Mark Noller, and I have in restoring the 11-rank Kimball in the Parthenon Theatre, Hammond, Indiana.

Since we don't like dirt, we cleaned and painted both chambers. Minor roof leaks meant some replastering. In order to clean and refinish chests, there are nine ranks of pipes (over 600) out of the rackboards and locked away in a dressing room. Close to 100 dead magnets have been replaced, as has the leather on the pneumatics we have found bad. The manuals, pedals, stop rail, stop keys, combination action, and setter boards are

out of the console, which is being done over in ebony. New swell pedals have been cut. A Wicks pedalboard is waiting to be wired in. Final tuning will be easier by using the intercom we have installed between the chambers and the console.

You might guess the job is a thorough one. (Yes, Virginia, the pistons *will* work!) The list of jobs done is endless and we aren't through yet. We started last Christmas and hope to be done this Christmas. As to cost, I'm afraid to add up the expense sheet, but a reasonable guess would put the figure at about \$300, which has to come out of our pockets.

Now that you "activists" have heard about the dirt, money, time, and work involved in restoring even a medium-sized organ, do you still want to be so active? If this progress report has turned you into non-activists, hold on—we are still working diligently. Though the organ sounds good on tape, it isn't like the real thing. Not having heard the real thing play since last July, we are anxious to finish the job so that we and CATOE, activist or not, can hear it. The story about Kimball is an interesting one, but it must wait until another time. I have 600 pipes to clean.

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