

# Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

*Where the Tracker Action Is!*

www.hilbus.org



*Jacob Hilbus*

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Saturday, September 23, 2006

Bedford, Pennsylvania area

(THANKS TO PAUL ROEDER FOR ARRANGING THIS DAY!)

10:30 AM

***Zion Lutheran Church***

100 W. Main Street, Everett, PA  
1903 Felgemaker Organ, One manual (?)

**Directions:**

From the Frederick, MD area: Take I-70 west about 76 miles, following signs for Breezewood, PA  
I-70 becomes US-30 West/Lincoln Highway (do **not** get on the Pennsylvania Turnpike)  
Drive west about 7 miles on Rte. 30 West  
Turn left onto US-30 Business Route/East Main Street  
Drive about 1.5 miles and arrive at the church (100 W. Main Street, Everett)

c. 11:45 AM

***Lunch at Jean Bonet Tavern***

6048 Lincoln Highway, Bedford, PA

**Directions:**

Leaving Everett, start out going Southwest on W. Main Street/US-30 BR towards N. Ridge Street  
Merge onto US-30 W/ Lincoln Highway  
Travel 11 miles to Jean Bonet Tavern, 6048 Lincoln Highway (814/977-0798)

[crawl information continued next page]

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Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: [music.director@gracealex.org](mailto:music.director@gracealex.org)

Dues due in October: \$14, mailed to Secretary-Treasurer (Checks payable to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)

1:15 PM

**St. Thomas Catholic Church**

215 E. Penn Street, Bedford, PA

Tracker organ (turn of the last century)

Church staff couldn't recall the builder's name, but thought it was from eastern Ohio.  
Information will be available on the crawl.

**Directions from Jean Bonet Tavern:**

Go East on US-30/Lincoln Highway toward PA 31

Keep right at the fork to go on to Lincoln Highway

Lincoln Highway becomes Pitt Street

Turn right onto S. Bedford Street; end at 215 E. Penn Street

2:15 PM

**Bedford United Methodist Church**

132 E. John Street, Bedford, PA

1904 Estey, Opus #133 – altered and recently renovated

**Directions:**

Around the corner and walking distance from St. Thomas Church

**Note: If anyone gets lost, Paul Roeder's cell phone number: 301/268-6308**



The August crawl began with a visit to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Collington (Bowie, MD) which is home to **Estey Organ Opus #655**. The building dates from the 1840's and replaces two earlier churches on the site. This organ was originally installed in a Masonic Lodge in Washington, DC in 1909 according to the Estey opus list. It is representative of a type of small church organ built by the company commencing with their Opus #1 (1900) which is extant and playing.

The Octave rank is not a replacement but is found in most of the organs of this type. The individual stops are harmonically rich, well balanced with each other and quite beautiful. For example, the mildness of the stops resembles the Lancashire-Marshall organ visited last year.

The organ is well-suited to its present home. It is appreciated by the congregation and Music Director Michael Arrington, our host. The condition of the organ is generally good; it is tuned to low pitch A-435. The following information was provided by Gerald Piercey of Lewis & Hitchcock.



Estey Opus #655

**Great (Man. I)**

- Open Diapason 8' (61 pipes, 1-17 in façade)
- Dulciana 8' (61 pipes, 1-12 stopped wood)
- Octave 4' (61 pipes, stamped Viola)
- Swell to Great
- Swell to Great 8ves

**Swell (Man. II)**

- Stopped Diapason 8' (61 pipes, wood)
- Salicional 8' (49 pipes, 1-12 common to Stopped Diapason)
- Flute Harmonic 4' (61 pipes, 13-49 harmonic length)
- Oboe 8' (49 pipes, Estey's reedless design)
- Tremolo

**Pedal**

- Bourdon 16' (30 pipes, 1-16 as side façades)
- Great to Pedal
- Swell to Pedal

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Estey stopkeys

The organ uses tubular-pneumatic key action, and mechanical couplers. The stop action is Estey's patented piano-key action. Shaped like piano keys and located in a small group centered above the Swell manual, each stopkey has the name of the stop engraved on the edge facing the organist, and each has an ebony sharp next to it. Pressing the key latches it down (on), and pressing the sharp releases it. The organ was originally hand-pumped, and the bellows signal button still exists on the console.

