



# THE TRACKER



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

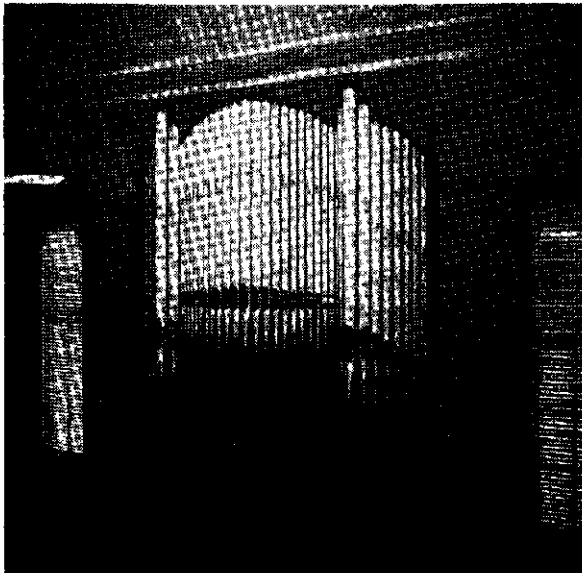
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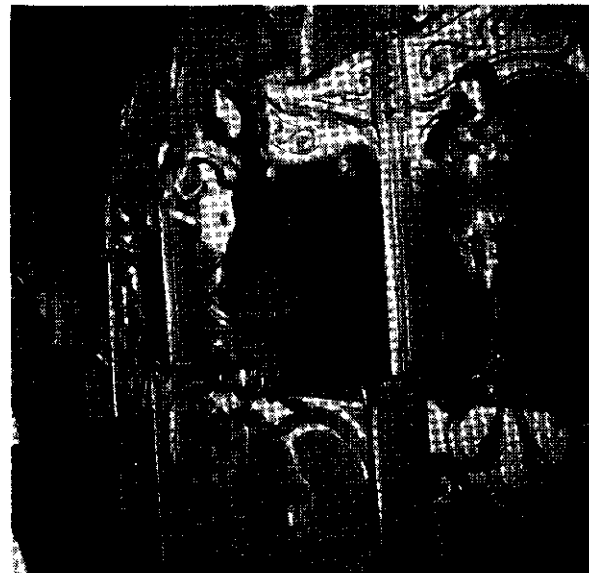
Number 1

## HINNERS AND HOLLAND IN ORANGE CITY, IOWA

By JAMES BOERINGER, Shawnee, Oklahoma



FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
ORANGE CITY, IA. - HINNERS TRACKER  
1906



TOWN HALL, ORANGE CITY, IA.  
DUTCH MECHANICAL ORGAN  
General View

Organ enthusiasts seem able to find old instruments in unlikely places, and Orange City, Iowa, seemed to me a most unlikely place, in spite of the insistence of a friend, Loisgail Gutzman, to the contrary. When Orange City's annual Tulip Festival occurred, near the close of our three-year stay in South Dakota, we decided to visit nearby Orange City to kill two birds before we left the bush. We piled seven kids, four adults, a picnic basket and a camera into a co-operative station wagon and set off.

The town square was roped off when we arrived, and the air was full of the odors of hot dogs and popcorn festering on concessionaires' grills and of the cacaphony of twenty high school bands warming up simultaneously. A loudspeaker blared and several jet planes were enthusiastically acceding to a misguided invitation to break the sound barrier directly overhead.

Tulips were very much in evidence, including several that had disintegrated in an interesting pattern as a result of sonic boom. Also very much in evidence were wooden shoes, Reformed churches, names with double A's, baggy pants, and Republicans, for this town is thoroughly conservative Dutch—but enthusiastically so! Everything was festive that Saturday; tomorrow the town would be deserted. Tulip Festivals are one thing; the Sabbath is quite another.

