

A 2nd Anniversary Report...

# The SLOW TAMING of a MONSTER!

STORY and PHOTOS:

Beulah McN. Martin

Exactly one year has gone by since the 32-rank Monster came to live with us—a fun year, but one beset with problems. Like proud parents awaiting the bringing home of a new baby from the hospital, we thought that everything was in readiness for our “baby Moller.” But what a surprise we were in for. Having gone by the original factory installation blue prints, we still cannot understand how pipes could possibly have grown three feet longer while they rested, undisturbed for 40 years, high up in the chambers at Loew’s 83rd St. Theatre. It must have something to do with all that New York dust.

Since our baby had outgrown its crib, it became necessary to take out the previously prepared chamber floors and lower them by four feet. Have you ever tried to remove a floor with several tons of organ parts sitting on top of it? This was the first problem that faced Marion. How could you possibly pour a concrete floor when you could not get a truck nearer than thirty feet to the house, and then still have to carry it through two rooms of the house and pour it under an existing floor filled with organ? Marion solved this by spending most of the next four months in the two feet of space under the existing floor, digging out dirt and laying four-inch solid concrete block. Our little seven-year-old nephew even began to call him “Uncle Mole.”

When several feet of the new floor was ready, the organ parts on the old floor above were moved out, the old floor taken up, and the organ lowered to its final resting place at the new level. While doing this Marion decided to take out 12’ of the 22’ outside chamber wall, and extend it by 4’. This gave us enough width to this portion of the chamber so that we could run the main chests vertically to the shutters, rather than horizontally as we had originally planned. My mother, looking askance at this vast space (22’ x 12’), wondered what we would ever fill it with.

March found this Solo chamber finished, full and overflowing with 12 ranks of pipes, 6 offset chests, 3 tuned percussions, a thunder sheet, 3 bird whistles, 2 tremulants and a hot water heater. Yes, I am sure that we have the only organ in the world with a hot water heater. The cost of removing this, changing the plumbing in this big old house, and relocating it somewhere else, was just too prohibitive. So there it sits, behind the Marimba, between the French Horns and the Diapasons. It never fails to bring the usual comment from visitors: “Oh! I didn’t know that pipe organs used hot water!” But by now we are used to this, and the heater has become a dear part of our Moller. The trouble is, we have not yet decided if we will have gurgling French Horns or mumbling Marimbas as a result of the mating of our Moller and

this interloper. Time alone will tell.

In April, Marion began working on the Main chamber. This time he was able to take everything out into the carport and put in the new floor more easily. This is a two-story chamber with the toys and Xylophone on the second floor, and the large concert harp (61-

note) suspended beneath them over the main chest.

I had promised Marion that he could take three feet of the carport to enlarge the space of this chamber. This 20’ high wall was more than Marion cared to attempt by himself, so professional carpenters were called in. Marion gave them their instructions and left for work. Several hours later, going out to the carport, I saw with horror that they had completely misunderstood and had left only three feet of the carport for me to park my car in. A hurried call to the college brought Marion on the run and down came the offending new wall. The perplexed carpenters still do not understand these organ nuts who tear down walls faster than they can build them.

The new wall was finally completed. Then came the real fun of getting two 16’ Oboe Horns into the room. For awhile it looked as if the wall would have to come down again. All the chests and large pipework had been put in place before building the wall. These two

VIEW OF THE SOLO ORGAN CHAMBER—Pipes not visible in the foreground are Diapason and Orchestral Violin Celeste. Pipes from bottom of the picture to the top are: French Horn, Kinura, Tibia Clausa, Orchestral Violin, Tibia Plena, English Horn, French Trumet, Major Violin, Major Vox Humana, Tuba.



pipes were broken in half at the center seam in shipping from N. Y. and had to be soldered. The roof of the chamber slopes to an inverted "V" peak, and the offset chest had been most carefully placed, so there was exactly one inch of clearance at the top of these pipes. It took Marion three hours to get these pipes in place.

July finds the Main Chamber ready, with all pipe work except the bottom four 16' Strings (which have to be mitered) in place. Relays are in this room also. The 7½-hp. blower is in place in the blower room and the main wind pipe run. Next comes running wind pipe and miles and miles of wiring. Marion had to cut all cables in order to get the organ out of the theatre in the time allotted. He figures that he will have to solder 5,700 wires in the relay alone.

