

THE TRACKER

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Charles F. Durner Organs

By ROBERT BRUCE WHITING

Eugene M. McCracken has written an authoritative account of the organ-building Durner family of Quakertown, Penna. His history of the Durners, published in the Summer, 1964 issue of THE TRACKER, Vol. VIII, No. 4, states that Charles Friedrich Durner (1838-1914) built organs from 1859 until his death and that his son, Charles Edward Durner (1863-1932) continued the business until his death. In 1932, Paul Fritzsche, an employee and distant relative of Charles E. Durner, bought out the business and still continues to build and repair organs in Allentown, Penna., as the successor to C. E. Durner.

This article is a supplement to Eugene McCracken's account and describes some other Charles F. Durner tracker-action organs.

The old Goshenhoppen Union Church in Woxall, Penna., had an 1890 C. F. Durner organ, which cost \$1600.00 at that time. This organ was rebuilt and electrified by Paul Fritzsche in the early 1950's, but the case is original. Fortunately, the church has preserved the old console in a school house at the rear of the church building. The organ had two manuals and pedal with a reversed console. A large metal nameplate on the console reads:

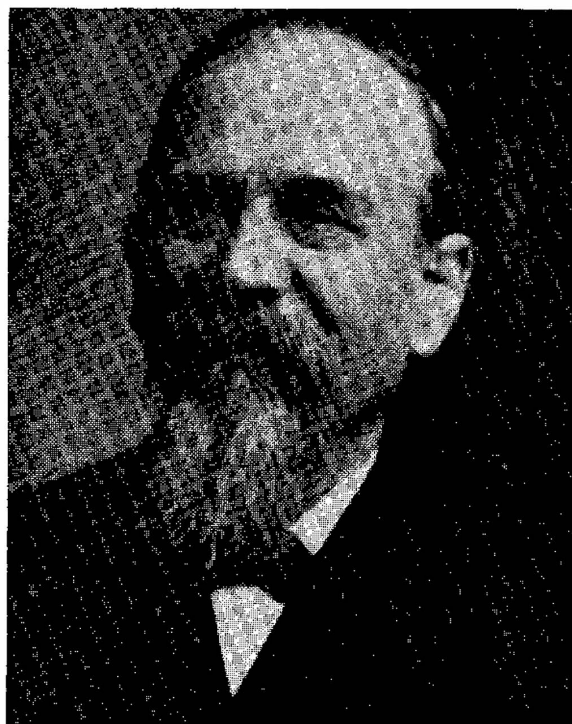
C. F. DURNER
Builder
Quakertown, Pa.

And the stoplist was:

GREAT	SWELL
8' Open Diapason	8' Stopped Diapason
8' Melodia	8' Viola
8' Dulciana	4' Flute Harmonic
4' Principal	8' Oboe
4' Open Flute	8' Bassoon (Bass of Oboe)
(Chimes - later addition)	Tremolo
PEDAL	COUPLERS
16' Bourdon	S-P, S-G, G-P

The organ had 58 notes on the manuals and 27 notes on the pedals. I heard and played this organ when it still had tracker action. The touch was light and the tone pleasant. The specification was unusual in that it contained a reed stop on the Swell rather than the customary Oboe Gamba, and a 4' Open Flute on the Great instead of a 4' Stopped Flute or a 2' Fifteenth.

One of the largest two manual and pedal tracker action C. F. Durner organs still extant is in the old building of Trinity Lutheran Church, Quakertown, Penna. The electricity is turned off from the organ blower, but by using the hand pump



CHARLES F. DURNER

the organ can be played partially. Judging by the case and specifications, it was built around 1900:

GREAT	SWELL
8' Open Diapason	8' Geigen Principal
8' Melodia	8' Stopped Diapason
8' Dulciana	8' Salicional
4' Principal	8' Aeoline
4' Flute d'Amour	8' Oboe Gamba
2' Piccolo	4' Flute Harmonic
	Tremolo
PEDAL	COUPLERS
16' Bourdon	S-P, S-G, G-P

The organ has a Pedal Lock, Bellows Signal, and three foot combination pedals: Gt-Ped reversible, Piano Gt Organ, and Forte Gt Organ.

In the music studio of M. Richard Riegel, Richlandtown, Penna., is a 10 rank C. F. Durner tracker-action organ which has been in the Lutheran Church at Zionhill, Penna., with the following stoplist:

GREAT	SWELL
8' Open Diapason	8' Violin Diapason
8' Melodia	8' Stopped Diapason

(Please turn to page 9)

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Schwenksville, Pa. - August 30, 1965

The meeting was called to order by President Kenneth F. Simmons at 11 a.m. The following members were present: Thomas Cunningham, Donald R. M. Paterson (Advisor), Robert J. Reich, Albert F. Robinson (Publisher), Frederick B. Sponsler (Recording Secretary), the Rev. Donald D. Taylor (Vice-president), Robert B. Whiting, and Mr. Simmons. Alan Laufman was present as proxy for Barbara J. Owen. Mr. Whiting held proxies for Mrs. Helen Harriman (Corresponding Secretary) and David Ashley Cotton (Treasurer).

