

Miracle of Great Organ

—Will be Heard by Thousands Friday

By Harold Lundstrom

THE MIRACLE OF THE great Tabernacle pipe organ will be heard this Friday morning by thousands as they attend the first session of the 119th Semi-Annual General Conference of the Church. Renovation of the world-famous organ began last April immediately following general conference. Because some of the sets of pipes are in the process of being connected, all of the organ will not be heard during this conference.

Originally the organ was built under President Brigham Young's direction by Joseph H. Ridges, an English convert from Australia. Construction took nearly eight years after Elder Ridges in 1860 determined that the best wood suitable for the pipes was to be found in the Parowan and Pine Valley region. Oxen and wagons were used to draw the loads of timber to the Tabernacle where they were tested, seasoned, shaped, and prepared for the organ.

The dedication of the organ was held in October, 1867. The organ was not entirely complete at that time, but a choir under the leadership of Elder George Careless rendered songs to the accompaniment of the organ which had 700 of the 2000 pipes which were later installed.

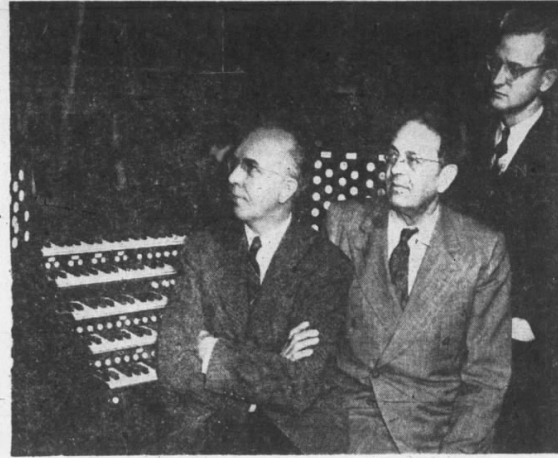
The original organ was a bellows type which was pumped by four men. The console had two manuals (keyboards), 27 pedals, 35 stops, and 2000 pipes, and the keys were attached to buckskin thongs which required heavy pressure to open the pipes.

In 1870 the organ was more than doubled in size and brought to a total of 32 sets of pipes or 1662 pipes. Nineteen new sets of pipes were added 15 years later in 1885 for a total of 51 sets of pipes or 2648 pipes.

At the turn of the century in 1900, nine additional sets of pipes were added to the organ bringing the total number of sets to 62.

As these periodic additions were made to the organ, some of the older sets of pipes were replaced by pipes made either locally or in organ factories in the East. Elder Ridges continued his work on the organ until 1909. He died in 1911.

THE ORGAN CASE was widened 15 feet on each side in 1916. Ten additional sets of pipes were added to the organ at this time which then gave it 72 sets. When the organ was renovated in 1926, 32 sets were added which gave the organ 94 sets. During the renovation in 1940, six new sets were installed which then gave the



ALEXANDER SCHREINER, FRANK W. ASPER, AND ROY M. DARLEY
Are the organists who will play the great new Tabernacle organ

organ an even 100 sets of pipes or an actual count of 6978 pipes. Since the latest renovation of the organ began last April, seven truckloads of precision-built parts—each load weighing ten tons—have traveled a distance of 2489 miles from the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company in Boston to Salt Lake City.

The new organ of 10,700 pipes has 22 chests of pipes. These chests are divided into eight "organs" or sections. Usually each organ is controlled by one manual, which in the case of the Tabernacle organ would require seven manuals, the pedals taking care of the eighth set of chests. However, on the new console, the "positive" and "choir" organs are played from one manual, and the "solo" and the "Bombarde" organs are controlled from one of the other manuals.

On the manual which controls the "positive" and "choir" organs, the "positive" chests are open. Though it is a very delicate organ, being open, it is a strong and clear organ. The "choir" organ chests are enclosed.

On the other manual which controls the "solo" and "Bombarde" organs, the "solo" chests are enclosed, and the "Bombarde" chests are open.

The "organs" and the number of chests with each one is as follows: the "antiphonal" organ, 2; the "swell" organ, 4; the "great" organ, 4; the "positive" organ, 2; the "choir" organ, 4; the "solo" organ, 2; and the "pedal" organ, 4.

It is anticipated that the "antiphonal" organ which is now located on the north side of the Tabernacle choir seats will eventually be moved to the east end of the balcony. It is expected that a set of decorative pipes will be constructed to be placed in front of the organ.

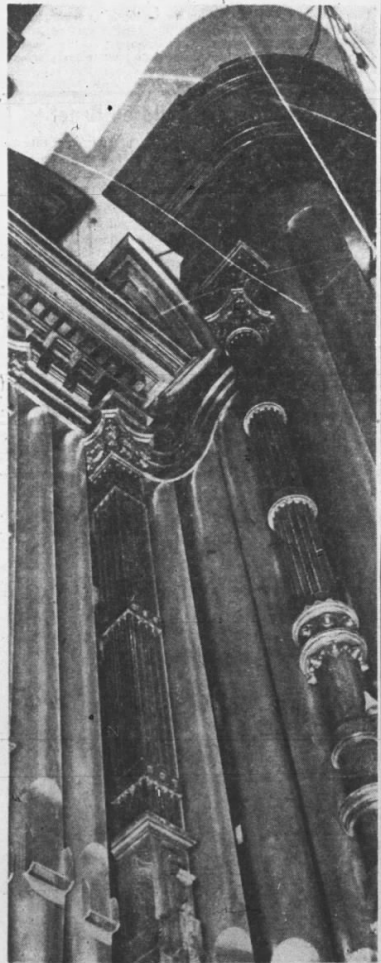
OVER THE YEARS the tradition has persisted that the Tabernacle organ is, if not the largest organ in the world, at least one of the largest. Actually the Tabernacle organ has not been, nor is it now with its new addition, one of the world's largest-sized instruments. During its 81-year history there have always been organs, if sets of pipes count, three or four times as large.

The organ in Convention Hall in Atlantic City is the largest organ in the United States. It has 430 sets of pipes or 33,000 pipes. Another large organ is in Wanamakers in Philadelphia which has 469 sets of pipes or 30,067 pipes.

However, because of the superb acoustics of the Tabernacle building itself, the Tabernacle organ has been, and now with its new additions will continue to be one of the most brilliant and powerful organs to be heard anywhere in the world.

Renovation of the organ has been under the general direction of Bishop Thorpe B. Isaacson of the Presiding Bishopric. Technical detail has been supervised by Alexander Schreiner and Frank W. Asper, Tabernacle organists, and Leland Van Waggoner, Tabernacle organ technician. Henry Sieberg of the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company has been in charge of construction, and Martin Carlson, of the same company, has directed the electrical installation. They have been assisted by Carmelo Fabrizio who is also from Boston.

Whether being played for solo work on the nationwide broadcast accompanying the Choir, or being used at the daily noon recital for tourists, the great Tabernacle organ will continue to thrill thousands upon thousands of people. It is a great instrument, and under the hands of the great organists of the Church, its music will ever be an inspiration to everyone who hears it.



PIPES, 10,700 OF THEM, MAKE THE ORGAN Nearly 40 per cent larger than it has ever been
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LELAND VAN WAGGONER, MARTIN CARLSON, HENRY SIEBERG, AND CARMELO FABRIZIO
Are the artisans who directed the construction of the great organ