Convention Preamble

by Gregory Crowell

When one thinks of Indiana, visions of cornfields, racing cars, or basketball hoops perhaps spring to mind. The truth is, however, that although these things are indeed important icons of the Hoosier State, the area has a rich and varied history, and is perhaps underappreciated as the home of a number of fascinating organs of great historical and artistic value.

The City of Indianapolis will serve as the home base for this convention. Situated on the shallow White River, the city is one of the most populous urban areas in the world on a non-navigable waterway. Though the city was slow to grow (by the mid-1820s there were only 1,000 people), it soon became a major center of industry. The influx of German immigrants in the nineteenth century did much to add to the city’s resources, and by the Civil War the city had become an important center for the manufacturing of supplies to support the Union war effort. In 1881 Indianapolis became one of the first states in the country to install electric street lights. By the early twentieth century, Indianapolis was quite prosperous, and the magnificent mansions that line North Meridian Street still give witness to the exquisite taste and endless resources of many of the city’s wealthier residents. Although Charles H. Black’s 1891 invention in Indianapolis of the first internal combustion gasoline engine was not an unqualified success, the city eventually became an important center of automobile manufacture—it was here that such legendary cars as the Stutz, Duesenberg, and Cole were made. Of course, that tradition of automobile worship lives on at the Indy Speedway (which dates back to 1909), home of the famous Indy 500 race. Those interested in automobile history are encouraged to visit the Speedway’s museum, where a fascinating collection of historical racing cars dating back to 1911 can be viewed.

Indianapolis is also notable for the beauty of its architecture and layout. Indeed, Eagle Creek Park is, at 4,000 acres, one of the largest urban parks in the country, and the Garfield Park Conservatory is also one of the largest and most beautiful of its kind. At Lockerbie Square one can stroll through the
Central Indiana Convention:
A Hoosier Holiday
by Joe Roberts, Convention Chair

What will we see and hear at the 2007 OHS Convention? More than thirty organs from one to five manuals, dating from 1851 to 2003, among which are the creations of six Indiana builders: two from the nineteenth century, one from the mid-twentieth century, and three from contemporary times. There will also be larger instruments by the W.W. Kimball Company of Chicago built during the 1930s, arguably at the time of their peak artistic production. Other builders of the Midwest outside of Indiana are also represented by Lancaster-Marshall, Barckhoff, Barton, and Holtkamp. There will also be a good sampling of the works of German-American builders of the nineteenth century. Another characteristic of this convention is that many of the instruments have not been modified, and most have been well-maintained without stop changes or additions.

The convention will gather July 11 through 17 at Indianapolis, Indiana. Known as 'The Crossroads of America,' Indianapolis is served by numerous interstate highways with convenient access to Chicago, Detroit, Saint Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, and Columbus. The convention hotel is easily located on the north loop of Interstate 465, which encircles the city. This location may encourage those within driving distance to travel to Indianapolis by car. Our hotel provides free garage parking, which may be an additional incentive to those who drive. Numerous carriers provide service to Indianapolis International Airport. Travel to and from Indianapolis is easy and convenient.

Although we will be located in Indianapolis, the gathering is billed as the Central Indiana Convention, in order to reflect the truly regional emphasis of this convention. We will spend only two full days in the city of Indianapolis, with trips the four additional days taking us through the Indiana countryside to colorful cities and towns not often visited by tourists or those passing through the state. All of the venues visited will be new to OHS convention attendees.

Previous conventions in Chicago, Louisville, and Cincinnati have had events in northern and southern Indiana, but all the places to be visited in 2007 will be first-time visits by an OHS convention. The Central Indiana Convention will also introduce many talented organists from within this state. While the roster includes several longtime favorites of the Society, more than half of the performers live in Indiana, and many of these artists have not previously played for an OHS convention.

