



THE TRACKER



Newsletter of the Organ Historical Society

Volume IV

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Number 4

OBSERVATIONS OF 1960

Some Comments on the Convention

By Kenneth F. Simmons

Each convention that the Organ Historical Society holds seems to be a little better than the last. This is not meant to imply that there were short-comings in previous years, but rather that we are a growing group and are profiting by experience.

What, then, was new this year that had not occurred before? In the first place the extensive use of the attractive flyers to advertise the convention along with the good publicity in the newspapers, etc., made the general public more aware of our activities than ever. A direct result of this was that the music critic of the **Philadelphia Inquirer**, Mr. Singer, covered our meeting and programs.

Perhaps one of the most important additions of this year was a meeting of the National Council held the evening before the convention opened. In this way the Council had a chance to discuss our problems, plans, and projects which made for a more intelligent and practical business meeting the next day. It certainly gave more direction and purpose to our proceedings.

On Monday, June 20th, the business meeting started at 10:30 A. M. I do not plan to report the entire minutes, but I would like to emphasize a few things of importance. It looks now as though we will be incorporated by the time our next annual meeting comes around. The benefits of this act will only begin to be realized when the incorporation is accomplished.

Back issues and additional copies of THE TRACKER (such as remain) have been pegged at fifty cents per copy to members. There is, at this writing, no definite word on when reprints of Volumes I and II (originally mimeographed) would become available.

The Society named as the two honorary members, Dr. Albert Schweitzer and Mr. F. R. Webber. No other names of individuals were discussed.

Two new committees were formed to operate for the next year. A committee composed of the chairmen of the last three conventions was formed to assist in the planning of next year's conference, and a nominating committee was appointed to

In the field of projects, Mr. Paterson reported on the progress of the tabulation of existing tracker action organs. A good deal has been accomplished here, but he needs everyone's cooperation to keep this file complete and up to date. A new project, proposed by Tom Eader, is the preparation of a group of slides along with a prepared tape of narration and examples of the pictured organ's tone. These sets will be made available either for rent or sale to groups or individuals for programs concerning American organ history.

I shall not take the space to repeat the list of churches visited and the organs heard. This is all available in the last issue of THE TRACKER. On Monday afternoon I was unable to make the organ tour due to other commitments. However, Monday evening everyone was talking about the organ at Green Street Methodist Parish, 1869-2-20 E. & G. G. Hook, and the fine demonstration given on it by Don Paterson. Obviously this was the outstanding point of Monday's tour.

The recital by C. Robert Ege was well planned and excellently played on the 1880-3-35 Hilborne Roosevelt at the Church of St. Charles Borromeo. (See program appended to this article.)

The registration for the conference was slightly over 40, and the attendance at Mr. Ege's recital was almost 200. I believe that this is a good increase in both categories.

Tuesday's tour was interesting and informative. Perhaps the outstanding organ of the day was the c1867-2-20 Henry Knauf & Son at the former Bethlehem Reformed Church.

All organ historians who visit Philadelphia should make a visit to Gloria Dei (Old Swede's) Church. At the present time the earliest documented record of an organ being used in the colonies for a sacred service occurred in this building. Mr. Sponsler gave an interesting talk about the church and pointed out its many items of historical interest. The building itself dates from 1700 and is the oldest church structure in Pennsylvania.

I enjoyed the third day's activities perhaps more than any other. There are a number of rea-

(Please turn to page 8)

ORGAN RECITAL BY C. ROBERT EGE

The program of Mr. Ege's recital on the 1880-3-35 Hilborne Roosevelt organ at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Charles Borromeo, June 20, 1960, at 8:30 P. M included the following:

Voluntary in A (Predude and Fugue)	..... William Selby
Chorale Prelude on "Come, Redeemer of our Race"	..... J. S Bach
Prelude in B Minor	..... J. S Bach
Nachtlid	..... Robert Schumann
Sketch in D flat	..... Robert Schumann
Choral No. 2 in B minor	..... Cesar Franck
Prelude on "Rhosymedre"	..... Ralph Vaughan Williams
Melodia	..... Max Reger
Folk-Tune (from "Five Short Pieces")	..... Percy Whitlock
Scherzo (from "Five Short Pieces")	..... Percy Whitlock
Improvisation on "Hyfrydol"	..... C Robert Ege
Toccata (from "Suite Gothique")	..... Leon Boellmann

The interesting program notes contained a brief description of O. H S and the following notes on the performer:

"C. Robert Ege, who will be the recitalist on our organ, was one of the first to be approached by Colbert-LaBerge when they commenced to feature American talent. In addition to directing the choir at United Presbyterian Church in West Philadelphia and giving numerous recitals throughout the East, Mr. Ege is music instructor and organist at the Overbrook School for the Blind. His presence at the console in St. Charles may recall for old parishioners that a Mr. Martin J. Douville, also blind, was organist here for fifty years."

