

Subj: **RE: Organs in general**
Date: 11/20/2009 5:06:42 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: heckski@earthlink.net
To: WMusicbach@aol.com
CC: Rolienbit@juno.com

Hello Walter,

Your message arrived in our website Inbox and I have forwarded it to Nick at his email address.

Joe

From: WMusicbach@aol.com [<mailto:WMusicbach@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2009 11:30 PM
To: info@thompson-allen.com
Subject: Organs in general

Hello Nick: I lost your home e-mail address in a former computer that crashed, so this will have to do. I was in Grinnell last year for my 40th class reunion and was in Herrick several times but the organ was not quite finished so I didn't get to hear it. As I may have told you I was born and raised in Grinnell and that organ was the first one I ever heard when I was about five years old and the organ had only been installed two years previously. I grew up hearing that instrument and if your restoration turned out as well as yours always do, I'm dying to hear it again. I do get back to Grinnell on occasion and have several old friends there. And there is always another reunion coming up. The faculty has entirely changed since I was there, so I doubt if anyone will let me inside the organ but I will try. I'm curious to know your opinion of the organ. On other matters, we picked up Skinner opus 365 from Lewiston, Maine a few months ago for restoration for a church here in Chicago. Pipework and chestwork were untouched and will remain so. The church in Lewiston had been condemned, and we thought the roof might collapse before we finished. As I'm sure you know, opus 365 was built in the Steere shop and I have greatly enjoyed noticing the differences. If there is any critical items that you know of that I might miss, let me know now! I have every hope it will turn out as well as the Hutchings you saw in Chicago. The organist at the church that is getting the Skinner wants to add a Great Trumpet and a 57 scale 4' Octave along with a Skinner Mixture which he already has. On Skinner chestwork, of course, which he doesn't have either. We are having trouble finding Skinner anything these days, but maybe you have a suggestion. The organ is wonderful as it is, but no talk from me will convince him that these additions aren't absolutely crucial. Or as Huck Finn would say: "He don't pay me no mind nohow." All the best, Walter

Subj: (no subject)
Date: 11/22/2009 11:25:36 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: rolienbit@juno.com
To: WMusicbach@aol.com

Hi Walter:

Great to hear from you! All your doings sound great concerning 365. I've noticed with several documented Westfield Skinners that they can be quite different in construction. A very early example in Durham, N.C. almost looked like a Steere with pot-metal Steere type magnets and all. Another later one in Providence was hard to tell that it wasn't Boston made with maple cap magnets etc. While original EM pipework is getting more rare, I've been getting great results from Schopp. They can duplicate almost anything as long as you give them very careful specs.

Hope College was a great job to do. It had terrible water damage to the chambers, and while everything got covered in plaster, only slight water directly on the organ. They re-engineered the roof and drainage system while the organ was out, so I am confident the restored organ is now safe. They were great people to work with. The organist is Huw Lewis, a fantastic chap, who I'm sure would be glad to show you the organ and get inside. Hope you enjoy it!

Have a great Thanksgiving, Walter! Allbest, Nick

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