Loisgail and I had time to hurry first to the First Christian Reformed Church where we found a pretty little 1906 Hinnners tracker organ with ivory-painted pipes in the old brick building. It is in good shape, though whatever it gained from the bright acoustics of the place was somewhat diluted by the fact that the organ is packed (as only Hinnners could pack organs) into a tiny chamber. Its specification is as follows:

SWELL		GREAT	
Violin Diapason	8'	Dulciana	8
Lieblich Gedackt	8'	Melodia	8'
Oboe Gamba	8'	Open Diapason	8'
Violina	4'	Flute d'Amour	4'
Aeoline	8'	Principal	4'
Salicional	8'	Viol Gamba	8'
Flute (label missing)	4'	Fifteenth	2'
		Twelfth	3'
PEDAL		COUPLERS	
Bourdon	16'	GP, SP, SG, SG sub-octave	
Lieblich Gedackt	16'	Swell Tremulant	
Four Combination Pistons		Bellows Signal	

I am sure that much work needs to be done in the history of the pipe organ throughout the mid-west. When that history is written Hinners organs will loom more significantly than they do now. The Orange City Hinners is an average sample: the case is simple and good and honest, the action is tough and practical, the sounds of the pipes are pleasing, and the organ could be made perfectly splendid by changing a few ranks here and there, or even just by tightening the action a bit. Besides Hinners, there are builders like Schuelke about whom virtually nothing is known, though OHS member Elizabeth Towne is trying to fill the gaps and save the pieces.

In the meantime, the instruments are disappearing fast. In Jacksonville, Illinois, I found a large Hinners about to be junked. The case still stands in the Methodist church there. I sold several ranks to pay freight on most of the rest of it back to Vermillion, South Dakota, and the remainder is being set up by OHS member Robert Rayburn in an abandoned house on his farm. Many other instruments have not had even that degree of good fortune. I hope the folks in Orange City come to realize the steadily increasing rarity and value of the little Hinners they possess.

I played it a bit, photographed it, and hurried back to the Square where the Burgomeester was about to examine the streets to see if they were clean enough for the parade to travel. The Square is equipped with the usual benches, trees, and bandshell, together with a less usual windmill and a garnishing of tulip beds.

We found a mob of Dutch women with brooms waiting at the east end of the Square while the Town Crier, the Burgomeester, and four Councilmen advanced on them, followed by a mob of Dutch men. The Burgomeester found the streets in an unsatisfactory condition (we suspected that he would), and ordered them to be cleaned. The men, who carried pairs of buckets on a shoulder-yoke, began dipping into big convenient cisterns of water and splashing the water onto the pavement, while the women began an onslaught with their brooms and brushes. Watery woe befell anyone in the way of the buckets or the brooms!

The loudspeaker provided encouragement and commentary in generous quantities, and before long our eyes and ears were being dazzled by an impressive array of bands and beauty queens, dignitaries and floats. At the end of it all we were invited to go see either the town's one-man wooden shoe factory or a display of antiques in the Town Hall. We chose the latter and found,

standing modestly in one end of a roomful of bedwarmers, cradles and carriage-lamps, an incredible mechanical organ, flamboyant in decoration, but unfortunately quite silent.

People were rather vague as to its origin. It had evidently been imported for display at a world's fair, and the town had somehow acquired it and marched it once around the Village Square on a wagon. That journey evidently accomplished what the whole Atlantic and half of North America had failed to do, and the instrument since that time has refused to emit a squeak, contenting itself instead with exchanging sullen looks with members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Everyone was looking at some rather winsome chamber-pots and pointedly ignoring the organ until my first two flashbulbs went off. This set up a re-action in the folks, of whom I have some excellent photographs as they began to crowd around the organ. Feeling rather like something Meredith Willson had thought up, I threw the camera to my wife (who fled with it) and crawled in behind the organ. A large gentleman in overalls, who tried to follow me, got stuck in the narrow space, preventing others from entering, and I was able to examine the works at leisure.

The first thing I found was a large wheel that worked both the underslung bellows and an ingenious contrivance that feeds a string of punched cards through the player mechanism. I gave it an experimental twist, whereupon the large man, who had evidently got one foot into the works, emitted a surprisingly shrill sound. The people, under the impression that I had succeeded in eliciting music from the organ after all these years, pressed attentively forward. I studiously ignored them and continued my investigation.

The organ was equipped with percussion, of course, and on one of the drums I found the following label, probably that of a repairman:

JAC & MARTIN MANNING  
Dercherche Stretweg 481s (unclear)  
Rotterdam  
Orgelbowers

Nearby, however, was a stack of the cards (these were genuine playing-cards) bearing what I assumed was the name of the builder, as follows:  
Mohlmann Draaiorgels Amsterdam

On the cards I found the following inscriptions (the comments in brackets are mine):

1. "Skotse Arye Frisian Dance"
2. "Maria de Bohia Lamba"
3. "Serenade" (warped)
4. "Chante Encore Dans La Nuit - Evening Dance"
5. "Organjestreet (?) Neg Orange Street darn good Uariandel Arnemuiden"
6. "Manus, Haal Op!"

