

HILBUS CHAPTER

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

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OHS Silent Organ Crawl, Saturday, February 26, 2005, West Baltimore

This crawl will give us an opportunity to visit some very interesting instruments and organ cases that are of unknown origin. These organs reside in churches of West Baltimore, an area that has not been thoroughly investigated for historic instruments.

9 – 10:00 AM. Meet at First Unitarian Church Parish Hall, corner of North Charles St. and West Hamilton for coffee, juice and donuts. Jim Houston will demonstrate the church's 2/24 Henry Niemann organ and his own 1 manual Niemann instrument in the parish hall.

10:15 – 11:00 AM. Sharp Street United Methodist Church, 1206 Etting and Dolphin St. Two manual Moeller electro-pneumatic behind a beautiful, high Victorian Gothic case. Builder unknown. This old case features beautiful wood carvings and wooden façade pipes.

11:15 – 12:00 PM. St. Pius V Roman Catholic Church. Schroeder St. and Edmondson Ave. Beautiful Gothic revival church from 1878. It is believed the case is from the original 1878 instrument. Builder unknown. Organ was removed except for the casework and two main windchests.

There are no restaurants in the immediate area of these churches. Bring something to snack on and plan on a late lunch at City Café 1001 Cathedral St. at Eager St. in the Mt. Vernon section of Baltimore. The restaurant is several blocks north of First Unitarian Church.

12:15 – 1:15 PM. Transfiguration Catholic Community St. Martin of Tours. Fulton Ave. and Fayette St. 3 manual 37 rank Casavant 1923. Casavant rebuilt the original Pomplitz organ and case from around 1870. Organ is playable and resides on a third story gallery.

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Dues: Due in October, Send \$10.00 to Secretary-Treasurer. (NOTE: Please make out checks to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)

Directions

First Unitarian Church I 95 to Baltimore. Take 395 (Martin Luther King Blvd), right on Pratt St. Left on North Charles St. First Unitarian is on the corner of N. Charles St. and W. Hamilton Ave., two blocks before Washington Monument.

Sharp Street United Methodist Church Continue north on Charles to Preston St. (.06 miles). Turn left. Preston St. will turn into Dolphin St. Continue west on Dolphin to Etting St. (.07) Church is on the right.

St. Pius V Roman Catholic Church Continue west on Dolphin St. to Freemont Ave. (.04) turn left. Continue to Edmondson Ave. (.01) turn right. Continue on Schroeder St. (.01) Church is on left

St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church Continue west on Edmondson Ave. to Arlington Ave. (.01) turn left. Continue to Franklin St. (.01) turn right. Travel to Carey St. (.01) turn left. Proceed to Fayette St. (.04) turn right. Continue to Fulton Ave. (.04). Church is on left.

St. Paul United Methodist Church Turn right onto Fulton Ave. at Fayette. Continue to Saratoga St. (.02), turn right. Continue to Schroeder St. (.06). Church is on left.

City Café Travel east on Saratoga St. to Park Ave. Turn left. Continue north to Eager St. (quick block after Read St.) turn right. Proceed one block to Cathedral St. City Café is on the far left corner across from the Waxter Center.

Our thanks go to Michael Britt for making the arrangements for this crawl.

Janet Becker

We are saddened by the sudden loss of Janet Becker, wife of John Becker, both active members of our Hilbus Chapter. Janet died suddenly February 6 and funeral services were held February 14th. Contributions in Janet's name can be made to the Literacy Council of Montgomery County 301-942-9292 or Emergency Response Service Ministries 1-800-451-4407 ext. 3.

Janet frequently attended crawls with her husband John. They enjoyed attending the annual OHS conventions and many of the summer European Organ Tours led by Bruce Stevens. She assisted her husband John with designing many of our past crawls over the years. On a number of occasions she hosted the Hilbus Chapter at their beautiful farm in Upper Montgomery County. Janet loved organ music and historic instruments. We'll miss her.

Ruth Charters

One of our founding members, secretary/treasurer and archivist, Ruth Charters died January 20, 2005. Funeral services were held January 25th at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean, VA. Many Hilbus Chapter members were in attendance

Ruth served for many years as Secretary/ Treasurer and Archivist for our Hilbus Chapter. She started the choir of Immanuel Presbyterian Church and was an active participant in the musical life of Immanuel. She also hosted many crawls to her home in McLean where she had a small one manual E. & G.G. Hook organ. Ruth was a great lover of the organ and its music. We miss her. Contributions to Ruth's memory can be sent to the Biggs Fellowship in order to help make young organists aware of our American organ heritage.

We are sending out the new 2005 membership roster with this mailing. Please proofread it for mistakes and send us any corrections needed. You may send them to Paul Birckner at (301)-449-4399 or <pbirckner@erols.com> or our mailing address.



Ruth Charters undated photo by P. Birckner



E. & G.G. Hook at the home of Ruth Charters
Photo: P. Birckner