

recent years has played a number of agricultural fairs, and for many years the organist at the Old Heidelberg Restaurant, 14 East Randolph Street, Chicago, died last night in Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago, after a heart attack earlier in his home. Mr. Griffin had been a Columbia recording artist whose disks enjoyed wide popularity over the years."

He died on the night of March 11, 1956. His home for the last 16 years of his life was at 1617 East 50th Place, Chicago. His burial was mentioned in the papers on March 14, and in musical magazines after that.

Ken Griffin rests in Lincoln Memorial Park, Oswego, Illinois — 40 miles west of Chicago.

Mention should perhaps be made

here of a later recording, "Enduring Hymns," which introduced Ken's nephew, Kirby Griffin. Each played one side of this record. Later, a few recordings of Kirby Griffin at the Hammond appeared, and the style of playing was much like Ken's.

Several other organists in the U.S.A. made recordings as "tributes" to Ken Griffin. Among them were Ashley Tappen, and later Grant Ashley and Beverly Henning, all playing in the Griffin style at the Hammond. □

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Questions and Answers on the Technical Side

by Lance Johnson



Do you have any questions?

Send them direct to:

**QUIZMASTER
and Organbuilder**

**LANCE JOHNSON
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Fargo, North Dakota 58102**

*Please include name, address
and telephone number (with
area code).*

I would appreciate any help readers can give me as to the number of ranks in the following organs, as installed by the Wurlitzer factory:

Granada Theatre,
Santa Barbara, California
Keith's, Rochester, New York
20th Century Theatre,
Johannesburg, South Africa

Some are still having problems with the disassembly and assembly of Spencer blowers. Here are some tips:

1. Be sure that you label the shim-washers under the motor as

you loosen the mounts. They must be put back exactly as they came out so that the motor will rest evenly on the mounts.

2. Be careful not to bend or damage the long shaft. Never lift the motor by the shaft except near the motor itself.
3. When you install the motor, be sure the shaft is on center with the tank. The distance in or out of the housing is not critical.
4. When installing the impellers, make sure that they are spaced exactly 1/2" to the rear of the dividers and outer housing before tightening the hub. Be sure hub arrow lines up with the scratch line on the motor shaft.
5. Be sure that the motor rotates in the proper direction. The tangent of the impeller should rotate toward the discharge chute.
6. Make sure the motor is well secured and the discharge chute is closed off before starting the motor. Failure to close the discharge

could burn out the motor quickly. It would be like putting a heavy load on the motor which was more than it could handle, so that it could not run up to full speed. Keep in mind that the blower was designed to run connected to a closed system. If the blower discharge is not connected, the fans are forced to push large volumes of air through the blower, which it cannot do.

Q. Our chapter is about to face a massive re-leathering job on our chapter organ. Our question is, does treating newly-installed leather (pneumatic, cabretta or gusset) with a leather preservative such as mink oil or silicone significantly improve the life of leather?

A. To obtain some expert help on this one, I contacted Randy Wagner of Organ Supply Industries, who has used leather treatment, as have his co-workers. There has never been conclusive proof that any oil treatments such as neatsfoot oil, silicone, egg white or rubber cement increases the life of organ leather. As organ leather is treated with acid in order to get rid of undesirable characteristics such as hair and odors, the acid will also work on the leather and perhaps shorten its life. Any time that a moisture agent can be added, this can help neutralize the effects of the acid and keep the leather supple. A good pair of shoes which gets an occasional polish, or a catcher's mitt treated with neatsfoot oil, will seemingly last forever. Back in the days when the supply firms were making high pressure chests, they always applied thinned-out rubber cement or egg white to leather when the pressure was to be 8" or higher. This makes the leather more airtight for a quick action, and it has always been thought that this treatment also enhanced the life of the leather. On the other hand, theatre organs without primaries and with airtight leather have another problem — the action is quick to start but slow releasing.

Troubleshooting Guide Quiz Question

While playing the organ, you get an intermittent cipher, what could cause this? □

Answer on page 55.