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Saturday, October 7-8

VIEW

1961

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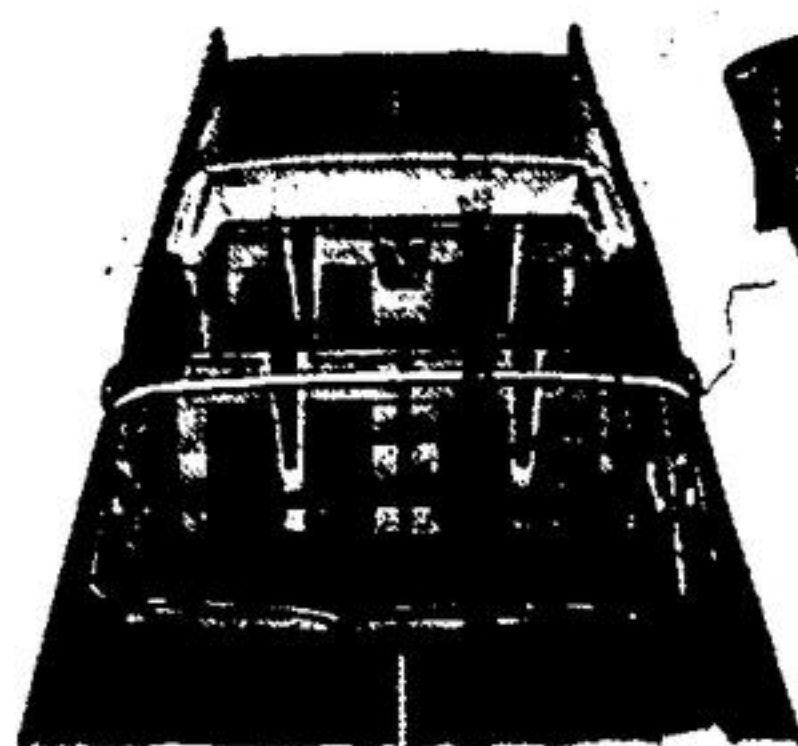


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Enthusiastic, Painstaking Pair Dismantle, Clean, Rebuild Organ

The old Sunday School room of the United Church, awaiting demolition soon, is presently housing four tons of pipes, wind chests, keyboards and all the paraphernalia that will be painstakingly put together into the church's fine, new organ.

From wall to wall, the large room is completely filled with pipes of all sizes, ranging from one-half inch in length to a 16-foot long open diapason.

The tracker organ was formerly in Berkeley United Church which has been converted into Berkeley Studio, administered by the General Council of the United Church. Films for church distribution are made there now. So the organ wasn't needed any longer—and it was given to Acton United Church.

First Take It Apart
Ed Watson, of Watson's Music Store here, was named contractor in charge of installing the organ, and organist George Elliott is working very closely with him. The pair began their work by going down to Toronto to take the organ apart, making painstakingly close mental pictures of just where and how everything was put together.

Lowell Watson, Norman Elliott and Fred Dawkins Jr. helped dismantle the organ. The job took 10 days.

The second week in September, a lumbering van from Toronto brought the four-ton load which was cautiously unloaded into the old church basement. Since then, men of the church have been helping in the task that would drive the most experienced housewife to distraction—a thorough cleaning of every part of the organ.

Clean 1500 Pipes
It has 1500 pipes, for a start, which were all originally made by hand. The wooden ones had to be sanded and shellacked or painted; the metal ones had to be washed, gently scrubbed, and dried. Certain parts in each pipe could not get wet. Some of the ladies helped with cleaning and dusting.

Threading their way through small aisles, surrounded by carefully catalogued equipment, Mr. Elliott and Mr. Watson are now able to permit themselves a small preview of the glorious tone they will have in the church by squinting down in front of a rank of spring-clean pipes and blowing a mellow note or two.

Trackers Esteemed
The new organ was built by Edward Lye, considered to have been one of the best organ builders in Canada. It was hand made by Canadians. Mr. Lye's organs are held in highest esteem, although there are few like them made today.

The organ at Ebenezer United Church was made by the same man and is of the same type, only slightly smaller.

Technically, it's known as a tracker organ which means its action is mechanical as opposed to electric. There is a mechanical action between the key and the valve.

Some organists prefer tracker organs, and a few are being built again now. The mechanical action never wears out, and tracker organs don't have to be repaired as often as electric organs. Tracker organs in European churches two and three hundred years old are still in almost daily use.

