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Mrs. Jo Myrle Kennedy; Organist
Temple Mishkan Israel
1003 Keithway
Selma, Alabama 36701

January 16, 2000

Dear Mrs. Kennedy,

Herewith is the historical information I have gathered on the organs of Selma. Dates before the organ names indicate when the organ was built. Opus numbers are the builder's number (serial number), and are to be found on much of an organs' components and pipes.

Organ (A); we found the date of manufacture on tenor C pipe of the 8' Diapason. Organ (B); we found in the basement of Temple Mishkan Israel.

The Temples' Aeolian-Skinner organ, now in use, is quite interesting from an organ historical viewpoint.

The organ started out as a victim of the depression. It's original purchasers cancelled their order when they could not pay for it. The organ was stored away for 14 years in the factory warehouses. It was re-worked as a very elegant residence organ for the Architects Exhibit by the Halle Brothers in Cleveland, Ohio; 1941. The Halle Brothers are not explained in factory archives.

The organ was purchased at the Exhibit by Temple Mishkan Israel of Selma. 1941 through 1946 were desperate years for a Church or Temple to find a good pipe organ to replace their ailing instruments. Many theatre organs, (so musically wrong! for a religious service), found new homes in Churches and Temples during this era. There wasn't anything else to buy.

So it is especially fortunate that this organ was discovered, purchased, and installed in the Temple. For Temple Mishkan Israel's services, this organ could not have been any finer! It is wonderfully suited to the accompaniment of the solo voices so beautifully wrought in Jewish music.

Page two: Selma's Organ history, continued.

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Selma:

- (A) 1868 Henry Erban (no opus number)
- (B) 1890 Frank Roosevelt #466
 - 1900 Hutchings #482
 - 1921 Austin #998
 - 1977 Holtkamp (no opus number)

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Carlowville: .

1838 Jardine (by packet ship from New York to Mobile)

- (A) 1868 Henry Erban (from 1st Christian; Selma. No purchase date.)

Temple Mishkan Israel, Selma:

1879 L. C. Harrison #35 (one manual)

- (B) 1890 Frank Roosevelt #466 (from St. Paul's Episcopal, Selma)
 - (Did St. Paul's Episcopal, Selma, sell this organ to the Temple congregation for their "new" Temple in 1900 when a new Hutchings was purchased by the Episcopalians? The Roosevelt organ appears to have been taken down by the installation crew from Aeolian-Skinner in 1941. It is presently in the basement of the Temple, in many pieces, and alas, destroyed by termites and water damage. It was found with old feeder bellows intact. Was it hand pumped until it's removal in 1941?)
- 1927 Aeolian-Skinner (1927 ordered by Central Methodist, Knoxville, Tennessee.)
 - (1927 order canceled.)
 - (1927 - 1941 organ stored in factory warehouse.)
 - (1941: Displayed with roll player mechanism for; Architects Exhibit, Cleveland, Ohio; by Halle Bros., of Cleveland.
 - (1941: Sold as 648-A with no player, to; Temple Mishkan Isreal, Selma, AL.

First Christian Church, Selma:

1955 renovation by Norville Hall. Organ pipes made by Kilgen. There was a Kilgen organ in the old Music Hall, Selma. Was the Music Hall organ sold to First Christian Church?

19?? Carlowville St. Paul's bought the 1868 Erban from First Christian. Carlowville members recall the old Erban was hand pumped before it too, was renovated by Norville Hall in the mid 1950's. This shows that the Erban (organ A) was sold by St. Paul's, Selma, to First Christian, Selma; and then sold to St. Paul's, Carlowville.