

T.O.S.O. NEWS

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

EDITOR: John Atkinson, 46 Lily Street, Hurstville, 2220. 587 3374

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November, 1975.

SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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SECRETARY:	Steve McDonald	599 4436	ARRANGEMENTS:	Phyllis Wilson	759 6050

Please address all correspondence to Box A584 P.O. Sydney South, 2000.

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

13th November, Thursday 8p.m. Eric Smith at the organ in Sydney Town Hall. This concert was advertised in last month's newsheet on pages 1 and 4 but has had to be postponed to the above date due to a mechanical breakdown in the organ blower. As mentioned last month all proceeds will be applied to the activities of the Central Methodist Mission and further details are included in last month's newsheet.

EDITH DIZON

16th November, Sunday 2.30 p.m. At Marrickville Town Hall the Theatre Organ Society of Australia has much pleasure in presenting the Philippine born organist Edith Dizon in concert. Edith's extensive musical background includes a specialists grant from the U.S. State Department and the Deutscher Musikrat (West Germany) Grant in 1962, Hammond Organ Demonstrator at the World's Fair, Principal of the School of Music Central Philippine University and as she is presently living in Australia and has been here for six years she now conducts the Central Goulburn Valley Music Studio at Shepparton where she teaches 75 organ students per week and has a B.A., M.Mus. In addition to her considerable musical talents Edith is qualified pilot, Journalist and teacher. Edith is for the Society the only featured organist during International Women's Year who will be carrying the female banner to the console. Come along for a unique musical experience and bring your friends and neighbours, admission is; Adults \$2.50, Children & Pensioners \$1.00 and Theatre Organ Society of Australia Members \$1.00. (See photograph on page two of Edith Dizon at her home installation.)

Registered with the G.P.O. for posting as a periodical-
Category B

26th November, Wednesday 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CABARET



Those who attended the last two cabaret's know what a swinging night it is. Those who missed out should make it their business to come along and join the fun. Remember the more who come the more the fun. We can arrange the programme - acts organist etc. but it is YOU who makes the night. At 7 pm Sherries & Biscuits at the door as you arrive then our Patron-cum-Cabaret organist will lead you in a round of dancing till you sit to a 3 course meal at 7.45pm

For your entertainment we have again engaged a top line novelty act direct from the club circuit. In response to many requests the popular slide segment will be featured where you can get all nostalgic and sing along to the Wurlitzer, plus other attractions.

The cost of this great night is only \$12.00 a double or \$6.50 a single - Dress is optional. All you have to bring is yourself and your 'Esky' with something in it to ease dry throats. Make up your party and book now stating on form provided in last months issue at whose table you wish to sit - tables seat 16 but dont worry you can have two or more adjoining if your party is that big. Bookings on form provided at rear of last months issue to

Mrs. P. Tooker, 9 Blanche St. Belfield 2191. Booking must be in by 18th Nov. 75 Please make cheques and money orders payable to TOSA not Mrs. Tooker. Phone enquiries to Mrs. Tooker 642 6086 or Mrs. Lawson 56 3775.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:
28th November, Friday
8 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting format will be quite different this year as we will present the musical entertainment at the start of the evening to allow voting to be completed and counted.



The entertainment will be provided by our member David Sacre on the Burwood Congregational Church Organ which was of course originally installed in the King's Cross Theatre, then the Savoy Theatre in Hurstville and is now a very fine installation of a 2/10 Wurlitzer which we get to have a chance to hear. David Sacre whose photograph appears opposite originally hails from Brisbane where his musical training was of a strictly classical nature under the capable guidance of the City organist, Mr. Archie Day. However David's musical training stands him in good stead on entertainment instruments such as the Burwood Congregational Church Organ and this will give members of the Society a chance to hear an instrument which will be featured during the 1976 Fantastic Fifth Theatre Organ Convention. David will present for us a programme of light popular music to display at best advantage this very well kept Theatre instrument.

At the conclusion of the musical entertainment the business meeting will commence. You are requested to attend your Annual General Meeting so that the important business of the Society can be discussed with as many members as possible and most important that you register your vote for the positions vacated by the outgoing committee. At the rear of this issue you will find for your use a voting sheet with the instructions thereon - if by chance you are not able to attend the AGM the opportunity is available for every member to take part in the proceedings. Postal votes can be lodged by addressing them to the Returning Officer, P.O. Box A584 P.O. Sydney South, 2000 in a sealed envelope using the ballot paper provided on the last page of this Newsheet. Your name should be printed on the outside envelope for marking off against the list of members at the AGM. For your convenience you may also authorise a friend, in writing, or one of the executive to exercise your vote on matters which arise at the AGM - some of the matters concerned will be the notice of motions which have appeared in last month's issue and this month's issue. (Reports follow elsewhere in this issue.)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February, 1976 Organ Spectacular

March, 1976 First Marrickville Free Sunday Afternoon Concert.