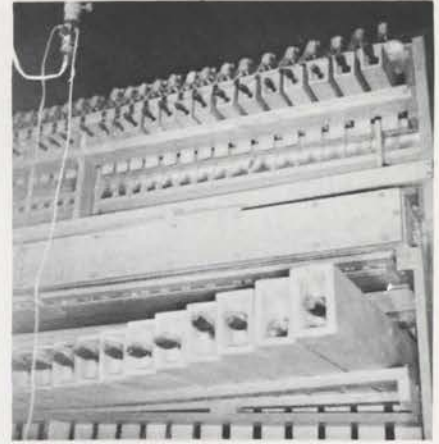
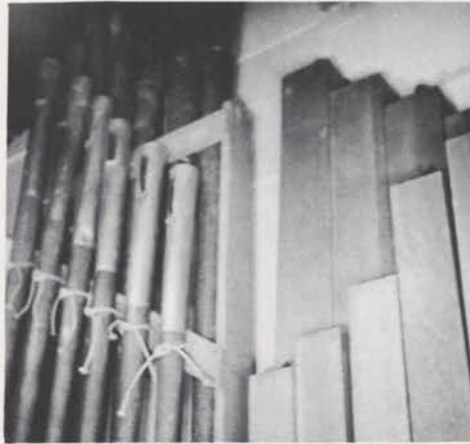


MARTIN SOLO CHAMBER — Orchestra chimes, thunder sheet, and marimba, with tibia plena offset in rear.

Construction problems on the chambers, causing less space, have necessitated many changes in our original plans. Instead of 21 ranks as we had planned, we have cut to 18 but we think we will have a nicely balanced organ. However, when we see all the beautiful pipe work we have and can't use, we think how nice so-and-so would be if we could only find space for it. Having originally set three years for completion of our project, one year later we feel that we are well on schedule.

We know that theatre organ lovers are the most wonderful people in the world, as evidenced by many helpful letters received containing valuable suggestions. Then there have been gifts of miles of new cable, reservoirs, Howard seat, and too many other things to mention. However, we would like to know if anyone knows of the whereabouts of any colored Moller theatre organ stop keys?

All of this gives us great comfort as we look forward to retirement in the years to come, for now we know that when the time comes for Marion to retire as a chemistry professor, because of our dear Mighty Mo, he can always get a job laying cement blocks.



MAIN CHAMBER OF MARTIN TAMED-MONSTER MOLLER, showing at the left the 16' Contra Fagetta (Oboe Horn), with tops of the 16' Bourdons to the right. (RIGHT) The Concert Harp and "friends."

## Greetings of the Season to All...

And a Special Welcome to 1968's two new ATOE Chapters:

- SOONER STATE, Tulsa, Okla. — Ron Willfong, Chairman
- NORTH TEXAS, Dallas, Texas — John Beck, Chairman

... from the Officers and Staff of ATOE National and Theatre Organ Bombarde

## Build this magnificent Schober Theatre Organ for only \$1550!\*



\*Includes finished walnut console. Amplifier, speaker system, optional accessories extra. Only \$1150.50 if you build your own console.

You couldn't touch an organ like this in a store for less than \$3500—and there hasn't been a musical instrument with this vast variety of genuine Theatre Organ voices since the days of the silent movies! Haunting tibias, biting strings, blaring reeds—the whole A to Z gamut of real pipe sounds that make the simplest playing a thrilling experience and give the professional organist everything he needs. If you've dreamed of the grandeur of authentic big-organ sound in your own home, you won't find a more satisfying instrument anywhere—kit or no kit.

The Schober Organ Corp., Dept. TO-6  
43 West 61st Street, New York, N.Y. 10023

- Please send me Schober Organ Catalog and free 7-inch "sample" record.
- Enclosed please find \$1.00 for 12-inch L.P. record of Schober Organ music.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

You can learn to play it. And you can build it, from Schober Kits, world famous for ease of assembly without the slightest knowledge of electronics or music, for design and parts quality from the ground up, and—above all—for the highest praise from musicians everywhere.

Send right now for your copy of the full-color Schober catalog, containing specifications of the five Schober Organ models, beginning at \$599.50. No charge, no obligation—but lots of food for a healthy musical appetite!