



—Staff Photo by Gene Prescott

An Unusual Organ for an Unusual Church

When Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, whose six-sided interior represents a "church in the round," was in the drawing board stage organ builder Robert Sipe of Dallas was in on the planning so that the organ which would eventually serve the church would harmonize with the worship center and would make the most of the acoustics. Since late this summer he has been supervising the installation of a \$25,000 instrument whose magnificent pipes, incased in wood, are displayed in plain view. Many of the 1,247 pipes, ranging from eight feet to 5-8" inches long, were imported from Holland and Germany. The Westover organ has

been described as a "contemporary American instrument designed and built on classical principles from the 17th and 18 Century" but utilizing modern technology. The most unusual feature of the instrument is its "tracker" playing action, allowing the organist highly sensitive mechanical control of the pipes. Those who know say the tracker control and the fact that the pipes are not closed in have produced an exceptional sound quality. The only other "tracker" action organ in Arkansas is in Batesville's First Church Scientist. The Westover instrument has 18 "speaking stops" and 24 ranks of pipes.