Easter, 1976 ***FUNTASTIC FIFTH*** Theatre Organ Convention

(Interstate Editors, please copy)

The preliminary arrangements for an action packed Convention weekend are that we will begin on Easter Friday with Registration at a Suburban Cinema to be followed on Saturday morning by a concert on the 4/21 in the State Theatre Sydney, the only remaining Theatre with its original installation, in Australia. Then transport will be provided to St. Columb's Church at West Ryde to hear the 2/8 Christie from there to Burwood to hear the 2/10 Wurlitzer and that evening the major concert at Marrickville Town Hall will feature an overseas artist in a public concert. Sunday morning will feature open console at pipe organs, Sunday afternoon will present a harbour cruise on one of Sydney's famous ferries featuring organ music with an alternate function in the Lyceum Theatre, Sunday evening will be rounded off with a convention dinner at the Menzies Hotel. With the above proposed programme we would suggest you make your arrangements to be in Sydney during Eastertime 1976. For Motel Accommodation please address all your enquiries to P.O. Box A584, Sydney South, 2000. You will notice that two of the instruments to be used during the Convention are installed in suburban churches, please be assured that they will not necessarily be used for classical music as they are THEATRE organs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year 1975 has been a rewarding year for TOSA NSW Division.

The cancellation of the Waratah Festival led to the consideration of an Organ

Spectacular at another venue and subsequent to a great deal of effective ground work by Ern Mansell, to whom, considerable credit is due, and follow up by Mark Gabriel and John Atkinson, this was presented at Bankstown Civic Centre. The function was supported by the Bankstown Lions Club and its outstanding success was due in no small measure to the enthusiastic efforts by all Organ Distributors involved.

The Prince Edward Installation at Marrickville Town Hall made a giant step forward when George & John Stevens (organ builders from Melbourne) were commissioned to lower the pitch from the original of C-537.5 to Standard A.440 and to regulate the pipe ranks.

The excellence and success of their work was splendidly demonstrated at a fine concert by Tony Fenelon to a capacity audience. The installation of Solo to Pedal, Solo to sub-octave and Unison Off Couplers was completed for Tony's concert by John Andrews with a great last minute effort and Tony made great use of these very useful facilities. The Accompaniment to Octave Coupler should be in operation by the time this report goes to print.

The current economic situation has not helped the quest for a venue for the Capitol Theatre Organ and it is hoped that 1976 will show some more definite prospects. Reconditioning work is proceeding slowly but organisation is in hand to speed up this work and interested members are invited to become involved.

We can look forward to an interesting year in 1976 - plans are already well advanced for the National Convention to be held in Sydney with the promise of an even bigger and better event taking advantage of all the natural attractions that only Sydney can provide. The future of any society rests in the ultimate with its members and I am sure we can progress even further in 1976 by each and every member supporting and strengthening the Society's activities by becoming involved to the limit of their individual circumstances.

A. T. HALLORAN
PRESIDENT

SECRETARIES REPORT

1975 has been an extremely eventful year for the Society in general and we have been very fortunate to have been able to experience entertainment at a world standard more frequently than for some years. This is a definite indication that the Society as a whole has continued to progress. The credit must go to the various teams of people whose hard work and diligence on your behalf have made the Society what it is today. Very rarely is it mentioned exactly what does go on behind the scenes and as a result the majority of us tend to be of the opinion that the 2½ hours of magnificent entertainment we have experienced just happened.

Your Committee is responsible to ensure that the aims of the Society are met, that is to say that the maintenance, preservation and correct presentation of the Theatre Organ is done in a manner that will create more interest and support for your enjoyment. This task is enormous when one considers all the aspects involved and were it not for the sub-committees that are appointed from time to time by the general committee we would not experience the quality of entertainment available to us today.

This year has shown some fantastic response to our programmes, not only at Marrickville and other public venues but also the home parties which have been enthusiastically organised, executed and received to contribute to the financing of the Capitol Wurlitzer.

In January our Treasurer led the way for the years entertainment programmes by presenting Ray Thornley at his residence style 4570 Wurlitzer. The very favourable concert review appears in February edition of TOSA News.

Just to summarise our events for the year, On Sunday January 19th, whilst

Sydney was again besieged by Electricity strikes, we managed to hold a benefit concert to aid the people of disaster stricken Darwin. The call went out and as usual our 'top of the line entertainers' generously put paid to their talents and a fantastic afternoon followed. Our artists were, Clif Bingham, David Parsons Peter Held and Bill Schumacher. Our President Tom Halloran presented the afternoon proceeds to the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Maddigan and our contribution was sent through Marrickville Council.

On March 1st Ken Banfield (SA Div) and Ian Sommerville were presented at the State Theatres 4/21 Wurlitzer.

