

THE ROBERT MORTON

Story by Major H. A. Sommer

Those travelling almost any direction in California will pass within 100 yards of the largest theatre organ of its kind in a hotel dining room. We are referring to the organ in Sacramento's newest motel, the Carl Greer Inn. Completed in early September and representing a two million dollar investment, the Inn has 100 centrally air conditioned guest rooms, a mammoth dining room and cocktail lounge, banquet room, a coffee shop, beauty shop, swimming pool and in the lobby, an FM stereo broadcasting station.

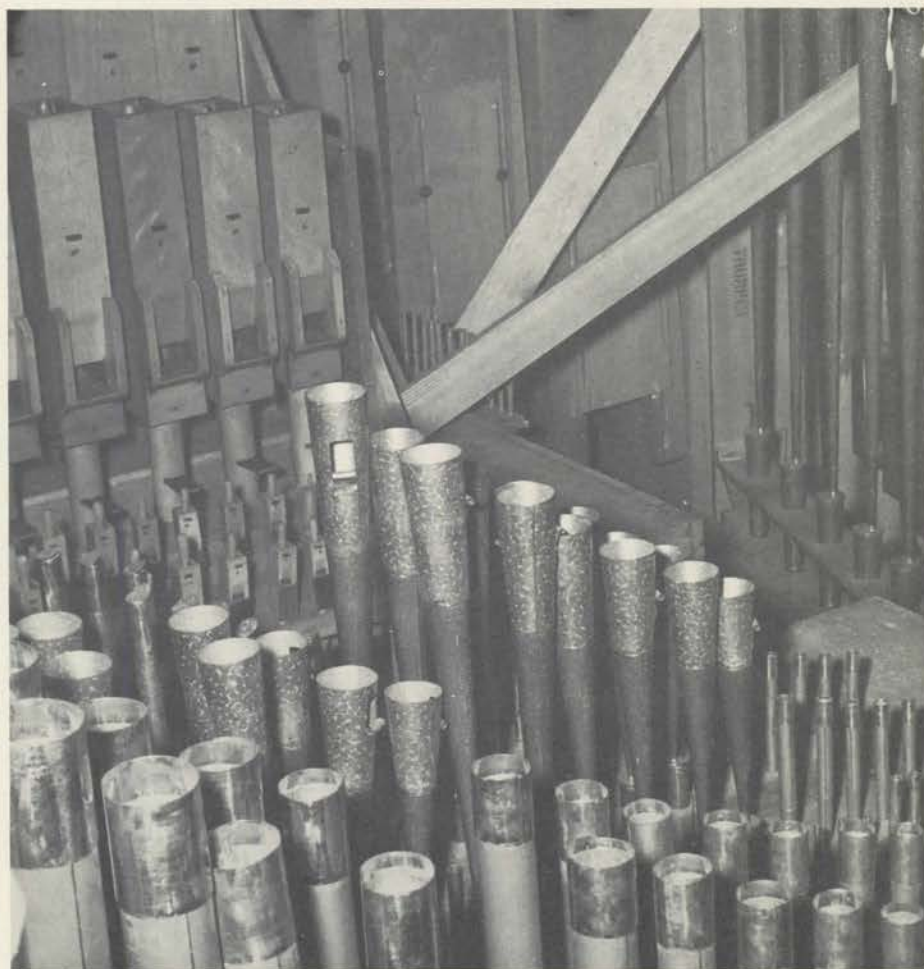
Because this motel is located at the crossroads of California traffic, it is expected that theatre organ enthusiasts from all over the country will include the Carl Greer Inn on their itinerary. Two major transcontinental highways pass through Sacramento, US Highway 40 and US Highway 50, and the Carl Greer Inn is located right on Highway 40 and only a short distance from Highway 50. In addition, the major highway route from Southern California into Oregon and Washington, US Highway 99, passes right in front of the Carl Greer Inn. Easy exit and access to the freeway is provided by taking Fulton Avenue turnoff which is northeast of Sacramento itself.

Now that you know where it is and what there is that will interest you, let's take a look inside. Entering the dining room one gets the feeling of spacious luxury with its seating capacity of 220. Setting off the exquisite detailing and splendor of the regal purple dining room, lounge and bar are beautiful striking raspberry colored pendant lighting fixtures. While standing ankle deep in the plush carpeting one cannot help but observe the "piece d'resistance" of the Inn, the Robert Morton theatre organ! The "King of the Instruments" in its newly refinished walnut console, reposes in throne-like glory encircled by a 21 seat organ bar. In rapport with the atmosphere, the swell shades are located in rich walnut panelling to the rear of the organ.