The notes also informed us that the organ was formally opened on December 19th 1880, and originally cost \$7,500. We learned that a fire seriously damaged the organ in 1884, but that complete repairs and restoration were accomplished within nine months. An overhaul job was begun in 1956 and continued in 1959.

Wanted!

Articles of general interest to O.H.S. members, news items, tracker recital programs, and other material suitable for publication in THE TRACKER are earnestly solicited. Have you ever tried your hand at writing? Summer is a wonderful time to go on "organ hunts", the results of which should be recorded in our pages.

Address your contributions to the editor:

KENNETH F. SIMMONS

228 Poplar Avenue Wayne, Pennsylvania

OLD TRACKER ORGANS OF THE WEST

(Continued from Last Issue)

Menlo Park - Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, rebuild of 1877 Schoenstein built for St. Mary's R. C. Church, Stockton, described in THE DIAPASON January, 1954, p. 13.

Oakland - St. Mary's R. C. Church, 2m-21 Odell Opus 156-1877, rebuilt by Schoensteins 1947.

Santa Jose - Trinity Episcopal Church, 3m Hook & Hastings.

Santa Barbara - Trinity Episcopal Church, 2-21

Hook 1899, incorporated into new organ.

Santa Monica - 1st Methodist Church, 2m tracker 1896, replaced in 1922.

A very novel barrel organ of 140 pipes is to be found at Buena, 22 miles south of Los Angeles. It is located on the famous Knott's Berry Farm. It was one of two imported from Germany, built in 1835, driven by weights and a counterbalance arrangement. It is still in playing condition.

Before concluding this chronicle it might be well to mention the superb tubular instrument built in 1892 for First Congregational Church, Salt Lake City. It was built as Opus 116 in Detroit by Farrand & Votey, and bears the following very interesting specifications:

GREAT ORGAN - 61n		SWELL ORGAN - 61n	
Diapason	16'	Bourdon	16'
Diapason	8'	Diapason	8'
Gemshorn	8'	Gedact	8'
Gamba	8'	Spitzflote	8'
Doppel Flote	8'	Salicional	8'
Octave	4'	Principal	4'
Flute Harmonic	4'	Hohl Floete	4'
Super Octave	2'	Flautino	2'
Mixture	IV	Dolce Cornet	III
Trumpet	8'	Contra Fagotto	16'
Cor Anglais (p.f.)	8'	Cornopean	8'
ECHO ORGAN - 61n		Oboe	8'
Lieblich Gedact	8'	CHOIR ORGAN 61n	
Dolce	8'	Geigen Principal	8'
Voix Celeste	8'	Melodia	8'
Dulcet	4'	Dulciana	8'
Vox Humana	8'	Quintadena	8'
PEDAL ORGAN - 30n		Fugara	4'
Diapason	16'	Flute d' Amour	4'
Bourdon	16'	Piccolo Harmonic	2'
Lieblich Floete	16'	Corno di Bassetto	8'
Violoncello	8'		
Melodia Floete	8'		
Trombone	16'		

There are 12 toe levers at the left, 4 at the right, tremolos to Swell and Echo, and the following couplers: Gt.-Ped, Ch-Ped, Sw-Ped, Sw-Gt 4, Ch-Gt, Ch-Gt 4, Sw-Ch, and Ped-Ped 8 The Mixtures break at C25, and there are mechanical swells. The organ has been completely rebuilt recently.

It is hoped that the information given about old tracker organs of the West Coast of the United States and Canada has been a help to those who have never lived nor visited this area. Before too long this data will become pure history, as many of the older organs still extant are doomed for replacement soon. Thus, while it can be recorded it is perhaps well to do so.

On Blowing One's Own Horn

By Eugene M. McCracken

From the time the first preparation for the 1960 Philadelphia Convention for the O. H. S. began until the departure of the last visitor from the York County Historical Society and its famous 1804 Tannenberg our progress had been marked with surprising accomplishments.

Perhaps it would be best to relate that two years ago in Baltimore when your author very naively offered to play host in Pennsylvania we knew of only about one dozen tracker organs here. It became incumbent on us to get busy and search, and in the course of two years we have uncovered in the New Jersey-Eastern Pennsylvania area some 175 organs. And there are still a great many more churches to be investigated!