The convention will be housed at the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel and Suites located in the north-side mall. 'Keystone at The Crossing,' this major mall houses Parisian and Saks Fifth Avenue as anchor stores, many specialty shops, a food court, as well as several stand-alone restaurants and a five-screen art theater. Those arriving early may want to explore the many offerings found at this shopping center. The hotel itself promises quality, comfortable accommodations at a reasonable price. Other attractions in the metropolitan area may be of interest to those with time to enjoy them. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum is located at the 'Indianapolis 500' racetrack. Conner Prairie Pioneer Museum is a village portraying Midwest pioneer life in a recreated 1836 settlement with a Delaware Indian village and an 1886 farmstead nearby. White River State Park is a museum complex located just west of the downtown area and includes the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art, the newly expanded Indiana State Museum (with an IMAX theater), the world-class Indianapolis Zoo, and White River Gardens.
We open the convention with an exciting event on the evening of Wednesday, July 11, at Broadway United Methodist Church. The Broadway Festival Chorus and Orchestra, under the direction of Jack Fox, with Chris Schroeder, organist, will present music of Josef Rheinberger and Charles-Marie Widor. Broadway United Methodist Church is on the near north side; it was the largest congregation in the city during the 1940s and 1950s, but suffered a decline during the years 1960–1990. It now is a resurgent congregation that values its music program. Broadway was home to a colorful four-manual Estey of 1927 until that organ was removed in 1967. (The Estey is the organ referred to by Rollin Smith in his 1999 biography *Louis Vierne, Organist of Notre Dame Cathedral.*) The talented organist and teacher at Broadway Church at that time, Ellen B. English, was a champion of the music of Vierne, Widor, and Sowerby. The organ we will hear at Broadway is a three-manual, fifty-four-rank instrument built by Reynolds Associates, Inc., of Marion, Indiana, in 2001, (PHOTO AT RIGHT) and the first example we will hear from a regional builder. Following the program we will return to the hotel for time at the exhibit room, where we expect to have several organs on display, as well as the wares from the OHS catalog.

The first full day of the convention will be Thursday, July 12, and will be spent in Indianapolis. From the hotel we will drive a short distance to North Meridian Street and the impressive complex that is Second Presbyterian Church. This historic congregation dates from 1838, seventeen years after the city was established. Its first pastor was a youthful Henry Ward Beecher, who was a colorful influence in the young city during the eight years of his pastorate. The church, always an influence in its downtown location, continues its vital ministry to the city at its French Gothic church, completed on the north side in September 1959. The 1968 organ by Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 1490 (PHOTO AT LEFT), was designed by Clyde Holloway, then of Indiana University at Bloomington. This important instrument has served as a mainstay for Indianapolis church music, and has often been used in recordings, notably by Holloway and Catherine Crozier. It has been a favorite of organ conventions in Indianapolis for decades, which makes it a natural choice to begin our day here in the Capital. The four-manual organ in the gallery under a magnificent rose window is complemented by a two-manual and Pedal chancel division. The Schantz Organ Company renovated the organ in 2002.
Meridian Street in Indianapolis (considered by many to be one of America’s most beautiful streets) will take us to the dramatic setting of Christian Theological Seminary. This campus, opened in 1962, has been variously characterized as ‘starkly modern,’ ‘pre-Gothic,’ and ‘having an affinity with the Middle East and the time of Christ.’ Contemporary artwork is thoughtfully planned and integrated to add to the contemplative atmosphere. Carefully designed to blend with the remainder of the campus, the chapel was completed in 1987. The three-manual, mechanical-action Holtkamp (PHOTO AT LEFT) is found along the right wall. Excellent acoustics will be evident during the demonstration of the organ by Marilyn Keiser, who was the consultant in its original design. After a nearby lunch we expect to have time to visit the Indianapolis Art Museum to see the varied collection, including paintings by Constable and El Greco, as well as a number of Greek antiquities. You will be impressed at the holdings and setting of this municipal treasure.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is located along the old Central Canal. Bethel is the ‘mother church’ of its denomination in Indiana, and contains a sixteen-rank Felgemaker (PHOTO AT RIGHT) in mint condition in a front gallery of the light and spacious room. The historic congregation has been a pillar throughout most of Indianapolis’ existence—tradition holds that members of the congregation assisted in providing refuge for slaves escaping the South via the Underground Railroad prior to the Civil War. MaryAnn Crugher Balduf will demonstrate the organ, which is used regularly. She has also promised us a surprise as a part of her program.
The shop of Goulding & Wood, Organbuilders, will host us for a tour of their premises, including a new erecting room. Goulding & Wood has attained a national reputation for their electro-pneumatic slider chest organs. Our next stop will be ‘Old Centrum,’ the new name for the former Central Avenue Methodist Church, which was the forerunner of several other Methodist churches visited by this convention. This historic congregation was a major proponent of the Social Gospel in the Midwest. Many of its pastors served as college presidents, most notably at DePauw University, which we will also visit during this convention. The completion of Interstate 65 and the northern migration of neighborhood church members spelled doom to the congregation but, thankfully, a foundation has been formed to preserve the building and ensure its use for future generations by numerous non-profit organizations.