Next I examined the pipes. I had seen several American mechanical organs in Rockerville, South Dakota, but they were only about one-sixth the size of this one, and I was most impressed and confused. The organ was built in three detachable segments, and a total of 348 wooden pipes sat on no less than 25 individual little chests, all con-

ected by a maze of tubes that gave a distinctly umbilical or abdominal appearance. All the pipes were screwed rigidly into place. Two smaller sections at each side contained 18 and 16 open flue pipes with bells, drums and cymbals. The large central section was partially hidden by a display of 34 stopped pipes, behind which were five chests of 18 open pipes each. At each side in the main section, starting from the front, there were seven chests holding the following sets of pipes: 9 open, 9 open, 9 reed, 9 open, 3 large reed, 7 open and 2 open with reeds.

By the time I had finished counting (I came out differently each time), the large man had extricated himself and a small boy had got lost somewhere underneath. His hysterical mother diverted attention from me and the organ, so I was able to cast a last glance at it before departing. It was magnificent to behold, an ornate, colorful, gilded, impossible monster, dominated by three large carved figures in delightfully bad taste. How I should have loved to hear it play! It probably would have outdone the sonic boom of the earlier part of the afternoon.

I felt a tap on my shoulder. It was the large man. I ducked, but he caught me. "Wanta buy it?" he asked. I glanced back at the organ. It trembled and looked at me pleadingly. I promised to report that it was for sale to my colleagues in the Organ Historical Society, wrenched free, and escaped. I have now carried out that promise. Inquiries may be directed to the Chamber of Commerce, Orange City, Iowa. The small lost boy, I am given to understand, will probably go with the organ, unless some way of extricating him can be found before then.

## 1963 Elections

At the meeting of the National Council of O.H.S. on September 1, 1962, the following members were elected to serve as the Nominating Committee for the 1963 elections: Horace Douglas, Randall Wagner, and Robert B. Whiting (chairman).

In 1963 a President, a Vice-president, a Councillor and an Auditor must be elected, together with a Councillor to fill an unexpired term. The incumbent President and Vice-president may succeed themselves, but the Councillor for a full term and the Auditor may not.

The Nominating Committee will be glad to receive suggestions for these positions. In order to encourage a wide participation in the nomination of candidates, the National Council has approved a proposal whereby any 15 duly enrolled members, who sign a petition in favor of a certain candidate, will cause that candidate's name to be placed on the ballot by the Nominating Committee. All suggestions and petitions must be sent to:

ROBERT B. WHITING

5811 Chew Street - Philadelphia 38, Penna.

before December 15, 1962, in order to insure consideration.

## Notes, Quotes and Comments

It is regrettable to report that the large 3m-46 stop Hook & Hastings (Opus 1431, 1889) in St. Mary's R. C. Cathedral, San Francisco, which was reported on by Eugene Nye in the April 1960 issue of THE TRACKER, was virtually destroyed by the recent fire (early September) which gutted that building. Having survived the earthquake and great fire of 1906, it is a pity that it is now gone, seemingly as the result of vandalism.

\* \* \*

More and more individuals are taking up the art of organ building. One of the latest to announce the fact that he is giving his complete time and attention to this field is Homer Blanchard of Oberlin, Ohio.

\* \* \*

Do your Christmas shopping early, and incidentally assist OHS. Why not give the Society's Convention Recordings as Christmas gifts this year? See our ad for details, and order promptly please.

\* \* \*

Mr. F. R. Webber, one of the two honorary members of OHS, is still actively interested in old tracker organs. He telephoned our office recently and asked to be remembered to all his friends.

\* \* \*

One of the subjects prominent in the minds of your editor and publisher is that of paid advertisements in THE TRACKER. During the past year printing costs have risen, and if there is an increase in postal rates we shall have to find some source of revenue in order to maintain our present standards. Watch for an announcement soon.

\* \* \*

The trend toward tracker action continues. We were mightily interested to learn that ancient (by American standards) St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Parish, N.Y., is about to discard its Skinner organ and to replace it with a new tracker action instrument as part of the restoration work now going on there. The present organ, originally built by Ernest M. Skinner, and rebuilt in 1950 by G. Donald Harrison, will not be scrapped but removed to another of Trinity's six chapels.

