

## A 5th Anniversary Report . . .

# STAN AND VI LOVE THEIR BARTON

STORY: Mrs. Vi Lechowicz

PHOTOS: John McCarthy

Five years ago, "bringing home the Barton" was triumphantly accomplished! Outside the picture window (removed for the occasion) the last truckload contained the time-dulled "golden" 4-manual console. The ramp was set, the huge console glided down, through the window and into place; there to sit, in none of its onetime splendor, while preparations were made to provide a proper home.

Today, the 4-10 LaGrange, Illinois, Theatre Barton has "arrived" and, through long work-ridden weeks, months and years, stands restored at last, speaking in beautiful voices for all to hear.

The decision was to build, not a sunken garden in the living-room but rather, a "two-step down" horseshoe-shaped area to accommodate a theatre pipe organ console! A great decision indeed! Instead of overpowering the room (with its 32x20-foot dimensions) the Barton console today nestles in her custom quarters looking every bit as though she belongs and has every right to be there.

The tarnished gold coat has been shed, and instead she wears a cherry-wood and Australian lace-wood finish, provided through three painstaking months of veneering. A volume of "Veneering Made Easy," a constant companion, of course contained no chapter on how to veneer a theatre pipe organ console—easy or otherwise. But, through long patience and endurance, the Barton now wears a softly lustrous new coat, in keeping with the decor of a modern-day living room.

Stan and Vi have received many compliments about their instrument and the installation but John McCarthy (who shot the pictures for this article) tells of one kudo which left Stan speechless. It happened when a local club devoted to plug-ins, the "Electric Organ Lovers Association," held a surprise party for Chicago organist Pearl White at the Lechowicz home. After an afternoon and evening of exposure to music on pipes, the club members decided to honor the Barton by declaring it an "Honorary Electric Organ"!

The site for all this organ activity is the home of Stanley Lechowicz, Deerfield (Riverwoods), Illinois. All organ buffs have a good idea as to what goes on at home, once the owner decides he must have his own theatre organ, and ours was certainly no exception. Originally, the intention was to have a contractor do the addition to the house. But after many hours of explaining requirements and ideas (and adding the miles of figures estimated for the specialty-type construction), it all boiled down to this: Stan became a "do-it-yourselfer."



VI LECHOWICZ relaxes at the console of the 4-deck Barton. It's a lot of manuals for ten ranks, but the presence of additional stop keys indicates that additions were planned for the original theatre installation.

At this point a wife with a house bulging with stored organ parts might derive some comfort at the thought of having a nice, enlarged living-room—but to the avid organ enthusiast with a 4-10 Barton awaiting installation, house construction isn't the most thrilling prospect in the world—after all, there is an organ restoration job to get on with!

Some end-results follow. The rarely used dining-room became the Main chamber, 8'x12' and 12½' in height, with a shutter area of 5'x7½'. The added Solo chamber is 18'x12', 17' in height, with its shutter area of 5'x7½' feet. The shutters are to the right of the console, and face two 9' picture windows

to the left of the console. These bowed windows seem to do much toward "rounding out" the sound. All shutters are positioned horizontally, and open top to bottom.

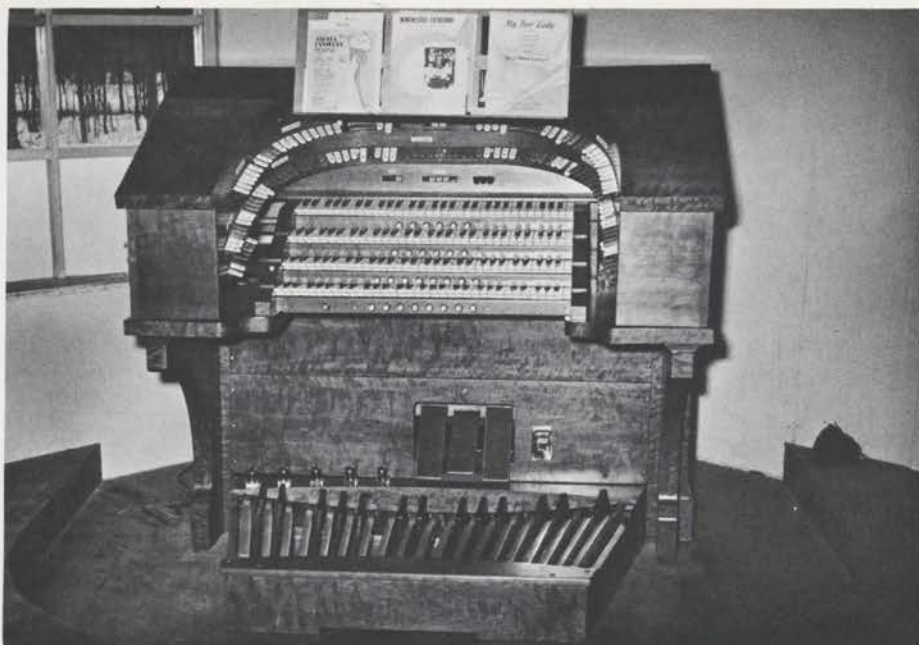
Within a year and eight months, construction was finally over and work on the organ could begin. Relays were set in place and rewiring began. Contacts were cleaned, pipes were cleaned and some re-leathering was required. An Add-a-Phase was installed to provide 3-phase current for the 7½-hp. Spencer blower to operate the organ at 7, 10 and 15 inches wind pressure. Stan had heard a lot about organs being slow so, remembering a lesson from puttering with cars in the old days—that if the ground connection on the battery wasn't just right the horn was slow in sounding—he decided that all the ground connections should be cleaned and soldered. It seems, from comments regarding the quick response, that it was the right thing to do.

