

VOLUME 21

ISSUE 5

MAY 1982

PRICE 40¢

# T.O.S.A. NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION

ADDRESS: BOX A 584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

Registered by Australia Post -- Publication No. N.B.H. 1038

## NEIL JENSEN



**SUNDAY 16th  
MAY at 2pm  
Marrickville Town Hall  
Marrickville**



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DIRECTORY.

PATRON: Ian Davies.

PRESIDENT: Alan Misdale (525 5554)  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Frank Ellis(649 7011) Doug Smith(750 0917)  
SECRETARY: Ernie Vale(798 6816)  
TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mrs.Edna Smith (529 7379)  
PRACTISE CONVENOR: Jim Crombie (750 4294)  
RECORDING ENGINEER: Ray Garrett (869 7247)  
COMMITTEE: Mrs.Phil Wilson, Ron Wilson, Bill Schumacher,  
Robert Gliddon, John Weismantel, Neil Palmer.  
TOSA NEWS EDITING & PRINTING: Ron Wilson & Doug Smith.

\*\*\*\*\*  
RESULT OF BALLOT.

The ballot for the vacant position on the Committee resulted in Mr.Neil Palmer being elected for the position, and he has now been included in the above Directory.

We cordially welcome Neil as our new Committee Member and look forward to his help and advice in the many tasks to be resolved as the year progresses.

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WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

Robert Mcphee,Earlwood: Don Baker,Penshurst: Jean Howell,  
Caringbah: David & Julie Bruce,Kings Langley: Jane Raines,Cronulla:  
Robert & Jill Swan,Terrigal: Eunice & Merv Palmer,Ashfield:  
John Oakes,East Hills: David & Shirley Hinter,Sth.Strathfield:  
Cliff & Jess Darlington,Bondi: N&J Collins,Cronulla: Eric &  
Pauline Gibbons,Campsie.

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TOSATOUR SPECIAL MEETING.

All people interested in the proposed TOSATOUR of the US in 1983 are invited to attend a Special Meeting to be held on FRIDAY the 7th of MAY 1982 at the home of Pat and Mal Mackay, 21 Inverness Avenue, Penshurst, at 7.45 pm sharp. Ladies are asked to bring a small plate towards supper.

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TOSA BADGES are now available to bona-fide members from our Membership Secretary, Mrs.Edna Smith. Please call her on 529 7379 and arrange for yours now. The price per badge is \$2.50 and they can be collected at the next coming function after ordering.

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GET WELL SOON to both Tom Halloran and Ron Smith who are on the sick list at the moment.

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WARINGAH ORGAN SOCIETY will be having a members playing night on May 3rd. Visitors are most welcome and you can take your music and play the organ if you wish.

Please contact Ross Lanes (Sec.) on 913 1826 if you can attend and he will look after you.  
(Venue: Narrabeen RSL auditorium)

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PADDINGTON TOWN HALL on Wednesday 19th May at 8pm. our Patron Ian Davies will be playing a Conn \$manual Theatre Organ. All TOSA members and friends are welcome to attend.

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This organisation acknowledges financial assistance from the NSW Government through the Premier's Department, Division of Cultural Activities.

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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## MAY

Monday 3rd, 7.30pm Committee Meeting at St.Annes Church Hall Beresford Road, Strathfield.

Sunday 16th, 2pm NEIL JENSEN in concert at Marrickville Town Hall. See inside for booking details.

## JUNE

Sunday 6th, 2pm FREE CONCERT at Marrickville Town Hall featuring our Patron..IAN DAVIES at the console.

Monday 7th, 7.30pm Committee Meeting at St.Annes Church Hall.

Wednesday 16th, 7.30pm, CLUB NIGHT at Marrickville. An opportunity to meet your fellow members and play your own Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ.

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URGENT! URGENT! ( S-P-A-C-E ) is urgently needed for working on the Capitol Organ. The size of a large garage with good lighting is about what is needed, and if you can possibly help with such an area, please contact our President, Alan Misdale on 525 5554 at once.

