

Rt. 1 Box 792
Smithfield, Va.
June 23, 1974.

Mrs. Cynthia Hoover, Curator
Division of Musical Instruments
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.

As I mentioned in my letter to you, dated June 7th, I was writing my elder brother regarding his recollections of the "Telharmonium", particularly regarding our father's first meeting with Dr. Cahill, which I thought he would recall. This may be of no special interest to the Smithsonian, However the following is quoted from his reply,-

"I clearly remember being on the street-car with father in down-town Holyoke, when the two men in the seat ahead of us began talking between themselves, on the subject "How shall we find someone who can translate German into English, and vice versa ?" Of course, we could not help overhearing them. Father introduced himself, and told them he could do that.

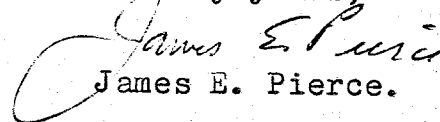
This is the beginning of the association with Dr. Cahill."

He also recalled our first auto ride (which I have previously mentioned) in Dr. Cahill's "Cadillac". Also the following quote from his letter, which fairly well corroborates my recollection of the demise of the project.

"I cannot document the following, However, for what it is worth: Some men rented a first-floor place on lower Broadway, N.Y. Furnished it luxuriously, and offered stock for sale. They could, of course, tell a legitimate story about the inventing and development; and father could exhibit the instrument. But, apparently, the promoters were crooks. They simply took the money and skipped the country. This pretty well put 'finis' to the story."

Just for the record, My brother referred to above is the Rev. Roderic Pierce (retired Episcopal clergyman) 2121 Q Ronda Granada Laguna Hills, Cal. 92653. In closing he also makes the following comment, "I am impressed with the thoroughness with which Mrs. Hoover does her job, when she is acquainted with such a little-known project as the 'Telharmonium'."

Sincerely yours,


James E. Pierce.