We moved on to St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Bowie. The organ there is **Casavant Frères Opus #3711** built in 1993. This is a nicely balanced instrument that covers a lot of musical territory in a few stops. The nomenclature is French but the organ speaks the international musical dialect of many organs by this builder. The Swell strings are of the broad-toned type and benefit from the presence of super couplers; this gives the possibility of an orchestral build-up. The presence of the Swell 16' and Swell to Great 16' coupler answers a requirement for 16' manual tone in the upper register

in much of the Romantic French literature. The Flutes are colorful and varied; the Chorus is topped by a bright Mixture; the Trompette is narrow scale, thin in tone and only a little louder than the Swell Hautbois. The console is on a moveable platform and sits under the shelf which contains the organ case. There is an opening over the console which leads to the back of the organ; the result of this unusual feature is that the organist hears the organ well, perhaps better than some of the choir!

The organ is in superb condition. Isaac Borocz, our host, mentioned that the brake on the platform suffered a mishap and does not work any longer.

**Grand Orgue (Manual I)**

Montre 8'  
Bourdon 8'  
Prestant 4'  
Flute 2'  
Cornet II  
Fourniture IV  
Trompette 8'  
Chimes  
Récit to Gr. Orgue 16', 8'

**Récit (Manual II)**

Flûte à Cheminée 8'  
Viole de Gambe 8'  
Voix Céleste 8'  
Flûte à Fuseau 4'  
Doublette 2'  
Larigot 1 1/3' *prepared*  
Douçaine 16' *prepared*  
Hautbois 8'  
Tremblant  
Récit 16', 4'

**Pédale**

Soubasse 16'  
Octavebasse 8'  
Bourdon 8' *G.O.*  
Octave 4'  
Bombarde 16' *prepared*  
Trompette 8' *G.O.*  
Hautbois 4' *Réc.*  
*G.O./Péd.*  
*Réc./Péd.*



Casavant #3711



Carolyn Booth at Möller console in Port Republic, MD

Following a pleasant lunch at Grace's Fortune Restaurant, many continued on to the Tournament Day Recitals at Christ Episcopal Church in Port Republic, Maryland. Recitalists were: Laurence Whitbeck, Mark Steiner, Ed Godshall, Carl Schwartz, Carolyn Booth, and Susan Yoe. A number of members made it to the recitals who were unable to visit the other churches; the Hilbus Chapter was well-represented in the audience and at the console.

The organ is by **M. P. Möller**: a three-rank Artiste built for the church in 1959. The console was originally located in the Baptistry area adjacent to the Altar; it was moved to the gallery about 1990. Subsequently Paul Fulcher revoiced this organ in order to secure more presence in the room. It is installed in a standard cabinet and all ranks are under expression. It is put through a workout in these recitals. Though limited, the unified scheme does expand the scope of music

(continued next page)

which can be played on a small organ and the recitalists demonstrated this time and again.

The consoles of these Series organs are not as heavily built as most larger Möller organ consoles and in this particular organ the key adjustments and key contacts don't seem to stay well-adjusted from year to year. This provides an element of unwanted excitement and uncertainty for the performers, all of whom raised this issue in the general discussion which ensued at the delicious church dinner served in the Parish Hall.

**Great**

Diapason 8' (1-12 Gedeckt + Viola, Principal)  
Gedeckt 8' (80 pipes)  
Viola 8' (80 pipes)  
Principal 4' (61 pipes)  
Gedeckt 4'  
Viola 4'  
Twelfth 2 2/3' (Viola)  
Fifteenth 2' (Viola)  
Swell to Great  
Chimes

**Swell**

Gedeckt 8'  
Viola 8'  
Gedeckt 4'  
Viola 4'  
Nasard 2 2/3' (Gedeckt)  
Flautino 2'  
Tremolo

**Pedal**

Gedeckt 16' (12 pipes)  
Gedeckt 8'  
Viola 8'  
Quint 5 1/3'  
Octave 4'  
Flute 4'



[Crawl reviewed by Carl Schwartz]

**News of Note**

Hilbus member **Bill Parsons** will play an organ recital at The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. The church is located at the SW corner of Alabama and Branch Avenues, SE in Washington, DC. The organ is a two-manual and pedal tracker built by Karl Wilhelm (Canadian builder). Bill's program will include works by Buxtehude, Sweelinck, J. S. Bach, Walcha, Pachelbel, Held, and Kickstat. All are welcome to attend a wonderful afternoon of splendid organ music by an outstanding local performer and on one of the metro area's most beautiful small organs.