Once we had decided on the organs to be demonstrated it was necessary to make many contacts both in person and by correspondence. We made it a point of having written permission from each of the churches to be visited. In addition, we made numerous time trials and also last minute contact with each church to insure someone would be there to receive us.

It was during this period of our investigation that we started to pick up new members. Three of these members proved to be of great service to us in our preparations, and later, as a result of a saturation news and circular release program we accounted for at least three other new members.

Despite the many treks to the "Dutch country", despite the myriads of correspondence, despite the fact the two recital organs had had all the rebuilding done to them that the money and time available would allow, (we spent several weekends in May and June practically putting the Epler's church organ together so it would play!), our conference opened, and we of the committee sat on the edges of our seats just waiting for the first tracker to break. We sped along in our cars wondering if the next church would be open for us. We made turns in the road and wondered if all of you were following us. We entered restaurants and wondered if our reservations were being held for us. We got back on the bus and wondered if we had left any of you in the church just visited.

When the last chord of the Moravian hymn died out in Epler's Church Wednesday night, when the minister asked me for the name of that organ builder in York, when consistory members (who the week before would have replaced the 1876 Dieffenbach with an electronic) admitted that perhaps they had been misled, I knew we in Philadelphia had accomplished something worthwhile.

Nevertheless, it was not we alone who made this possible. It was the perfect weather; no rain, and a minimum of the humidity which so frequently makes things unpleasant. It was the ef-

ficiently run Council meeting which preceded the convention. It was the friendly spirit which seemed to permeate the entire affair. It was the perfect demonstrating of Don Paterson on the Hook organ at Green Street Methodist, and on the little organ at Belleman's Church. It was the cute way in which Ken Simmons' pretty little daughter helped him demonstrate the Johnson organ at Pilgrim Congregational. It was the many nice things so many of you told the committeemen. And, of course, it was the good news that so many churches were suddenly talking organ restoration.

We recognized some mistakes in our planning, of course, almost from the start. We regret there was not more free time to see the many historic and beautiful sights in and around Philadelphia. Although on Tuesday evening, through the courtesy of Samuel Singer, music editor of the *Inquirer*, and organist of Tannenberg-famed Zion Church, some of you were afforded the opportunity to attend a Philadelphia Orchestra concert at Robin Hood Dell. Others of you were able to visit magnificent St. Mark's Church, whose silver altar and Aeolian-Skinner organ are justly famous. Still others of you got to see and hear the very fine three-manual William King organ in St. Gregory the Illuminator Church.

Monday evening we were entertained by a most excellent recital on the Roosevelt organ in St. Charles Borromeo Church. The fact that a tracker had broken on the pedal high A did not keep Bob Ege from using it.

After the recital, when he repeated the Selby for the tape boys from Chester Springs, many of us gathered about the console to watch Bob's impeccable registration changes. When it was all over Fred Mitchell of Austin Organs paid Bob the highest tribute of the evening, saying: "He can demonstrate for me any time he wishes."

Tuesday marked the beginning of several episodes as a result of poorly written directions. Bob Hale and Pete Perkins barely got to play the two-manual King at Hope Presbyterian, and Wednesday several of you nearly missed the Tannenberg at Moslem Springs. Also, after running almost an hour late on our schedule Bob Whiting led the entire tour at a merry clip down a wrong road and your chairman, from the rear of the column in his decrepit '48 Dodge, worked his way furiously to the front, horn a-blaring (en chamade) to flag you down!

Our thirst was quenched unexpectedly at St. Paul's Union Church, New Schaefferstown, where some of the ladies served most welcome refreshments. O. H. S. member Fred Buch had only finished installing a new Swiss blower the night before, and the little two-manual Samuel Boh-

ler organ gave a good account of itself. Just for the record, the U. S. Bench mark on the step by the front door states that the elevation at that point is 491 feet above sea level.

It was a pleasure to meet Victor Dieffenbach and his son Frank at Altalaha Lutheran Church, Rehrersburg, and to know that they plan to restore the beautiful but now unplayable 1816 Christian Dieffenbach organ there. Victor and Frank are grandsons five and six times removed from the builder of this organ. When Tom Eader cautioned them its restoration might be quite expensive Frank replied: "We are master carpenters, and there is nothing we cannot do." Somehow we did not question this, for we remembered that their forebears, John, Christian, David and Thomas, had also been master carpenters.

