



METROLINA ORGAN

Quarterly

Seasons Greetings

Again we are indebted to Gwen and Charlie Clayton, who have graciously invited MTO&S members to their home for a holiday celebration. This time we will be just a few days late, (although one day earlier than last year)

Saturday, January 3, 1998

6:30 p.m.

306 Riverton Road, Matthews

704.821.9891



If you have been to Charlie and Gwen's before, you will remember a warm and joyous occasion. But you may not remember the way. It's easier now: there is new access from the dreaded Outerbelt:

From I-77, get on I-485 (the Outerbelt) going east toward Independence Blvd (US 74). You pass by Carolina Place Mall, cross Providence Road, then exit onto Monroe Road and turn right. Go just a little ways to the first stop light. (This is downtown Stallings.) Turn right again onto Potter Road. After about two miles, and straight through two more stop lights, turn left onto Nelson Road, just beyond the Weddington town limits sign. Almost immediately turn left again onto Tree Hill Road; Riverton is the second street to the right. No. 306 is at the end of the cul-de-sac, straight ahead down the concrete driveway.

From Charlotte, out Monroe Road: Go straight through downtown Matthews. Turn right at the stoplight in Stallings (the first light after crossing the Union County line) and go out Potter Road.

If you go out Independence Boulevard, turn right on Ridge Road, about half a mile beyond Highway 51. Then keep straight through

the light in Stallings, and you will be on Potter Road without having to turn.

Going out Providence Road, turn left (northeast) on McKee Road (about a mile beyond the Arboretum, at the stoplight just beyond Providence Presbyteriana Church). Turn right when it dead ends at Pleasant Plains Road, and right again at the next light, which will be Potter Road.

If you come from another direction, please call for directions.

☞ Don't forget.

Do bring a covered dish.

Call and let Gwen know what you will bring —

821.9891





Theatre Meeting

On the cold Sunday afternoon of November 16, seven brave (or foolish) **MTOS** members came together to shiver in the unheated ambience of the Carolina Theatre. Present and chattering were: John Apple, Charlie Clayton, Beatrice Fee, Paul Gelsleichter, Bobby Ray, Dr. Don Macdonald, and Tom McCall.

Almost all of the theatre was open for inspection, including the right organ chamber. It is a small triangular room, but three stories high. Plenty of room to stack pipes. There were hidden passages, perilous staircases without railings, ancient remains of dressing rooms and lavatories. But somehow a magic glow permeates the shades of neglect and grasps a part of the soul. Talk to Beatrice about it; she can explain. The potential breaks through the gloom.

To thaw out, we adjourned to the public library, across Sixth Street, for a business meeting. The principal matter for discussion was the possibilities for obtaining an organ, as outlined in the previous newsletter. The conclusion was that, with no money to move an instrument, and no place to put it, even for storage, the point of wisdom indicates postponement.



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Radio City

There has been much discussion on the organ nets recently about the future of Radio City Music Hall — the landmark theatre at Rockefeller Center in New York, largest theatre around, and containing the largest organ built by WurliTzer — with two four-manual consoles.

Some years back, Rockefeller Center, including the Music Hall, was bought by a large Japanese financial institution. Now, with the Japanese economy in disarray, the ownership of the entire center has returned to this country through the fellowship of Goldman Sachs, Tishman Speyer (N.Y.'s largest real estate developer) and David Rockefeller.

There was an unpleasant lease dispute between the new owners and the management company, Radio City Productions. According to postings to the nets, the management has now been turned over to Cablevision Systems Corp. Much money is to be spent on restoration, renovation, or destruction — depending on one's point of view. It is hoped that in the end the Hall will be used more, and that the recently renovated WurliTzer will see more action.

In other news from the Theatre Historical Society, Manhattan's New Amsterdam Theatre has been restored to rave reviews by the Disney Company, with help from N.Y.C. and N. Y. State.

And in Chicago, the elaborate 71-year-old Oriental Theatre is being restored, and will reopen in the fall of 1998 as the

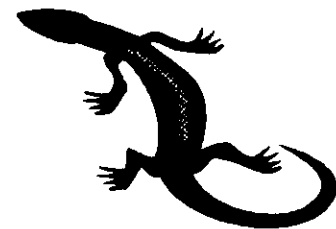
Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Again city money was provided, but Ford got its name on the marquee. "Oriental" will remain, somewhat subdued, on the front of the building.



Letters

The second issue of *Metrolina Organ Quarterly*, October 1990, contained five letters to the editor — from Karen Hite Jacob, Charlotte; Arthur Kent, North Myrtle Beach; Charlie Clayton, Matthews; Bobby Clark, Raleigh; and Charles Haymaker, Charlotte. Letters from readers always add spice and a fresh viewpoint to any publication. So please write. If not an article or letter, send e-mail to

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