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MEMBERS!!! We are very anxious to get new venues for HOME PARTIES for the latter part of 1982. If you can see your way clear to hold a Home Party, please contact Mrs.Phil Wilson (759 6050) or Doug Smith (750 0917) and discuss it with them. We can help arrange the evening and assist with supper utensils etc to make the night a success.

DONT BE SHY!!! Please call soon!

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## NOEL SMITH'S FAMILY ORGAN CLUB

Meetings are now taking place regularly on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month in the Terrace Room, Miranda Fair. The evening includes Dinner and a great night of musical entertainment with various artists.

NOTE: ALL BOOKINGS TO BE MADE WITH: JOY STAINER ON 529 3390 AND THE DEADLINE FOR BOOKINGS IS THE FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE FIRST TUESDAY AT 12NOON.

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## DONT FORGET THE YAMAHA ANNUAL ORGAN FESTIVAL.

The Metropolitan Regional Final of the YAMAHA ORGAN FESTIVAL is to be held at the LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL HALL on Saturday 8th MAY, 1982.

There will be TWO sessions, the first commencing at 2.30-5pm approx. and the second at 7.30-9.30 approx. A total of 28 entrants will be performing on the day. They will be the Finalists for the various heats.

Proceeds from the day will benefit Disabilities Unlimited, a Charitable Organisation providing transport for the Disabled.

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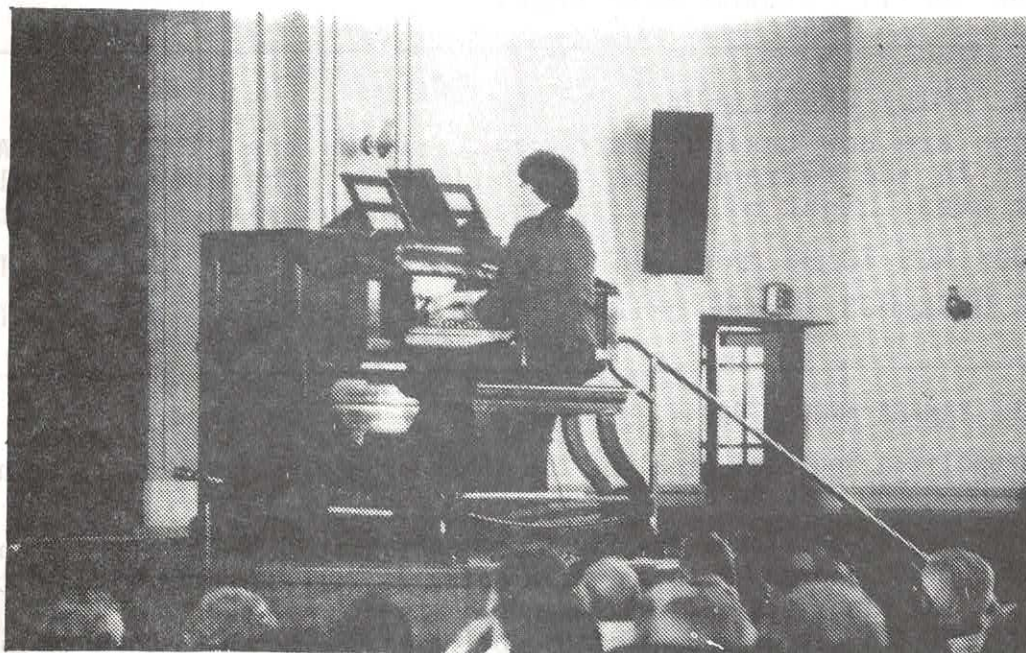
CONCERT BY JOHN ATWELL March 21st (a rhyming review by John Clark)



Melbournian...John Atwell  
who at the Wurlitzer, sat well  
came to Sydney to play and I'd have to say  
not many blokes play it that well.

With woolly hair and boyish grin  
the ladies seemed to like it  
just ask him play 'Strike Up the Band'  
'Cause he's the one to strike it.