Clyde Derby is the resident organist, assisted by Aletha Bowman who plays for luncheon and dinner, with Tom Thompson providing relief. In honor of the opening, on September 8, the motel manager sponsored a cocktail party for head organist, Clyde Derby. Over one hundred guests attended. As the guests proceeded through the lounge to the banquet room, the organ was heard, with Aletha at the console. She was dressed in a smart turquoise cocktail dress with a bun on top of her head. She must have brought nostalgia to the old timers who remember her from the California (Sacramento) Theatre days. Clyde, looking dapper in his pink silver threaded



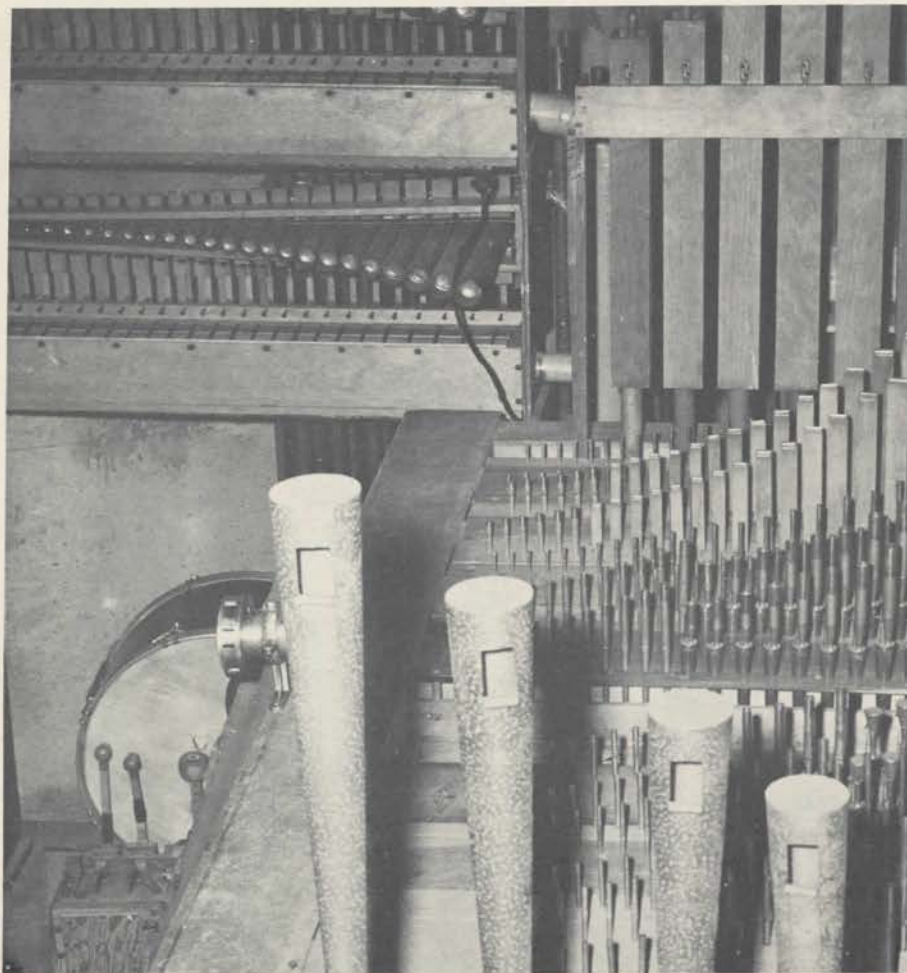
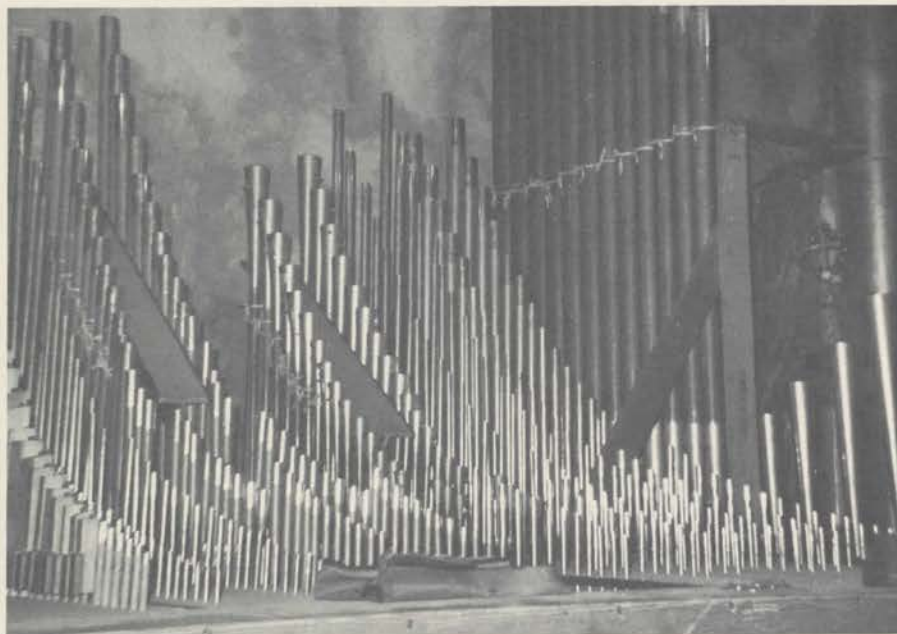
Clyde Derby at the Robert Morton, Carl Greer Inn