\* \* \*

While on the subject of Trinity, New York, it might be of interest to those OHS members who collect data to know that a new pamphlet, called "Trinity Church Pipe Organs — Historical Sketch and stop list for the present instrument", has just been issued. These are on sale at five cents the copy and may be ordered from the Parish office, 74 Trinity Place, New York 6.

\* \* \*

The editor wishes to announce that henceforth THE TRACKER will be published in December, March, June and September beginning with the next issue. Watch for your copy.

# One of the Largest Tracker Organs In America

by Edgar A. Boadway, Jr.

The following stoplist of one of the largest tracker organs built in the western hemisphere is taken from a little booklet published by the builders. The "Description of the Grand Organ in St. Francis Xavier's Church, New York, Built by Hook & Hastings, Boston, 1882" contains a cut of the large three-sectional case and the specification of the firm's Opus 1022, listed as a 4-80 of 1881. Opus 1021, a 2-27 of the same year, is also listed for the same church!

In 1903 the organ was rebuilt and the action electrified by Casavant Freres, Ltd., of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. It is listed as their Opus 184, having 4 manuals, 70 speaking stops, and 19 couplers. Further electrification caused a lack of reliable mechanism and the eventual loss of this magnificent organ. In 1955 a small 3 manual Kilgen was placed behind the Hook & Hastings case, and almost all traces of both Hook & Hastings organs have disappeared.

The preface to the booklet reads:

"The occasion of the completion of such an Organ as we have placed in St. Francis Xavier's Church, New York, is one of more than ordinary importance to us, and to all interested in the Art of Organ building in this country. We therefore mark it by this Souvenir of one of the most perfect successes attained in this or any country, and one of which we feel justly proud. In the mere matter of size it does not equal the noted instrument built by us for the Cincinnati Music Hall, yet it is but little short of it, and is by far the largest Organ in New York City. In its completeness, effectiveness, finish of tone, and artistic excellence, it challenges the admiration of all. We commend it to lovers of the 'king of instruments', and all interested in artistic achievements, and invite a careful study of its scheme and results, feeling sure that the Art has not suffered at our hands in the execution of this *carte blanche*, and being willing to be judged by what we have done."

Compass: Manuals, 58 notes - Pedal, 30 notes.

## GREAT ORGAN

Open Diapason 16' metal  
 Quintaton 16' wood  
 Open Diapason 8' metal  
 Viola da Gamba 8' metal  
 Doppel Flote 8' wood  
 Gemshorn 8' metal  
 Clarabella 8' wood  
 Viol d'Amour 8' metal  
 Quint 5 1/3' metal  
 Octave 4' metal  
 Gambette 4' metal  
 Flute Harmonique 4' metal  
 Twelfth 2 2/3' metal  
 Fifteenth 2' metal  
 Mixture 290 pipes 5 rks.  
 Acuta 290 pipes 5 rks.  
 Bombard 16' metal  
 Trumpet 8' metal  
 Clarion 4' metal

## SWELL ORGAN

Bourdon 16' wood  
 Open Diapason 8' metal  
 Violoncello 8' metal  
 Salicional 8' metal  
 Aeoline 8' metal  
 Stopped Diapason 8' wood  
 Quintadena 8' metal  
 Octave 4' metal  
 Violina 4' metal  
 Flauto Traverso 4' wood  
 Nasard 2 2/3' metal  
 Flautina 2' metal  
 Mixture 232 pipes 4 rks.  
 Dolce Cornet 290 pipes 5 rks.  
 Contra Fagotto 16' metal  
 Cornopean 8' metal  
 Oboe (with Bassoon) 8' metal  
 Vox Humana 8' metal  
 Clarion 4' metal

## CHOIR ORGAN

Lieblich Gedacht 16' wood  
 Geigen Principal 8' metal  
 Open Diapason 8' metal  
 Melodia 8' wood  
 Rohr Flote 8' wood & metal  
 Dulciana 8' metal  
 Fugara 4' metal  
 Hohlpciffe 4' metal  
 Flute d'Amour 4' wood & metal  
 Piccolo 2' metal  
 Clarinet 8' metal

## MECHANICAL REGISTERS

Great Organ Separation  
 Pedal Comination Separation  
 Tremolo  
 Bellos Signal  
 Swell to Great  
 Choir to Great  
 Solo to Great  
 Choir to Great Sub-Octave  
 Octave Coupler Great on itself