In lightening sequence good news continued. A high school boy took so much interest in maintaining the little A. B. Miller organ at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Hamlin, that he has been appointed organist, and now the church plans to keep their organ.

Curtis Weber, who once pumped the quaint 1872 Dieffenbach in Salem Reformed Church, Bethel, plans to have it restored. Although no longer used, he told us the church was very proud to have this organ, made right in their own town by one of their former citizens.

Frieden's Union Church, Shartlesville, abandoned their c1890 1-manual Dieffenbach because it ciphred on Palm Sunday. The shiny new electronic they purchased had hardly settled on the floorboards before it too failed them, and they were forced to go back to the tracker in the gallery. (Shades of the steam locomotive pulling broken down diesel engines in their tow!) Peter Perkins' demonstration proved this organ to be in quite good condition.

Then there was Haag's Hotel! One person who had just loaded his plate with thick slices of roast ham was heard to say: "What! We get chicken too?" There seemed to be no end to the seven sweets and the seven sours, the tarts, the shoefly pie and coffee. But we all made it to Epler's Church just the same.

Fred Sponsler and Dave Rinald had left Philadelphia Tuesday night to spend all day Wednesday practicing and making last minute adjustments on the 2-manual 1876 Dieffenbach at Epler's Church. It was with a profound sense of relief that I received the word from Bob Whiting at the door of the church that the organ was all set. There was a good crowd already at the church when we arrived. The organ got a real workout accompanying the beautiful anthems of the Moravians, and gave a good account of itself in solo performance as well.

Ed Boadway turned once and whispered: "I'll bet they haven't heard music like this here in a long time." The organ behaved wonderfully, no broken trackers, and only one brief cipher. Then, suddenly it was all over!

I kept telling the committee that once this

was over I didn't want to see another pipe organ for at least two months. But here we are talking about what we'd do next time. Let's see: there are four nice little Odells and Jardines up around Chester, New Jersey, there's a Tannenberg at Nazareth, two C. F. Durners in Mauch Chunk (Jim Thorpe, if you are under 30), a Dieffenbach and a Miller at Stouchsburg, a Conrad Doll in Mechanicsburg, a Moline in Muncy, an Erben at Williamsport, and so on. Who knows, in the meantime we may find a Hanzelman, a Feyring, a Taws, or even another Tannenberg?

We'll give you plenty of free time to visit the model coal mine in Scranton, to take a dip in some cool mountain stream, to tour Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon, or visit the capital buildings in Harrisburg. And we'll get E. Power Biggs and Don Paterson to give recitals.

Oh yes! We've got to eat, too. I recall a nice country hotel near Allentown; its specialty is roast barbecued young grain-fed pig, Mit wiener-snitzel und ----.

PROGRAM AT EPLER'S CHURCH

On Wednesday evening, June 22, 1960, the following program was presented for the Organ Historical Society at Epler's Church, Inc., Leesport, Pa., at 8:30 P. M. The first half consisted of a program of American Moravian Music by the Moravian Church Choir of Lititz, Pa., under the direction of Mrs. George L. Keen, with Mr. Kenneth Witmyer at the organ, and included the following:

The People that in Darkness Wandered
..... Johannes Herbst
It is a Precious Thing Johann Friederich Peter
All the World Shall Sing
..... Francis Florentine Hagen
Lord Jesus, Who Didst Redeem Us
..... J. Henirich Rolle
Chorales: In joyful hymns of praise
0 deepest grief
What splendid rays of truth and grace
Sing O Ye Heavens Johann Friederich Peter

The second half of the evening was given over to an organ recital on the 1876-2-16 Thomas Dieffenbach organ in Epler's Church by Frederick B. Sponsler, including the following:

Andantino (Pastoral in F) Bach
Wir Glauben All 'an Einen Gott Vater Krebs
Ach Gott! Erhor Mein Seufzen Krebs
Wie Schon Leuchtet Der Morgenstern Pachelbel
0 Welt, Ich Muss Dich Lassen Brahms
Herzlich Tut Mich Verlangen Brahms
Schmuche Dich, 0 Liebe Seele Brahms
Carillon (24 Pieces) Vieme

The program concluded with a hymn for the congregation, "Sing Hallelujah, Praise The Lord."

NOTES, QUOTES and COMMENTS

The next meeting of the National Council of O. H. S. will be held Thursday, September 1, 1960, at Governors Island, New York, with Vice-president Donald R. M. Paterson as host. It is hoped that by planning in advance a large number of council members will be present. We hope to be able to report this meeting in the next issue of THE TRACKER in order that all members will know what transpires between conventions.