February 23rd was our first free concert a Marrickville and Sydney audiences had a second first with Neil Jensen an extremely capable and entertaining young man from Brisbane. March 8th - a bar-be-Q and General Meeting at Barry and Pam Tookers where it all flowed freely!! March 19th a Charity Concert at Chatswood where Eric Smith & Robert Broughall featured at the ex Arcadia Theatre 2/10 Wurlitzer. March 28-30 saw the Fabulous 4th National Convention; Victorian Division were our hosts this year and certainly credit must be given the highlight of the year for TOSA Australia! Bill Thompson was the guest artist and his performance at Moorabbin Town Hall's 4/22 Wurlitzer and was electrifying. 18th April saw Bill Schumacher at Ron & Phullis Wilsons Thomas Theatre Organ, 19th April Ian and Robert Gliddon & Family arranged a silent film night at Carlingford featuring Cliff Bingham at the Thomas Montecello.

9th May saw a home organ party at Arthur and Dorothy Cammells home where Eric Smith accompanied the silent movie 'Son of the Shiek'. May 20th, Membership Secretary Ron Smith and his family presented Ray Thornley at the Thomas 821c Celebrity Theatre Organ, May 28th our Mid year Cabaret was at Marrickville where Ian Davies did the Reginald Dixon bit.

On June 3rd many months of hard work were climaxed by what must have been one of our most memorable evenings The Bankstown Organ Spectacular where we were given the rare opportunity to hear 7 of the most popular brands of electronic organs available. June 22nd Joh Congert was featured in a Free Concert at Marrickville Town Hall-on our own 2/10 Wurli.

On Sunday 6th July we enjoyed a silent movie presentation at the Savoy Theatre Hurstville where Ray Thornley presided over the Lowry Symphonic Theatre Organ. August 3rd Ritchie Willis arranged a concert featuring Janice Wilson, Barbara Dixon, Ian Sommerville and Ron Smith on the Thomas Lawrence Welk Theatre Organ and John Shaw on the Gulbransen Piano.

Ray Thornley again was presented in concert at Bankstown Town Hall by courtesy of Flanagan & Winter at the Lowry Symphonic Organ. 19th August saw David Bedson & Carmen La Motte playing 2 Hammond Organs at the Hammond Organ Society's Northside Chapter 3. On August 27th Messrs Flanagan & Winter extended an invitation for us to use their Organ Home for our Quarterly General Meeting. Surely the greatest concert we have had this year was Tony Fenelon at Marrickville on September 21st.

Enormous preparation went into arranging this, one of the most successful programmes we ever presented. Many people may not be aware that over 800 letters were hand addressed and posted, Radio stations were contacted, publicity printed and distributed, Tickets were printed and bookings (a first for TOSA) were taken and organised. This was all done by our conscientious organisers within TOSA. Special mention should be made to Robert Gliddon (Chief Organiser) John Atkinson, Mark Gabriel (Printing) the Gliddon Family, the Weismantels, Bill Schumacher, Tom Halloran, David Sacre (Tuning) and Frank Ellis our very capable compere for their extra special efforts on your behalf to ensure that this concert was the highlight of the year.

Our concert year has been successful and will continue to thrive whilst ever the talents are sought, the attendances are supported and the preparation is expertly carried out. The year will finish with such fabulous performers as David Parsons, Edith Dizon, Eric Smith etc. so in all we haven't done too badly!!!



The photographs show one of the work teams working on the Societies Capitol Wurlitzer. One photograph shows motors being covered with Perflex and the Console in its early stages of refurbishing. The people in the photographs are; Robert & John Weismantel, Ernie Vale, Mark Gabriel, David Sacre and Robert Gliddon, Steve McDonald.

Secretary's Report cont.

The Society is the owner of the ex Capitol 3/15 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ You are a shareholder! We have asked for your assistance in participating in the restoration programme for this magnificent instrument. Until it is completely renovated and restored it cannot be re-installed! We are at present organising crews for this purpose. We need your help, so contact the Secretary for further details through the Society's new address P.O. Box A584, Sydney South 2000.

TOSA News is forever improving and I feel that credit is rarely given to the team responsible for its production John Atkinson, Editor and Printer, Mark Gabriel (Printer #2), Lance & Marge Wells for mailing and all the other people who drop by to assist. Lets remember that they are keeping us in touch with the Theatre Organ World and lets give them more support.

In closing, I would like to thank all those who have assisted to make my job easier and especially to Betty Weismantel for without whose help and accuracy our administration would be an extremely difficult task.

STEVE McDONALD
SECRETARY.

EDITORIAL

As it is the time of year for reports then some comment from me regarding the year's activity so far as your news sheet is concerned may be in order. As you have no doubt noticed the response to the open access offer to you has resulted in a lot of very good interesting material coming from a number of members and I would like to thank those people for their efforts. As it has certainly increased the interest in the society, you can be assured that the response I get from members of the telephone means your work is greatly appreciated.

