

# Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I have recently purchased an old, valve-type electric church organ and am hoping that some of my fellow members may be able to help me in its restoration. The organ is a 2 x 61-note keyboard with a 30-note pedalboard and 39 stopkeys. The initials AWB are printed on the front of the console, and a plate on the back gives Serial No. 130460 and Model No. MO35.

There is a separate speaker cabinet containing an amplifier and nine speakers with a name plate MK311 and No. 100434. The valves in the tone circuits are Ecc 82. The organ was made in Germany after the war.

I would appreciate receiving any details as to its maker and any copies of any servicing details that may be available. Stop tablet No. 21 has been broken off, and I would appreciate a replacement if somebody has a spare.

The other alternative I am considering is the removal of all the electrics and replacing them with modern technology. Have any members tried this idea, and if successful, can they please send me details of the suppliers of such parts?

Yours faithfully,

Jim Jepson

48 Salisbury Street  
Levin, NEW ZEALAND

Dear Editor:

While attending the convention in Detroit this July, I wore a pair of suspenders (braces to our English friends) that had the keyboard imprinted on them. Many people asked me where I got them, and I was unable to answer at that time as the suspenders had been a gift. I have since learned that they were purchased from: The Music Stand, 1 Rockdale Place, Lebanon, NH 03766, and it is my pleasure to be able to answer their question through this column.

Sincerely,

James R. Weber  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Editor:

On page 46 of the September/October THEATRE ORGAN, is an item entitled "News from Rodgers" about the renovation of the Washington Cathedral's Skinner pipe organ, specifically the installation of a microprocessor control system. Our readers should know that this is only a small part of the renovation that has been ongoing for several years, primarily of the organ itself rather than an accessory.

Several years ago, a contract was awarded the Wicks Organ Company to rebuild and install Direct Electric action

in all of the chests. The chests of one division at a time were dismantled, the old electro-pneumatic action removed, the topboards shipped to the Wicks factory where the Direct Electric units were installed, and then returned to the Cathedral where the chests and pipework were reassembled. Also included in the job are new relays and solid-state circuitry.

The job was well underway at the time of the concert there during the National Convention in Richmond, and is now nearing completion. This should free the Cathedral of the tremendous expense of releathering and insure reliability for the future. This work is also being handled by the R.A. Daffer firm representing the Wicks Organ Company.

Sincerely,

Russell Joseph  
Bella Vista, Arkansas

Dear Editor:

May I take a moment here to raise my glass in my right hand and bright bouquet in my left as my toast to all the wonderful folks who painstakingly organized and hosted the Greatest Show on Earth. It truly was a great convention in Detroit. I took home with me memories of new-found friends and music, music, music.

The folks in Detroit are wonderful — they truly went out of their way to make me feel at home. I would like to especially thank Gil and Penny Francis — they were like family to me.

Theatre organ is so alive as was greatly demonstrated throughout my stay, this same toast goes out to all the performers who gave new life and meaning to the theatre organ.

Will you all join me in this toast as we raise our glasses to those who made this the Greatest Show on Earth. God bless them all.

Sincerely,

Ron J. Aselton  
Sauble Beach, Ontario

Dear Editor:

National ATOS Convention? Why did the Detroit chapter subject their guests to the nightmare of the Westin Hotel and the degradation of downtown Detroit? A more sensible choice would have been either the Hyatt Regency or the Radisson at Dearborn Fairlane Town Center. There you would be safe and have everything at hand. It actually would have been closer to concert events by bus.

Also, it is apparent that attendance at conventions is steadily declining due to the great expense involved. Five days would be more reasonable and would greatly reduce the registration and hotel expense.

Let's weed out the mediocre performers and present the real artists that conventioners deserve. The disaster at the magnificent Fox is a good example. Thanks, Ron Rhode, for saving an unbearable situation.

Yours truly,

Lyman Nellis  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Editor:

Paris in the spring is renowned, but you really should see London in all her glory of riotous spring colors! The recent Safari to England was the best. It was a showcase for London and South of England Chapter's Young Organist Competition winners, an extremely talented and dedicated group of young people.

The Rawle family, Les and Edith and Len and Judith, are so dedicated to the organ it is the heart and soul of the family, and the love and warmth was projected to all of us who were privileged to hear their two organs.

The English countryside at this time of year is simply magnificent! The colors are breathtaking. All this enhanced our trip over to Wales.

To hear all of England's best organists in concert, whether it be on antique organs or restored organs or theatre organs, is something I would love you all to see and hear.

Elizabeth B. MacIntyre  
New Port Richey, Florida

Dear Editor:

I thank you for publishing my letter. However, two numbers somehow got mangled. You gave Gary an extra half-hour to play (this would be nice, but it just doesn't happen); his music is heard from 6:30-7:00. And my address is missing a one, which might cause some of my mail to go astray. I would appreciate a correction.

Sincerely,

Phil Marten  
2111 East Howard Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

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Opinions expressed in this column are those of the correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the policies of ATOS or THEATRE ORGAN. Letters concerning all aspects of the theatre organ hobby are welcome. Unless clearly marked "not for publication" letters may be published in whole or in part.

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