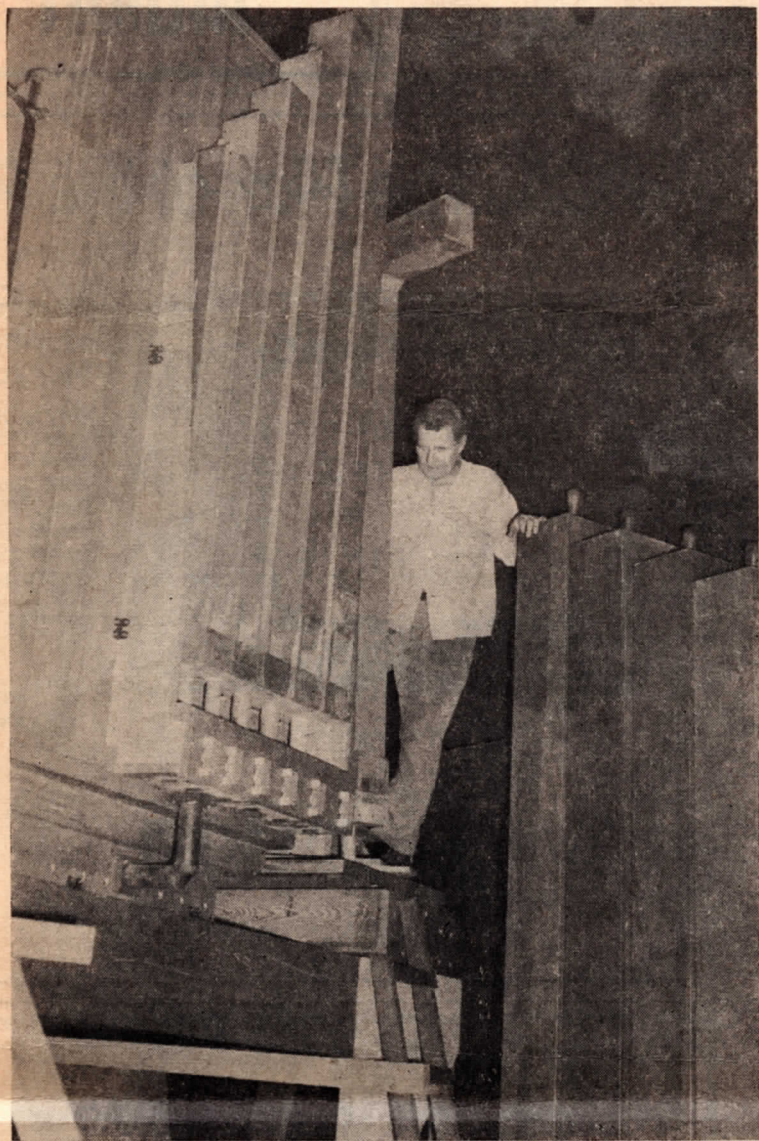


# Organ Being Built



High in the organ loft is Orlando Laucandt, master builder from Red Wing. Hundreds and hundreds of pipes and other instruments go into an organ such as the one being built in St. Ansgar's Lutheran church. Laucandt has worked well into the wee hours of many mornings during the past month, and has about another month to go. All the pieces were spread out on the church floor when moved, and then they had to be carried up into the loft. That job was accomplished Friday night, prior to carpet laying this week.

A highly technical, painstaking, slow project has been underway for a month under a master's hand at St. Ansgar's new church.

The job is building an organ. The master is Orlando Laucandt of Red Wing, and organ building is his life.

The organ consists of over 1,000 flutes, strings, reeds and pedal sections. It came out of St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield about five years ago when St. Ansgar's bought it for \$4,000.

It has been stored above a downtown store here since, and about a month ago was taken to the new church when Laucandt began.

He has put together or taken apart over 100 organs in his life. For 14 years he worked for a company out of Chicago, traveling all over the country in his specialized occupation. He now is in business for himself.

The organ, when finished, will be a combination of the present St. Ansgar's organ and the one from Northfield, and will have a value of about \$60,000, Laucandt said.

"No organ made now compares to this pre-World War II model,

because of the cost and scarcity of materials," he said. There was a drastic change in materials for organ pipes after the war.

The organ loft in the new church is about 10 feet off the floor, behind the altar area. Two or three parts of the organ weighed over a ton each, and they had to be lifted manually into the loft. Many church members have been assisting the organ builder in his work. One of those members is Burt Olson, who Saturday morning said "all the parts have been cleared off the church floor and are in the loft."

Chimes and other parts of the present church organ are being utilized. Before the total organ can be used, however, a new three-manual console (cost \$4,000) is needed. That will be added in years to come, Pastor Pearson said.

Laucandt has about another month's work, he feels. And that will be about when the church will hold its first service in the new building, Pearson said. Carpeting and pews went in this week. "Hopefully, we'll be in by March 15," the pastor said.