* * *

Recordings: Recently the editor has had an opportunity to hear the recording of the Aria, Anthems and Chorales of the American Moravians, a Columbia Masterworks album which was referred to in the April issue of THE TRACKER. I heartily recommend this for your record library. It is a milestone in the recording field of early Americana. This is music with which we should all become acquainted, and which is both well-recorded and well-performed. "Go, Congregation, Go!" has been a favorite anthem at Wayne Presbyterian Church for a number of years. "It is a Precious Thing" was part of the program at Epler's Church. These and others make a valuable addition to your library. I am happy to see that this is Volume I and I am looking forward to future volumes of this set.

President Barbara J. Owen reported that the new recording by E. Power Biggs on the York Tannenberg and other early American organs was due for release this month (July). Miss Owen was given the distinct privilege of preparing the notes for the cover of this recording.

* * *

The Editor is happy to review books, music, or recordings in THE TRACKER and will do so to any sent him for this purpose. However, he advises that all reviews will be honest and consequently a favorable comment is not guaranteed.

Once again it is membership renewal time. The enclosed form is supplied for your convenience. Please fill it out and mail it at once with your check or money order for three dollars, or a larger amount if you wish to be a contributor. The O.H.S. fiscal year ends September 30; therefore, unless your dues are received by that date your membership will lapse. Only paid-up members receive THE TRACKER, so in order to avoid missing an issue it is best to renew your membership now.

* * *

Please note that, due to action taken at the National Council meeting on June 19, your membership dues are now paid to the new secretary, Mr. Eugene McCracken, 110 Evergreen Avenue, Pitman, New Jersey. Henceforth he will have complete supervision of memberships, dues, and the mailing out of THE TRACKER. He should be advised of any change of address of members, missing copies, etc.

* * *

O. H. S. exists and succeeds only because of its members. In order to continue we need strong, interested, willing members to carry on. You can help in many ways, but especially by assisting in the enrollment of new members. Send in names and addresses to Eugene McCracken (address above) so that a sample copy of THE TRACKER and membership blank may be mailed.

* * *

At the conclusion of the fine concert at Epler's Church, which marked the official close of the 1960 convention, the crowd slowly broke up into little groups, some around the organ, some around the performers, some button-holed members of the church, and after the church had been nearly emptied one couple (no names, please) was noticed embraced in each other's arms--for a brief moment!



O. H. S. PROJECTS

Last October the first major project undertaken by the Society was begun. Donald R. M. Paterson, vice-president, who conceived the idea was appointed chairman and, at the recent Philadelphia convention, reported that while progress is being made there is still a great deal of work to be done.

Briefly, Project No. 1 consists of the assembling of information (as complete in detail as possible) about the tracker organs still existing in America which were built prior to about 1900. The list, when completed, will be published in THE TRACKER for the benefit of our members.

The task of gathering the material is the responsibility of each member as it is obviously impossible for one person or a small committee to cover the length and breadth of this country. In fact, those who have thus far contributed infor-

mation report that it is a time-consuming task to cover one small area. However, if all members will spend a few hours or days the work will be completed soon, and those who gather the information will have found much pleasure and interest in the project.

Project No. 2 concerns the production of a slide and tape recording set to be created during the coming season. This plan was adopted at the 1960 convention as a suitable and official means for the Society to spread an appreciation and understanding of our own country's organ heritage, in addition to the publication of THE TRACKER.

The slides (50 to 75 in number) will be arranged in such a way that they may be shown as the tape recording is played. Besides explaining and commenting on the organs shown the tape will provide corresponding sounds and music to further illustrate the organs selected. Several copies will be made of the sets and made available for rental

William A. Johnson,

Opus 76

In 1858 George Warren played the inaugural recital on the tracker organ built by William A. Johnson (Opus 76) at Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. Time has proven this to be one of the finest organs of the firm. A few years ago, due to a merger of churches, this organ was no longer used and a good number of interested organ historians were fearful of its future. The following is a re-port of this organ and its present situation by Jean Hewitt:

Last year the North Springfield, Vermont, Baptist church undertook extensive renovation and rebuilding of their sanctuary, and feeling that they could not afford to buy a new pipe organ, shopped around for a used one. They located the old Johnson tracker in Shelburne Falls, knowing nothing of its past history.

Mr. Harland Whitcomb, a loyal parishioner who "always wanted to build a pipe organ as a hobby," thought by moving the organ himself he would save the church the expense of hiring that job done. He moved the organ piece by piece, setting it up just as it was before.

