

Keates staff invite public to hear rebuilt organ Wed.

When Keates Organ Company Limited completed the painstaking work of reconstruction of an organ for St. Timothy's Episcopal church, Catonsville, Baltimore, Maryland, they decided to have anyone interested to come and hear it. It had been set up in their factory in the

industrial building at the foot of Frederick St. for its final testing, and the people at Keates agreed there was room for more people to join them in hearing its impressive sound. Surprisingly, an estimated 400 people thronged into their factory last Wednesday at

noon and evening. A team from Keates had dismantled the organ in Baltimore in May. It was an unusually big job for the factory, which builds an average of five organs a year. Working order After all improvements had been completed the organ was set up to make sure the parts fit and were in working order. It wasn't completely playable for the open house since some stops were unusable. But several visiting church organists who took turns at the console produced

a full, rich tone that made a splendid musical background for people inspecting all the areas of the plant. In the afternoon about 200 school children arrived to see the organ. It was hand practice night, and hand members met at Keates instead of at the music centre, when Dr. George Elliott was one of those taking a turn at the keyboards. Coffee and cookies were served to the crowd which delighted the event's organists. At a couple of points, all the

people could scarcely get in the office door. Dismantling Work of dismantling the organ began the next morning, Thursday; it was loaded Friday and Saturday on trucks. President Dieter Geisler and company owner, Dieter Geisler and a team of workmen left Monday for Baltimore. The job of getting the organ up again will take some weeks and involved structural changes in the church it came from. Visitors Wednesday chatted with the nine Keates employees, president Dieter Geisler, vice-president Ken Clark, Mrs. June McHugh, the men in the plant Benny Saulster, Ian McEugan, Lloyd Anger, Dirk van Straten and Blair Hally with part-time worker John McHugh Jr.

The company was founded by Bert Keates, who moved from Acton to British Columbia and is no longer associated with the business. Original parts The main part of the organ, which contains the pipes, windchests, reservoirs, swell boxes etc. is to be installed in an alcove at the left of the chancel of the church, in the space occupied by the previous organ. Some of the chests, reservoirs and pipes from the previous 1937 Moeller organ have been included after being rebuilt, along with the casework concealing the mechanism. Since the new organ is much larger due to its increased resources, the carved casework and choir screen had to be extended. This meant careful planning and matching by the technicians at Keates. The display pipes are pure burnished copper while those behind the casework are mostly an alloy of lead and tin. (The percentages vary according to the tonal result required.) Some larger pipes are of zinc and the larger pedal pipes are of wood. Solid oak The casework of the console is solid oak. The stop jams and interior are of solid mahogany with hand-rubbed finish and maple is used for pedal keys, the wooden parts in the main organ are sugar pine and whitewood. "The organ is called 'American classic' design since it is capable of performing early classical, romantic and contemporary music as well as accompanying choir and congregation. The console is being installed in Baltimore on a movable platform so it can be brought out in full view of the congregation for recitals or special events.



DISPLAY PIPES and concealed pipes were tested last week at Keates Organ Company before being dismantled and trucked to Baltimore, installing them in their home church will take several weeks. Some of the original parts were included in the rebuilding program which has been underway at Keates since May. (Photo by K. Dills)

Mrs. West retires from staff

In Sept. 1973 the staff of Acton County Health Unit held a dinner party at North Union Road and County Club to honor Mrs. Verma West, long-time nurse, on the occasion of her retirement after 28 years of full-time employment and five years of part-time work. Mrs. West, former Director of Nursing, was among several employees who attended. Mrs. West, former public health nurse from Milton joined a group of honor. A social hour of greeting and visiting was followed by a delicious buffet dinner.



NEW CONSOLE of organ for St. Timothy's Episcopal church, Baltimore, is tried out by Steven Truchan, R.R.2, Acton, who is organist at Eden Mills United church, at Keates recital last Wednesday. (Photo by K. Dills)

Gift presented Gerald Sullivan, a senior inspector from the sanitation department who has been with the health unit approximately the same length of time as Mrs. West, spoke briefly and presented Mrs. West with a lovely pearl dinner ring, and an accompanying card to which was attached a ribbon with all her associates' names on it. Mrs. Jamieson, supervisor, presented her with a book of letters and notes from former associates who could not attend.

Mrs. West was also the recipient of the lovely flower arrangement which had graced the buffet table.

In thanking her friends for these tributes Mrs. West was able to assure everyone the ring fit perfectly, was her birthstone and then she read the greetings from her treasure book.

Dr. Chamberlain asked Mr. Powell a 28-year employee of the Health Unit and Miss Craig, Director of Nursing, for a few remarks. Social visiting then climaxed a delightful evening.

Surprise party Previous to retiring an office surprise party was held in Milton for Mrs. West by employees of the area in which Mrs. West worked, that of Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Esqueing and Nassagaweya. After ice-cream, cake and coffee were served Mrs. West's supervisor, Mrs. Frances Jamieson, presented from the group a beautiful matched set of opal earrings and necklace set in hand-carved silver filigree.

These Mrs. West wore and proudly displayed at her retirement party in Georgetown.

High school commencement is Friday, Oct. 26.

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