The building we will visit was erected 1891–92, and contains the organ built by Thomas Prentice Sanborn & Son, the firm that succeeded the more widely known factory of Wm. Horatio Clarke. Clarke's company lasted only from 1874 to 1880, and Sanborn, who is little known outside Indiana, was in business from about 1881 until about 1900, when he retired. The Sanborn instrument exhibits pneumatic assist mechanisms that closely follow the drawings Sanborn submitted for a patent application. At thirty-two ranks, it is large for a two-manual instrument. During the 1920s, it was electrified by the Seeburg-Smith Co. of Chicago. Their new theater-style console contained multicolored stopkeys. That console was later replaced by a supply house product. The organ has been silent in recent years, due to failing leather. Thad Reynolds has devoted much time and effort to enable the instrument to sound once again for us. Charles Manning will demonstrate this last Sanborn organ in Indianapolis.

Thursday evening will be spent at North United Methodist Church, an English Gothic structure, and a presence on North Meridian Street since 1931. In its first year it was an important venue for the national convention of the American Guild of Organists. The then new four-manual Kimball organ (PHOTO ABOVE) — the more progressive of two organs heard on this convention that were designed by John A. Bell — elicited comments in The Diapason about its piston arrangements. The church added a classic-style gallery organ by Holloway in 1965. In 2003, Reynolds Associates, Inc., renovated both instruments to their present configuration of seventy-seven ranks. The Kimball ranks survive, and can be heard as they originally sounded in 1931. After a dinner at North church, we will have a chance to see and hear the 1997 Létourneau two-manual organ in the chapel before a recital on the Kimball by Carol Williams, organist at the Balboa Park Pavilion in San Diego, California.

Historic Roberts Park United Methodist Church boasts a wealth of black walnut woodwork in the room, including the case of Wm. Horatio Clarke’s *magnum opus*, a large three-manual organ built in 1876. Clarke also served as organist here from 1876 until 1878. The Clarke organ was replaced in 1915 by the Ernest M. Skinner Company, and that organ was replaced in 1973 by the Reuter Organ Company. This historic setting will be the location of a lecture by Michael Friesen, who will discuss the work of Clarke and Sanborn, the Indianapolis builders of the nineteenth century. Michael's account will include material collected by Thad Reynolds, who has a strong interest in Sanborn.
Friday, July 13, will be the first of our road trips, this time to the north. Our first stop will be Lagro in Wabash County, where we will visit St. Patrick’s Catholic Church and the oldest organ heard during this convention. The Fall 2005 issue of The Tracker contained an article describing this instrument, which is possibly the oldest organ in Indiana. While Saint Patrick’s Church has been used as an oratory since 1997, the Friends of Saint Patrick’s, a group of historically-minded people from the immediate community and beyond, have contributed generously to ensure that the building and its organ (PHOTO AT RIGHT) are kept in excellent condition. New evidence suggests that the basis of the organ was the 1851 Erben from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in La Porte, Indiana. We heard a Steere & Turner at that church during the Chicago convention of 2002, when it was played by Gregory Crowell, who will also be our demonstrator at Lagro. Following his program we will have a lunch served by the ladies of the nearby Lagro United Methodist Church.

Following lunch on Friday we will visit Peru, which, along with Lagro and Logansport, were locations on the old Wabash and Erie Canal. The OHS has visited the Erie Canal at its locations across New York State, where it was constructed during the 1820s. The Wabash and Erie, which ran from Toledo, Ohio, to Lafayette, Indiana, with a projected extension to Evansville, was a project of the Indiana Internal Improvement Act in the 1830s. ‘Canal fever’ gripped the state, but economic woes and the advent of rail travel doomed the canal system, although freight was carried by the canal into the 1870s. Laborers on the canal who later settled in the area were early members of the church at Lagro and at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Peru, where an 1893 organ by Louis H. Van Dinter of Mishawaka, Indiana, (PHOTO AT LEFT) supplanted a melodeon. The OHS has heard Van Dinter organs in Chicago and in Louisville, Kentucky, but the organ at Peru will be the first heard at an OHS Convention in the builder’s state. It is an effective instrument in the room and, excepting the Great Diapason, is enclosed in a large swell box. Despite that feature, the organ shows Van Dinter’s conservatism, with its twenty-five-note pedalboard and swell pedal placed to the right of the pedalboard, a feature that was quite out of date by the late nineteenth century. Karen Kirner will demonstrate the instrument for us.
Logansport will be our next stop. Although this city retains four organs with tracker action, we have time to visit only one. The organs we will not hear include a ten-rank 1877 Hook & Hastings at Trinity Episcopal, a two-manual tracker Kilgen at Trinity Lutheran, and a two-manual Wm. King organ in the former Grace Lutheran Church.

