

# Cinniminson Project Nearly Complete

by Grant Whitcomb

Members of ATOS who have supported and exhibited interest in the reinstallation of the James O. Carter Memorial Organ in the Richard Serfling Memorial Auditorium of Cinniminson High School, Cinniminson, New Jersey, will be gratified to learn that this project is now nearing completion.\* In fact the organ, which is 75 per cent installed as of this writing, will be ready for dedication on November 5, 1977. On that date Delaware Valley's "Mr. Music" — Larry Ferrari — will play a special concert. This is most appropriate, since it was Larry Ferrari who donated this Wurlitzer theatre organ to the Cinniminson High School in the name of his long-time friend — the late Jim Carter.

This will be only the start of a most elite evening, since the dedicatory concert will be followed by a reception at the Starlight Room at the Cherry Hill Inn and a dinner in the Grand Ballroom. Those who attended the 1976 ATOS Convention at this location will recall these beautiful surroundings. Tickets to this event (at \$50) should produce a group of distinguished participants as well as provide some needed funds for the further activities of the Cinniminson Arts Council.

The history of the development of the Carter Wurlitzer began many years ago when Jim Carter first secured the console and two basic ranks of pipes left from a 1926 style 235 Wurlitzer originally housed in the Royal Theatre, Bloomfield, New Jersey. Over the years Jim accumulated other ranks — mostly Wurlitzer — to match a majority of the 235 specifications in terms of both pipes and scale. Having secured and installed these in his home prior to

\*See *THEATRE ORGAN* - Oct/Nov. 1975, Vol. 17, No. 5.

1970, Jim then began to expand the instrument with the addition of a Post Horn, French Horn and Violin (Kimball), plus a Gottfried Tibia Plena.

As presently constituted the instrument is a 3/15 Wurlitzer with all Wurlitzer pipework except for those ranks noted above. At the Cinniminson High School two specially constructed triangular chambers adjacent to the side of the auditorium stage now contain the following:

Flute	97
Open Diapason	85
Tuba	73
Viol D'Orchestra	73
String Celeste	73
Clarinet	61
Vox Humana	61
Tibia Clausa	73
Tibia Plena	73
Trumpet	61
Post Horn	61
Saxophone	61
English Horn	61
French Horn	61
Solo String	61
Plus Chrysoglott, Marimba (and Harp), Xylophone, Glockenspiel (and Orch. Bells), Piano and Toy Counter.	

(There are provision for two additional ranks)

The primary elements involved in the relocation and reinstallation of a theatre pipe organ are money and manpower. Even with the donation of services by a dedicated organ crew, the Cinniminson Arts Council has thus far expended \$45,000.00 toward this project. Of this, \$15,000.00 was involved in removal, storage, removal from storage, refurbishment, tools, equipment, rentals, etc. This alone accounts for a majority of the funds raised to date, and an additional \$30,000.00 was borrowed to cover the costs of construction of the chambers.

Although the instrument had been removed from the Carter residence many months ago, it had to be stored until the chambers could be constructed during the summer of 1976. Although numerous individuals have donated time and labor to this project since its inception, the principle

"Here's how . . ."



"How do we get up there . . . ?"







J.P. Callahan exerts pressure.



Bob Dietz adjusting toy counter.

workers on the actual installation are: J.P. Callahan, Mike Carrell, John Chase, Oscar Danielson, Bob Dietz, Frank Heil, Steve Heil, Wilbur (Woody) Flowers, and Marvin Phillips.

While the installation of the Carter Wurlitzer is a matter of prime interest at this time, activities are by no means confined to this single function. As the name implies, The Cinniminson Arts Council is dedicated to the presentation of *all* the performing arts. A special series of "Spotlight Presentations" has already featured a 16-day marathon of music presenting some 80 orchestral and vocal groups of all ages. A total of 650 individuals participated in these musical presentations.

The next "Spotlight" will be on the Dance, which will probably involve twice as many participants. Future Spotlights which are already in the planning stage will feature the Dramatic Arts, followed by a Fine Arts presentation with working artists exhibiting both completed works in many categories as well as works in progress. This broad-based approach not only has great appeal to the total community, but also has secured the sincere support of the

school board and related community leadership. The Cinniminson Arts Council is deeply appreciative of the support and encouragement provided by such individuals as Dr. Richard B. Holzman, Warren Martin, Bob Dietz (of the organ crew) and Howard Lorenz, to mention just a few.

As the time approaches when this long-silent King of Instruments will once more be heard in its new setting, many members of ATOS can take pride in having helped to preserve another Wurlitzer. □



Oscar Danielson and Woody Flowers examine pipes.



Woody Flowers and Oscar Danielson.



Pipes laid out on stage.

Instrumental and choral programs are promoted by the Cinniminson Arts Council.

