

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



Volume 41

Number 4

November 2010

Whole No.366

Saturday, November 20, 2010 **Inside and Outside the Washington Beltway**

Crawl prepared by Carolyn Booth and Carl Schwartz

10:30 AM

All Saints Episcopal Church

3 Chevy Chase Circle

Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815-3400

(301) 654-2488

Host: Peter Crisafulli

1983 Cannarsa Organs Inc.
3 manuals and pedal - 45 ranks



TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Gordon L. Biscomb, 305 Stevens Circle, Apt. 3A, Aberdeen, MD

(410) 272-4987

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Carolyn Booth, 9200 LaBelle Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879

(301) 869-6271

EDITOR: Kevin M. Clemens, 711 Court Square Way, Edgewood, MD 21040

(410) 679-2271

EDITORIAL ADVISOR: Carolyn Fix, 116 Battle Street, SW, Vienna, VA 22180

(703) 281-5046

2011 NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIR: Carl Schwartz, 12802 Ruxton Road, Silver Spring, MD

(301) 236-0315

Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: kevinclemens@mac.com

Dues are due in October: \$14.00 mailed to Secretary-Treasurer (Checks payable to: HILBUS CHAPTER OHS)

FROM MARYLAND: Take the Washington Beltway in Maryland to Exit 33 which is Connecticut Avenue and head south towards Chevy Chase. **BE CAREFUL! There are speed cameras along the way especially south of Bradley Blvd.** Go approximately 2 and 1/2 miles to Chevy Chase Circle. Go about 1/4 of the way around the traffic circle just past All Saints Episcopal Church and make an immediate right on to Western Avenue. Go one block and turn right on Oliver Street and park in the parking lot behind the church.

FROM VIRGINIA: You can either stay on the Washington Beltway into Maryland or head north on Connecticut Avenue through DC to Chevy Chase Circle. Go 3/4 of the way around the traffic circle (you will pass Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, Chevy Chase Presbyterian and Connecticut Avenue). Follow the rest of the instructions above.

11:30 a.m.

Lunch

WE WILL WALK SOUTH ON CONNECTICUT AVENUE WHERE THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT RESTAURANTS.

1:30 p.m.

Church of the Little Flower

5607 Massachusetts Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20816
(301) 320-4538

Host: Jonathan Hellman

Casavant Freres 2009
3 manuals and pedal - 38 ranks

FROM ALL SAINTS PARKING LOT: Leave the parking lot onto Chevy Chase Circle and turn right onto Western Avenue. Stay in the middle lane. Drive approximately one mile to River Road. Turn right and go 1/2 mile. Get into the LH turn lane and turn left on Little Falls Parkway. Drive to the stoplight and turn right. There is another stop light on Massachusetts Avenue immediately after you turn. Go about another 1/10 of a mile and turn right at the sign which for the church - Church of the Little Flower.

Attention Hilbus Chapter Members

Would you like to sponsor or cosponsor one of the recitalists for the 2011 Convention? The fees for most of the recitalists are actually very reasonable and affordable. Contact Carolyn Booth and/or Carl Schwartz for more information. Their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are on the front of this newsletter.

HILBUS CHAPTER MARCHES IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE BLUE AND GRAY

October Crawl Review by Carl Schwartz

Due to a problem with the DVD of the photos of the crawl taken by Gordon Biscomb there will be no photographs of the two organs. They will be included in a future newsletter.

The October Crawl of Hilbus Chapter OHS visited two organs in rural Virginia. Our thanks to Jim Baird who planned and arranged for the visits. Autumn in the country is always a pleasant and colorful time. The region visited is home to many historic battle and encampment sites from the Civil War.

Our first visit took us to Jim Baird's church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 400 North Church Street, in Remington, Virginia about halfway between Warrenton and Culpepper. The pipe organ takes up most of what would be a chancel area at the front of the wooden church, The ceiling is tin. The church itself dates from 1881. It was built by Marshall Brothers, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A contract for this organ has been found, dated 1877. It was originally installed in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bucyrus, Ohio. It was installed in the Virginia church as M.P. Möller, Inc, Opus 1026. The contract with Möller is dated July 9, 1909.

The original specification is as follows: (The Handbook of the Ninth Convention of the OHS, 1964)

Manual	(58 notes)	
Open Diapason	8'	
Dulciana	8'	1-12 common with Melodia
Melodia	8'	pipes of Clarabella construction, stopped bass
String	8'	(label missing)
Principal	4'	
Flute	4'	
Fifteenth	2'	

Pedal	(27 notes)
Bourdon	16'

Pedal Coupler
blank knob
Tremolo

Balanced Swell Pedal
Loud and Soft Combination Pedals

The organ was rebuilt by Cleveland Fisher in 1964 to the following specification.

