

THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

Of Virginia

HIDES EXCELLENT HOME INSTALLATION

By Don Hall
(with lots of help from Frank)

Photos by Jim Sparks

Settled quietly into the hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia is the comfortable Georgian house of Frank Netherland and his aunt, Gladys Campbell.

Lurking inside that house is a beautifully installed 3/9 Kimball organ (opus #7045) which Frank has owned since 1958. It was originally shipped as a 3 manual 7 rank instrument plus piano and usual Kimball traps and effects to the Richard Theatre, Ahsokie, North Carolina. The organ had switches wired for a celeste string which might be added later. The piano was equipped with the usual mandolin effect plus a "banjo" in which the hammer reiterated against the strings. With this particular model organ, Kimball usually supplied a 2 manual console. However, #7045 was connected to a three decker which resulted in the unusual naming of the manuals, bottom to top, Accompaniment, Solo, and Percussion. The Percussion manual played a few of the ranks and all the percussions and traps. Frank has plans in the distant future to do some rewiring and remove the traps and add more switches for pipes for the top keyboard to make it more useful.

In 1939, the Durham Life Insurance Company erected a magnificent office building in Raleigh, N.C., containing what is literally an N.B.C. radio production unit in miniature for the company's 50,000 watt station WPTF. Completely equipped by R.C.A., WPTF has four studios, all floating, according to the Johns Manville acoustical design and all operating under a master control center. The largest of these studios is an all-purpose room with a small stage at one end. In two chambers behind this stage was installed Kimball #7045 bought by the station from the theatre in Ahsokie. The console was placed on a dolly so that it could be located anywhere in the studio. In this new installation, the organ lost its piano (there were two grands in the studio) and gained a string celeste and a Wurlitzer Tuba Horn which was played from the former piano switches. The organ was used daily for almost eighteen years and kept in excellent repair. Many well-known theatre organists have presided at this console, the last and longest to stay was Kingham Scott, a veteran from the silent days who cued the pictures at Wurlitzer #1567, a style

B with a Tibia added, in the Capitol Theatre in Raleigh.

In 1956, WPTF discontinued regular use of the organ and advised Frank early in 1958 that it was for sale. Netherland bought the organ while still a student at the University of North Carolina at nearby Chapel Hill and spent the following summer moving and installing it in the Roxy Theatre in Martinsville, Virginia (Frank's hometown). This installation was in a movie house where Frank has spent his high school vacations and after school hours as projectionist, doorman and in college years as relief house manager. The organ was set up without shutters on the stage which had been rendered unusable by the CinemaScope screen. The console was at one side of the stage on a platform and Frank says it sounded fine in the 500 seat house, even without expression. He played for the show breaks and community sings and reports that the audience WOULD SING too, young and old alike. The theatre, in-

terestingly, was another Roxy to have for a short time anyway, a Kimball pipe organ. Like that other Roxy, this one, too, is now a memory of another era.

Frank then began plans for a new home for himself, his aunt, and #7045 on the family farm in Patrick County, Virginia. No trouble with neighbor's ears here! The Kimball is still heard "live" daily between Frank's farm chores and frequently by local civil and social groups which are fascinated by such an unusual musical instrument ("Just look at those drums!!"), occasionally on a local radio station, and most recently at a Piedmont ATOE chapter meeting.

The house has the organ installed on the second floor, over the dining room, it speaks into the living room through vertical grills. The living room has a pitched ceiling which starts at eight feet on the side opposite the organ and slopes up to the top of the grills on the

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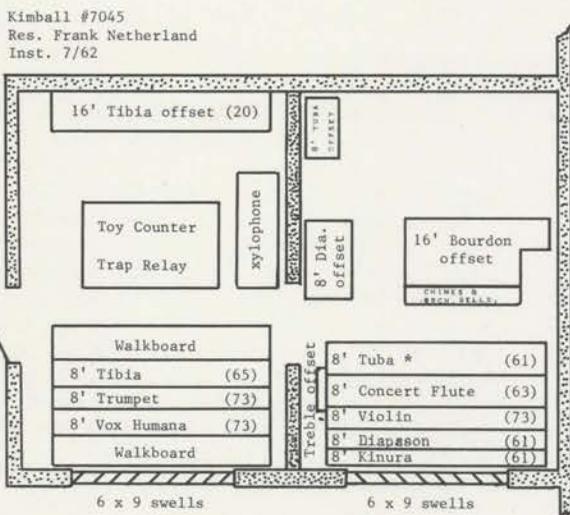
Frank Netherland shows off for photographer Sparks. Note the sound buttons over the top manual.

FRANK NETHERLAND RESIDENCE
(continued from page 12)

other side of the room. The ceiling is walnut paneled and serves to both reflect and diffuse the organ sound on its way to the listeners. Frank has the chambers side by side but with the shutters aimed out, so that the organ will record nicely in stereo. At present the tuba and string celeste have not been installed and are waiting for cold winter evenings to provide time to build new chests for them. The organ has a full, rich quality which seems to be lacking in so many home installations and is a pleasure to both play and hear.