The old Shelburne Falls church was no longer in use, and the organ had stood idle for some eight years. Unforeseen difficulties arose in the badly checked chests and the pipes were in a sad state of mutilation, their voices dull and dead because of inadequate maintenance service at some time in past years.

Mr. Whitcomb realized he needed the help of an experienced technician and called in Elroy E. Hewitt, a voicing specialist, of Brattleboro, Vermont. Mr. Hewitt recognized this organ as an "old friend" he had known, having worked on it years ago in its former setting. He told the church they had not purchased "just a cheap old organ", but that they had found a gem, the same organ described by Organ Architect William H. Barnes in his book "THE CONTEMPORARY ORGANIST" (page 278) in the following words:

or sale to organizations or individuals, the price to depend on the ultimate cost.

Thus a suitable demonstration of tracker organs and good organ tone can be presented to AGO chapters, historical societies, church groups, and others even though no member of O. H. S. is present. Also, it gives us a means of illustrating our purpose through the combined efforts of our own members.

Hence, the invitation is extended to all members who already possess good slides of fine tracker organs and tape recordings of good organ tone to communicate with the committee for this project. They are: Thomas S. Eader, 200 A Street, Glen Burnie 7, Maryland, Donald R. M. Paterson, 27 Interlaken Drive, Eastchester, New York, and Cleveland Fisher, 106 South Battle Street, Manassas, Virginia.

"This is, in many respects, the finest of all existing organs. Of its 21 actual voices, no less than 13 are of the Diapason family! and so artistically are they voiced, and so carefully regulated to one another that the full ensemble of the 13 Diapasons welds into a magnificent whole, solid, brilliant, and with silvery quality so characteristic of Johnson's best work. It is impossible to spoil this majestic ensemble even when the flutes are drawn. As in many of the Johnson's organs, there is but one Pedal Stop, but this weakness is characteristic of nearly all organs in this period, both here and abroad, with the exception of some of the continental organs. This organ has 23 stops, 19 actual speaking voices, 21 ranks of pipes and a total of 1017 pipes. The compass of the Great Organ is 56 notes, that of the Swell Organ 38 notes, and the Pedal Organ but 17 notes. The Viole and the Wald Flute have a stopped diapason bass. So skilfully were the Johnson organs designed that these short-comings of tonal structure are hardly apparent except to the keenest ear."

The specifications are as follows:

GREAT ORGAN - 56 notes		SWELL ORGAN - 56 notes	
Diapason	8	Bourdon	16'
Stopped Diapason		Open Diapason	8 TF
Treble	8' TF	Stopped Diapason	
Stopped Diapason		Sw Base	8
Base	8	Viola da gamba	8' TF
Clarabella	8 TF	Dulciana Sw Base	8
Viole d'Amour	8' TF	Principal	4' TF
Principal	4'	Celestina Sw Base	4'
Wald Flute	4 TC	Twelfth	2 2/3' TF
Twelfth	2 2/3'	Fifteenth	2' TF
Fifteenth	2'	Hautboy	8'
Seventeenth	1 3/5'	Tremulant	
Mixture (19-22, 12-15)	II	COUPLERS	
Trumpet	8 TC	Swell to Great	
		Swell to Pedal	
		Great to Pedal	
PEDAL ORGAN - 17 notes			
Double Open			
Diapason	16		

Mr. Hewitt straightened out pipes which had evidently been tuned in former years with pliers, chisels, etc. He coned them in with proper voicing tools, and the organ soon sang out again in its original silvery "creamy" brilliance of tone. In the new location the pipes are to be completely covered up by grill work.

On May 1st of this year a recital was played on this organ by Harriet Slack Richardson. The program follows:

Partita "Be Thou Welcome"	Bach
Toccata for the Elevation	Frescobaldi
Canzone	Gabrielli
How Bright Appears the Morning Star ..	Buxtehude
Jig Fugue	Buxtehude
Chaconne in E minor	Buxtehude
Swiss Noel	D'Aquin
Noel for the Love of Mary	LeBegue
Noel with Variations	D'Aquin
The Musical Clock	Haydn
Deck Thyself, My Soul	Brahms
Blessed Are Ye Faithful Souls	Brahms
Fantasie and Fugue in A minor	Bach

HILBORN'E ROOSEVELT - - - -

ORGAN HUMORIST

By Kenneth F. Simmons

We are all pretty well acquainted with the results of Hilborne Roosevelt's interest and work in the organ world. His organs prove his thorough study and his inventive genius. That he also was the possessor of a keen sense of humor may be not so well known. The famous cartoon "Work & Play," which has appeared often in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST, is the work of Hilborne's pen. I am fortunate in having an autographed copy of this in my collection.

