

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(concluded)

on the side of the chest. The side is bored for the valve, and up to the top. At this point the boring is met by a matching bore in the toe board which ends under the pipe. Usually the problem described is caused by a slight leak in the joint where the top board meets the side rail of the chest, and air under pressure in the chest leaks into the boring, and into the pipe with enough volume to make the pipe just barely speak. To remedy, remove the screws from the toe board, and re-insert a new screw one inch longer on which has been placed a washer, a compression spring and a second washer in that order. Tighten good and snug. The problem was originally caused by slight swelling and subsequent shrinking of the wood. Without a compression spring to continue the pressure on the joint between the two members, the shrinkage allowed the joint to separate just enough to cause a leak. The compression springs will overcome the problem. They are available from organ supply houses.



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Report on WGN Radio Organ. Chicago

• Basically a WurliTzer, Rebuilt by Kimball •

by Kay MacAbee

In the summer issue (1961) of THEATRE ORGAN, the "News and Views" column contained a report on the re-installation of the WGN Radio organ in Chicago. Since that time, Kay MacAbee has furnished more information regarding this instrument.

The organ is now installed in a large studio with 18-foot ceilings and very little sound-absorbing material. The organ speaks from one end of the studio with the swell shades exposed. In fact, one can walk right up to the chambers and look in when the shutters are open.

WGN arranged for a good installation by having Frank Wichlac, one of Chicago's top organ men, handle the details. The organ is mechanically very silent with no blower or wind noise. The combination action is so quiet that, when used, the only thing heard are the tablets themselves hitting the felt.

The organ is basically a WurliTzer, but Kimball rebuilt it around 1942, adding some new pipe work, chests, and console. The console has a modern appearance using Ebony on the outside with Korina on the horseshoe and manual blocks. The horseshoe rounds out on the ends somewhat like Radio City. It is a three manual console with second touch on the Accompaniment and Great. There are ten pistons for each manual and pedal plus ten generals. The organ contains ten ranks with tonal percussion only . . . no toy counter. It is a two-chamber installation. The list of ranks and maker is as follows:

Kimball - Tuba Profunda - 85 Pipes
16' 8' 4'
WurliTzer - Brass Trumpet - 61 Pipes TC
16' 8'
Kimball - Diapason - 85 Pipes
16' 8' 4'
WurliTzer - Tibia Clausa - 97 Pipes
16' 8' 4' 2-2/3' 2'
Kimball - English Horn - 73 Pipes - TC
16' 8' 4'
WurliTzer - Clarinet - 61 Pipes - TC
16' 8'
WurliTzer - String - 85 Pipes - TC
16' 8' 4' 2'
WurliTzer - String Celeste - 73 Pipes - TC
16' 8' 4'
Kimball - Concert Flute - 101 Pipes
16' 8' 4' 2-2/3' 2' 1-3/5'

WurliTzer - Vox Humana - 61 Pipes - TC
16' 8' 4'

Kimball - Xylophone - 37 Bars

WurliTzer - Glockenspiel - 37 Bars

Kimball - Vibra Harp - 49 Bars with

Pulsators on and off.

Kimball - Chimes - 21 Bells with

sustain and softening devices

It is to be noted that the pitches given above are the way they appear on the Great with every rank available at 16'. The Flute runs all the way to the Tierce. The Diapason does not run into a Diaphone . . . it is an open-metal Diapason all the way to 16'. The English Horn is not a post horn as put out by WurliTzer . . . it is more of the orchestral type but is somewhat brassy.

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On Page 13 is an incomplete listing of radio stations which have had pipe organs. Submitted by Lloyd Klos, it is presented with the hope that it will be thought-provoking enough to eventually furnish us with a complete listing.

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The organ in radio station WHEC, Rochester, N. Y. was acquired from the Coconut Grove in Los Angeles, according to station officials. It was installed in the WHEC studios in the Rochester Savings Bank building, 40 Franklin Street in the summer of 1934. It was dedicated on October 10, 1934 by Ann Leaf, the Columbia Broadcasting System "Mighty Mite of the Mighty WurliTzer." (Ed. Note: See page 22)

The WurliTzer, a 3-manual organ, was featured on locally-originated programs. It was played by J. Gordon Baldwin, who had a previous engagement at the Loew's Rochester Marr & Colton. In latter years up to the time of its removal, it was played by Jerry Vogt. The latter organist died in June of this year at the age of 47.

The WHEC organ did not have a brass trumpet when it arrived in Rochester. In time, the brass trumpet of the 1914 Hope-Jones WurliTzer in the Regent Theater was added to it. The organ was sold after World War II to Dick Hull, organist of Denver.