FRANK NETHERLAND



* To be added later

Frank Netherland Residence Kimball SPECIFICATIONS

PEDAL

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 32 Acoustic Bass | Mandolin | 8 Violin I | 2 Xylophone |
| 16 Contra Bass | 8 Tuba | 8 Orchestral Oboe (syn) | 2 Glockenspiel |
| 16 Bourdon | 4 Clarion | 8 Vox Humana | 2 Orchestra Bells |
| 8 Trumpet | Celesta | 8 Kinura | Chimes |
| 8 Diapason Phanon | Xylophone | 8 Flute | Band Bass Drum |
| 8 Tibia | Glockenspiel | 4 Cornet | Cymbal |
| 8 Violin | Snare Drum Roll | 4 Octave | Tympani |
| 8 Flute | Snare Drum Tap | 4 Tibia Flute | Chinese Gong |
| 4 Coronet | Chinese Block Roll | 4 Violin II | Triangle |
| 4 Violin | Chinese Block Tap | 4 Violin I | Snare Drum Roll |
| Chinese Gong (2nd) | Tam Tam | 4 Flute | Snare Drum Tap |
| Band Bass Drum (2nd) | Castanets | 2 2/3 Nazard | Chinese Block Roll |
| Cymbal (2nd) | Tambourine | 2 Fifteenth | Chinese Block Tap |
| Tympani (2nd) | Sleigh Bells | 2 Piccolo | Tom Tom |
| Band Bass Drum | | 1 3/5 Tierce | Castanets |
| Cymbal | Acc. 2nd Touch | 16 Tube | Tambourine |
| Orch. Bass Drum | 8 Trumpet | Celesta | Sleighbells |
| Snare Drum | 8 Diapason Phanon | Xylophone | |
| 16 Tuba | 8 Tibia | Glockenspiel | |
| 8 Tuba | 4 Tibia | Orchestra Bells | |
| | Glockenspiel | Chimes | |

ACCOMPANIMENT

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| 16 Bourdon | | | |
| 8 Trumpet | | | |
| 8 Diapason Phanon | | | |
| 8 Tibia | | | |
| 8 Violin II | | | |
| 8 Violin I | | | |
| 8 Vox Humana | | | |
| 8 Kinura | | | |
| 8 Flute | | | |
| 4 Tibia Flute | | | |
| 4 Violin II | | | |
| 4 Violin I | | | |
| 4 Vox Humana | | | |
| 4 Forest Flute | | | |
| 2 Piccolo | | | |

SOLO

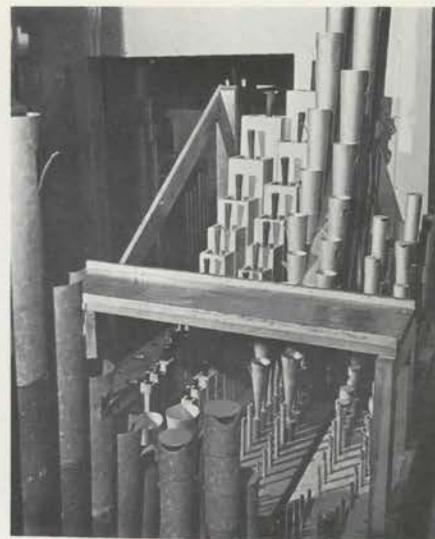
- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 16 Trombone | |
| 16 Tibia | |
| 16 Contra Viole tc | |
| 16 Vox Humana tc | |
| 8 Trumpet | |
| 8 Diapason Phanon | |
| 8 Tibia | |
| 8 Violin II | |

PERCUSSION

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 8 Tibia | |
| 4 Piccolo | |
| 8 Trumpet | |
| 8 Vox Humana | |
| 8 Kinura | |
| 16 Tuba | |
| 8 Tuba | |
| 4 Clarion | |
| 8 Celesta | |
| 4 Xylophone | |

Sound Effect Buttons (over Percussion Manual)

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Bird I | |
| Bird II | |
| Sleighbells I | |
| Sleighbells II | |
| Auto Horn | |
| Toll Chime | |
| Telephone Bell | |
| Steamboat Whistle | |
| Locomotive Whistle | |
| Siren | |
| Aeroplane | |
| Wood Block | |
| Tremulents | |
| Left | |
| Right | |
| Vox | |



In the left chamber just behind the swell shutters grows a garden of pipes. Front to back: Vox Humana, Trumpet and Tibia (unused chest was for the Tuba). Through the doorway is the right chamber.

ATOE MEETS EDUCATIONAL TV

By Walter Beupre

ATOE, its official seal, and publications featured prominently in an educational television program for adult night time viewing over KYNE-TV, Omaha's educational television station on March 22, 1966.

Dr. Walter J. Beupre of the University of Omaha faculty presented the Theatre Organ story as part of the University Showcase Series. Dr. Beupre talked about ATOE and its activities, presented a brief history of Omaha's 22 theatre organs (6 of them Wurlitzers), then the viewing audience was taken on a filmed tour of the Orpheum Theatre's 3M:13R Wurlitzer. Cameraman Jim Horkey and his crew had a field day filming the theatre decor, montage shots of the console rising out of the pit, than pictures of relays functioning, tremoloes thumping, and percussions hammering away at bass drums, cymbals, xylophones, mirimbas, etc.

The sequence ended with the Wurlitzer returning to its roost. During the 6-minute filmed sequence appropriate Wurlitzer music was played. Then Dr. Beupre reviewed the history of the photo players and unit orchestras and demonstrated with diagrams how the Hope Jones Unit Orchestra differed from the traditional church organ.

The program then took a quick look at the Theatre Organ's contribution to early radio and closed with the observation that considering all the electronic imitators on the market, interest in Theatre Organs

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