## SOLO ORGAN

Stentorphon 8' metal  
 Viola 8' metal  
 Philomelo 8' wood  
 Octave Viola 4' metal  
 Flauto Traverso 4' wood  
 Tuba Mirabilis 8' metal

## PEDALE ORGAN

Bourdon 32' wood  
 Open Diapason 16' wood  
 Violone 16' wood  
 Bourdon 16' wood  
 Quint 10 2/3' wood  
 Octave 8' wood  
 Violoncello 8' metal  
 Super Octave 4' metal  
 Trombone 16' wood  
 Posaune 8' metal  
 Fagotto 8' metal

"These Couplers are operated by pneumatic power and controlled by thumb knobs placed over the Great Organ key-board."

Swell to Choir  
 Great to Solo  
 Great to Pedale  
 Swell to Pedale  
 Choir to Pedale  
 Solo to Pedale

The Pedal Combination Separation is described: "Detaching the Pedale registers from the Pedal movements at will. Controlled by a thumb knob over the Swell manual."

## PEDAL MOVEMENTS

1. Fortissimo Pedal. Drawing all registers and couplers at once.
2. Crescendo Pedal. Drawing all registers from softest to loudest at will.
3. De-Crescendo Pedal. Reverse of No. 2.
4. Forte Great. Giving full Great Organ and an appropriate Pedale.

(Please turn to page 8)

## O.H.S. Information Brochure

With this copy of THE TRACKER you should receive a copy of the new OHS Information Brochure which is now available for use. It is particularly valuable when approaching individuals or groups seeking knowledge of our Society and its work. It is also a help in making contact with those who have good old organs and know little about them, as well as those who might be in a position to purchase a good tracker organ.

These brochures, in reasonable quantities, may be obtained by writing to:

F. ROBERT ROCHE  
 60 Park Street - Taunton, Mass.

## FORM LETTERS

Members have frequently requested assistance in addressing communications to organizations regarding organs of historic interest, and the following forms were compiled to answer this need:

### ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Headquarters: The Historical Society of  
York County

250 East Market St., York, Pa.

Address of the writer

Date

The Minister (or other official)

Name of Church or other organization

Location

Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that (Name of church or other organization), which is in possession of an organ built by (Name of builder) in (date) is contemplating a (rebuilding or discarding) of the instrument. I am taking the liberty of enclosing a brochure which includes information about our Society and a brief discussion of the history of American organ building.

As you can see, our organization is vitally concerned with the preservation of the finer old American organs, and we should be pleased to know your plans for dealing with the organ in your possession.

As a non-profit organization, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are ready and willing to assist you, free of charge, with any impartial advice that you may seek in connection with this organ. Please rest assured that we earnestly solicit your interest, and, to this end, I am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

We shall be looking forward to hearing from you, and extend our appreciation in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Writer's signature), Representative

cc: The President

Corresponding Secretary

Barbara J. Owen, Chm Organ Research  
Committee

N.B. This letter should be individually typewritten, and not mimeographed. The self-addressed envelope should be addressed to the writer.

### ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Headquarters: The Historical Society of  
York County

250 East Market Street, York, Pa.

Address of the writer

Date

The Minister (or other official)

Name of Church or other organization

Location

Dear Sir:

For some time we have been aware of the existence of an organ built by (Name of builder)

in (Date) in your (church or other building). We are delighted to know that this instrument is continuing to exist intact, and we are pleased to extend our congratulations to you upon your possession of this interesting organ.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing a brochure which includes information about our Society and a brief discussion of the history of American organ building.

Please feel free to correspond with us at any time regarding this organ. As a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are pleased to be able to offer any assistance, without charge, which you may need in any matters concerning this instrument.

Sincerely yours,

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Writer's signature), Representative

cc: The President

Barbara J. Owen, Chm. Organ Research  
Committee

N.B. This letter may be mimeographed.

### ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Headquarters: The Historical Society of  
York County

250 East Market Street, York, Pa.

Address of the writer

Date

The Minister (or other official)

Name of Church or other organization

Location

Dear Sir:

According to information we have received, your (church or other organization) is believe to contain a (builder's name) organ built in (date).

I am taking the liberty of enclosing a brochure which includes information about our Society and a brief discussion of the history of American organ building.

As you can see, we are interested in gathering information about early American organs and presenting this material in published form.