The songs he played you couldn't fault  
and in between he'd chat well  
so for a show we all enjoyed  
WELL DONE AND THANKS, JOHN ATWELL!



This popular vocal group is now being featured by the BOWLER'S CLUB of NSW, 95 York St., Sydney, on MAY 1-7-8-14-15 at 8.45pm with Matinees also on MAY 8-15 at 2pm.

They are presenting for your enjoyment a selection of the most popular songs from Broadway's Western Musicals... "Annie Get Your Gun".. "Paint Your Waggon".. "Oklahoma".. "Calamity Jane" These are all from an era bursting with excitement, and they are accompanied by organists ERIC SMITH and SIMON ELLIS.

Special 9-course Chinese Banquet and show \$16..(minimum of 16) or 3-course English style dinner and show \$12, or show only \$5.

Please ring for ALL enquiries: 290 1155.  
(Car parking from 6pm..Enter from 168 Clarence Street)

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DAVID PARSONS...well known Sydney organist will be presenting TWO concerts in MAY.1982.

The FIRST will be at SYDNEY TOWN HALL on Monday 3rd at 8pm when David will be playing a Baldwin Grand Cathedral organ. ADMISSION...Adults \$2..Concession \$1..

Please contact JOH CONGERT at THE ORGAN STOP, 82 Burwood Road, Burwood, or phone 747 4055 for ALL enquiries.

The SECOND will be at the SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE on Wednesday 12th commencing at 1.10pm..where David will be playing the famous SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE ORGAN...

ADMISSION is FREE...

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BUS TRIP...23/24 OCTOBER 1982.

THIS POPULAR OUTING IS ALREADY STARTING TO FILL UP, SO WHEN MAKING YOUR BOOKING PLEASE SEND DEPOSIT OF TWENTY DOLLARS PER PERSON TO ENSURE A SEAT,

SEND ALL BOOKINGS AND DEPOSITS TO:- MRS. PHIL WILSON  
120 DENNIS STREET,  
LAKEMBA 2195

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CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

To Miss Patricia Guthrie who recently announced her engagement to Mr. John Watt from Seven Hills.

Patricia is well known to TOSA members and earlier this year made her debut appearance at the Marrickville Wurlitzer and was very well received by the audience for her fine performance. Patricia and John plan to wed in April of next year.

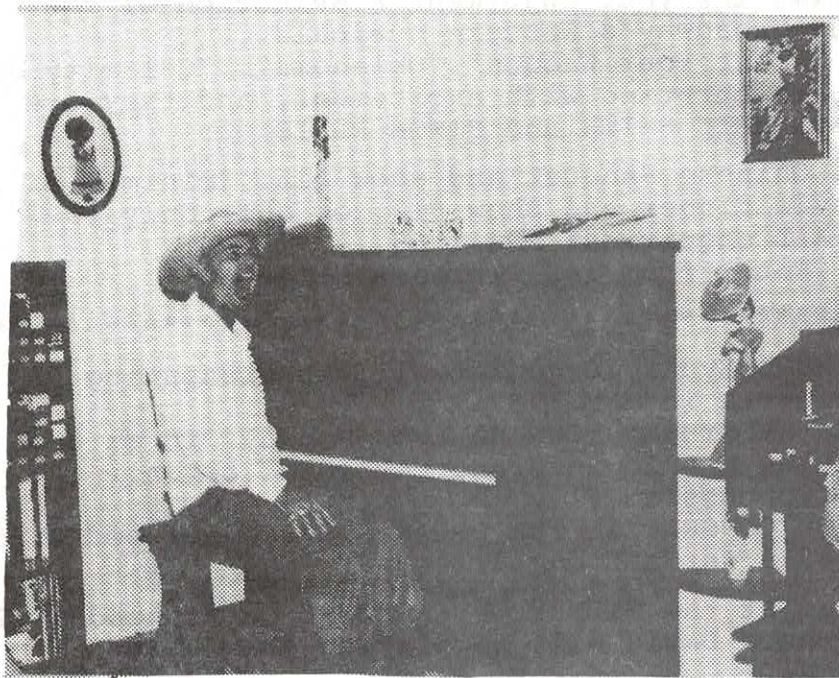
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INTERSTATE NEWS.