The printing is now done by members of the Society on the Society's offset Lithographic printing machine. This includes the photographs, advertisements, art work, advertising handouts for concerts (which has resulted in large patronage of a number of functions this year) etc., and our appreciation must go to a surprisingly small number of people for their efforts which incidentally have resulted in the higher standard and at the same time a massive reduction in the newsheets cost of production.

Not insignificant when mentioning the cost of our Journal has been the contribution of the various organ retailing houses whose support through advertising has resulted in an almost self supporting production result. We thank them for their support during the previous year and look forward to their continued patronage.

The printing facilities have enabled a larger number of people to be informed of our concerts and it is worth mentioning that the Tony Fenelon concert success was due in some way to a lot of hard work by a number of enthusiastic people and about 5,000 handouts which were distributed at previous concerts, music houses, theatres and our mutual thanks must go to all those that were involved.

NOTICE OF MOTION

To be discussed at the Annual General Meeting and was moved at the last Quarterly meeting by Jack Lawson.

THAT due to lack of interest by the membership in relation to volunteer labour to rebuild the ex Capitol 3/15 Wurlitzer

viz: requests have been made in TOSA News for those willing to assist but so far only 2 or 3 have been submitted

so I propose that if within six months of this Annual Meeting the concerted

effort is not made by a larger and more interested group, that the ex Capitol be offered for sale to all other Divisions of TOSA. The sale terms being on the condition that the organ be restored and installed for the benefit of interested organ enthusiasts and on no condition must it be broken up and sold as separate ranks or parts.

HOME ORGAN PARTY

On 15th November a home organ party has been arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis at which time Eric Smith will be presenting their son, Ian Lewis who is a pupil of Eric's, for the first time. Ian is only 15 years old and Eric is very excited and enthusiastic about his great and unusual talents so it could prove to be the birth of another Theatre Organ Star. The instruments to be used are a Hammond C3 with Leslie and an August Forster Grand Piano at which a feature of the evening will be duets with piano and organ with Eric and Ian playing a Gershwin selection. The Lewis family live at 13 Pelican Street, Gladesville and the Admission charge will be the usual \$1.50 for gents and \$1.00 for plate bearing ladies and all proceeds from the evening will be put towards the Capitol Restoration Fund. This evening should be extremely well attended so please ring and book early as seating will naturally be limited the number to ring is 89 4176 to make your reservation.

CLASSIFIED'S

Kevin Eadie needs a typist once a month to type up his press releases etc. usually only a page or two and someone in the city (around Wynyard) would be best. If you are able to assist Kevin please ring him on 290 4687.

For Sale

Thomas Californian approximately 18 months old and in immaculate condition \$1,700 for further particulars for those interested please ring Steve McDonald on 599 4436.

NEW MEMBERS

We have a number of new members to welcome this month as seems to be the general rule of late. It is great to see our ranks swelling so nicely and don't forget to put out the welcome mat to these new members as you meet them, they are:

John & Elizabeth McHamilton, Carlton; William Stephens, Sutherland; Diane Anderson, Summer Hill; Eric, Brenda & Raymond Turner, Gympie; Wally Peacey, Pagewood; Elaine Wilson, Concord West; Mathew & Maureen Rosina, Mortdale; Charles & Barb Cook, Eastwood; Les & Doreen Buck, Villawood and Brian Britton, Artarmon.

DEADLINE

Our December issue will be prepared for printing mid November so that the deadline will be on 17th November. Please advise us early of any articles or tid-bits that should be appearing so we can get on with our Christmas Shopping eh!!!

REUBERT HAYES ON T.V.

Well known Sydney organist, Reubert Hayes will appear on the Mike Walsh Programme on Thursday November, 6th playing a Conn organ supplied by Alex Britton's at Hurstville.

It was announced on page 4 of last month's issue that Reubert would be playing at Carlingford Court and Blacktown but these two performances have now been cancelled.

WINTON MUSIC CENTRE

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It's all there. Enough sound to fill a concert hall. Enough styling to grace the decor of any home. And all the essential features it takes to make a theatre organ deserving to be called . . . The Ultimate Thomas.

From a veritable treasure chest of velvet voiced tibias, to the magic and excitement of a preset Moog Synthesizer, the Thomas Celebrity Royale 871 will stand for years to come as a milestone to total musical enjoyment.

Create music in any style or mood. Your favorite Bach fugue. Your current pop experience. Or the contemporary rock sounds that are synonymous with the dynamic Moog Synthesizer . . . it's all there in the Celebrity Royale.

Making all this doubly exciting is the Royale's simplicity of operation. All tabs are easy to reach and easy to understand. With twelve presets plus convenient slide controls, Moog voicing is limited only by your imagination. Six independent percussion voices are yours at the touch of a preset tab. Exciting voices such as vibes, banjo, piano, and more. Vibra Magic automatically adds classical violin realism to the Celebrity Royale's already unexcelled voicing. And a bass guitar pedal voice, plus an authentic pipe organ Chiff have been added for even greater versatility.