The console has extra stops to accommodate Trumpet, Saxophone, Quintadena, Solo String and Piano. Some day we hope to add these to the organ.

This is a good opportunity to acknowledge and express our appreciation of the vast amount of help, both physical and technical, we received from many, many organ friends. They, too, are enjoying the end result!

At long last, some calm is returning to the household, following the five-year storm. Is it worth it? Ask anyone who has done it! The resounding "YES" is almost as vibrant as the Barton pipes. At home with a theatre organ? Ahhh! The ultimate!

When the console was refinished, the original Barton trademarks on the front could not be saved. Then one day, Stan met Dan Barton and told the venerable organ builder about his treasure. Dan thought for a moment, then said he knew where there might be a couple of decals stashed. Sure enough, Dan Barton produced the decals. They now provide just the right finishing touch to the veneered console.



THE REFINISHED CONSOLE looks like new in its "step-down" corner. And that's real snow outside!

### STOPLIST OF THE LECHOWICZ 4-10 BARTON

IN LECHOWICZ HOME, DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS

#### PEDAL

Diaphone 16  
Bourdon 16  
Tibia Clausa 16  
Cello 8  
Violin 8  
Tuba 8  
Tibia Clausa 8  
Flute 8  
Diaphonic Diapason 8  
Snare Drum  
Bass Drum  
Cymbal  
Kettle Drum  
Thunder

#### ACCOMPANIMENT

Contra Viole (TC) 16  
Viol d'orchest. 8  
Viole Celeste 8  
Violin 4  
Viole Celeste 4  
Tibia Clausa 8  
Tibia Clausa 4  
Oboe Horn 8  
Vox Humana 8  
Clarinet 8  
Kinura 8  
Tuba 8  
Claribel Flute 8  
Orchest'l Flute 4  
Twe'fth 2-2/3  
Flautino 2  
Diaphonic Diapason 8  
Chrysoglott Harp 8  
Marimba Harp 8  
Tamborine  
Castanets  
Chinese Block  
Tom Tom  
Snare Drum  
Solo to Accomp. 8

#### ACC. 2nd TOUCH

Tuba 8  
Tibia Clausa 8  
Cathedral Chimes 8  
Glockenspiel 4  
Triangle

#### GREAT

Diaphone 16  
Bourdon 16  
Tibia Clausa 16  
Vox Humana (TC) 16  
Tuba (TC) 16  
Viol d'Orchest. (TC) 16  
Viol d'Orchest. 8  
Viole Celeste 8  
Violin 4  
Viole Celeste 4  
Diaphonic Diapason 8  
Principal 4  
Concert Flute 8  
Flute 4  
Nazard 2-2/3  
Piccolo 2  
Tierce 1-3/5  
Tibia Clausa 8  
Tibia Clausa 4  
Tibia Twelfth 2-2/3  
Tibia Mutation  
Oboe Horn 8  
Vox Humana 8  
Vox Humana 4  
Clarinet 8  
Kinura 8  
Tuba 8  
Clarion 4  
Orchest. Bells 4  
Glockenspiel 4  
Cathedral Chimes 8  
Xylophone 8  
Marimba Harp 8  
Chrysoglott Harp 8

#### TREMULANTS

General  
Tibia  
Vox

Note that stopkeys for all unifications of a voice (with the exception of the 16' unifications) are grouped together.

#### SOLO

Tibia Clausa 16  
Tuba (TC) 16  
Tuba 8  
Coronet 4  
Diaphonic Diapason 8  
Flute 8  
Flute 4  
Tibia Clausa 8  
Tibia Clausa 4  
Oboe Horn 8  
Vox Humana 8  
Clarinet 8  
Kinura 8  
Violin 8  
Xylophone 8  
Cathedral Chimes 8  
Glockenspiel 4  
Orchest. Bells 4

#### ORCHESTRAL

Tibia Clausa 16  
Tibia Clausa 8  
Oboe Horn 8  
Vox Humana 8  
Kinura 8  
Violin 8  
Tibia Clausa 4  
Glockenspiel 4

#### TOE STUDS

Klaxon Horn  
Siren  
Gong  
Steamboat Whistle  
Bird Song  
Sforzando

## ATOEers' New Year's Resolutions:

- Pay ATOE Dues Promptly!
- Think 'CIVIC CENTER'!
- Be Kind to Theatre Organs!

## Around the ATOE Beat

DICK SIMONTON, current "man of the year" and one of the founders of ATOE, has been released from the hospital and is recovering from a nearly-fatal attack of peritonitis suffered in late October. He is home and doing nicely, but will be out of action for a long time. "Get well" cards may be sent to him, care of this magazine.

BOB KOONS of Puget Sound Chapter is readying Seattle's first pipe-organ-plus-pizza house for an early 1969 opening. The organ—a 2-5, large-scale Morton—is now in and making those terrible-but-beautiful, pre-tuning sounds.

CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHAPTER has contracted to install its chapter-owned 3-10 (ex-Danbury Palace) Marr & Colton in the Thomaston, Conn., Opera House-Civic Auditorium. Full story in February issue of TOB.

THE A.G.O. had Gaylord Carter play Theatre Organ at their Denver meeting and now will have John Muri at their Indianapolis session. This seems a trend toward regularity, and a welcome change from earlier days. Many ATOE functions, too, have featured AGO artists in classical concerts.



VOX AND STRINGS—An unusual view of pipe-work in the left chamber of the Lechowicz 4-10 Barton.