Council approved minutes of the Cincinnati meeting as printed.

The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.

A report of the audio-visual and recordings projects was read. Council approved quantity discounts on the sale of recordings: three or more records to be sold at \$4.50 each when sent to the same address. Cost of one or two records is to remain at the old rates. Council tabled a suggestion that certain recordings be made available on tape. Council approved pressing 200 albums of the 1965 Convention recordings. Council asked Mr. Roche to make a definite proposal for a demonstration recording, listing selections and also a breakdown of the costs.

The Public Relations committee made no report, but Council reviewed the returns from Mr. James' questionnaire.

Council considered the problem of the Organ Relocation Committee and noted Mr. Fisher's letter stating the committee needs members as approved at the Washington Annual Meeting. President Simmons and Council approved suggestions for personnel: The Rev. Mr. Taylor, Dr. Blanchard, Mr. Pfaff and Mr. Whiting.

Mr. Reich read a suggested proposal for the Society to recognize and label specific organs of outstanding historical significance. Council approved a motion that the President appoint a committee to study the problem and recommend action at the next meeting.

Mr. Laufman made a report on the work of the committee preparing lists of extant organs.

A final report on the 1965 Convention was approved.

Council weighed the merits of holding the 1966 Convention in Cape Cod or New York City. Council approved the latter pending further details.

Council heard a proposal of Mr. Ackerman, that the 1967 Convention be held in Toronto as part of the 100th Anniversary of the Dominion, and requested a more detailed plan for consideration.

Council discussed printing a booklet for distribution with the Slide-Tape Demonstration.

President Simmons, with the approval of Council, made the following appointments to committees: Albert F. Robinson to become Editor of THE TRACKER, and Thomas Cunningham, Publisher, with Cleveland Fisher to fill his (Cunningham's) unexpired term on the Council.

Mrs. Mary R. Danyew was named chairman of the 1966 Nominating Committee and names sug-

gested as members were: Elmer W. Perkins, Ben Faidley, and James Boeringer.

A Committee on Chapter Organization with names chosen to represent various localities included Frederick B. Sponsler (chairman) for Philadelphia, Pat Heflin for Washington, Allan Sly for Boston, Randall Wagner for "the West", Robert G. Owen for New York City.

A Budget Committee was formed: Robert B. Whiting (chairman), Frederick L. Mitchell, Donald R. M. Paterson, and David Ashley Cotton, Treasurer and ex-officio member of the committee.

A By-Laws Committee: James D. Bratton (chairman), Eugene M. McCracken and the Rev. Donald Taylor.

A Committee on Historical Organ Labels: Barbara J. Owen (chairman), Donald R. M. Paterson and Robert J. Reich.

Council directed that minutes of Council be published in THE TRACKER.

President and Council noted the following four committees are also presently functioning: Audio-visual Committee, Thomas Cunningham (chairman), Robert Roche and Cleveland Fisher; Public Relations: Robert James; Extant Organs Committee: Alan Laufman (chairman), Barbara J. Owen and Edgar A. Boadway; Archives: Homer D. Blanchard.

Council approved the appointment by President Simmons of Mr. Paterson as advisor to the Council for this season.

Approved dates for Council Meetings: December 27th at Don's Barn (Mahopac, N. Y.), Saturday, April 16th at the home of the Rev. Mr. Taylor (Haverhill, Mass.), and a June meeting in Brooklyn.

Members expressed their thanks to Mr. Whiting for luncheon and also their appreciation of the two recently restored organs set up in the room where the meeting was held.

Respectfully submitted,
FREDERICK B. SPONSLER

N.B. Of the committees appointed, almost all members have accepted. Mr. Mitchell (Budget) has declined. The June Council meeting will undoubtedly be moved to Cape Cod, since plans for a New York convention fell through and it will be Cape Cod in '66.—Ed.

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History of Johnson Organ Traced

From an Article in THE MINING JOURNAL Marquette, Mich.

by Ernest H. Rankin

A few weeks after addressing a letter to the organist of the First Baptist Church, Marquette, concerning its Hook & Hastings 1886 pipe organ, E. A. Boadway, on May 1, 1961, addressed a similar letter to the organist of St. Paul's Episcopal Church concerning its William Johnson & Sons pipe organ Opus 462.

As this instrument had been replaced in January, 1909 by an Austin electric-action organ, built in Hartford, Conn., the letter was turned over to the writer, a staff member of the Marquette Historical Society, for investigation and reply.

This led to an extensive correspondence between Boadway and the writer, not only on the pipe organs in the various Marquette churches, but on the subject in general. This correspondence, combined with that which Boadway had with the Baptist people, developed the fact that he was 25 years of age in 1961, a New Englander, was graduated from the University of Vermont, an Episcopalian, the first secretary of the Organ Historical Society, Founded in 1956, an accomplished musician and organist, a scholar of the organ in its many phases, and an enthusiastic organ buff. And he was taking every advantage of the U. S. Army "hitch" in Kitzingen, Germany, to study and play as many German and other organs as possible.