The one instrument we will hear is an 1886 Barckhoff (PHOTO AT RIGHT) of twenty-two ranks at St. James’ Lutheran Church, where it is well appreciated by its congregation. The Great division always contained a provision for an 8’ Trumpet, which was finally provided in 2004 by Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, copying the Trumpet from the Barckhoff at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (heard at our 2003 Harrisburg convention). The Logansport organ will be demonstrated by John Gouwens of the nearby Culver Military Academy.

From Logansport, we will travel southwest to Frankfort to hear a demonstration by Mary Gifford on a comprehensive three-manual Lancashire-Marshall instrument of 1901. (PHOTO AT LEFT) This instrument, built in Moline, Illinois, was originally partly tracker and partly tubular pneumatic in construction. It was electrified and a new console was provided in 1964. The impressive case dominates the front of the sanctuary.

We will then return to the northwest side of Indianapolis for Friday’s dinner at our hotel and then an evening program given by Thomas Murray at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church on the 1999 Goulding & Wood (PHOTO AT RIGHT) eighty-rank instrument, one of the firm’s largest. This modern building of one of the city’s largest congregations has provided ideal placement of the organ across the front of the room, with an Antiphonal division at one side, and a Trompette-en-Chamade at the rear. Throughout the congregation’s fifty-five year history, special emphasis has been placed on quality music, as evidenced by their investment in this fine, large organ built by a local firm.
In Rushville we will enjoy a program at Trinity Presbyterian Church by Yun Kyong Kim, who will play the 1906 A.B. Felgemaker organ (PHOTO BELOW) that was installed when the church was built. This instrument is notable for containing its original leather, both in the action and in the wind system, all of which is in excellent condition. The organ’s specification is typical of its era, containing a Great Diapason, which dominates the remainder of the organ. After this program we will have lunch at the Main Street Christian Church, where the organ, originally a mechanical-action Hook & Hastings, was later electrified and enlarged by E.H. Holloway.

Our Saturday, July 14 bus trip will take us to areas east of Indianapolis. We will first go to the Acton United Methodist Church, a 1991 building in a rural setting. This church is the location of an 1895 Hook & Hastings (PHOTOS ABOVE AND BELOW) organ of eleven ranks, Opus 1671, originally built for the Fletcher Place United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. When that historic church closed in 1983, the organ was given to the Acton congregation. The instrument retains the original pipe color scheme and stenciling, and is an impressive presence in the room. Robert A. Schilling will demonstrate this fine example of a relocated piece of history for us.

From Rushville we will travel north to U.S. 40, the picturesque old “National Road.” This thoroughfare through Central Indiana opened the state to settlement during the first half of the nineteenth century. We will visit Zion Lutheran Church at East Germantown, one of the smallest communities visited on this convention. During World War I, the town adopted the name of Pershing to show its patriotic loyalty, and the town is still known by either name. Zion Church is the location of an 1896 M.P. Möller tracker organ of sixteen ranks that was moved in the early 1930s from its original location at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in nearby Richmond, Indiana. The organ will be demonstrated by Karl E. Moyer.
Richmond dates from 1806, and is one of Indiana’s earliest settlements, and the home of two instruments to be heard at this convention. At St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, which dates from 1849, and which once contained an 1858 E. & G.G. Hook organ, Opus 233, we will hear the 1966 three-manual thirty-two-rank instrument installed by the E.H. Holloway Corporation of Indianapolis as a free-standing instrument in the rear gallery. This installation took place during the time that Ernest White lived in Indianapolis and was tonal director for Holloway. It features open-toe, un-nicked pipework, and will be demonstrated by David K. Lamb.

Three short blocks from St. Paul’s Episcopal is Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church (PHOTO ABOVE), an impressive building made of Indiana limestone in Scottish Gothic style. The cost of building the church was paid for by Daniel Gray Reid, a Richmond native known as “The Tin Plate King,” who built the church in memory of his parents. The architecturally significant building contains a collection of sixty-two windows from the Tiffany Studios, a locally-built Starr grand piano, and other museum-quality artwork. (Do any other American churches display a Titian in their sanctuary?) The 1906 three-manual Hook and Hastings organ was featured in *Etude* magazine as “The Organ of the Year.” It was rebuilt by Pilcher in 1937 with a new console, and again in 1958 by the Wicks Organ Company. The original Hook & Hastings stoplist has been augmented, but the appearance of the handsome double case of solid mahogany has not been changed from the 1906 installation. In this fine setting we will hear a recital by Bruce Stevens.