Making the operation of the Celebrity Royale even easier are the unique adjustable pistons for easy and rapid changes in registration without interrupting your playing. Each adjustable piston gives a different combination of voices, with the convenient cancel piston returning all voice tabs to off.

This amazing simplicity is also an inherent part of the Fancy Foot Combo®. Create your own rhythms and accents with Thomas' famous Touch Control, or select from fifteen preset playmate rhythms. In addition, the Royale features a detachable 25 note pedalboard that will play alternating bass notes at just the touch of a single pedal.

Surrounding all these versatile sounds are the clean cabinet lines and majestic theatre styling provided by Thomas' master craftsmen. Add a comfortable bench, a gleaming walnut finish, and you're at the controls of one of the most classic musical instruments ever. Equally at home from concert hall to conservatory, backing a choir or blasting off with a rock band, the Celebrity Royale 871 is the perfect choice. Ultimate proof that Thomas does indeed have a sound for everyone.



STORES AT:

• **BONDI JUNCTION**
Royal Arcade
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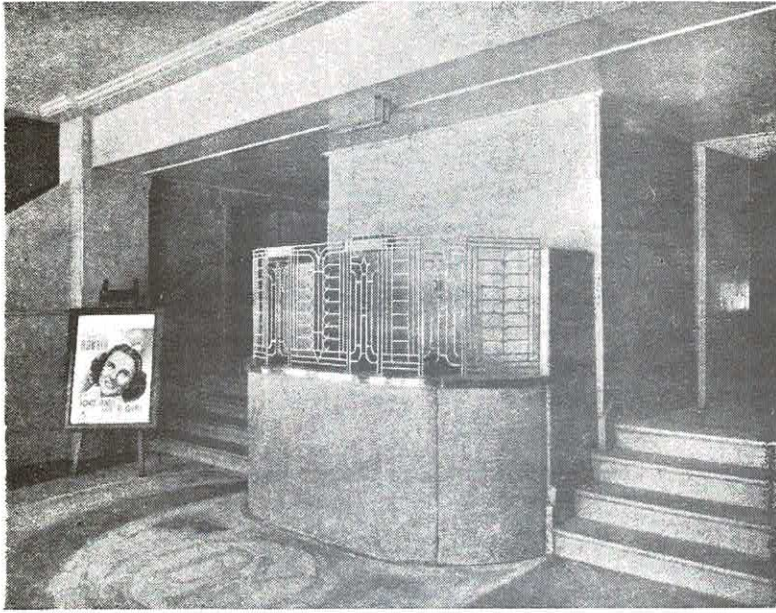
• **CHATSWOOD**
1 Help Street
Opp. Wallace Way Car Park Exit
Phone 41-6151

• **HURSTVILLE**
Shop 63
Super Shopping Centre
Hurstville Railway Station
Phone 579 5883

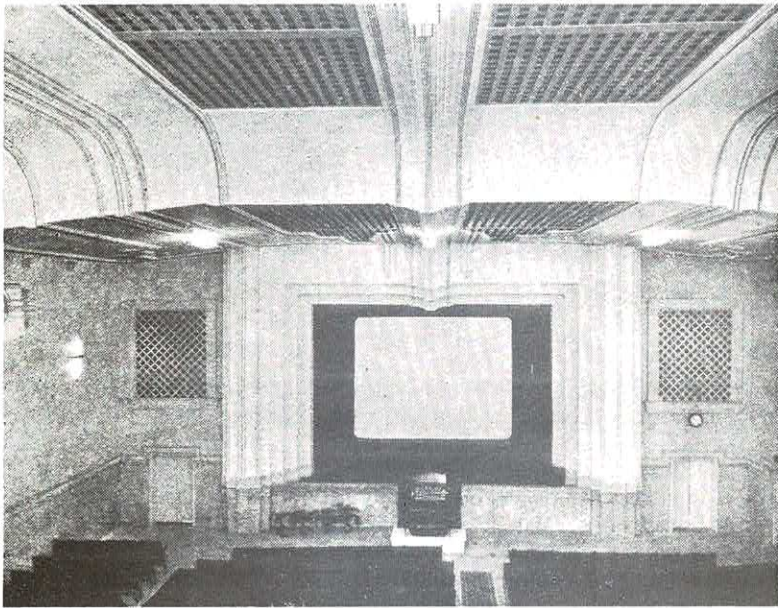
• **MIRANDA**
Shop 51
Centre Court
Miranda Fair
Phone 525 1032

AND

Shop 43, Warringah Mall. 938 2119



Above and below are glimpses of the newly remodelled Duke of York Theatre at Eastwood, showing the entrance and the auditorium.