It had been the pleasure and privilege of the writer to have been a choir boy under the late Charles J. Shaddick, a former organist and choir-master of St. Paul's, as well as having had the advantage of working for the late Octavius Marshall and other pipe organ experts early in this century. Under the influence and encouragement of Shaddick, he became barely capable of playing a church service at St. Paul's, and on several occasions was invited to take over at both the Baptist and Presbyterian churches. The Presbyterian church, as did the Baptist, had a two-manual tracker-action Hook & Hastings organ. This organ cost \$3,500 and was set up by Mr. Marshall. It was first used on Thursday, January 21, 1882, for an organ recital, "affording our people one of the rarest musical treats they have ever enjoyed here. The recital, conducted by Prof. C. A. Garrett of Milwaukee, drew out the largest audience that has ever assembled in a Marquette church." This organ was noted for its brilliance of tone, especially under full organ, largely due to a three-rank mixture. It was the largest organ in a Protestant church in Marquette until St. Paul's got its new Austin.

Marshall came from England in 1865 to Milwaukee to do organ and piano work. This excellent organ was destroyed when the church burned in 1931.

The William Johnson & Sons organ, also a two-manual tracker-action, was installed in St. Paul's and first used on Christmas Day, 1875. It

cost \$2850 and "its bellows operated by a newly-invented 'water-motor' appliance." Henry R. Mather, one of Marquette's pioneers, had been instrumental in acquiring this first pipe organ.

On June 6, 1961, Boadway wrote: "Johnson (1816-1901) was a New Yorker who became a brick-layer in Westfield, Mass., and in 1842 helped the Hook brothers erect an organ in the Methodist church there. He built a few parlor organs, and after 1848 organ building was his business, and he produced 860 instruments until the firm closed in 1898. Many old Johnsons are still in use, and others are hiding under the nameplate of some later builder."

Master Workmanship

One might well wonder how successful a brick-layer might become as an organ builder—certainly as wide a separation in skills as one might imagine. Whether or not Marshall, or any of the lesser organ experts who had tuned and serviced Marquette's organs for many years, knew of Johnson as a former brick-layer, is not known; however, they all considered Opus 462 the finest instrument of them all. This was the organ they loved to work on, for it surpassed all others in beauty of tone. Its metal pipes were heavy and rich in pure zinc and tin, and its wooden pipes were of the highest quality; there was master workmanship in the pipes and in their voicing, as well as a splendid tracker system. It was these things which determined the worthiness of the early church pipe organs.

In the early 1900's an itinerant organ "expert" came to Marquette. He was a convincing talker and persuaded the music committee of St. Paul's that he could make certain desirable changes in the console which would permit the organist to have a view of the altar while services were being conducted. After several discouraging and hectic months of part-time effort, during which time he was better at collecting empty bottles than rebuilding a console, he left, leaving Opus 462 in a deplorable condition and unplayable.

In 1908, the late Mrs. George Shiras III, came to the rescue and donated the present organ to St. Paul's. On the following day THE MINING JOURNAL reported: "New Organ at St. Paul's Surpassed Expectations . . . Organist C. J. Shaddick said after the services that 'he could not conceive of an organ that size being more beautifully adapted to church purposes, the tonal qualities being particularly adapted for recital work.' The instrument . . . is considered the finest pipe organ in the Upper Peninsula."

Delicate Pipes

This organ was erected by Octavius Marshall and first used on Jan. 24, 1909. The writer had the privilege and pleasure of assisting Marshall in

THE ALBERTA LIST

N.B.—The list of tracker action organs in the Province of Alberta, Canada, is understandably short, but D. Stuart Kennedy has done yeoman service in providing the following. Alberta was incorporated as a Province in 1905.

1. Saint Michael's Roman Catholic; Pincher Creek, North West Territories. Casavant Freres Limitee; Opus 143, 1901. Two manuals, 9 stops, standard unison couplers plus S-G 4.

2. Redeemer Lutheran; Didsbury. Installed 1953, originally in St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran, Luzerne, Iowa. Hinners & Albertsen; 1894. Model #5. One manual, 5 stops. Pedal Bourdon 15 pipes, clavier 27 notes; Gamba 8' now Fifteenth.

3. Saint Peter's Lutheran; Stettler. Installed 1955, from Trinity Lutheran, Gaylord, Minnesota; originally in R. C. Church, Silver Lake, Minn. Moved to Trinity c1945. Farrand & Votey; Opus 86, 1890. One manual, 8 stops.