Our dinner will be at nearby Hagerstown, home of Guy Welliver’s Smorgasbord, a pilgrimage restaurant for many in Indiana and Ohio. There will be no reason for anyone to leave this meal hungry! We will then drive to the east side of Indianapolis for the one theater organ program of the convention at the Warren Center for the Performing Arts. This auditorium, dating from the 1960s, is part of a large high school complex, and provides the right ambience for the large Barton theater organ (PHOTO AT RIGHT) originally in the Indiana Theater in downtown Indianapolis. After years of precarious storage, the Barton has found an ideal home at the Warren Center. We will hear Mark Herman of Fort Wayne, Indiana, a young virtuoso on the theater organ, display this instrument.
Sunday, July 15, will be a more leisurely day spent in Indianapolis. The morning will be free for those who wish to attend worship services. At noon, we will have our annual banquet at the hotel and, in the early afternoon, the annual meeting. After this business meeting we will travel to St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church for a demonstration of the 1928 three-manual, thirty-three-rank Kilgen organ (PHOTO AT RIGHT) in the reverberant, Italian Renaissance-style church. Rosalind Mohson will be our artist here. We will then drive downtown for a choral Evensong presented by the renowned choir of men and boys of Christ Church Cathedral, under the direction of Frederick Burgomaster. As Christ Church will be undergoing renovation during our convention, this service will be held at historic St. John’s Catholic Church nearby. It features fine acoustics and has an interesting organ history, having been the home of a large Pfeffer organ during the early twentieth century. The current Goulding & Wood instrument will be used in this service. At the conclusion of this service, we will be free to have dinner on our own at any of the many fine dining places in downtown Indianapolis. After returning to St. John’s to board our buses, we will return to the hotel for a free evening to relax and enjoy the exhibits.

Monday, July 16, is our day to travel south from Indianapolis. We will stop first at Franklin for our traditional hymn sing program. This will be held at the 1875 First Presbyterian Church, where J.W. Steere & Son (PHOTO BELOW) provided a large four-manual instrument in 1912. The fourth manual was intended for an Echo organ that was never built. The organ had twin cases at the front of the room, and featured a brick enclosure for the Choir and a cement enclosure for the Swell. In their 1988 rebuild of this organ, Goulding & Wood united the two cases into the configuration that Steere originally proposed. The organ was also somewhat enlarged at this time, resulting in a comprehensive and impressive instrument.

Buses will take us south to Columbus, Indiana, which has gained fame for architectural innovation, earning it the name ‘Athens of the Midwest.’ Our visit here is to what might be called a pilgrimage for the organ world. The First Christian Church, built 1940–1942, is a landmark in church architecture. Designed by Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen, it remains an extraordinary building. The organ was built by Aeolian-Skinner as their Opus 993, their last major instrument before World War II. Carl Weinrich was the consultant who worked with G. Donald Harrison and was probably the one who insisted on having reeds on the Great organ, contrary to Harrison’s usual practice. The eighty-two-rank organ embodies the ‘American Classic’ design and has been used regularly for recitals as well as for programs with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. Slight modifications to the organ were made by Thomas Wood in 1976, and in 1980 Goulding & Wood replaced the electro-pneumatic switching systems and combination action with solid state systems. Tom Wood will give a brief presentation about the instrument and the changes which he made. We will hear a recital by Dan McKinley, who was organist at the church prior to his move to the East Coast.
After lunch at Columbus’ First United Methodist Church, our afternoon drive promises to be the most scenic of our convention. We travel west through Brown County on our way to Bloomington. This area is well known around the world for its spectacular spring and fall scenery. It is the setting of Kin Hubbard’s “Abe Martin” stories, and is also the center of the Brown County school of artists of the early twentieth century. T.C. Steele and William Forsythe were among the artists of the “Brown County School,” which still is a mecca for landscape artists. We will drive by the T.C. Steele State Memorial, which preserves his studio and displays many of his paintings. We arrive at Bloomington to visit St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, an attractive modern A-frame building, to hear one of the most important organs of the convention. It is believed to be the only example of the work of Thomas Sanborn still tonally and mechanically intact. Built in 1883, it is now in its fourth location where it will be used in a unique arrangement, not only by the church, but also by students and faculty of nearby Indiana University. The organ was moved and has been meticulously restored by Michael Rathke. It will be demonstrated for us by Christopher Young of the I.U. faculty.