PHOTOGRAPHS

- (i) Foyer area of Theatre
- (ii) Auditorium view 1939 showing the 2/7 Christie, this instrument is now in the Epping Baptist Church
- (iii) Exterior view of remodelled Theatre
- (iv) Later view - Note! above the Odeon neon sign, the original name of the theatre was still visible.

Opening on 13th May, 1927, this Theatre had a seating capacity for 1,176 patrons. Early in 1938 the Exhibitor Mr. H.J. Smythe decided to remodel the theatre, with improved lighting, new proscenium etc.

The old stalls box was demolished and a new one built in the circle.

The Hon. E.S. Spooner MLA Minister for Local Government officially opened the theatre, on Saturday evening April 30th, 1938 to the delight of local residents of the area.

In 1946 Acme Theatres Pty. Ltd., acquired the theatre and it was then absorbed in the Greater Union Theatre Odeon circuit. In November 1972, the local area newspaper informed residents that the theatre was to be demolished - this news enraged everyone and protest meetings were held, petitions were then organised to save the Theatre from closure.

However all appeals were unsuccessful and the final screening was held on 11th January, 1973.

Demolition commenced shortly after closure, and the general feeling of residents was best expressed by a pioneer patron --

"I will be sorry indeed to find the people of the surrounding area will be deprived of such a great social amenity as a theatre and a meeting hall."



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THEATRE ORGAN**

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presented in

BANKSTOWN TOWN HALL

Tickets available soon

from

Mitchells Booking Office Bankstown Town Hall

or

The Lowrey Organ Home

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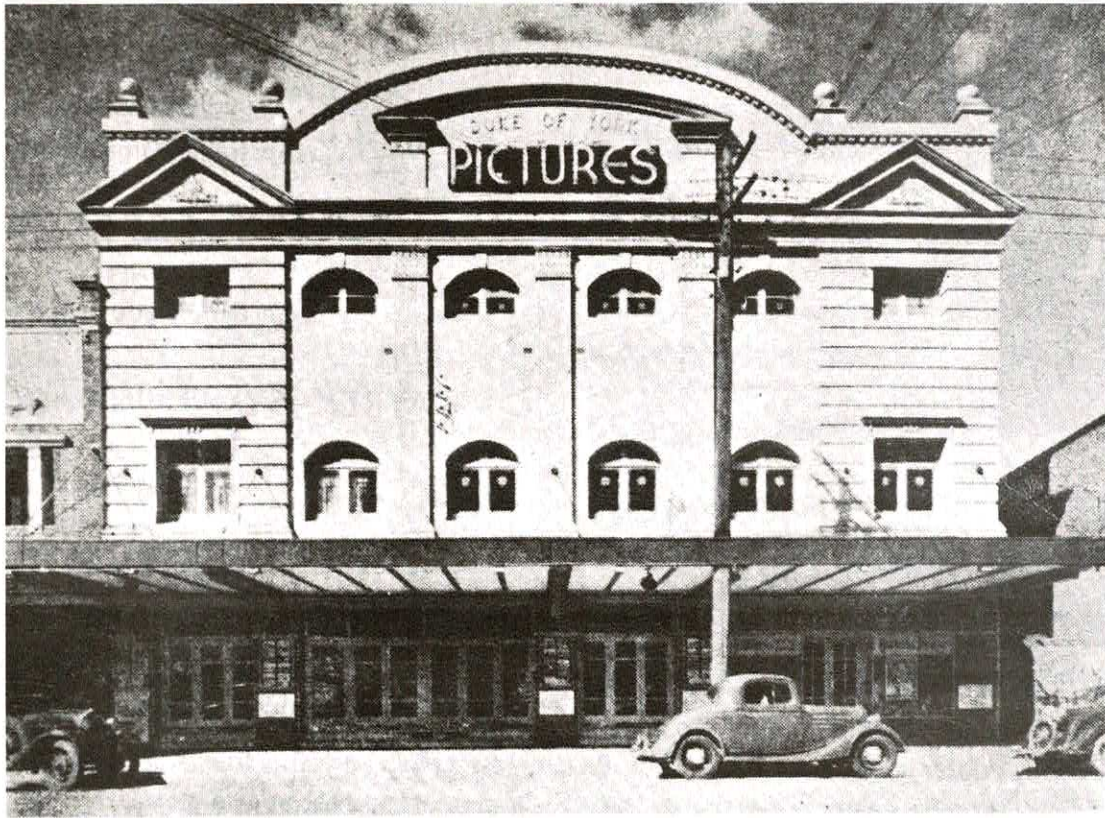
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National's newly developed Electronic Multi-Tremolo which produces a rich three-dimensional tremolo sound effect that is reliable, steady and noiseless by virtue of electronic techniques that also permit both the speed and depth to be adjusted by the touch of a single control. Electronic Multicoupler allows the overtones of up to 5 octaves to be produced when a single tablet is pressed; these may be combined with the ordinary coupler tones to increase the playing spectrum up to the limits of your imagination. Completely new and exclusive Full-Bass Pedal in addition to the pedal keyboard for a completely new experience in popular or classical music. Auto WAH-WAH and Mute effects for special melody line. Glide Control, Delay Effect, 16 independent and automatic rhythm selections with Synchronous and exclusive Touch Start, Rhythm Percussion, headphone jack, input and microphone terminals with separate volume controls, output terminal and lovely African Teakwood finish.