4. Arthur Gesell residence; Calgary. Acquired 1959 from St. Paul's Lutheran, Winnipeg, Manitoba; originally in a church in Ontario, moved c1905. Builder unknown (possibly Koehnken & Grimm) c1890. One manual, 5 stops; Pedal 18 notes. Rebuilt by A. Gesell as a Positiv, 1-6, with 27 note pedal and Mixtur on two sliders giving Quint 1-1/3 and II rks. Liturgical doors and new stop action. Moved to Whitemouth, Manitoba 1963.

5. Saint Bonifatiuskirche; Edmonton. Installed 1960; originally in St. Aloysius Pfarrei, Bridgetown, Ohio. Mason & Colburn, 1870. Two manuals, 14 stops. Modified & improved by K. McLaren, Edmonton.

6. St. Matthew's Lutheran; Calgary. Installed 1962; originally in First Christian, Bedford, Indiana. Carl Barckhoff, c1905. Two manuals, 18 stops. Improved and revised by Robert Hooper, Calgary; tubular pedal and case pipe action discarded; new Mixtur IV rks and slider chest for pedal by electric action added 1963 by W. Knoch for Walcker of Germany. Case removed.

7. Grace Presbyterian Chapel; Calgary. First new mechanical in 61 years. E. F. Walcker & Co., Germany. Installed by Werner Knoch, London, Ontario.

8. Redeemer Lutheran; Edmonton. Installed 1963; originally in St. Anne's R. C. Seattle, Washington. Hinners Organ Co., 1908. One manual, 7 stops. (Pedal as in #2 at Didsbury.)

9. Saint Joseph's Convent; Edmonton. New Casavant Freres Limitee, 1963. Two manuals, 11 stops.

10. Bethlehem Lutheran; Edmonton. Installed 1964; Charles F. Chadwick, c1900-1910. Two manuals, 12 stops.

11. In storage in Calgary; Hook & Hastings, 1887. One manual, 6 stops.

12. Excelsior Methodist; Pioneer Village, Highway 16, West of Edmonton. Built by G. O. N. Beckett of Darwell, c1930, using cardboard pipes. One manual, 3 stops; now unplayable. (See article.)

Still requiring research:

13. St. Andrew's Anglican; Camrose. Lye Bros., 1-7, brought from Islington, Ontario. Unsuccessful, discarded as damaged. 1952.

14. In storage; Calgary. Geo. Stevens, 1860, reb. 1871; 2-18.

its installation and tuning. When the metal pipes were received, crated as carefully as eggs, they were as carefully unpacked and gently laid upon the cushions in the pews that they might not suffer any damage, many of them being extremely delicate.

One day a pillar of the church, who was also a tenor in the choir, came in to see how the work was progressing. Seeing the newly-unpacked pipes in the pews he picked up one from the most delicate of all the ranks and blew it as if it were a 10-cent whistle.

Hasty Departure

"Put that down," ordered Marshall in a not uncertain and extremely angry voice.

"I guess you don't know who I am," replied the intruder.

"I don't care who you are," answered Marshall. "Get out of here and stay out."

Sensing that Marshall might throw him through a stained glass window, the VIP departed in a hurry.

Sold for \$300

During the many times that the writer worked, as well as fished, with 80-odd-year-old Marshall, it was the only time that he ever saw him lose his temper. Normally, he was mild-mannered and a perfect gentleman in every way. It was a distinct pleasure to be associated with him, to listen to

his stories and to absorb, through his teachings, an insight into the art of organ building.

Johnson's Opus 462 was sold to a church in the Copper Country for \$300. The writer, whose wages had been increased from a dollar to a dollar and one-half for a 10-hour day, assisted in its re-erection, restoring it to its original condition—and pumped it during its first church service. Unfortunately, it never received proper care and was permitted to deteriorate. Vandals did their damage, rendering the instrument useless.

Several years ago, this church purchased an electronic organ, and Opus 462, now 90 years old, stands there, a victim of gross neglect. This beautiful instrument, with proper care, would have lasted for another century, just as the Baptist Hook & Hastings Opus 1322 would have done, except for the fatal fire which knew no mercy.

One might well ask as to why the writer didn't become an organ builder. The answer is fairly simple. He failed in history at school, left town and got a job at 14 cents an hour—with 10-hour days—in a signal section track gang and became a railroader. Such proficiency as he acquired came through the use of pick and shovel.

Mr. Boadway reports that the Johnson Opus 462 is in the Roman Catholic church at Houghton, Michigan.

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PROGRAMS—The following are programs which have appeared in THE TRACKER other than those in Convention reports.

