

church for a "two-manual organ of nine stops."

The new Orgues Létourneau instrument, Op. 55 (1998), at the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo, Mich., featured on the cover of the December issue of TAO, was preceded by a 3m electropneumatic M.P. Moller, Op. 8082 (1951), which was sold to Tate's Creek Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Ky., to make way for the new tracker from St-Hyacinthe, Que. Prior to the Moller, the church was served by a 2m E. & G.G. Hook tracker, Op. 672 (1872).

Organbuilder Richard Hedgebeth of Vernon, Conn., has announced that he is available for consultation, design work, rebuilding projects, and new organs. One of his recent projects, designed for Foley-Baker Inc., Pipe Organ Services of Bolton, Conn., and Port Jefferson, N.Y., is the new casework (shown here) at Old First Church, Congregational, in Springfield, Mass. Old First Church once owned a 2m E. & G.G. Hook, Op. 93 (1849), which now serves the Congregational Church in Hinsdale, N.H. The Hook was supplanted in Springfield by a 3m Steer & Turner, Op. 159 (1881); that organ was succeeded by a 4m Skinner Organ Co. instrument, Op. 209 (1913); the present organ is a 3m Aeolian-Skinner, Op. 1326 (1958). Charles Page is the minister of music.



Organbuilder D. Stuart Goodwin of San Bernardino, Calif., assisted by Wendell Ballantyne, is making tonal revisions and additions to the 3m Aeolian-Skinner, Op. 1029 (1942), at the First United Methodist Church in Beaumont, Tex. The organ was moved to its present location in 1969 from the church's earlier building on the same site; at the time of the move the organ was enlarged, nearly doubling it in size. The work was performed by a local doctor, with help from the original builders; the Austin, Tex., organbuilder Otto Hofmann added a floating Positiv, as well as some additional stops to the Great. The current work includes a thorough tonal finishing, replacement of the Hofmann Great Fourmiture with new pipes of larger scale, and the conversion of the Great Sesquialtera back to the original Grave Mixture II, as well as the addition of a new 8' Harmonic Flute and

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2 3/4' Nazard in the Great. Additions planned for the future include a new Pedal 16' Bombarde and 8' Tuba, and four Walker electronic Pedal stops; other additions are possible. Robert Brock is overseeing the project for the church; Janie Greenway is the organist of the church.

Paul Jernigan, organbuilder of Houston, Tex., assisted by Shawn Sanders, has installed a 2m Austin, Op. 2106 (1949), in Lord of Life Lutheran Church in

The Woodlands, Tex. Ronald Wyatt played the dedicatory recital in April 1998. Built originally for the First Baptist Church of Camilla, Ga., it was for some years in the residence of Eleanor Hawkins in Monticello, Fla., before being removed by Thomas-Pierce Inc., organbuilders of West Palm Beach, Fla. It was relocated to Texas through the Organ Clearing House. Lord of Life Lutheran Church previously used an Oberlinger "box organ," which is for sale.

DEAR UNCLE MAX

Send questions to Dear Uncle Max, AGO National Headquarters, 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115.

In the June 1998 issue, D.R. of Westminster, Calif., asked a question regarding past or present celebrities—actors, singers, politicians, sports figures, famous-as-famous—who might play the organ and/or be AGO members; he said, "I have a feeling the answers could be surprising and fun!" I found them so, and as there were not so many responses, I give them as I received them:

My nine-year-old daughter told me that Leonardo Di Caprio likes to play the organ. She read this in some of his bio-

graphical literature. That is the extent of my knowledge about his organ playing.

T.L., Olathe, Kans.

David Hyde Pierce from *Frasier* is a fine organist.

T.S., New York, N.Y.

... I am sending a page from the May-June issue of *Theatre Organ*. [The May/June 1998 *Theatre Organ*, Journal of the American Theatre Organ Society, reviews a performance by Lyn Larsen of "the languorously romantic *Melody in A* written by a brigadier general who also happened to be a vice president of the United States! (and former theater organist—Ed)"] The general and vice president referred to is Charles Gates Dawes (1865-1951), banker, general, vice president (1925-29), and co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1925. He wrote an instrumental piece, *Melody*, in

1912. It was adapted to a popular song, "It's All in the Game," in 1951.

W.R., Schaumburg, Ill.

I collect lists of organ trivia, including "organs on the Silver Screen," people whose last names are organ stops, and "Closet Organists," and would like to include in my list the entries D.R. gets. Maybe you could publish it in your column. Here is my list:

Edward Heath: Former British Prime Minister. Shown on TV playing Bach's *Toccata in D Minor*.

Sarah Ferguson: Former Duchess of York. *Newsweek* mentioned that during her wedding rehearsal, she played the organ during a break.

Dudley Moore: Began college as an organ major, but later changed to acting. Also of note is "Closet Actor" Jack Osseward, who kept right on playing

without missing a beat while Moore, as a drunken "Arthur," stumbled down the aisle of St. Batholomew's Church in New York City.

William Herschel: Astronomer who discovered Uranus. Played, composed, and built telescopes at Bath, England.

Jeff Smith: "The Frugal Gourmet" has a two-manual, ten-rank Fritts (1995), based on Compenius, in his test kitchen/office.

Louis Braille: Developed raised-dot alphabet enabling the blind to read.

Andy Griffith: Actor. In the 1968 film *Angel in My Pocket*, he played a minister who auditions a two-manual 1928 Tito Androssi theater organ in a strip joint for his church, while, unknowingly, a stripper auditions to his music.

Jackie Gleason: Actor/comedian. *People* magazine has a picture of him at his three-manual Rodgers theater organ at home.

Denny McLain: Ex-pitcher, Detroit Tigers; now bartender. Plays a Hammond X-77.

Thomas Edison: Inventor. Had E.M. Skinner organ in his lab at Menlo Park.

Dr. Jack Kevorkian: Physician who practices assisted suicide.

Liliokalani: Former Hawaiian Queen.

David Hyde Pierce: Actor, Niles Crane on *Frazier*. During an appearance on the *Letterman Show*, he announced the World's Largest Organ Recital.

Dr. Hampson Sisler, FAGO. New York City ophthalmologist who's just as well known as a composer/organist/choir director/AGO member.

B.D., College Station, Tex.

... two people come to mind who have had some degree of celebrity and could also play the organ. From the sports world, pitcher Denny McLain, who along with Mickey Lolich had that one fantastic season (1968?) for the Detroit Tigers, was well known for his evening activities (with rhythm section) at the Hammond B-3.

On the other hand, the present and popular mayor of Rochester, N.Y., Bill Johnson, is very much at home on the bench at his home church, Mount Olivet Baptist, and is indeed an honorary member, and considered very much a friend of the Rochester AGO Chapter. He is as supportive of music and the arts in Rochester as any mayor could be.

B.B., Rochester, N.Y.

Thanks to each of you who took the time to share your information with all of us. This could have become encyclopedic. That, too, would have been interesting.

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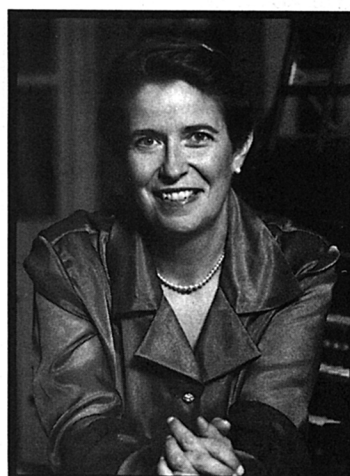
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