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CHOOSE FROM 11 MODELS



National
Just slightly ahead of our time

THE ODEON THEATRE, LEICESTER SQ., LONDON. - COMPTON ORGAN

The five manual console is on a lift in the centre of the orchestra pit, and the organ is in two spacious chambers underneath the stage, and extending the full width of the stage. In Chamber 'A' we have - Diapason, Geigen, Stopped Flute, Salicional, Gamba, Violin, Strings (two ranks) and Posaune. In the other Chamber 'B' is - Harmonic Flute, Tibia Clausa, Clarinet, Krumet, Vox Humana, French Horn, Tuba and Trumpet.

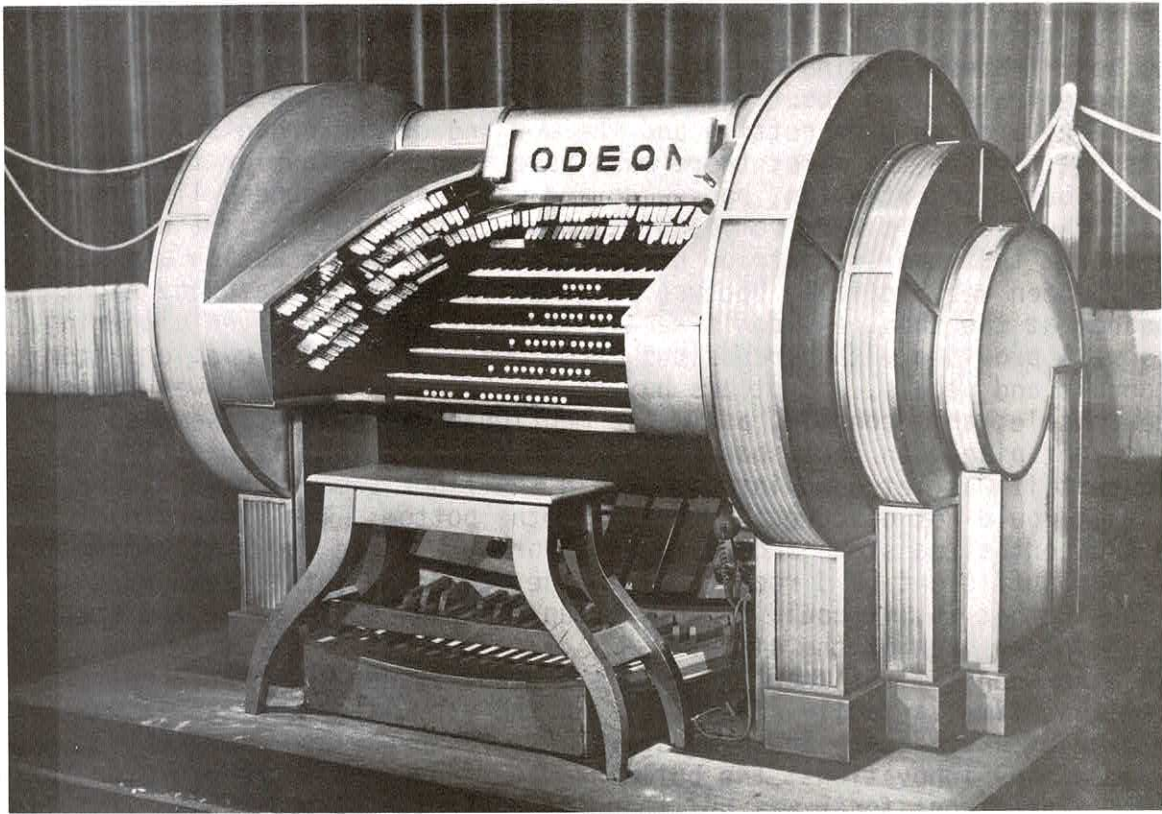
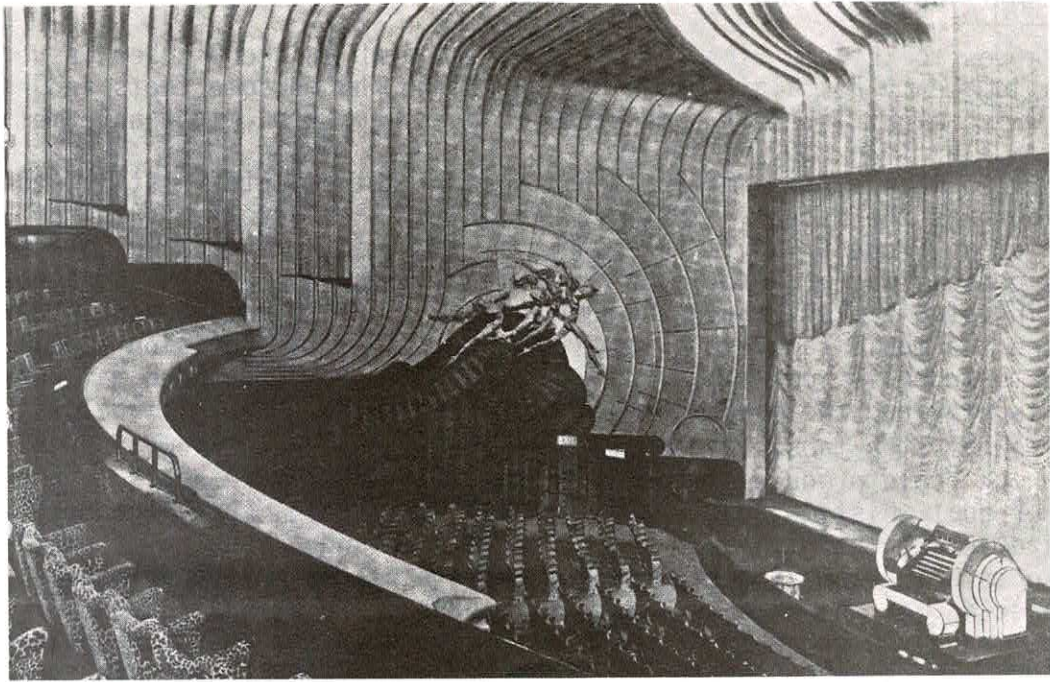
In 1952 when John Howlett was resident organist, he made some observations about the organ in No. 24 issue of "Theatre Organ Review" from which we have permission to quote some extracts - "The chorus-reeds contrast well and combine well, and are perhaps the outstanding feature of the job. From the ultra-smooth and faithful French Horn through the fairly bright Tuba and free Posaune to the Trumpet there is reed tone of more than usual good quality and character. The other reeds are Clarinet, Vox Humana and Krumet.