In this connection we should be interested to know if this old organ is still intact, or, if not, anything concerning its present condition or whereabouts. If any sales transactions have taken place, we should be pleased to know the name and address of the purchaser, or, if any other basic changes have been made, such as a rebuild, removal of the old pipes, or any major repairs, we should appreciate any information about these changes.

I am enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience in replying, and shall be looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Signature of writer), Representative

cc: Barbara Owen, Chm Organ Research  
Committee

N.B. This letter may be mimeographed, and the self-addressed envelope should be addressed to the writer.

# ORGAN CLEARING HOUSE

In the years since the founding of O.H.S. many fine old tracker organs have been rescued from destruction and moved to new homes. Here is a partial list of instruments relocated through the good offices of the Society and its members:

c1840 1m Joseph Foster chamber organ purchased by the State Historical Society at Concord, New Hampshire.

1844 1m Thomas Appleton purchased by an OHS member and currently stored. This organ was built for the Free Street Baptist Church in Portland, Maine, and was moved to Buxton, Maine, in 1871 when replaced by a 2m Hook & Hastings, Opus 623.

1850 1m L. T. Clark chamber organ purchased by an OHS member.

1851 1m Henry Erben from Alexandria, Virginia, relocated at McLean, Va.

1856 1m Stevens & Jewett from Bath, Maine, relocated at Falmouth, Me.

1859 2m E. & G. G. Hook, Opus 265, Thomaston, Maine, purchased by an OHS member for eventual relocation.

1871 2m Wm. A. Johnson, Opus 342, relocated at Amherst, New Hampshire.

c1874 2m George Stevens from Valley Falls, Rhode Island, now in storage, to be set up at South Windsor, Connecticut.

c1879 2m George H. Ryder, Opus 76, now in storage, to be set up at Glastonbury, Connecticut.  
1881 2m Hook & Hastings, Opus 1018, moved from Wellesley College to Congregational Conference Center, Craigville, Massachusetts.

1886 1m Steere & Turner from Penfield, New York, relocated at Ithaca, N. Y.

c1895 2m Carl Barckhoff from Bedford, Indiana, moved to Calgary, Alberta.

1896 2m Bernard Mudler from Philadelphia, Pa., sold to a church in Pitman, New Jersey.

Even though these and many other old organs have been preserved, countless others have been needlessly destroyed. At this time there are eight organs immediately available. Several of these instruments face destruction unless good homes can be found for them in the near future. Some are existing only on borrowed time. The current list is:

Johnson Organ Co. #361 2-19 1872 Syracuse, N.Y.  
J.H. & C.S. Odell 1-7 c1895 West New York, N.J.  
C. E. Morey #178 2-8 1899 Smethport, Pa.  
Hook & Hastings #1386 2-19 1888 Danville, Ill.  
George Jardine & Son 2-12 1899 Katonah, N.Y.  
Thomas Robjohn 2-11 1859 Bedford, N.Y.  
George Stevens 2-15 c1880 Boston, Mass.  
(Unknown) 1-5 c1830 St. Albans, Vt.

Do you know of any church, school, conference center, historical society, or group that might be able to use one of these organs? Only with your co-operation can they be saved. Most churches do not know that a real pipe organ can be purchased, moved, and installed for less than the

price of even the cheapest electronic substitute. It is up to members of OHS to spread the word.

For detailed information about organs currently available please write

Alan Laufman  
Box 104, West Hill  
Putney, Vermont

Initial letters of inquiry should include the exact dimensions of the space available for the organ. Potential buyers should indicate whether they want a one or two manual organ, and approximately how much money is available.

Finally, members who know of a tracker organ for sale, or of one that is unused and might be available, should communicate such information promptly, giving as many details as possible.

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## Council Meeting Notes

The National Council of the Organ Historical Society met at St. Cornelius Chapel, Governors Island, New York, on Saturday, September 1, 1962. Due to an unexpected turn of events plans for a later meeting on Cape Cod, as previously announced, had to be abandoned, and the New York meeting resulted.

An important change in policy was made when the Council voted that all monies for the Society, including Membership Dues, be sent directly to the Treasurer: Mr. David Ashley Cotton, 1705 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston 35, Mass. Members will please take note.

Plans for the 1963 Annual Convention were discussed and approved. The Rev. Donald Taylor, chairman of the 1963 Convention Committee, submitted suggestions for the Portland, Maine, gatherings, all of which appear highly worthwhile.