- May 11, 1854 - Second Presbyterian, Albany, N. Y. - E. & G. G. Hook - Vol. I, No. 3, p. 5, 6. Organists - J. H. Wilcox, G. Wm. Warren, R. J. Cairmody.
 June 8, 1855 - Park Presbyterian, Albany, N. Y. - Johnson opus 40 - Vol. I, No. 4, p. 5. Organists - Wm. Hopkins, Geo. H. Curtis, G. Wm. Warren, F. F. Finlayson, Thos. J. Guy, Jas. W. Andrews.
 Sept. 23, 1870 - Reformed Church, Newton, Long Island, N. Y. - Jardine & Son - Vol. VII, No. 2, p. 5. Organists - Thos. Ayling, E. G. Jardine.
 May 8, 1872 - 2nd Congregational, Oberlin, Ohio - Johnson Organ Co. - Vol. IX, No. 1, p. 3. Organist - Dudley Buck.
 Jan. 21, 1876 - Chickering Hall, New York, N. Y. - Hilborne Roosevelt - Vol. I, No. 3, p. 3. Organists - G. Wm. Warren, S. B. Whiteley, S. Austen Pearce, Samuel P. Warren, G. W. Morgan, Dudley Buck.
 May 21, 1877 - Holy Trinity, Boston, Mass. - E. & G. G. Hook - Vol. II, No. 2, p. 4. Organists - S. B. Whitney, G. E. Whiting, Samuel B. Whiteley.
 April 21, 1881 - North Parish Universalist, Woodstock, Vt. - Hutchings, Plaisted & Co. - Vol. II, No. 1, p. 5. Whitney, organist.
 April 19, 1887 - St. John's Parish, Richfield, N. Y. - Hook & Hastings - Vol. IX, No. 3, p. 8. Miss Loughlin, organist.
 Sept. 10, 1892 - Keneseth Israel, Philadelphia, Pa. - Frank Roosevelt opus 528 - Vol. VI, No. 2, p. 5. Organists - Maurits Leefson, D. Wood, Carl Retter, Frederick Maxson, Michael H. Cross, S. Tudor Strang.

Nominations for 1966

A reminder is offered that candidates for the 1966 election must be nominated prior to the Spring issue of **THE TRACKER**. A Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Councilor and Auditor must be elected. The incumbent Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Councilor and Auditor may not.

The nominating committee will be glad to receive suggestions for these positions. In order to encourage wide participation, Council approved a plan whereby any 15 duly enrolled members, who sign a petition in favor of a certain candidate, will cause that candidate's name to be placed on the ballot by the Nominating Committee. All suggestions and petitions must be sent to:

Mrs. Mary Danyew
 North Chatham, New York 12132

before December 15, 1965, in order to receive consideration.

In Memoriam

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

Almost everyone knows that our Honorary President, Dr. Schweitzer, passed on recently. In fact, it was just about the time that the last issue of **THE TRACKER**, containing his autographed photo and a translation of his last communication to OHS, reached our members. President Simmons sent a message to his daughter, expressing condolences of all OHS members. We were indeed honored to count him as one of us.

Charles F. Durner Organs

(From page 1)

8' Dulciana
4' Principal

8' Aeoline
8' Oboe Gamba
4' Flute Harmonic
Tremolo

PEDAL
16' Bourdon

COUPLERS
S-P, S-G, G-P

This is a Durner of the early 1900's. It has 61-note manuals and a 30-note pedal. The couplers and tremolo are centered over the Swell manual. The organ has a Pedal Lock, Bellows Signal, and the three usual foot combination pedals.

There are still C. F. Durner tracker-action organs which are in their original condition and used regularly every week. Several were described by Eugene McCracken. Another one is in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, North Wales, Penna. It is a two manual and pedal organ of ten ranks. The organist informed me that it had been partly paid for by a Carnegie grant. The specifications are:

GREAT
8' Open Diapason
8' Melodia
8' Dulciana
4' Octave

SWELL
8' Violin Diapason
8' Viola
8' Stopped Diapason
8' Oboe Gamba
4' Harmonic Flute

PEDAL
16' Bourdon

COUPLERS
S-P, S-G, G-P

The West Side Moravian Church, Bethlehem, Penna., has a C. F. Durner tracker-action organ which is in active use. The specifications are a variation of those immediately above:

GREAT
8' Open Diapason
8' Melodia
8' Dulciana
4' Principal

SWELL
8' Geigen Principal
8' Stopped Diapason
8' Salicional
4' Flute Traverso
8' Oboe and Bassoon
Tremolo

PEDAL
16' Bourdon

COUPLERS
S-P, S-G, G-P

The organ has a Pedal Lock and Bellows Signal, and the usual three foot pedals: Reversible Coupler, Piano Gt Organ, and Forte Gt Organ. The couplers are centered over the Swell keyboard.

In Little Zion Lutheran Church, Indianfield, Penna., there was a tracker-action C. F. Durner organ in excellent condition which was used regularly until the middle of September, 1964. This organ was built in 1906. In addition to the usual nameplate on the console, inside the reservoir on a bottom panel there is written in a large, bold hand "C. F. Durner, Quakertown, Pa." Here is an organ autographed by its builder! This organ cost \$2,000.00 in 1906. It was originally hand pumped. The stoplist ran:

GREAT
8' Open Diapason
8' Melodia
8' Dulciana
4' Principal
4' Flute d'Amour

SWELL
8' Viola
8' Stopped Diapason
8' Aeoline
8' Oboe Gamba
4' Flute Harmonic
Tremolo

PEDAL
16' Bourdon

COUPLERS
S-P, S-G, G-P

The three couplers and Tremolo are centered over the Swell manual. The compass is 61 notes on the manuals and 30 notes on the pedals. The organ has

a Pedal Lock and a Bellows Signal, and also the usual three foot combination pedals. The Oboe Gamba is immediately behind the Swell shades; perhaps the intention was to replace it some day with a reed stop.