Pipe Chambers 4/16 Robert Morton, Carl Greer Inn

IN THE CARL GREER INN

Photos by Dave Schutt and Ray Sawyer



Pipe Chambers 4/16 Robert Morton, Carl Greer Inn

coat with purple velvet lapels, boutonniere and bow tie (yes, he had pants on) came on later and presented a one-hour recital. Clyde's program was also broadcast over KHIQ, Sacramento's stereo FM station. Both organists were in excellent form and the audience was most appreciative. Larry Vannucci, prominent Bay Area organist, was also persuaded to play and was tremendous in several renditions. Larry said it was mighty sweet sounding and the best he'd heard outside of a theatre.

The Robert Morton organ was originally installed in the Music Hall Theatre, Seattle by Balcom and Vaughan of that city. It was moved from Seattle and re-installed at the Inn by Dan Adamson, Don Myers and Wayne Puckett of the B & V firm. Clyde Derby, Dave Schutt, Ray Anderson, and other ATOE'ers made final adjustments; Bill Reid and Clyde completed the final tuning. The console was completely refinished in the natural walnut, some re-leathering accomplished, and several dead notes chased down. Additional work on the combination action is in progress.

The chambers are constructed of reinforced concrete, 40 foot square, 16 feet high, divided in the middle and located underground below the console. Sound is conducted through ducts to the shades which are located about 20 feet from the rear of the console facing the organist. Although deafening within the chambers, the heavy carpeting and furnishings of the lounge and dining room absorb the sound and maintain a normal balance. The volume has been acclaimed as perfect, just right to satisfy the organ enthusiast who prefers loudness, yet subdued sufficiently so that less enthusiastic customers are not annoyed. All sound reproduction and relays are contained in the divided chamber. The blower is in a separate room some 40 feet from the chambers at floor level.

As can be noted in the specifications, this instrument is typical of most Mortons, yet is unique in some aspects. It is abundantly supplied with percussions such as two snare drums, two wood drums (Chinese Blocks), two tom-toms, three cymbals, Chinese Gong, etc. To all this has been added a siren operating on 110 volts that is almost loud enough to stop traffic on Highway 40! The entire organ is voiced on 15 inches pressure, except the Vox Humana, yet the over-all sound is very pleasing to the ear.

The layout of the manuals differs from what we tend to consider standard in that the top manual is called Orchestral, with the next manual being the Solo, then Great and Accompaniment. Also one finds the Great stops starting at the extreme left on the lower bolster

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with the Pedal stops just above. The Orchestral stops are located at the extreme right on the top bolster with the Solo stops just beneath, while the Accompaniment stops start just to the left of the center of the horseshoe below the middle bolster.

SPECIFICATIONS

ROBERT MORTON 4/16 OPUS 2375-1927. CARL GREER INN, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA. Ex-Music Hall Theatre, Seattle, Washington.



Dan Adamson (Seattle) at the console during installation.

PEDAL

32 Diaphonic Resultant
16 Tuba Profunda
16 Diaphone
16 Bourdon
16 Bass String (Gamba)
8 Tuba
8 English Horn
8 Open Diapason
8 Tibia Clausa
8 Gamba
8 Violin
8 Celeste Viol
8 Oboe Horn
8 Clarinet
4 Octave
Bass Drum, Kettle
Drum, Cymbals,
Crash Cymbal,
Triangle
Pedal to Pedal 8
Accomp to Pedal 8
Great to Pedal 8
Solo to Pedal 8

PEDAL 2ND TOUCH

Chimes
Bass Drum
Kettle Drum
Cymbal
Crash Cymbal
Chinese Gong, roll, Tri.

