

# Lem Keller Builds Own Organ

By Richard Kline, Jr.

## ONE OF MOST UNUSUAL "IN CAPTIVITY"

### Shows What Ingenuity Will Do

Lem Keller, a building contractor from Frederick, Maryland, and a Potomac Valley Chapter member, has one of the most unusual organs in captivity. Several years ago he picked up a homemade 2 manual console with four ranks of pipes which was used by a local electric relay manufacturer for experimentation. As the console was small and not in good condition, Keller began immediately in his basement workshop to build a completely electric console of more grand dimensions, and this time a "Keller" pedal clavier built to exact AGO specification was included. A third manual was added, 12 pistons, a crescendo pedal and an additional 8 ranks which he picked up in the area. A 3 manual Wurlitzer relay, Marimba, Xylophone, set of swell shades purchased from the Century Theater in Baltimore and a special electric Glockenspiel, built entirely by Mr. Keller, completed the picture.

At present, the organ has 12 ranks of pipes and is powered by a Keller built rectifier, and a 3 HP Spencer blower. The stoplist is as follows:

Gamba (Kimball)	<u>Wind Pressures</u>
Violin (Kimball)	
Violin Celeste (Kimball)	6 inches
Melodia	
Diapason (Kimball)	
Quintadena	
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Oboe	
Vox Humana (Reuter)	
Kinura (Wurlitzer)	10 inches
Tibia (Moller)	
Flute D'Amour	
Stopped Diapason	

Many of the above ranks of pipes are sitting in "Keller-built-from-scratch" chests. 16 foot extensions of the above include the following Wurlitzer pipes: Tibia, metal Diaphone, and Tuba.

When the tremolos he first employed did not give him the results he wished, Mr. Keller simply designed a large pneumatic driven by an electric motor, connected eccentrically, which provided quiet and reliable tremulation. Two of these special tremolos are now employed. The latest addition is a full Link toy shelf including Bass Drum, Snare, Cymbal, Castanets, Block and Tamborine.

Association with music is not new to Mr. Keller, who played trumpet with a



Lem Keller, contractor turned organ builder.



ATOE President 'Tiny' James at Keller console. Judd Walton in background.



Judd Walton holds homemade Keller tremulant.



Walton and James look over Keller chambers.

dance band for about ten years as a youth on a national circuit and was known as one of the best; however, the organ was a new twist! It certainly

shows what a little ingenuity will do when the exact part is not close at hand and one takes pride in creating good music.