Mr. Watson and Mr. Elliott put their heads together to make

some estimates on prices. They agreed on this:
Would Cost \$40,000
To build a modern electric organ with the sound of this organ would cost \$25,000.

And a hand-made, custom-built tracker organ (like this one) would cost \$40,000 nowadays.

And the United Church paid only transportation and installation costs.

Personally, organist George Elliott is delighted with the prospect of playing on such a fine instrument. An expert in regulating will do the final adjusting of the pipes.

Mr. Watson has had a background of installing organs and works for Keates Organ Company of Lucan. He points out that there are very few organ builders in Canada—perhaps only two—who make all the parts themselves.

The new tracker organ has 23 ranks of pipes as opposed to seven ranks on the old Franklin-Legge organ, which has been sold to the Christian Reformed Church in Guelph.

In 1937, when the Franklin-Legge organ was new, it cost \$2500. An electro-pneumatic instrument, it has to be rebuilt when the leather wears out, about 40 to 50 years from the time it is originally built.

The new church will swell to a full range of organ sound soon. The official church opening is slated for October 23, and invitations are going out to members and former members to attend. Mr. Watson thinks the organ will require two weeks for installation.

Bell Comes Later
Among the many stops are an oboe, clarinet, small trumpet, called a cornepean, a large trumpet and a harmonic flute. Mr. Elliott will have the whole orchestra at his fingertips except for the bell. Eventually, a bell will be hung in the new copper-lined tower which is being built at the east end of the new church.

In Europe, organs like this one have seen steady use for 600 years. Johann Sebastian Bach played on one like it. Now they are only made by Europe's finest craftsmen.

EVERTON

Shower Miss Marlene Black Will Become "Mrs." Saturday

Mrs. John Alton and Mrs. Harry Horlop were hostesses for a miscellaneous shower at the home of Mrs. Alton, Saturday evening for Miss Marlene Black a bride elect of Saturday, October 8.

Contests and games were played during the evening. Many lovely gifts were received by the bride-to-be. She was assisted in opening the gifts by Miss Laurie McDougall of Rockwood. Refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Benham were Mr. and

Mrs. Jack Maitland of Elora and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Murrell and boys, Guelph.

Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Horlop and family were Mr. Alex Currie, Toronto, and Mr. Errett Currie, Guelph.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Grill and family, Alliston, were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Stewart and family.

Friends were sorry to hear of the sudden passing of Mr. Van Buskirk at the Guelph General Hospital early Sunday morning. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Van Buskirk and family.

BALLINAFAD

Resident's Home Robbed While Attending Fall Fair

While Tom Mack, of Ballinafad was attending Georgetown fair, Saturday, little did he realize his home was being burglarized. Taken was a sum of money and police are investigating the robbery.

We are sorry to report Mr. Alex McKay had the misfortune to fall down cellar on Saturday. He is critically ill in Guelph Hospital with broken bones and a concussion.

Communion Services
Communion services were held in Ballinafad United Church on Sunday. The Rev. Brook of Acton assisted Mr. Beaton in the service.

Mrs. Ernie McEnery and Mrs. Ray Swindelhurst attended the area convention of the W.I. at Guelph on the weekend. They also attended the banquet held on Thursday of last week.

Cause Damage
Pranksters are busy again and some of the mail boxes around Peacock school have been wrecked. It is too bad they can't find something better to put in their time at.

Mr. Leo Jamieson was hostess to a Tupperware demonstration last Tuesday night. A very pleasant evening was spent by the ladies who also bought some of the products.

The Ballinafad ladies once again had their booth at Georgetown fair and report a good day also a good fair.

Peacock school was overcrowded and the sixth grade is now attending Cedarvale school.

Mr. and Mrs. Breeschouten and family left on Friday to return to Holland.

Scottish Dances Begin Saturday

The Acton Scottish Dance Club held their first meeting of the season in the YMCA on Saturday evening, September 24. There was a good attendance of members from Galt, Clarkson and also visitors from Toronto.

The president of the club, Dr. Robert D. Buckner, gave a short address of welcome and expressed hopes for a successful season. Bill Wilson conveyed the good wishes of everyone present to Miss Janet Buckner, who is leaving shortly to spend a year in Great Britain.

At the next meeting, scheduled for Saturday, October 8, J. McGeachie and J. Donnelly will be giving instruction from 7.30 to 8.30, prior to the regular dance.

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