**PipeSpectacular** sponsored by the tri-chapter AGO will be Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the National Cathedral; the program begins at 5:30 PM following Evensong (4:00 PM).



There has been a recent flurry of discussion on the internet about **M. P. Möller Organ Opus #4019**, which was located in a building in Washington, DC called The Washington Auditorium. The organ, designed by Archer Gibson, contained 100 ranks over 4 manuals and pedal; a photo of the console reveals no less than EIGHT expression pedals. It turns out that the thing really existed. The Auditorium was located at 19<sup>th</sup> and E Streets, NW, and was an early attempt at providing a large convention center and hall for the District of Columbia; it was a private

enterprise and never made it financially. The Auditorium passed into the hands of the Federal government in the late 1930's and was converted to use as an office building. That building was torn down in the early 1960's; there was concern about the fate of the organ at the time, but it was not saved.



Mention also had been made of a theater organ in storage at **Constitution Hall**. This may be so, but many are not aware that the enormous space contains a tonally pristine Skinner. This is Opus #757, a three-manual instrument built in 1929. It is not a large organ, and when the stage was renovated in the 1950's the chamber openings were reduced by 50%. Indeed, those grilles to either side of the proscenium that look like large vents are the openings to the organ chambers. The console, which was remodeled with multiplex transmission and controls in the early 1990's is stored in the basement. This was visited by the Hilbus Chapter some years ago during a joint crawl with Potomac Chapter AGO. The organ is infrequently used, most commonly for the annual gathering of the Daughters of the American Revolution. One might wish for some improvement in the tonal egress but it is not clear that the organ would prove adequate for the poor acoustic of the hall whatever the physical arrangement.



**Deadline for the October issue: October 13**

# Hilbus Chapter 35th Anniversary Celebration

1:00 PM

*Luncheon at the Bavarian Inn, Shepherdstown, West Virginia*

(by advance reservation only)

3:00 PM

*Organ Recital by OHS Member Dr. Karl Moyer*

Trinity Episcopal Church, Shepherdstown

1869 George Stevens Organ (13 ranks, 2 manuals)

Come celebrate this milestone in the Hilbus Chapter's history in lovely Shepherdstown. Karl Moyer is well-known to those who attend the OHS national conventions, and has graciously agreed to play this recital for us on the occasion of the chapter's 35th anniversary. Trinity Church houses a Stevens organ; it replaced the Jacob Hilbus organ which had been relocated to Shepherdstown from Christ Church, Alexandria about 1840. The Hilbus organ now belongs to the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. Moyer will play a number of chorale and hymn-based works showcasing the capabilities of this organ as well as free organ compositions including works by Bach, Beethoven, Hindemith, and Franck.

*Lunch is by reservation only, please.*

## MENU

*Fresh Fruit Cup*

*Entrée* (choice of one)

*Bavarian Inn's own Sauerbraten,  
Red Cabbage and Potato Dumpling*

OR

*Sautéed Breast of Chicken Picatta with Lemon, White Wine and Caper Sauce,  
Whipped Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables*

*Black Forest Cake*

*Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea*

*German-Style Bread*

**Cost is \$25 per person (which includes tax and gratuity)**

Wine, Beer and Cocktails available on a cash basis

We will make every effort to accommodate special dietary requirements upon request.

Detach and mail with your check (payable to Hilbus Chapter OHS) to  
BARBARA BIRCKNER, 6606 FARMER DRIVE, FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744 (October 15 deadline)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Choice(s):    \_\_\_\_\_ Sauerbraten    \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken