

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE

by Lance Johnson

Do you have any questions?

Send them direct to:

QUIZMASTER
and Organbuilder

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Q. I own a hybrid theatre organ in which the main chamber has one large reservoir under the manual chests. When the tremulant is off, the top of the reservoir vibrates until I play the organ. I looked inside the reservoir and found one large and one small cone valve. Is there any way I can get rid of the vibration?

A. The reason your reservoir top vibrates is that the reservoir can't make up its mind whether to completely shut off the wind supply or allow a little to get in. What you need is a third cone valve 1-3/4" in diameter or smaller to break the seal caused by the regulator trying to shut itself off. A reservoir can't function unless the valve system between the high and low pressure sides is always slightly open.

Q. I have a Robert-Morton 2/4, Model 390, which I plan to install in my home. It contains a 16' Tibia, 8' Diapason, 8' Violin and 8' Vox Humana. The console is now all electric and there are no percussions. What capacity of blower would be required for this organ?

A. As you have not furnished the wind pressures, I would assume the organ to be on ten inches with the Vox Humana on six or seven inches. Your

blower then should have a minimum output of twelve inches wind at 500 c.f.m.

Q. I would appreciate it very much if you would give me the correct tuning techniques for tuning Flute or Virole Celestes.

A. Flute and Virole Celestes are usually tuned sharp. The only Celeste that is tuned flat is the Unda Maris. I would tune the Flute Celeste to the unison Flute by counting beats as follows: Nos. 1-12, two beats per second; 13-49, three beats per second; 50-61, unison. This could apply to any Celeste stop, with the number of beats varying among organ builders. There would be no need to tune the Celeste against the tuning stop. □

DINNY'S COLYUM

as
transcribed
by
Del Castillo



You might think that if you was a Elyvater Man like me you would know everything you needed to know about elyvaters, but not if you was at the hotel where the ATOS jest had its Convention. I suppose maybe I was spoilt on acct. I run a elyvater in Boston which was the only one in the bilding and only went up four floors on acct. that was all the floors they was. So I get to this hotel where they is 70 floors and that wouldnt of been so bad except that they was about ten elyvaters and some of them went up only half way and some of the others skipped the first half and then went up to the top, and then they was others which wasnt for the hotel atall but was for the office bildings which was attached like to the hotel, and none of them was marked and I get up to the 17th floor where I had a room and it was in a office bilding elyvater so I had to go back down and try to find the one in the hotel and they wasnt no signs to let me know, and I

asked a couple people and one of them said he had only worked there a couple weeks and he dint know which was which and another one said you just go down to the end of this corridor and youll see it rite there and it wasnt rite there atall. But finely I got on one that somebody told me was the rite one and it shot rite up to the 38th floor without stoppin and so I had to take another one that shot rite down to the lobby again. So it took five elyvaters and 15 minutes before I finely was able to get to my room and then the key was so hard to turn that I had to put down my bags and use both hands to get in.

I guess maybe I am just a small town boy even though I have lived in Los Angeles for thirty-forty years, but that hotel sure had me mixed up. They was a great big courtyard-like that was open all the way to the top, and they was trees and like that there, but some of it was just cement walls that looked like they never got finished and then some of the floors at the bottom dint have any elyvater doors at all so you had to find some stairs or eskylaters to get to a elyvater. I guess a elyvater man ought to be use to havin his ups and downs but I sure began to feel like I had more then my share. One elyvater I got on charges me a dollar to go way up to the top and some feller says to me if you was a guest of the hotel you could of gone up for free but of course by then it was too late to get my buck back, but I guess it was worth the dollar just for the view up the river and around like that there.

I dint mean to make it sound like all I could think of was the battle I had with the elyvaters. Most of the time I would get on a bus and we would go whizzin off to hear another organ concert and they was all pretty good and they was difrent kinds of organ playin and difrent things to do like a boat ride up the river and like dancin on the boat and after the big dinner in the hotel and like seein a silent movie with a big orchestra playin along with the organ, and like a ride on the little trolley and a brunch at the island they call Bell Isle in the middle of the river. They was people come to the Convention from all over in Europe and England and So. Africa and Hawaii and New Zealand, so I guess you could say it was a big success. I certinly had a good time. Excep when I was on them doggone elyvaters. □