RMC Assistant Director Has Distinguished Musical Career

By ALFRED LOWEY-BALL

When one enters the Student Center the first person to come into view is a dapper, grey-haired gentleman, unfailingly immaculate in dress, who sits behind the main desk of the lobby.

THE GENTLEMAN is Mr. Roland Pomerat, assistant director of the R.M.C., Chapel organist and, as of now, the Rice University Carillonneur.

As his name unmistakably indicates, his affinities are French. His father was a Parisian, who settled in Massachusetts as a surgeon.

It was he who inducted Pomerat a love for the organ and music in general, and by the time he was 14 he was skilled enough to play professionally. The young organist played in churches of most denominations, and for the duration of the silent movie era, he provided the musical score of many a film.

WITH THE ADVENT of the "talkies," Pomerat left the motion picture industry to join the Hammond Organ Company in New England.

In 1942 Pomerat, in addition to his organ work, began to study the carillon under the musically renowned Dr. Kamiel Lefevre of the Riverside Church of New York. This entitled him to join the fifty-five member Carillonneurs Guild of North America.

HIS SKILL with the bells won him many invitations, and in the following years he gave recitals at Princeton, Wellesley, Trinity College and the University of Toronto. At the same time he was organist of Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, Massachusetts where he remained for fifteen years.

In search of a change, Pomerat came to Texas in 1959 to join his brother, Dr. Charles Pomerat, in Galveston, whom he later accompanied to California. But California did not suit him. When he was offered a position at Rice, he returned to Texas, and the bells arrived one year later—this week.

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