

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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CHRIST CHURCH ORGAN

"This organ was rebuilt to the
Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of
Vincent Rees Browne
Priest, Dean, Friend
1914-1977

Rector of Christ Church
1948-1952

Gift of Verna C. Posson"

On Sunday, September 21, 1980 at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Peter Browne, M.M., organist and son of Father Vincent R. Browne, will offer a concert of sacred music in celebration of the recent restoration of the organ at Christ Episcopal Church in Albion.

The tracker action organ was built in 1877 by Steer and Turner of Westfield, Mass. at a cost of \$1600.00 for a memorial to Jonathan Blott, the greater portion of which was donated by his widow. The 1873 minutes of the Vestry indicate a resolution for building an organ room on to the church to house the present organ which is the third in the history of Christ Church. In 1950 it was re-built by the Schlicker Organ Company of Buffalo, N.Y. at a cost of \$5,000.00, the major portion of which was a legacy from the estate of Matie Cornell Lewis.

By 1976 it had become apparent that, as a result of ordinary wear, water damage, and a regrettable incident of vandalism, estensive and costly work would be needed for its preservation. In December of that year, Miss Verna C. Posson of Albion contributed the sum of \$2,000.00 to be placed in The Christ Church Organ Rebuilding Fund. The following year, Miss Posson, having decided that she would like to be the sole contributor to the cost of re-building the organ, contributed an additional \$20,000.00 to the project with the understanding that the work would be undertaken as a memorial to The Rev. Vincent Rees Browne.

The work of re-building and restoration of the organ was undertaken by The Andover Organ Company of Methuen, Mass. this last Spring and completed by the end of June. With all renovation complete, the organ is authentic in sound, action and appearance. Fortunately when many churches were electrifying organs, Christ Church did not, thus retaining the tracker action movement which is preferred by many organists.

During the rebuilding process it was discovered that originally the organ's case or face pipes were stenciled with designs in gold leaf on a vivid blue background. These had been painted over with gilt paint around seventy years ago and had all but been forgotten. Hence, the pipes have been restored to their intended decorative splendor exceeding in expense the original cost of the organ.

The members of Christ Church can be very proud of this fine instrument and will be ever grateful to Miss Posson for its protection, preservation and for maintaining its fine integrity.