The Council approved a motion to make the Recordings Supervisor and the Society Archivist voting members of the National Council.

Approval was given to the appointment of Messrs. Whiting, Douglas and Wagner as the Nominating Committee for 1963 elections. (See notice elsewhere.)

The Corresponding Secretary reported that during the fiscal year 1961-62 there were 285 members. He stated that he is preparing a list to be mailed to the membership.

Barbara Owen was appointed chairman of a committee to take charge of the preparation and publication of lists of organs built prior to 1900 which are still existent. These lists will be issued in parts and mailed to the members as various sections are completed.

Copies of the attractive information brochure, prepared by Miss Owen and her committee, were examined. The cover sketch is the organ case in the Episcopal Church at Windsor, Vermont. Single copies are being mailed to all members with the October issue of THE TRACKER, and may be had in quantities by writing to F. Robert Roche, 60 Park Street, Taunton, Mass.

A progress report on the sound-filmstrip project begun prepared by Thomas Eader and his committee was presented. The president stated

that recordings have been virtually completed, that color slides have been assembled, and that the text, now in preparation, will be read by a professional radio announcer. We look forward to the release of this modern audio-visual aid on American organs in the near future.

A few items on the agenda had to be tabled due to lack of time, but all felt that a great deal had been accomplished and that definite progress was being made.

## Allen Hastings' Restoration at Athol

In the last issue of **THE TRACKER** one of the Notes, Quotes and Comments concerned an organ recital on the E. & G. G. Hook organ (1848) in the Athol, Mass., Historical Society building.

Now comes a newspaper clipping without date-line, heading or signature, describing the restoration by Allan E. Hastings. It runs as follows:

"The old hand-pumped pipe organ, dating back to at least 1847, located in the auditorium of the Athol Historical Society building at 1307 Main St., has been restored.

"Restitution of the instrument was performed by Allen E. Hastings of 7 Park St., an organ technician. His work included cleaning, tuning, replacing damaged mechanism, regulating pipes, and installing an electric blower to replace the hand pumping device.

"According to Hastings, no changes were made in the basic instrument. Only repairs necessary to place the organ in perfect playing condition were effected.

"This organ was the 83rd product to be turned out by the Hook Brothers of Boston, pioneer organ builders from 1827-1936. It was in the present Historical Society Building which the Society acquired from the town in June of 1957. Built about 1828, the structure which houses this antique musical piece was formerly a church and meeting house.

"From records available, it appears that the organ was placed in the building about 1847. Markings inside one of the pipes indicate that a Miss Lydia Mason loaned the money for its purchase.

"Apparently it was the first organ to be placed in the church. It is probable that it was initially located in the east end of the building, being moved later to its present site in the west end when renovations were made.

"Much of the history of this instrument can be pieced together from scratchings and markings on its back and inside its pipes. Hastings, a member of the Organ Historical Society founded in 1956 to foster preservation and restoration of these valuable old music pieces, discovered numerous names and information carved by knife or written by hard pencil on the chest.

"Evidently the last previous work done on the organ before Hastings' repairs was in 1921. Found on the center key rail is the inscription—"Organ cleaned and tuned—P. S. Fairjoy — Nov. 17, 1921." Since it has been used little, if at all,

during the interim, Hastings doubts that any other work had been done on it until now.

"Many years of care were given the organ by a local man named J. L. Bratt. His service record is engraved on the organ and spans 23 years from 1862 to 1885. During the intervening time, he cleaned and tuned the piece in 1865, 1867, 1871, and again in 1874, 1877, 1882, and finally in 1885. "Nothing can be found upon the organ to indicate who cared for its needs from 1885 until Fairjoy's work in 1921. But since it was in use during that period, it doubtless received cleaning and tuning at least.

"Organ repairmen were not the only ones wishing to register their names for posterity. On the back of the main chest reads the following inscription—"Played by Barbara Bates in 1912 after the fire which burned the second church."

"Today Barbara Bates is Mrs. Robert Dexter of 1328 Main St. She recalls that she was the regular church organist for the Second Unitarian Church in the downtown section following her graduation from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. When the Church burned down, she played the old Hook Brothers' organ in services in the Historical Society Building for about three years while the church was being rebuilt.

"Among other names on the back of the chest were those of George E. Gibbs; Clyde S. Hinman, AHS 1914; Alton Prentiss, AHS 1915; Frank Lord, AHS 1916; W. H. Colburn, and Harry Briggs.

