

KGDM's Organ Being Assembled From Pipes of Pan to King of Instruments

By IDAMAE JOHNSON

The spacious concert hall on the third floor of the Pepper building looks like the day after Christmas in a house full of children—only more so.

And E. F. Pepper, owner of the station, and A. H. Green, KGDM station manager, look as happy as a house full of children, for the piles of thingamajigs and whatnots, big and little, will form the interior department of KGDM's huge new organ. The only thing that resembles an organ at first glance, however, is the handsome console sitting serene on the platform looking as innocent as the cat that ate the canary.

The organ is a three-manual Moller, electrically unified and built especially for broadcasting. It is one of the largest in the interior of the State.

It took more than six months for the factory at Hagerstown, Md., to build the organ. After the innumerable parts were completed the instrument was assembled and tested. Then the King of Instruments was entirely dismantled and disembodyed for shipping.

P. T. GEARHART KNOWS HIS PIECES

P. T. Gearhart, the specialist, who with an assistant, accompanied the "crates" to Stockton, expects to have the organ assembled in about six weeks. He knows what is in every pile and why, and convinces one that he can do better than "all the king's horses and all the king's men" could do with the little job they had on hand. He has to reconstruct a complete orchestra with every instrument and every combination of instruments at the instant control of the organist.

HUNDREDS OF WIRES WAITING TO GO PLACES

Something of the intricacy of the controls can be imagined by looking at the cables that stretch down the center of the floor. In each cable there are about 100 pairs of tiny wires that form the electric system that opens and closes valves for the operation of the pipes.

THE BIG SET INSTALLED

The largest set of pipes, containing some 16 feet high, are already colonnaded in place in the "chest" which is the compartment at the side of the concert hall which will contain everything except the console and the motor. The ceiling in this section of the room had to be raised seven feet to accommodate the chest.

A PIPE FOR PAN

If Pan himself should by chance enter the concert hall just now, he would undoubtedly turn himself inside out in an orgy of piping. Hundreds of shining metal pipes ranging in size from those of very slim lead pencils to those much larger than himself are lined up along the wall on the floor. When Mr. Pepper did some piping on a few of the smaller tubes one rather expected Pan to come skipping in, for on such pipes as these, but made of reeds, did he play and to his piping the origin of the organ is traced.

In a room back of the chest is a very self-satisfied looking 7½ horsepower electric motor. It does the "blowing" with a mere little purr. The 70 men who, we read, were the blowers for the cathedral organ of Winchester, England, in 950 couldn't begin to crowd into the motor's little sound-proof compartment.

RADIO ORGAN

TEMPERAMENTAL

The broadcasting-studio organ in reality has to be treated with gloved hands and the velvet touch. The chest is lined with sound-proof celotex to prevent vibration. This in turn is lined with chicken wire which grounds the electric currents from the antennae and other station apparatus and prevents the tripping of the hundreds of valves that are operated electrically from the console. The sets of pipes are being fitted into felt-lined spaces and are tied in place with felt cords.

INTERESTED VISITORS

WELCOME

The organ it is expected will be in operation early in September. In the meantime Mr. Pepper and Mr. Green are cordially welcoming all visitors who are interested in seeing "the inside" of the magnificent instrument.