RADIO STATIONS WHICH HAVE HAD PIPE ORGANS

Compiled by Lloyd Klos

City	Station	Organ Make	Year Inst.	Remarks
Birmingham, Ala.	WAPI	Kimball	1930	Stan Malotte, organist
Boston, Mass.	WEEI	Estey 3M		Doris Tiril, organist
Boston, Mass.	WHDH	Kilgen 2M 5R	1935	Ken Wilson, organist
Boston, Mass.	WMEX	Wur. Style B Sp	1934	With tibia
Boston, Mass.	WNAC	Skinner 4M		Francis Cronin, organist
Buffalo, NY	WGR	Wur. Style H 3M	1943	
Chicago, Ill.	WAFI	Barton 2M		Eddie Hanson, organist
Chicago, Ill.	WBBM	Wurlitzer	1932	Rebuilt
Chicago, Ill.	WENR	Wur Sp 3M 13R	1927	Recorded by Milton Charles
Chicago, Ill.	WGN	Wur Sty 165 2M	1930	Rebuilt; added to by Kimball in 1935
Chicago, Ill.	WHT	Page 3M		Former 2M Kilgen; Al Carney, organist
Chicago, Ill.	WLS	Barton		Recorded by Ralph W. Emerson
Chicago, Ill.	WMAQ	Wur 3M	1935	Recorded by Herman Voss
Cincinnati, Ohio		Wur Special	1925	Crosley Radio Station
Cincinnati, Ohio		Wur Spec Sty B	1931	Crosley Radio Station
Cincinnati, Ohio	WKRC	Wurlitzer	1930	
Cleveland, Ohio	WHK	Austin		Originally a 2M Gottfried
Cleveland, Ohio	WTAM	Wurlitzer 3M	1929	Former Victor Studio organ, Chicago
Council Bluffs, Iowa	KOIL	Kilgen 2M 3R	1927	
Dayton, Ohio	WHIO	Wurlitzer 3M	1934	Rebuilt
Dayton, Ohio	WSMK	Wur Sp Style B	1933	
Denver, Colorado	KLZ	Kilgen 2M 5R	1927	
Denver, Colorado	KPOF	Robert Mor. 2M		
Fort Smith, Ark.	KFPW	Kilgen 2M 6R	1936	
Kansas City, Mo.	KMBC	Wurlitzer 3M		Howard Ely, organist
Lawrence, Mass.	WLAW	Wur Style H	1937	
Long Beach, Cal.	KGER	Wur Spec. 3M	1929	Elmer Beick recorded it
Los Angeles, Cal.	KFI			
Los Angeles, Cal.	KFVD	Kilgen 3M 5R	1930	Hal Roach Studio
Los Angeles, Cal.	KFWB	Wurlitzer 3M		
Los Angeles, Cal.	KMPO	Rob. Morton 3M		
Los Angeles, Cal.	KNX	Wur 3M 10R		Originally a Robert Morton
Louisville, Ken.	WHAS	Kilgen 3M 7R	1932	Original organ
Louisville, Ken.	WHAS	Kilgen 3M 10R	1934	Additions
Louisville, Ken.	WHAS	Kilgen 4M 14R	1936	Rebuilt; Recorded by Herbie Koch
Miami, Florida	WIOD	Wur Style E	1934	
Milwaukee, Wis.	WKAF	Kilgen 2M 4R	1926	
Milwaukee, Wis.	WHHD	Wur Style R5	1927	
Minneapolis, Minn.	WAMD	Kilgen 2M 4R	1926	
Minneapolis, Minn.	WCCO	Wur Sp 3M 16R	1929	Recorded by R. Gerhard & E. Dunstedter
Mooseheart, Ill.	WJJD	Wur Sp 3M	1935	Albert Brown, organist
Nashville, Tenn.	WLAC	Kilgen 4M 12R	1938	Rebuilt Wurl.; Mary Hicks, organist
New York, NY	WBBR			Watchtower Sta.; Edith White, organist
New York, NY	WCBS	Kimball		Recorded by Lew White
New York, NY	WMCA	Wur. Style E	1931	
New York, NY	WMCA	Wur. Style H	1941	Second organ or added to first
New York, NY	WNBC	Wur. Sp 3M	1932	
New York, NY	WNBC	Skinner		Straight console, though unified
New York, NY	WNEW			Kay Reed, organist
New York, NY	WOR	Wur. Style B	1935	
Oklahoma City, Okla.	WKY	Kilgen 4M 14R	1934	
Philadelphia, Pa.	WCAU	Wur. Style B	1935	With tibia
Philadelphia, Pa.	WFIL	Kilgen 4M 14R	1937	
Pittsburgh, Pa.	KDKA	Wurlitzer	1939	Rebuilt
Portland, Ore.	KGW-KEX	Wur. 3M 9R		
Portland, Ore.	KOIN	Wur 3M 6R		
Richmond, Va.	WRVA			Eddie Weaver, organist
Rochester, NY	WHEC	Wur 235 3M	1934	J. Gordon Baldwin, Jerry Vogt, organists
Saint Louis, Mo.	KMOX	Kilgen 2M 5R	1925	Original organ
Saint Louis, Mo.	KMOX	Kilgen 3M 10R	1929	Rebuilt
Saint Louis, Mo.	KMOX	Kilgen 3M 16R	1931	Additions
Saint Louis, Mo.	KMOX	Kilgen 4M 16R	1934	New Console
San Francisco, Cal.	KFRC	Rob. Morton 2M		
San Francisco, Cal.	KNBC	Wur. 3M 19R		Formerly Paramount Studio organ
Spartanburg, S. Car.	WSPA	Moller 2M		
Spokane, Wash.	KFPY	Wur Style D		Rebuilt
Tacoma, Wash.	KMO	Rob. Morton 2M 8R		
Toledo, Ohio	WSPD	Wur Sp. Style D		
Wheeling, W. Va.	WWVA	Wur Style B		
Yakima, Wash.	KIT	Wur 2M 5R		
Toronto, Ont.	CBL	Legge 3M		MacLean, Todd, Bollington, organists
Toronto, Ont.	CFRB	Wur 150 Style B	1933	
Windor, Ont.	CKLW	Wur Style B	1935	With tibia