Sunday 23rd MAY at the DENDY THEATRE will see a very promising concert featuring: TONY FENELON, JOHN ATWELL, DAVID JOHNSTON, who will be presenting the FIRST FAREWELL TO THE DENDY concert. Admission is \$5..TOSA Members \$4..Concession \$2..and it starts at 2pm.

If you are in Melbourne on this date, here is a concert you CANNOT just miss!!

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HOME PARTY at CEC PADDY'S..Sunday 28th March (by Phil Davies)



The main reveller  
at full flight.  
John Elton, of course!

A large number of members attended a Home Party at the home of Cec & Norm Paddy for an afternoon of music and merriment. Many talented people entertained us on the big Lowrey and piano. John Clark and Cec Paddy did some great comedy numbers on organ and piano. John's fancy costume was brilliant, something between Mexican and Calypso! (John Elton in fact!) Following this hilarious interlude President Alan Misdale expressed thanks to our Hosts.

A lovely afternoon tea was served and then back to more music. Altogether, a wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all. The total sum raised was \$80.90, a very rewarding sum indeed to help with our continuous organ maintainance.

Cec Paddy  
being fitted with  
John Elton's glasses!  
and loving every  
minute of it!



Our sincere thanks to Cec and Norm Paddy for a great day.

NOBODY  
DOES IT  
BETTER!



Yes, that's the title song from a James Bond movie, but these same words also reflect the sentiments of the large crowd at Marrickville on Easter Sunday. Many people have expressed the opinion that it was the best concert Tony has ever given!

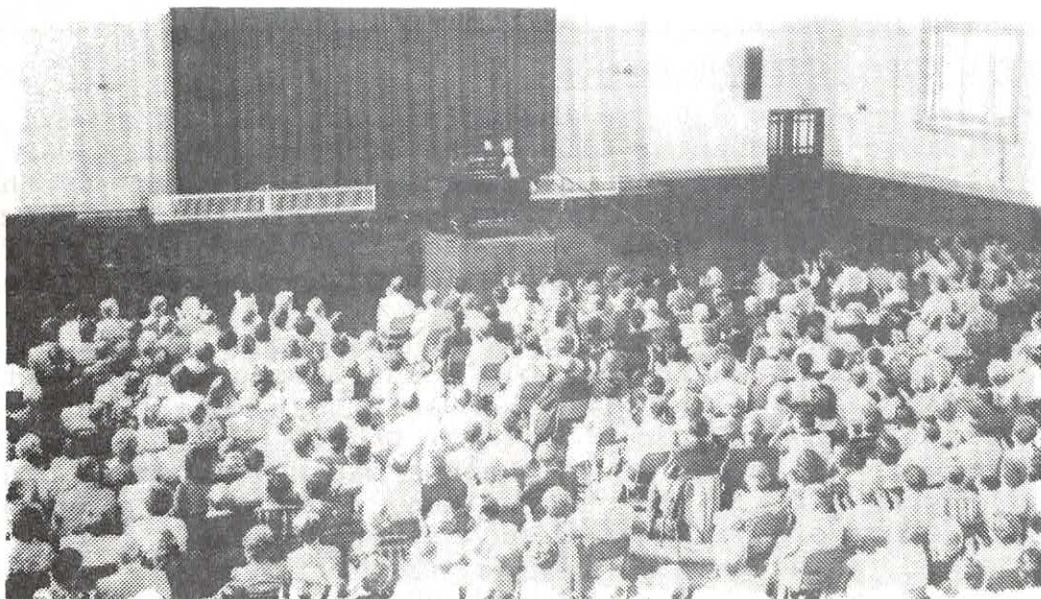
The song, Bad Habits, set the mood for the day as Tony romped through it emitting an obvious enjoyment which reflected to the audience from the word go. The brothers Gibb and Barry Manilow songs received treatments which made them as well received as Shenandoa, Big Country, Let's Fall in Love, Battle Hymn of the Republic, Easter Parade, Blue Room, Louise and others that formed the first half of the programme.

