

TEXAS CHAPTER

2007 Officers:

President: Jerry Bacon

Vice President: Bill Boruff

Secretary: Maureen Barisonek

Treasurer: Vicki Brady

Board Representative: Suzanne and John McCall

Reporter: Maureen Barisonek

The Texas Chapter has 58 memberships representing 90 persons. Since last year's report, we have added eleven new memberships and lost nine memberships for a net gain of two. We have had three meetings which were exceptional, both in content and attendance.

In October, 2006, the chapter celebrated a combined meeting with the Sunbelt Chapter of MBSI in San Antonio. This meeting was choreographed by Ken Long and Bill Boruff. The weekend was magical for 60 members who attended.

The weekend activities began Saturday at the gorgeous home (mansion) of Ken Long. Ken has filled a 6500 square foot home with a collection of pianos, automatic musical instruments, and art worthy of a museum. He made a wonderful presentation, including a walk-through of the home and demos of other instruments.

Ken owns a 1930 Knabe Ampico B in an elaborately carved walnut Italian Renaissance case. He also owns a 1931 Knabe 9' Ampico B concert grand. It is also equipped with a Midi system. His other pianos include a 1928 7' Mason Hamlin Ampico A/B, a 1926 Appolo Player grand, and a 1927 Steinway 6' 5" Duo-Art. He also owns a Duplex Victrola, one of the rarest in existence.

That evening the group had dinner at the Majestic Theatre Restaurant/Club and afterwards descended into the Majestic Theatre to enjoy the musical, "The Rat Pack: Live at the Sands."

The following day the group toured the restored Aztec Theater which housed the 1931 Mighty Wurlitzer Organ and Console. This organ is one of three ever made with a three manual keyboard, "Waterfall" style, and the only one in red, orange, gold, and green colors. Members returned home greatly enriched from this weekend.

In December, the annual Christmas party was held at the lovely home of Vicki Brady at Lake Benbrook. Members enjoyed a delicious dinner, a gift exchange, and Christmas music. They were fascinated by the interesting

collections, including frogs, turtles, and snails. Vicki has an all natural organic landscape with frog ponds and waterfalls. She cultivates her own garden with organic material and all natural food and irrigation.

In April, 2007, the AMICA chapter and the Sunbelt MBSI chapter convened at the two hundred acre estate of the late Art Eltzroth and his widow, Dee, in Cleburne, Texas. This meeting was a tribute to Art, who had passed away a few weeks prior. Dee encouraged her guests to enjoy the beautiful grounds, the famous pet monkey, "T.J.", and a delicious Mexican buffet. A live band plus numerous machines played during the evening.

The following day, Saturday, the annual Cleburne Springfest Celebration took place around the Court House Square. Larry Kern, El Paso, brought his Stinson Carousel Band Organ. Leonard and Billy Railsback brought their Stinson Dutch Type Street Organ from Kansas. Tom and Kay Bode of Kansas City, Missouri, were grinding their monkey organs. Walter, Jessie, and Charlie Moore from Dallas took turns playing their grand roller organ.

The weekend activities were sponsored and arranged by Dee Eltzroth and coordinated by Bill Boruff and Julian Grace. Special thanks to Julian Grace and Maureen Barisonek for their assistance in providing some additional details for this report.

A great weekend-and a tribute to automated musical instruments. May they be kept alive and well for future generations.

Submitted by:
Suzanne and John McCall