ACCOMPANIMENT

16 Contra Viol
16 Celeste Viol
8 Tuba
8 English Horn
8 Open Diapason
8 Tibia Clausa
8 Concert Flute
8 Gamba
8 Viol d'Orchestre
8 Celeste Viol
8 Dulciana
8 Kinura
8 Vox Humana
8 Oboe Horn
8 Clarinet
8 Krumet
8 Orchestral Oboe (Syn)
4 Octave
4 Flute
4 Viol
4 Celeste Viol
2 2/3 Twelfth
2 Piccolo

ACCOMP. Cont'd.

Marimba Harp
Harp
Chrysoglott
Orchestral Bells
Snare Drum Roll
Snare Drum Tap
Snare Drum Tap Muffled
Tambourine
Castanet
Tom Tom
Tom Tom Muffled
Wood Drum
Wood Drum Muffled
Sleigh Bells Muffled
Chinese Gong
Drum Cymbal
Accomp to Accomp 16
Accomp to Accomp 4
Great to Accomp 8
Solo to Accomp 8

ACCOMPANIMENT 2ND TOUCH

8 Tuba
8 English Horn
8 Diaphonic Diapason
8 Tibia Clausa
Chimes
Triangle
Bird
Orchestral

GREAT

16 Tuba Profunda
16 English Horn
16 Diaphone
16 Tibia Clausa
16 Concert Flute
16 Gamba
16 Violin
8 Tuba
8 Trumpet
8 English Horn
8 Open Diapason
8 Tibia Clausa
8 Concert Flute
8 Gamba
8 Violin
8 Celeste Viol
8 Dulciana
8 Saxophone (syn)
8 Kinura
8 Vox Humana
8 Oboe Horn
8 Clarinet
8 Krumet

GREAT Cont'd.

8 Orchestral Oboe (Syn)
4 Tuba
4 Octave
4 Tibia Clausa
4 Flute
4 Gamba
4 Vox Humana
2 2/3 Twelfth
2 Piccolo
2 Fifteenth (Viol)
1 3/5 Tierce
Harp
Chrysoglott
Glockenspiel
Orchestral Bells
Xylophone
Chimes
Great to Great 16
Great to Great 8
Solo to Great 16
Solo to Great 8
Solo to Great 4

GREAT 2ND TOUCH

16 Tuba
16 Diaphone
16 Tibia Clausa
16 Gamba
8 Orchestral

ORCHESTRAL

8 Tuba
8 Trumpet
8 English Horn
8 Open Diapason
8 Tibia Clausa
8 Gamba
8 Violin
8 Celeste Viol
8 Dulciana
8 Kinura
8 Oboe Horn
8 Krumet
4 Tibia Clausa
4 Gamba
4 Violin
2 Piccolo (Tibia)
2 Fifteenth (Viol)
Harp
Chrysoglott
Glockenspiel
Orchestral Bells
Xylophone
Chimes

SOLO

16 Tuba Profunda
16 Tibia Clausa
16 Solo String
16 Clarinet
8 Tuba
8 Trumpet
8 English Horn
8 Open Diapason
8 Tibia Clausa
8 Solo String
8 Violin
8 Celeste Viol
8 Saxophone (syn)
8 Kinura
8 Vox Humana
8 Oboe Horn
8 Clarinet
8 Krumet
8 Orchestral Oboe (syn)
4 Tuba
4 Tibia Clausa
4 Oboe Horn
4 Violin
4 Celeste Viol
2 Piccolo (Tibia)
Harp
Chrysoglott
Solo to Solo 16
Solo to Solo 4

TOE STUDS

Crash Cymbal
Chinese Gong
Auto Horn
Siren
Train Whistle
Boat Whistle
Fire Gong
Pedal Combons
Tibia
Vox Humana

EXPRESSION

Master expression
ON-OFF

UNISONS

SOLO, GREAT, ACC.
General ON-OFF

BALANCED PEDALS

Left, Right
Crescendo

BLOWER

15 HP Orgoblo

PISTONS

8-8-8-8

KICK SWITCHES

Sforzando 1st Touch,
Stops/couplers
2nd T.
Triangle 1st Touch,
Kettle Drum/cymbal
2nd T.
Thunder
Horse Hoofs