The second half was equally full and varied, but of special note were two long medleys...one his superb rendition of the now well known Hooked on Classics, and the other, his finale, was about a twenty minute string of audience requests which received long and loud and well deserved acclamation.

The concert went slightly overtime, but the audience were glued to their seats and didn't notice the time or if they did they certainly showed no desire to miss a single note!

One question remains...what can he do to TOP this one..after all,

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER!



Well, here I am back in Moresby again after a brief visit to Sydney. I find it hard to believe that of my original two year term, there's only five months to go. Actually though, I have extended for another year so obviously life here cant be too bad.

The weather is quite acceptable and even the summer heat is no real problem since it is consistent and the system adjusts to it. Whatsmore, we dont have those occasional heat waves of 38 to 40 Deg. that happen down there. The Thomas electronic organ doesn't seem to have been detrimentally effected by the climate either.

On April 11th, I really enjoyed the opportunity to see many of my friends at Tony Fenelon's Marrickville concert and I do thank everybody who took the time to say 'hallo'. The concert itself of course was the highlight of my stay in Sydney and Tony never ceases to amaze me. I've satisfied myself for the last 1½ years listening to organ cassettes on my high fidelity (?) mono recorder with huge (?) 2 inch speaker, (under my pillow so as not to disturb anybody) but the reality of actually being at such a concert as Tony's is, I find, visually and musically mind bending.

Now to the 'Pat on the Back" department. I feel compelled to offer, for what it's worth, my appreciation and congratulations to the team responsible for producing the TOSA news sheet. The quality has come a long way over the years and I find the articles interesting and informative and I trust modesty doesn't prevent them from printing my comments. Congratulations too, to the Committee. Recent and past concert attendances are an indication of their wholehearted dedication in promotion as it takes more than a fine artist to draw 600 people to Marrickville Town Hall.

I would like to say in closing, thanks to all those people who have written to me at different times and if I haven't already replied, please bear with me as I will eventually.

Fate has been kind to me...I almost drowned once while pulling one of our houseboys from a raging, crocodile infested river..I have picked up various tropical bugs at different times..have fallen down a flight of concrete steps.. was run over by a police car and then rather impolitely abused by the policeman for not watching where I was going..and oh yes, come to think of it, somehow I managed to contract Bell's Palsey too, but nevertheless I've still come out on top and have managed to keep my sanity..I think!

After counting the number of TOSA memberships while I was down there, I now discover that I have 436 friends, all with similar interests to me, How about that!

Bye for now and God Bless.

Ron Smith (alias Ron from Pom)

#### THANKS TO GOLD COAST CHAPTER PEOPLE.

I recently spent 24 days in the Gold Coast area on a work project and visited the Chapter Club Night at Palm Beach. I was given a 'red carpet' welcome and was immediately 'adopted' by the Fitzsummons family who organised outings and visits for me, which included one evening in Brisbane. Very nice indeed when one is far away from home to get such a pleasant welcome and be looked after in such a marvellous way.

I went to many homes, played many organs and enjoyed some great company. Thanks again to the Gold Coast people and in particular Estelle Brown, Barry Bailey, and Leo and Von Fitzsummons, who, by the way have a very talented 15yr old daughter Debbie whom I predict has a big future in the organ world. Debbie has developed an organ keyboard technique which is the envy of many experienced players, and is nothing short of amazing for such a young artist. I say, watch out for her in the future.

Many thanks again,

Doug Smith

(Hon. Vice-President)





## KNIGHTHOOD TO FAMOUS BRITISH ORGANIST.

The British "New Year's Honours List" in past years has had many famous organists found in it. Several of the great cathedrals have had knights as principal organist.

In recent times, however, organists have tended to be overlooked, and there was one glaring omission many organ lovers had thought about.

