

The following is from Randall Wolfe (Peppe), formerly of Roseburg

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Here is a bit of history of the Morton organ and the stop list for at First Christian Church, Roseburg Oregon.

Presented by one of the trustees to me, it is a sheet done in Jan 1992.

"Remember when our city was without a single street sign, and the old oak st bridge had heavy wooden planks supporting the wagons, buggies and cars going over it?

Let us take you back to 1889 and visualize the corner of Pine and Woodward Streets. WC Perkins was the architect that designed the new church that was the talk of the town of about 3,500 citizens. The church Bldg became too small so the congregation looked for another location. A livery stable just across the street from the court house at Douglas and Kane streets burned down, so the chairman of the congregation, Delbert E. Carr promoted the 2nd Christian Church bldg that was completed by Walter Singleton in 1928.

The new church was grand, and every space was used. A Sunday school class led by Charles Stanton was located. . . guess where? Look up and see the baggles open and close by use of the same air power that produces music in the pipes. T. Wimer remembers walking up a single file stairway to the classroom. The classroom had to be moved however, because of a surprise. . . a huge pipe organ made by Robert Morton co of Ohio was installed by Mr. L.H. Provotse. WC Perkins presented it in memory of his mother, Mary Perkins on Christmas Day 1929. The growing congregation enjoyed it and were singing the praises to God for a few years when another shock came in 1933 as the congregation was just recovering from a close call repossession of the building because of the depression.

The organ Co sent a letter that \$1000 was due. It seemed the depression had wiped out the estate of the Perkins family. The beautiful organ console of hardwood case and its myriad of pipes charmed and soothed the congregation when the organist Francis Lintot played it. Harold Boucock wrote a check to the organ co explaining the situation and asked them to consider the bill paid in full. The organ co accepted the offer.

During many years, Jessie Hughes led our music as well as the choir director. She invited Ruth and Clarence Trued to come to check out the oldest pipe organ in Roseburg \* (1)

The choir and the congregation heard revealed music that no one had heard before. Ruth became our organist in 1945. Ruth has a very sensitive musical talent that's kept us marveling these many years. She is one of the best in the whole West coast.

In 1975, Loren Minear from Salem, installed several additional sets of pipes and a new console he designed. As a result the refurbished organ has enlarged sound and sharper tones. The organ has two pipe chambers, consists of 16 ranks of pipes \*\*\*<sup>(2)</sup> with some ranks comprised of as many as 140 pipes. Our choir director Clarence Trued supervised that project.

Ruth has been our organist from 1945 to 1985 when failing eyesight and loss of hearing forced her to retire. Milda Platt substituted as our organist when Ruth was unable. When Ruth retired Milda became our excellent organist. So now we invite Ruth to play her favorite instrument.

(Many in our cong have assisted in the prep of the hist. of our organ. Jessie Hughes who has for 70 years been associated with the choir as the director or in singing, Jeanette Boucock, a life-long member gave permission to mention her husband sending a personal check paying off the organ, Eleanor Unrath who was our church secretary for 19 years, Troas Wimer, a life-long member whose mother Cora, taught a large Bible school class at the Pine and Woodward church as well as at our present church, Daphne Sturtz who developed the 95th and 100th anniversary docs, and Joanne Chitwood, our custodian for over 8 years that retired last fall)

#### NOTES:

(1) This organ I believe is the SECOND oldest, with the Lane St presbyterian church organ being the oldest

(2) I believe this was meant to say 11 ranks as the gent who maintains this organ has stated.

(3) The 1889 church at Pine and Woodward mention has long since been demolished. Offhand, I believe that's where a used car lot currently sits.

Text courtesy of Church trustee Lennard, and organist Milda Platt, and is reproduced from a copy of original documents.