The Indianfield church had signed a contract for a new organ, and the C. F. Durner organ had to be moved out in two weeks. In order to preserve this fine example of Durner's craftsmanship, I bought the organ. OHS Recording Secretary, Frederick B. Sponsler, and I dismantled the organ and re-erected it in my music studio near Schwenksville, Penna.

From hearing and playing C. F. Durner organs, I can corroborate Eugene McCracken's assertion that even with the lack of upper work, C. F. Durner organs are not dull or tubby. They have a light and cheerful quality, and the voicing of the individual stops is well done. The flute stops, especially the Flute d'Amour with its pierced wooden stoppers, are clear and bright. The Oboe Gamba 8' is the only stop in these organs which, by present day standards, does not blend well with the ensemble. Of course, it was used because so many Durner organs were in small rural churches where there were no organ maintenance men to tune a reed stop.

Mechanically, C. F. Durner tracker-action organs are of the highest standards of workmanship. They are sturdily built, the touch is light, and the parts are accessible. The experience of moving one of these organs has given me a first hand appreciation of Durner quality.

The usual C. F. Durner organ had a single 16' Bourdon in the pedal. From the late 1890's on, tracker action was not used for the pedal, although, of course, the manual to pedal couplers are mechanical action. Instead, Durner used pneumatic action for the pedal chest. This operated by an exhaust system in which pneumatics inside the pedal chest were connected by lead tubes to exhaust valves under the ends of the pedal keys. The pedal chest itself has no wind in it until the pedal Bourdon is drawn. Even the 1895 C. F. Durner at Obelisk, Penna., described in Eugene McCracken's article, has a pneumatic-action pedal.

Any OHS members traveling through Eastern Pennsylvania should make an effort to play a C. F. Durner tracker-action organ and see for themselves that Durner organs compare very favorably with those of the larger builders of the time.

I would appreciate learning of any other tracker-action C. F. Durner organs which are still in existence. Please write to me at 5811 Chew Street, Philadelphia, Penna., 19138.

—o—

The 1966 Convention

It's official! The next OHS National Convention will be held on Cape Cod with headquarters at Pigeon Cove, Mass., during the week of June 20, 1966. Chairman of the event is Edgar A. Boadway, who will probably have some pre-convention announcements in the next (Winter) issue of THE TRACKER. Reserve the dates now, and plan to attend. Let's have the biggest convention in OHS history!

Notes, Quotes and Comments

According to a brochure published by the TORONTO STAR, a two-barrel organ with pipes capable of playing 20 tunes, was built by Richard Coates in 1820 for the Sharon Temple of the Children of Peace, said to be the first organ built in Upper Canada. This sect is considered "unorthodox Quaker" because they made vocal and instrumental music a major part of their worship services.

On August 14 the Philadelphia Chapter (still unofficial) met for "A Tour of Some Old Tracker Action Organs in Montgomery County". Some 25 enthusiasts made the tour, viewing a 1m and pedal Krauss of 1810, a hand-pumped 1m and pedal Erben (?) of 1840, a 1m and pedal Krauss of 1860, a 2m and pedal C. F. Durner of 1890, and another Durner of 1906 which had undergone some tonal revisions and additions.

The August 22 issue of THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, Charlotte, N. C., carries an illustrated article on the work of Whilhelm Zimmer & Sons. The Zimmers, originally from Germany and Holland, moved to South Africa in 1951 and began building organs there. But they moved to America in 1964 and set up their business in Charlotte. So far nine organs have been built in their small factory at Airport Industrial Park, and they are at present engaged in building a demonstration organ with mechanical action.

A most unusual installation is the new tracker organ in St. Paul's Church, Seattle, Washington. It is suspended from the ceiling at the rear of the church. Called the "Spaeth" organ, it was designed by Glenn D. White, Jr., and has 2 manuals and 18 ranks.

Also in Seattle, a large 4 manual tracker with 54 stops is being installed at St. Mark's Cathedral. Built by Flentrop Orgelbouw in Zaandam, Holland, the organ cost \$118,000. Peter Hallock is organist at the Cathedral.

Still another new tracker is the Schlicker "chamber" organ at Redlands University, California. This 2m and pedal has German beechwood for it sharps and flats, and ebony for the naturals. It was dedicated on June 23.