The "Doyen" of British concert organists in our present day society, and so delighted are we all, a new Knight of the organ - arise - Sir George Thalben-Ball. A sprightly 85 years young, still making records, Birmingham City Organist, and leading recitalist.

He must make history with the fact that at the end of 1981 he retired from one of his jobs - that as organist of the world famous Temple Church in London - a staggering 62 years, no less!

## FAMOUS LONDON WURLITZER MOVING TO A NEW LOCATION.

For the last few years the London Chapter of A.T.O.S. have held their concerts at the suburban Gaumont-State Theatre, Kilburn. The cinema was "listed" as of architectural merit and this meant it couldn't be pulled down without a Government enquiry first. Apparently this also listed the contents and the 4/16 Wurlitzer which was originally made famous by Sidney Torch. The owners, the Rank Organisation have closed the cinema as a great lossmaker. They wish to sell the building. Nobody, it appears, wants to try to operate it as a theatre.

After considering many tempting offers from both Australia and the U.S.A. Rank have decided not to sell the organ. They have discussed ideas of installing it in other theatres, but in the present climate of patronage loss, and the new video home attractions which will probably wipe out completely cinema operations even quicker than ordinary T.V., their idea to keep it is wise. The latest plan is that they intend to "loan" the organ. It is due to be installed in a 'purpose-built concert hall' in the Midlands near Northampton. I'm told that Lord Spencer, father of the Princess of Wales, is one of the people behind this scheme. The console has already been disconnected and moved there from Kilburn, we understand.

## A.T.O.S. CONVENTION FOR DETROIT THIS YEAR.

Detroit's Convention Committee this month released the names of six artists who have been signed to play for the National A.T.O.S. Convention in July. They are:- Don Baker; Kay McAbee; Charlie Balough; Lyn Larsen; Lowell Ayars and Dan Semer. It was also announced that Fr. Jim Miller, who made such a hit with Seattle Convention audiences in 1981, will be Master of Ceremonies.

Show spots for the meeting include the Fox Theatre, with two performances scheduled there; Detroit Theatre Organ Club's Senate Theatre, also two performances; Redford Theatre; Royal Oak Theatre; Punch and Judy Theatre; and in Ann Arbor, the Michigan Theatre.

Part of the meeting will be aboard the "Bob-lo", a 1895 Steamer for a cruise. There will be four organs on the trip.

It has also been disclosed that the "Afterglow" will be an afternoon (July 10th) at the Dodge mansion "Meadowlark", where there is a 66-rank residence organ installed.

OVERSEAS NEWS....cont.

LYN LARSEN WORKS ON THE SIMONTON RESIDENCE WURLITZER.

Lyn Larsen flew into Los Angeles from Phoenix the last weekend in February and was joined by Ron Mitchell, Reverside (Calif) organ enthusiast/technician, at the Simonton residence in North Hollywood to start tonal finishing work on the 4 manual 36 rank Wurlitzer that has been undergoing restoration. The organ, it is reported, sounds much different since the two have worked on it. They plan still another session to complete their work.

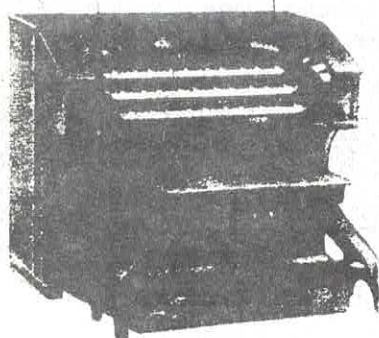
FOX DETROIT GETS TOO FEW TENANTS.

Robert K. Werbe is trying to give away his recently refurbished Fox Theatre and Building, property estimated to be worth \$20,000,000. Werbe had hoped to show family movies and stage shows in the 4,000-seat presentation palace but except for a few special shows, nothing much has happened. He has tried to interest the City of Detroit in taking it over, but to no avail. (This grand structure still houses the last in theatre installation of the famous 4/36 Wurlitzers specially designed for the large Fox houses built in the late 1920's) -Ed.

----- News source - "The Console" Magazine.

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practise.

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