

# ORGAN NOTES



## FOR SCHOBER ORPHANS AND FRIENDS

Issue # 119

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Schober Organ Orphans' Page: <http://www.users.cloud9.net/~pastark/schober.html>

### OVERTURE

**Disclaimer:**

***We accept no responsibility for any unfavorable consequences resulting from following our advice***

Hi Again All Schober Orphans Group Members!

Organ Notes is back. The last issue August-November 2010 was supposed to be the issue that got me back on schedule getting out issues of Organ Notes, but it was not to be. Unfortunately lots of things went wrong. Several times I had computer problems. The worst was when lightning hit the power lines and killed the display of my coffee maker, a shelf stereo system and something went haywire in the computer. I now have a new computer, but have not transferred all data from my backup yet, that is why those of you who are receiving O.N. by e-mail will be getting this issue somewhat later than those who subscribe to the hard copy version.

My storage "tent" succumbed to heavy snow last winter. It had lasted for several years while unattended in the winter when I was still living in N.Y., but... the replacement lasted only from spring this year until a snowstorm this fall. In between hurricane Irene devastated Vermont. The town of Jamaica was severely hit. Five houses in the middle of town and many close to town were swept away by raging brooks and rivers. Roads were washed away and bridges disappeared. Fortunately my place was not touched, but getting around was very difficult if not impossible for several months. I hope that all of you who were in the path of hurricane Irene survived without injury or damage.

The worst thing that happened was the death of Jack D. Gildar. Jack was the man who sent out the e-mail version of Organ Notes and advised me on many issues. He helped our group a lot and we became friends. We had just exchanged holiday gifts and communicated via e-mail and his death was a shocking very sad event.

Jack was born May 31, 1933 and died January 14, 2011. The cause of death was smoke inhalation from an electrical fire in his home. He was a retired U.S. Air Force Major. He loved Theatre Organs and was a member of several organ organizations. He traveled all over to attend organ concerts and owned several electronic organs. He loved motorcycles

and rode his a lot. — I sent an e-mail to his son asking for a copy of Jack's obituary, but unfortunately I never got an answer.

During the absence of Organ Notes our operations did not cease as far as helping owners of Schober organs keeping their organs working. Two TR-2 amplifiers, 2 LSS-10 loudspeakers, and the pedal switch assembly for a Recital were picked up by one of our members. I was sent a power supply which I fixed and returned to a Schober owner. Another Schober owner sent me three tone generators to fix which I did and returned to him. I sent various parts for a Schober to a new member in South Africa! Someone else got two HF-1 super tweeters with level controls. Robert Elliston in Australia is happy with a combination action which I sent him for his Recital! Sending it was somewhat complicated and the shipping was not cheap, but Robert is very satisfied and I am delighted that he is. He has written an update about his organ in this issue. You might want to first read his original story and description of his Recital in Organ Notes 109 and 110. I was also sent some parts by members for my supply. Remember, if you need parts and I have them, they are yours for free (except postage). In the next issue I will continue publishing the Schemp Owner's Manual.

AK

#### IN MEMORIAM

Jack D. Gildar

May 31, 1933-January 14, 2011

Our dear friend will be sorely missed.

## THE SCHOBER RECITAL ORGAN

### UPDATE

Some Organ Notes back (O.N. 109 & 110) I described in detail the Schober Recital Organ wreck that I salvaged and restored. It is one of the later 12 Generator designs, and is living working proof that any attempt to alter original Schober key-switch or Generator design is both unnecessary and undesirable; Richard Dorf's original design, audio-switching notwithstanding, is entirely satisfactory.

This organ, as built in the 1970's works hard, producing music from the most advanced classical music repertoire, every day. It is a fine, extremely reliable serious musical instrument, and gives a totally worthy account of itself, and to my ear has a warmth of lovely powerful tone that even in this digital age, still holds up very well indeed. The latter tending to a dryness not evident in the older analogue system.

It has been said that anything good, remains good. In an age of deterioration of musical standards, culture and education, the genuine article remains. And the Schober Recital Organ is no exception.

The only real design weakness is the Klann Stop-action. The plastic Stop-tab hinges are of very light construction and are too easily broken. A special metal clip and a spot of glue corrects that permanently, so even that is not a great issue.