In 1876, at the time of his "electric" organ at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, Hilborne Roosevelt drew up another organ specification which appeared as a companion to the Centennial prgan's stop-list. This lesser-known specification is hereby quoted for posterity (and the humor that it affords):

1776 E - PLURIBUS - ORGANUS 1876
GRAND ORGAN for the
ENHARMONIC TEMPLE, SIAM
Manufactured especially for this occasion
by the GREAT NORTH ORGAN &
ACCORDIAN CO. (Limited)

And which can now be seen and heard (by the aid of a smoked glass) in the position, OVER THE LEFT of the Grand Gallery, of the other side of the Great Hall of the CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS. (See Guide Book).

Height of Case, with flag pole, 210 feet.

Height of Case, without flag pole, something less.

Width of Case, from the front to the back door, 18 feet, 6 inches.

Manual Compass, 7 by 9 Pedal Compass, 9 by 7.

Latitude, 7 octaves. Longitude, Once a month.

Motors--Steam - Gas - Wind-mill - Hydropathy.

The key boards are numerously supplied with extra sharps and flats, for the sake of the music of the future, and the noise to come.

GREAT ORGAN"

Open Diapason (front pipes)	_____	2 feet
Shut Diapason (back pipes)	_____	2 feet and a half
Gamboge (metal)	_____	6 feet
Bella-Donna	_____	5 ft. 10
Double,'-Header	_____	10 ft. 5
Whistle (pure tin)	_____	32 ft.
Octave and a Half	_____	16 ft.
Harts Horn (very strong)	_____	18 inches
Twelfth (Tweedle-dum)	_____	2 ft.
Fifteenth (Tweedle-dee)	_____	4 ft.
Nineteenth (something new)	_____	3 ft.
Cough Mixture	_____	Rank poison
Jews' Harp	_____	5 ranks
Fish Horn	_____	2 ranks
Penny Trumpet	_____	2 ft.
Calliope	_____	16 ft.
Blunderbuss ("Mine ancient Pistol")	_____	32 ft.
Free lunch	_____	12 o'clock

*Wagner's C'entennial March and Drawing Room Cars attached to every train, and each Man-ual supplied with hot and cold water and all mo-

dern improvements. A most ingenious bit of elec-tric machinery is Roosevelt's arrangement for fugue playing by a very simple contrivance (which is applied to all the levers, and which is always in order) any organist of proper age can play any fugue by any composer at any tim (Sunday's excepted). Further explanation impossible.

Bourbon (very old)	_____	2 gallons
Open Sesame (Sheet iron)	_____	7 ft.
Salaratus	_____	4 ft.
Quinine (gelatine coated)	_____	2 grains
Tea Pot	_____	3 ranks
Flue Angelique (Stovepipe on the chimney)	_____	3 ft.
Flute Spasmodique (Each pipe speaks its other octave)	_____	
Flute (another kind)	_____	2 or 3 ft.
Fiddle-de Dee	_____	On a string
Kangaroo	_____	Fore feet and Hind legs
Vial Di Laudanum	_____	15 cts
Old Boy	_____	2 ft.
Cornucopia	_____	3 -
Rooster	_____	4 ft.
Awfulclide	_____	32 ft.
Nux Vomica De Friedbugs *	_____	

* Copied from the Original Jacob's by a man who was there. (Humanity itself could not pro-duce such an unearthly tone as this truly remark-able stop--not even a goat.)

N. B. This Swell is most remarkable, having window-blinds, three sets of shades and an Man-sard roof, also a tin spout.

CHOIR ORGAN

Soprano (brass)	_____	2 ft.
Contralto (wooden)	_____	3 ft.
Tenoroon (metal)	_____	4 ft.
Bassoon (very heavy)	_____	5 ft.
Raw Flute (hard pan)	_____	6 ft.
Wild Flute (papier mache)	_____	7 ft.
Flute (by way of variety)	_____	8 ft.
Catarrh	_____	9 ft.
Squint	_____	4 ranks
Pickerel (large scale)	_____	3 pounds

SOLO ORGAN

Melodian (Mediaeval and squeaky)	_____	1 ft.
Bagpipe (Scotch Scale)	_____	16 ft.
Cat-A-Waul (Maltese)	_____	4 ft.
Triangle	_____	3 ft.
Fish Harmonica (free reed)	_____	7 ft.
Vox Angelina	_____	2 ft.
Brass Band (extra wind-Gilmore)	_____	5 ranks
Nightmare	_____	1 A. M.
Grand Centennial Tub Miraculous (Nitro-glycer-ine)	_____	
Bells-Ze-Bub (brass) (A Crinoline with capacity for 58 Belles)	_____	

This wonderful Solo Organ is all on extra wind (too much) and is connected to the bellows blower by a new Centennial asthmatic action. (Patent applied for 1976).

