



The Newsletter Voice of the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

May Social & Business Meeting

Join us at **12pm on Sunday, May 31st** at the **Arcada Theatre** in St. Charles with **John Cornue** at the **Geneva-Marr & Colton** organ. John's wife **Laurie** will bring along her violin and join in on a few numbers.

John Cornue comes to us from nearby Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. There he is currently installing a 4 chamber multi rank theatre organ in a large private building. His multitude of pipework and organ parts include some items salvaged from the Chicago Stadium Barton as well as the 4 manual console from the Piccadilly theatre in Chicago.

John worked closely with Lake Geneva's Fred Gollnick on several projects including Fred's own Barton organ. John acquired that organ after Fred's death and has used most of it as the basis of his instrument.

The social will follow a brief membership meeting where elections will be held for nominated candidates to the following CATOE 2009-2010 Board of fices: President = John Peters; Secretary = Chuck Hinderliter; Vox Editor = Michael Garay; Member at large = Glenn Tallar & Scott May. Write-in candidates can also be included on your official ballot.

The Arcada Theatre is located at: **105 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174 - (630) 587-8400**. Parking is available on the street and in nearby city lots.

Please do not bring snacks!!! Onesti Entertainment is providing a free 'pasta lunch' before the event! The Arcada's concession stand will also be open!

"American Theatres Today"

Orders are now being taken for the classic 1920s-30s book on movie palaces and legitimate theatres, "American Theatres of Today." This important reference work has long been out of print and is being reissued to mark the Theatre Historical Society of America's 40th Anniversary in 2009.

The book, by R.W. Sexton and B.F. Betts, was originally published as two separate volumes in 1927 and 1930, and is one of the very few theatre books produced during the era when movie palaces were being built all across the country. The book contains 368 pages and features 113 theatres, 275 photographs and 278 drawings and plans; it also contains an introduction by showman Samuel 'Roxy' Rothafel.

To do justice to this very special book, the original volumes were scanned using the latest technology and equipment, and THS is publishing it in a single volume, but with large-format 9"x12" pages as originally produced, and printed on heavy acid-free paper.

Regular copies are available for \$95, plus shipping and a deluxe slipcase edition is available for \$125, plus shipping. All proceeds benefit the non-profit Theatre Historical Society's ongoing efforts to document the legacy of America's historic theatres.

The book is available exclusively through the Theatre Historical Society. To order your copy, and view some sample pages, visit the THS website, www.historictheatres.org or contact THS at 152 N. York St., Elmhurst, IL 60126, phone 630-782-1800.

Closing Chords

🎵 CATOE member Thomas W. "Tom" Yannitell, died March 31, 2009, at his home in Marion, Ohio following a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 67.

Tom was born in Marion, Ohio, on September 24, 1941. Tom came to Chicago to work at Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Illinois. At that time, he joined CATOE and helped rescue several theatre organs. Tom was on the team that saved and installed the organ at Downers Grove North high school. In 1972, Tom returned home to manage the 'Red Cab Company' in Marion following the death of his father.

There, Tom was a founding member of the Palace Cultural Arts Board, where he was instrumental in installing their organ and ensuring its upkeep.



CATOE member Thomas "Tom" Yannitell in 1971.

🎵 John Shanahan has informed us of the passing of former member Carl William Werner on February, 21st in Tucson, Arizona at the age of 97.

"Carl purchased the 3 man 15 rank Wurlitzer from the Diversey Theatre in Chicago in 1959. After the Wurlitzer came his purchase of the 3 man 21 rank(?) Geneva from the Varsity Theatre in Evanston, IL. The Werner's retired to Tuscon, AZ and installed the Geneva in their residence there. Bill was a very pleasant mannered man that nothing seemed to bother in spite of how annoying it was to his pipe organ hobby interests."

John added, "It is sad to lose a good person like him."

April Social Snapshot

The CATOE social was held after a business meeting and nominations for officers for the 2009-2010 board. After the showing of "When So Few Still Play" and the introduction of CATOE's first President, Bill Barry (who was prominently featured in the film) we enjoyed the unique arrangements of Zach Frame.

