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Carl Balduf
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Dear Carl, Mary Ann, and OHS Chapter,

I write to thank you all for making the journey westward to Marshall and Battle Creek on Saruday, April 4, for your meeting, playing, and inspection of the organs at Trinity Episcopal Church, The Mole Hole gift shop, and Goodrich Chapel at Albion College.

I was impressed by the number of people in attendance, many of them having traveled a hundred miles or more for the event. I was pleased also that you found the Möller organ at Trinity to be a satisfying instrument. It was a very special instrument for Möller and for Trinity's organist at the time, Paul Humiston, AAGO, and it has become just as dear to me over the years, and a significant source of pride for the parish.

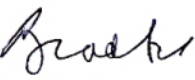
At Albion, there seemed to be general consensus that the organ was just not as satisfying as the instrument at Trinity, due to the slender scaling, the under-developed foundation tone, the buzzy reeds, the appalling state of the antiphonal organ, and the general inattention being paid to the instrument these days. I spoke with Brian Fowler shortly after our visit to Albion. He said that he'd done what he could with funds available, and got the new console installed, and the primaries re-leathered, but all other leather is still original. Clearly, the college needs to do some major work in preserving this instrument.

While the style of the Albion organ is not one which is much favor these days, I am reminded of how little valued E.M. Skinner organs held in past decades, and how carelessly the little tracker organs of the 19th century were discarded or carelessly re-built. Perhaps someday the Albion Möller will again have its day. Until that time, it remains a tonally untouched exemplar of its style, and therefore of great value to the principles and standards of OHS.

Enclosed is a copy of an article from the Marshall Chronicle and Advisor, concerning the chapter's visit to Marshall and Albion.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to host the chapter on Saturday, April 4. On another visit "out west," the chapter really needs to see the unusual, early Holtkamp organ at Olivet College.

With best wishes,


Brooks Grantier, FAGO