PEDAL ORGAN

Seven League Boots (pegged)	_____	2 ft.
Steam Elevator	_____	32 ft.
Organist	_____	16 ft.
Kaleidoscope	_____	17 ft.

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Monitor 21 ft.
 Flute (pure zinc) 2 ft.
 Earthquake 40 ranks
 Overshoes (and umbrella) for T 2 ft.
 Flute (one More) 2 ranks
 Pipes (mixed) 9 ranks

MECHANICAL STOPS

Crank, Boy to turn it, Boiler, Burglar Alarm,
 Mousetrap, Spittoon (electric), Swell to Great,
 Balance Swell (on Tightrope),
 Great Swell (English),
 Four in Hand, Pedals and Organist

COMBINATION PEDALS

No. 1 Draws full Organ
 No. 2 Rehearses the Choir
 No. 3 Draws the Salaries
 No. 4 Anything you like
 Total Number of Pipes 2,000,000
 Total Number of Stops 2,000,000
 Total Cost 2,000,000

The Roostervelt Rheumatic Action is applied to all the levers, and all the levers are applied to the Roostervelt Rheumatic Action. (Patent applied for 1976).

ADMISSION, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Tom Eader submitted a most gratifying report at the annual O. H. S. meeting on June 20th in Philadelphia. Breaking it down into a concise summary it runs about as follows:

Balance from 1958-59		\$ 3188 0
Income:		
Membership dues and contributions 1959-60		\$ 645.50
Convention fees 1959		137.00
Con. recital income 1959		236.72
	\$1,0 19.22	\$1,0 19.22
Total		\$1,338.02
Expenditures:		
THE TRACKER, 4 issues		\$ 426.37
1959 Convention expense		343.56

Treasury Sta. Post.		11.00
	\$ 780.93	\$ 780.93
Bal. on hand June 20, 1960		557.09
Total		\$1,338.02

An interesting fact is that the members continue to send in donations over and above the three dollars fee for dues, almost one fifth of the \$645.50 consisting of voluntary contributions. For this we are most grateful, and we continue to encourage O. H. S. members to donate more than the dues fee.

Part of the discussion of finances included consideration of the raising of dues, but no action was taken at the convention to do so.

OBSERVATIONS OF 1960

(From page 1)

sons for this. We saw a good deal of the pleasant Pennsylvania countryside (some of us saw more of it than was planned!), and the organs ranged from the 1770 Tannenberg on down to the late 19th century organs of the Dieffenbach family. The tonal work was outstanding and the case-work was worth the trip in itself. Perhaps the most interesting organ was the Tannenberg, but a high spot of the day for most was the church, the organ and setting of the Old Bellemans Church. This is well worth the trouble of finding (a job in itself) and should be visited if you are ever in the area. (PS - Bring along your own organ pumper.)

A fitting climax to the three days was the program given by the Moravian Choir of Lititz at Epler's Church. Mr. Sponsler was at the organ and deserves much credit not only for his fine playing, but also for the many hours that he spent there making the organ playable for this concert. The day had begun with the 1776 organ which had originally stood in this church, and ended with the 1876 organ, both built by the same family for Epler's Church. The church was well filled for the program, including the 35 or so O. H. S. members who made the entire tour. (See program appended to this article.)

The committee for the 1960 Convention should be congratulated and thanked for the amount of work which made everything so pleasant for those who were able to attend. I think that I should also mention an important by-product of our convention, namely that a number of churches visited were impressed by our interest and have made definite plans to repair and restore and preserve some of those organs whose fate was previously in the balance.

We should all appreciate the hospitality shown by the Asbury Methodist Church which permitted us to use their facilities as a headquarters. All the other churches on the scheduled itinerary were most kind and considerate, particularly St. Paul's Union Church, New Schaefferstown, which provided welcome refreshments during our tour. The credit for the great amount of goodwill received at all points must go to Mr. McCracken and his committee who obviously established the fine relationship when making plans for the Convention and followed through in the same manner to the great benefit of us all.