We then return to Indianapolis for a stop at the colorful Sacred Heart Catholic Church on the city’s near south side. The original organ was installed in 1899 by William Schuelke (PHOTO ON PAGE 5) and has been prominent in musical activities in the city since then. It largely survived a disastrous fire in the church in April 2001, and has been rebuilt by the Wicks Organ Company, retaining all the pipes that survived the fire. Our demonstration will be given by Tom Nichols, organist at St. John’s Catholic Church, which we visited on Sunday.

The rest of the Monday will be spent at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. This monumental building’s tower houses a fifty-four-bell carillon by both Taylor and Paccard, which John Gouwens will play for us prior to our dinner in the Cathedral’s Great Hall. We will then adjourn to the auditorium to hear the seventy-three-rank Skinner Organ Company instrument (PHOTO BELOW), which is located above the ceiling of the ornate room with its Circassian walnut woodwork. This is the other organ we will hear that was designed by John Bell. Our program will be given by Martin Ellis, organist at North United Methodist Church, which we visited on Thursday. Martin will play a program designed to display the Skinner’s characteristic colors. We will be able to see the original four-manual console, which is kept on display (there is now a five-manual console in use). The organ received an OHS citation a few years ago.
The final day of the convention, Tuesday, July 17, takes us on a tour west of Indianapolis. We will stop first at Calvary United Methodist Church in Brownsburg, a building scheduled for completion in early 2007. The thirty-four-rank organ, moved from the previous location, is a gem of an instrument built by Charles Ruggles in 1994. The organ will be demonstrated by Carla Edwards of DePauw University.

In Plainfield we will hear a demonstration by William Aylesworth on the 1899 Prante tracker organ (PHOTO BELOW), which was moved from the former Assumption Catholic Church in Indianapolis in 1999. The organ is in the Western Yearly Meetinghouse of the Religious Society of Friends, an 1858 structure in a campus-like setting. This Organ Clearing House transplant is a good example of the re-use of redundant instruments, and benefits from the generous acoustics of the historic Quaker meetinghouse.

Greencastle is home to the campus of DePauw University, where we will have lunch and enjoy two programs. An A/B arrangement will allow half of our group to have lunch while the rest hear a program on the 2002 organ built by Joseph Zamberlan as his Opus I, of twenty-three ranks, at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. The organ will be played by Kirby Koriath of Ball State University. This instrument contains historic pipework from an E. & G.G. Hook of 1870, as well as from a Stevens & Jewett of 1856. After switching locations, both groups will meet at historic Meharry Hall, which houses Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1035 (PHOTO ABOVE), an unenclosed, two-manual instrument inspired by the first Busch-Reisinger Museum instrument in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The organ has been transplanted from the nearby Gobin Methodist Church, an historic church with long-standing ties to the university, and where Van Denman Thompson taught countless organ students. It will be demonstrated by Kristi Koriath.
A drive through Indiana farm country brings us to Crawfordsville, Indiana, the home of Wabash College (PHOTO ABOVE), and one of numerous county seats visited on this convention. Here we will hear yet another G. Donald Harrison organ, the 1935 Aeolian-Skinner (PHOTO AT RIGHT) in the college chapel, a good example of Georgian architecture. This instrument, heard by the public in an annual recital series, will be demonstrated for us by Stephen Schnurr.

The final night of the convention will begin with a fantastic meal at Indianapolis’ famous Rathskeller Restaurant, which is located in the basement of the historic Athenæum, whose architect was the grandfather of author Kurt Vonnegut. Our German meal will be followed by a short walk to Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ for the final program of the convention, a recital by convention favorite Ken Cowan, who will play the church’s Kimball organ, constructed by the firm as a demonstration instrument for Chicago’s Kimball Hall in 1933, and moved to Zion in 1941 (PHOTO AT LEFT). The organ received an Antiphonal division by Casavant about 1957, and was renovated in 1999 as a four-manual, sixty-four-rank instrument by Reynolds Associates, Inc.

This organ has always been a favorite of Indianapolis organists, and many visiting artists, including Michael Murray and Virgil Fox, have given recitals on it. This program should provide a fitting climax to the Organ Historical Society’s 2007 Hoosier Holiday!