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JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF THEATRE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

In your "Letters To The Editor" column I again note that the former KMBC Robert Morton Studio Organ had been mentioned, and there seems some doubt regarding its original location, and use.

I feel that I can throw some light on this organ, as I was present when it was uncrated in the summer of 1929, after it arrived in Tulsa, Okla. to be installed in the Wade Hamilton Organ and Piano Studio, ...a new building designed and built to house the Morton, and teaching facilities for several teachers. This organ was designed and purchased by Wade Hamilton, who was also at the time featured organist at the Ritz Theatre...4/17 Morton...also in Tulsa. Although I have not heard from or about Mr. Hamilton for quite a long time, I believe he is living around Santa Barbara, or a small city named Carpenteria, in California.

This 3/8 Morton, later sold to KMBC, was installed in the Tulsa studios as a broadcast organ, and was also to be used for teaching organ. It was a divided installation, and the console was on a movable platform that was rolled into a nearby especially constructed sound-proof room when it was broadcast over local radio stations. When it was to be used for teaching, or a concert, it was rolled out into the studio room along with a large grand piano which was used for duets. This was a very good sounding organ at the time of installation.... Oct. '29 was opening date of the studio. Now I don't need to tell the old-timers like myself what happened in Nov. '29... so the studio closed its doors and sat empty. Yours truly had the pleasure of assisting some on the installation and maintenance of the organ while it was there. I was also present when Mr. Hans Flath looked the organ over with regard to purchasing it for the Kansas City radio station. I was very unhappy when this organ left Tulsa in early '30. I will never forget that moment when Mr. Flath looked into one of the empty chambers and remarked, "You can now hang a 'for rent' sign on that room." This organ made a big impression on the writer, as I was of high school age at the time, and about as gone on theatre organs as anyone.

In later years I saw and heard this organ many times in the KMBC studios but I do not think it was at its best there. If the present owner (a Kansas Cityan) sees this letter, I would like very much to learn his identity, as no one at the station seems to know about the disposition of the organ, due to changes of personnel and ownership.

Paul L. Williamson
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sirs:

Can you give me some information about one Tony Sarg who I have been told was a pump organist and also an artist, and is not living, having died some time ago. I have written to LIFE magazine, and they have referred me to you.....Would like to have important statistics, namely:

Where he was born and what year?
Was he a muralist, or an artist?
When and where did he die?

Hoping that you can give me the necessary information that I seek....

Mrs. Jos. R. Powell
43 Mt. Riga Ave.
Latham, New York

Gentlemen:

I was very much interested in the letters of Mr. Reilhack and Mr. Davison concerning the Robert Morton organ once owned by radio station KMBC in Kansas City. I have very fond memories of that organ in the years before it was shipped to Kansas City.

Mr. Keilhack was correct in saying that it came from Oklahoma and Mr. Davison made a shrewd guess in his opinion that it was from a studio rather than a theatre. The organ was installed in the studio of KFJF (now KOMA) in the Security building in downtown Oklahoma City until the station moved to a new location in the early '30s. Members of the staff told me at that time that the organ was sold to KMBC.

Mr. Davison clears up a point that puzzled me, as I was rather certain the console had only two manuals. He said KMBC had twin consoles, so apparently the 3-manual console was added after they acquired the organ. The instrument

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