Donald R. M. Paterson, Advisor to the Council of OHS, and University Organist at Cornell, played a recital on the 1830 Erben organ in St. Paul's Church, Eastchester, New York, on October 4. His program began with compositions by Hofhaimer (b. 1459) and included works of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Mr. Paterson will continue this fall a series of radio broadcasts begun last spring. He has given two papers, supplemented with tape recordings of organs, for intermission programs for the re-broadcasting of Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts over the Cornell University station WVBR-FM. The first two topics were a general history of the Organ in America from 1700 to 1900, and a

more detailed discussion of the 1750-1800 period, with emphasis on Tannenberg.

Mr. Paterson spent the summer in Europe, visiting nearly 75 organs of interest. A note of particular interest is that picture postcards of organ cases seem common there, but even more remarkable is the printing of stop lists on the part of the card usually reserved for correspondence.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I wish to make a correction in an article that came out in the last TRACKER, with reference to the organ in the First Baptist Church in Burlington, Vermont.

When the plans were first drawn up to rebuild the church, they were planning on raising the floor of the church up 12 feet putting the main auditorium up to another level with Sunday School rooms on the present floor. This would have necessitated completely dismantling the organ. When it was found out that the top of the organ would have to rise up beyond the present ceiling into the attic, they changed their plan.

It was finally planned to shorten the auditorium, putting the Sunday School rooms in the front of the church.

The organ had a complete renewal of felt bushings, leather nuts, some trackers renewed. The pipes were repaired and revoiced. One main feature of this job is that the pipes are still coned from the four foot length right straight up through, which means less tuning maintenance than if we had used slide tuners.

The work was done by Hewitt and Wessel, Organ Builders, of Brattleboro, Vermont, (rather than as stated in THE TRACKER that it was done by Elroy E. Hewitt and his associate, John Wessel.)

Very truly yours,
/s/ E. E. Hewitt
Brattleboro, Vermont

Dear Sir:

Just a note in regard to the Schuelke entry on the builders' list (THE TRACKER, Spring 1965). The elder Schuelke built organs in Milwaukee from 1875 until his death in 1902. At that time his older son, Max A. Schuelke, became head of the firm. The younger son, also William, was involved in the firm, although he was only 14 at this time. At sometime, and this I haven't been able to ascertain, the two brothers parted company, each forming his own firm. The William Schuelke Organ Company remained with the younger son, William. He was head of the company until his death in 1960. However, for much of this time the firm's main work was repairing and maintenance. I don't know when they ceased building new organs. I do not know, either, if the Max Schuelke Company built new organs or did repairing and maintenance. As I said, I don't know when or why the split took place. Wm. Schuelke's relatives are quite silent on that score, and I haven't located any Max Schuelke relatives.

I am working on drafts of two articles on Schuelke organs. I have mailed the draft of a rather brief article on the Schuelke instruments

in Colorado to the churches involved for comments, corrections, or additions. The other, on Iowa Schuelkes, needs more work before it's ready, but I hope to finish it soon and send out drafts of this, too.

Sincerely,
/s/ Elizabeth Towne
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Thanks so much for the sample of THE TRACKER. I am taking out a subscription to this valuable periodical.

The list of early American organ builders is indeed interesting and I am familiar with several names, now long forgotten. I do, however, wonder why Philip Worshing (Warshing?), Salem, Ohio, was not listed. (I am not sure of this spelling.) I know of two of the above mentioned make still being used, one in Ohio and the other in Indiana, and they were very well built pipe organs.

I also want to thank you for assisting me in the interest of Herney Organ Co., Mason City, Iowa. I have not yet received any information concerning the firm.

Yours truly,
/s/ Richard C. Kichline
Alliance, Ohio

Dear Sir:

During the summer of 1964, John Wessel of Brattleboro, Vt., rebuilt an 1882 E. & G. G. Hook and Hastings pipe organ at Trinity Episcopal Church in Claremont, N. H. The organ has been just about given up and was to be taken out and replaced. Through an AGO convention in Keene, N. H., in 1963, I met Mr. Wessel and told him of my troubles and by working with officers of the church a committee was worked up by the Pastor, Father Hurst, and Mr. Wessel soon found the time in July, and work began on the organ.

We found some of the pipes bent at an angle to obtain tone, some were taped with plaster and some were held with scotch tape on cardboard to tune. They found a rank of pipes missing. The stops were minus name plates or wrong names on stops.

Advertise in THE TRACKER

We wish to announce that orders for display advertisements in THE TRACKER will now be accepted. Rates are reasonable. Write to the Editor or the Publisher for details. Copy for the next issue must be received by January 1st.

In addition to display ads, we will resume our classified ad column when orders come in. Again, rates are very reasonable, so

Advertise in The Tracker

He took the manuals to his shop in Vermont to replace lost ivories and he had to install leather felts and buttons.

On the Great organ: Trumpet 8' replaced by Mixture IV, Fifteenth 2', Twelfth, Principal 8', Melodia 8', Dulciana 8' changed to Salicional 8', Open Diapason.

On the Swell organ: Flute Harmonique 8', Salicional 8' changed to Dulciana 8', Stopped Diapason 8', Bourdon 16' taken out replaced by Cornet 8', Tremolo was not working and was repaired, Bassoon 4, Oboe 8', Violina 4' changed to Quint 8'.