The technology of the day incorporated germanium transistors. For all the terrible things said about them, most have lasted 40 years now. Of course they had failures from new. But such is the Schober design that a junked transistor replaced by another is just too easy, and those that are still original still work reliably, long and hard. I have heard that these things are noisy. Well they aren't. The organ is so quiet when it is 'On' that I have to take special precautions not to forget to shut it down when I have finished.

As stated, when I first acquired the instrument over ten years ago, it was a wreck, and I was driven to despair with dead and scratchy contacts **until** I came upon a miracle once-off fix that in 30 seconds cured all the contact faults in one fell swoop forever. I described all of that in the earlier Organ Notes. That was done once, several years ago.

This organ never had Stop control. Several years ago Alex Kruedener happened to mention that he had spare Combination actions in store from other organs. When this organ turned out to be such a very worthy instrument, I decided that it would fully justify the installation of such a facility. And so a marathon project for Alex and me was instigated. It was a massive undertaking for him to haul it out, pack it up (several times due to International Postal bureaucracy), ship it out to Australia to then be installed in the organ.

To say that ALL the work was fully justified is an understatement. It is a fully capture system, an unheard of luxury in an electro-mechanical era, and works perfectly. What one has to do is to follow the instructions supplied

implicitly. And that is not quick, and it is not easy, despite the fact that Alex was amazed at how quickly I did the work.

The system comes with four General Pistons and Toe studs, five Swell Pistons and four Great Pistons, all capture adjustable. Alex included two extra Toe-studs and Thumb-pistons. These were utilised for a Swell to Great Reversible, and a Great to Pedal Reversible.

That was all very well, but how on earth do you make them work each Stop-tab on or off? Some ingenuity was called for. As stated, this is a mechanical Combination action. There are no magnet coils on any of the Stop-tabs. I have supplied Alex with several photos of this organ over the years, and I am now including two pictures of the reversible operating mechanism [**see page 3**]. The pictures will show that there is but one lever magnet for each stop. Its tail lifts a T shaped lifting piece with a cut-out at each end of the horizontal arms. Another horizontal arm in an inverted T shaped piece is attached to the shaft of a bent wire lever at the back of the assembly which moves the connecting wire with its adjustable attachment to the Combination rocker, directly connected to the Stop-key.

A hair spring is attached to the first T extending upwards into a hole at the top of the second inverted arm of the second T piece. As the Stop is moved on or off, the top arm moves to left or right and thus the vertical wire which moves the arm with the cut-outs left or right also, sets the lifting arm for the next move upwards when the Thumb-piston or Toe-stud is pressed. I take no credit for this invention. It is an old device, first used in pipe-organs, which I simply adapted.

Since writing the original article in 2009 I have changed the Specification of the organ a little from that described. I decided that an 8' Open Diapason No.1 was lacking on the Great. So I made up a filter card, very reluctantly took out the lovely 16' Gemshorn, and slipped the new card and Stop-tab in its place. Then I took out the Swell 16' Bourdon (which was really mud-pie) and slipped the 16' Gemshorn and Stop into its place. The whole exercise was an act of inspiration, which retained the Gemshorn, and transformed both departments. Now, in total is Richard Dorf's genius. My one regret is that he is not alive to know about this lovely instrument.

R.W.E.

Adelaide, Australia.

28-11-2011.

### ADS

**Disclaimer:**  
**Any deals, making of payments, receipt of payments or verifications are strictly your responsibility.**

FREE: Schober Theatre Organ with Dynabeat, Presets, Reverbatape, etc., in the Boston area. Please get in touch with me. AK (See my information last page of this issue) if interested.

WANTED: A Schober Rotatone or the IC number S10110 (the BBD) for the Schober Rotatone. Contact: Doug Steeves: Email: [dcsteeves@bellaliant.net](mailto:dcsteeves@bellaliant.net) or phone/write me, AK

FREE: Theatre Schober  
In the Madison, WI area. With Reverbatape, Schober Speaker and Leslie speaker. Tuner and unbuilt percussion kit included.  
Contact Rob: [erob01@att.net](mailto:erob01@att.net), telephone: 608-238-9794

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