"Both Prentiss and Briggs still live here. The former's home is at 38 Prospect St., while the later lives at 53 Tremont St.

"About to enter a new era in its already long life, the historic old organ will be rededicated at special services in September. It is expected that a well-known New York organist will give a recital on the instrument at that time."

All of the addresses are located in Athol, Mass. And since our records show that Mr. Hastings completed his work of restoration in 1960, we may assume that this article appeared during that year. The newspaper story was accompanied by a two-column, eight inch photo of Mr. Hastings and the front case of the one-manual instrument.

## O. H. S. Official Recordings

There are now two Official Recordings of OHS Conventions available, but the supply is limited and as soon as all are sold there will be none available. We urge our members to place orders, accompanied by check or money order, promptly in order to secure these splendid discs. Be sure to specify which year - 1961 or 1962 - or both! Please make checks payable to:

**THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

and send your orders to:

**DAVID ASHLEY COTTON**

1705 Commonwealth Ave. - Boston 35, Mass.

**THE PRICE IS \$4.95 EACH**

## THE TRACKER

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## EDITORIAL

Membership in the OHS is both a privilege and a responsibility. This is not unusual in organizations of this kind, and yet there are some members who misunderstand the purpose and meaning of membership in this Society. They abuse the privileges and ignore the responsibilities causing negative reactions among the general public and some of our own colleagues as well.

From our very beginning the Society has sought to regenerate an interest in the history of American organ building. A constantly growing sphere of influence has developed in this country as the result of the many hours of hard work accomplished by officers and members and friends of the Society. But there are those who, according to a continuous series of reports, exercise undue carelessness in their activities carried on in the name of OHS. Every one of these instances proves a stumbling block to our progress, making the work of the officials and other members just that much more difficult.

Let us, therefore, review some of the things that all members should keep constantly in mind: **Privileges** - The right to vote, to hold office, to attend the annual convention, to receive THE TRACKER and all other official publications, to do research, to record and report findings of interest to the Society, to submit articles for publication, to enroll new members, and to generally work for the good of the Society according to its rules.

**Responsibilities** - To pay dues, to attend meetings, to uphold the name of the Society, to respect church property and authorities, to refer any controversial matter to the National Council, to re-

port complete details of all American organs built prior to 1900 which are still extant in the area where the member lives, and to engender interest in these instruments among the local citizenry.

Finally, it must be pointed out that the OHS is incorporated as a "non-profit organization" under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, and that any member who, posing as an authorized representative of the Society, demands or accepts fees, commissions or other monetary consideration for purposes of consultation, advice or information about the Society, is violating the constitution and placing the Society in a position of jeopardy.

It is true that some members have expended considerable sums in furthering the work of the Society, and for this generosity and these good deeds the entire membership is sincerely grateful. Let us hope that this spirit will continue to prevail and that the misconceptions and errors of the past will disappear from henceforth.

## One of the Largest Tracker Organs in America

(From page 4)

5. Mezzo Great. Giving all 8 and 4 ft. registers and an appropriate Pedale.
6. Piano Great. Giving a soft combination and an appropriate Pedale.
7. Forte Swell. Giving all Swell registers and an appropriate Pedale.
8. Mezzo Swell. Giving all 8 and 4 ft. registers and an appropriate Pedale.
9. Piano Swell. Giving a soft combination and an appropriate Pedale.
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11. Piano Choir. Giving a soft combination and an appropriate Pedale.
12. Reversible Pedale to operate Great to Pedale Coupler.
13. Adjustable Swell Pedale.

"Pneumatic Motors are applied to the Great Organ and all its couplings, the Pedale Organ, the two lower octaves of the Swell, and to the register action. The action is extended and reversed. The motive power for blowing the Organ is the Boston Hydraulic Motor which is supplied with water from a tank placed in the attic above the Organ."

**RECAPITULATION:** (All registers are full compass.)

Great organ - 19 stops, 1,566 pipes.  
Swell organ - 19 stops, 1,508 pipes.  
Choir organ - 11 stops, 638 pipes.  
Solo organ - 6 stops, 348 pipes.  
Pedale Organ - 11 stops, 330 pipes.  
Totals 80 stops, 4,390 pipes.

Share THE TRACKER with your friends.  
Use it to gain new members for OHS.