Manual	(58 notes)	
Open Diapason	8'	
Dulciana	8'	1-12 common with Melodia
Clarabella	8'	
Principal	4'	
Flute	4'	
Twelfth	2 2/3'	old pipes, may be String 8' cut down
Fifteenth	2'	

Pedal	(27 notes)	
Bourdon	16'	

Pedal Coupler

blank knob

Tremolo removed by knob in place

Balanced Swell Pedal

Loud and Soft Combination Pedals

At the time of the rebuild the tremolo was discarded for the reason that Mr. Fisher did not approve of this musical device. The original reservoir was discarded and a new supply house regulator and Meidinger blower were installed. This was not unusual at the time though it would be resisted now. Jim Baird added attractive Henry Erben finials to the case posts which are from his organ collection.

This is a lovely organ that is easy on the ears in the intimate room. The two flute stops, the Clarabella treble of open construction and the stopped Flute 4' are magical. The Dulciana is very gentle and, as one would expect, the softest stop in the organ. The Open Diapason has a clean, solid tone from bottom to top. The chorus build up is very good and whatever the pedigree of the Twelfth, it fits well in the ensemble. The higher pitches blend seamlessly and do not dominate. The tone is very similar to the later Lancashire-Marshall organ, also relocated by Möller, found at the Methodist Church in Rouzerville, Pennsylvania, a very fine two manual organ. Jim tells us that the Church has a good organist who really uses and likes this organ.

After members had a chance to play the organ, Carl Schwartz gave a report to those in attendance regarding plans for the 2011 OHS National Convention. He mentioned that he is preparing a descriptive article which will appear in the January issue of The Tracker.

Following lunch and a drive to the south the crawl visited the Chapel of Woodberry Forest School, 898 Woodberry Forest Drive, located north of Orange, Virginia. this venerable Virginia institution, which is an elite residential preparatory boys school has a spacious and well appointed campus which would be the envy of many Colleges.

We were greeted by Wallace Hornady who is on the school faculty and organist for the Chapel. He introduced us to C.B. Fisk, Opus 88, completed in 1986. The specification is: (C.B. Fisk website and annotated. The school's name is incorrect on the website, listed as Woodbury [sic]. It is located in Woodberry Forest, Virginia, not Orange.

Great, Man I

Bourdon	16'	
Prestant	8'	
Spire Flute	8'	
Octave	4'	
Fifteenth	2'	
Mixture V-VI		double draw with 2'
Cromorne	8'	

Oberwerk, Man II

Gedeckt	8'	
Rohrflöte	4'	
Nazard	2 2/3'	
Sesquialtera	II	double draw with 2 2/3'
Octave	2'	
Sharp IV		double draw with 2'

Pedal

Bourdon	16'	GT*
Octave	8'	GT*
Spire Flute	8'	GT*
Octave	4'	GT*
Posaune	16'	

Oberwerk to Great

Great to Pedal

Oberwerk to Pedal

Tremulant

Manual keyboards CC-g3, 56 notes

Pedal (flat and parallel) CC-f1, 30 notes

Double-draw, drawing the knob halfway brings on the first stop and drawing the knob fully brings on the second stop.

*Pedal and Great share a knob: The stop plays in the Great when drawn half way, and plays in the Pedal. When fully drawn, the stop will play in both divisions when drawn in the Great and the Great to Pedal coupler is drawn.

The organ case is located in the center of the chancel. The design compliments the Colonial Revival architecture of the interior. The facade pipes are of hammered lead. The Pedal Posaune has wooden boots and resonators. There are no internal case walls and the organ is laid out for easy access and service. The stopknobs are arranged in single vertical rows to either side of the keydesk. The double-draw system outlined in the Specification may seem complex, but once understood it proves versatile and convenient to operate. There is no combination system of any type and so this is a help.

Fisk has a reputation for building very loud organs and this particular instrument is no shrinking violet: every stop makes a statement by itself. However the sounds are delicious and knit together well. The high pitched aliquots of the Oberwerk are of Principal tone and the Fisk website relates that this is inspired by examples by Gottfried Silbermann. The Cromorne of the Great is robust in the French manner and serves well as a solo or chorus reed stop. The Flutes are all distinctive and appealing. The organ builds up well, aided by the double-draw feature.

The writer did not inquire about the arrangement to duplex the stops shared between the Great and Pedal. Typically this is done with side by side key channels. This requires more width for the slider chests. By arranging these stops as “either-or” the use of back check valves, one more little thing to give trouble, can be avoided. If the register is drawn on the Great it will couple normally. If drawn in the Pedal, it is unavailable on the Great and the slide acts as a back check thus presenting the wind from traveling back into the Great key channel. This sort of scheme works best with lower pitches. Any winding discrepancy that might arise when such an action is applied to higher pitched pipes can give rise to audible tuning differences between the two “sides” of the stop.

It is possible to play a wide range of literature on this ingeniously designed organ, especially if one registers imaginatively. The action is comfortable and precise. One does not have to meditate on the mechanism’s type: a good example of modern tracker action.