Pedal Organ: Bourdon 16', Flote 8'.
Coupplers: S-P, G-P, S-G, S-S.

It was a 15 rank organ with approximately 784 pipes. At present it is a 22 rank organ with 1134 pipes. Many thanks to John Wessel for a job well done. He could give you more data on the instrument. An organ recital was performed by the organist of the church on Nov. 29, 1964. Work was complete on the organ in mid-October.

Very sincerely,
/s/ Mrs. Yvonne Bonneau
Claremont, N. H.

EXCERPT FROM A BOOK

The as-yet-unpublished biographical account of a theatre organist, c1916-1928, entitled "The Left-Legged Organist" by Wells Hively, is a warmly human account of how music became wedded to motion pictures, and of the author's fascinating part in same.

From the 3rd Chapter, we have Mr. Hively's special permission to quote the following:

"The organ . . . was a small WurliTzer, the simplest model, with four ranks of pipes encased in an upright piano, along with the ordinary piano keyboard mechanism. It was, actually, the same instrument . . . that had so taken my boyhood imagination.

"Beside the foot-pedal keyboard was an array of buttons to be pressed by the right foot. These created all the percussive effects, the whistles, the bells, all the sound effects. I rapidly became quite adept at this sort of manipulation, necessary to the movie organist. Church and concert organists sit correctly, using the pedal keyboard properly with both feet; but silent film organists pedaled only with the left foot the essential bass notes, while the right foot was kept free for the swell pedals, for all the caprice of accent demanded by the movies, and the special effects buttons mentioned above.

"The organist's left leg stepped the bass very much like the double-bass in a dance band. The left-legged organist was a creature peculiar to the silent films, the musical needs of which created him."

This was 1920 in California. Mr. Hively's career brought him into contact with the top figures of filmdom and he appeared in many of the great movie palaces across America. Later he became accompanist for Ruth St. Denis and Lily Pons. He now resides in Florida where he serves as a church organist. He is a member of OHS.

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There has been some criticism about the quality of these things, to be sure. However, if the members supported the annual conventions by attending in greater numbers there would be no deficits. Convention records are produced non-professionally as mememtoes, not to be compared with commercial records, and if bought up promptly there would be funds to underwrite more and better recordings. The slide-tape program is our main weapon in the field of public relations, and, when properly presented, earns its cost many times over in goodwill.

The glaring fact is that not all our members benefit from this situation. We are forced to "rob Peter to pay Paul" in order to maintain our projects, whereas, if the projects paid for ourselves we would have funds to provide considerably more material to all members.

Thus the National Council finds itself extremely limited in financial matters. For example, there exists a great need for a new edition of the Society's brochure, an information leaflet given away at showings of the slide-tape program and to all who enquire about OHS; but funds are not currently available to undertake this project. Many new and inspired ideas have been presented at recent meetings of the Council, but wherever a monetary guarantee is involved Council has been forced to abandon any action; because, other standard expense items, such as printing and postage, rent for headquarters at York, telephone calls, and the quarterly issues of THE TRACKER, must be met.

As the result of this state of things, President Simmons has appointed a Budget Committee whose findings should be helpful.

But members, by their actions, will determine the future of OHS. Those who continue to pay regular dues and do nothing else to assist the Society will have to be content with the situation; but those who are contributing members, and who attend conventions, and who buy the convention records, and who try to enroll new members, are the ones who will benefit most. And there may be just enough of this latter type so that we can stop "robbing Peter."

Robbing Peter...

An Editorial

One of the perplexities of so-called non-profit organizations is the management of finances. That this problem has been with the Organ Historical Society since its beginning is no secret, and, as time goes on, it seems to provide greater and greater hurdles. Let's take a look at our financial picture.

Our income is derived solely from membership dues and contributions. Despite the fact that we have three classes of members, more than 95% are in the regular membership class at \$5 per year.

True, we have various projects, namely (1) the annual national conventions, (2) the annual convention record, and (3) the audio-visual slide-tape program, all of which should show a small margin of profit, or at least pay for themselves.

But such is not the case. Every convention since 1960 (Philadelphia), has sustained a deficit. The first and second (1961 and 1962) convention records are now sold out, but the succeeding years' records are still in stock and as such are tying up OHS funds; so that whatever profit accrued from the first two records has not supplied funds for the current release. The "nominal" fee for showings of the slide-tape program is so low that it will take years to replace the total cost of this project.

THE 1965 CONVENTION RECORD

Becoming available just before Christmas, the 1965 OHS Convention Recording made in Cincinnati will be the ideal gift for your musical friends. The price is \$4.95 delivered.

If you order three or more of these records (or any combination of OHS recordings—1963 Portland, 1964 Washington, or the Melville Smith Memorial Album) the price is only \$4.50 per record. Remember you must order at least three records mailed to one address to get the lower price.

Send your order now to the Treasurer.

(See above listing for address.)