

Leon Achen at St. Ann's organ.



Gentlemen enjoy recreation at St. Ann's.

Organist Finds Music Again At St. Ann's

ORGAN MUSIC for chapel services at St. Ann's Home is rooted in traditions from the picturesque principality of Luxembourg. Organist Leon Achen, born in that tiny mountain country between France and Germany, now presides at the console of the electronic organ for church ceremonies conducted at St. Ann's chapel.

Retirement to St. Ann's Home did not spell an end to this able artist's love for organ music and his life long study of literature.

In the quiet hours of the day, Mr. Achen spends a major portion of his time with his beloved books — in any one

of a dozen languages. And in the beautiful chapel of St. Ann's Home, he again plays the masterpieces of music composed by the famous masters — Palestrina, Puccini, Haydn, Gounod.

Sisters who staff the Lake Avenue Home comprise Mr. Achen's choir.

"The people like to sing too," says the 73-year-old organist. When he plays the familiar melodies, "Everybody joins in," he says, and "it sounds like one big choir."

The nuns also have special motets and hymns for feast days and other chapel services. Mr. Achen was trained in

music and languages at the famous University of Louvain in Belgium. He taught in schools in Belgium, Germany, and England prior to coming to America in 1912.

American climate in Kansas City, his new home, damaged his health and he determined to return to Europe.

A telegram from the late Father Alphonse Notebaert of Our Lady of Victory Church, Rochester, asked him to accept the position of organist at the famed little "French Church."

Mr. Achen canceled his European trip and for twenty years served as organist at the downtown Rochester church.

His talent for languages was recognized by the Rochester Kalbfus School for Boys which enrolled him as a faculty member. He later taught French literature at the University of Rochester.

"During my life time," says

the quiet scholar, "I have taught ten different languages." "After my music, I like literature most of all," he comments.

"Serving God through organ music and chant helps me show my faith and gratitude to God for His gifts to me," Mr. Achen explains. "And in the literature of the various na-

tions, I find great enjoyment in seeing how men can express their thoughts in prose or poetry."

He also served as organist for Holy Cross Church, Rochester, but failing health forced his retirement. Now at St. Ann's he again finds time and opportunity for his music and his study of literature.

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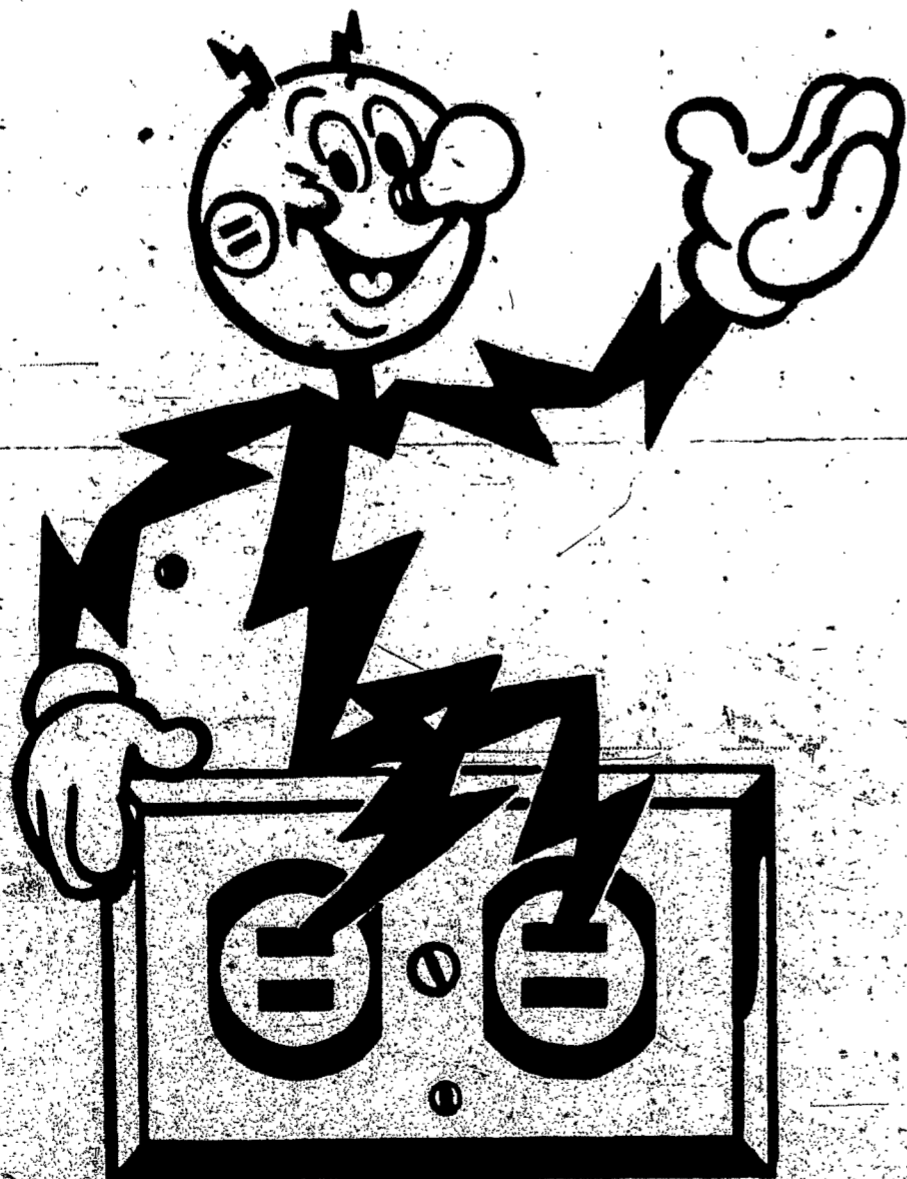
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