The medium-powered Harmonic Flute is exceedingly useful. The Tibia is of wood, and it is of large scale (what John Howlett did not mention in his article is that it is a Wurlitzer Tibia on a Compton chest.)

As for strings; take your choice from the pianissimo Salicional through the placid two rank Strings with slow beats for the Celeste rank, to the rather thin and keen Violin, and broad and very keen Gamba; a well contrasted family and a happy one. The Geigen is an excellent rank complete from 16ft. TC right up to four ranks of mixtures (12.19.22 plus fifteenth) and including 5-1/3 ft. Quint."

There are the usual 'toy-shop' effects and traps. Originally a grand piano was provided but disconnected because of its size and a marimba substituted. A feature of the Compton Organs are their Melotones, and the one of this organ was completely rebuilt in 1960 and is now the finest example of this stop in the world. The Solo and Orchestral manuals each have a sustainer. Another interesting feature of this installation is the depth of the chambers. Most of the chests stand 6ft. above floor level, making maintenance of the magnets a pleasure. The console lift too goes right down to the chamber floor level, which is below the level of the orchestral lift, which means that when required, it can be covered so that the orchestra has full use for the entire floor area of the pit, and can be raised or lowered independently. In 1936 the Odeon circuit were looking out for a west-end location for their premier cinema, and purchased the old Alhambra theatre, which as the name suggests was of eastern style with many minarets. The site extended from Charing cross road to Leicester Square. The entrance with spacious foyers is in Leicester Square and the design which was known at the time as futurist style is in black marble, the whole being dominated by a tower 230 feet high. The interior design is modernistic and the organ console sides are circular to blend with the theme of the interior wall design scheme. The original seats were covered in leopard skin, but the cinema was completely re-furnished recently, with blue carpeting and the 2,066 seat seats in a rich red cloth. The cinema is still the number one house of the Odeon circuit, and is regularly patronised by Royalty for Premieres, charity shows etc. ---Extract from cover notes of the recording 'Sure Favourites' with Gerald Shaw at the console. Produced in the mid 1960's by Carwall Records. The organ is heard on the sound tract of the Rock Opera Film 'Tommy' and is played by Gerald Shaw and acknowledged on the film credits and the sound track recording.

The Compton organ is still installed in the Odeon and was played daily by Gerald Shaw right up until his recent, untimely death. Odeon Theatres have made it known that there will not be another regular full time organist to replace Gerald Shaw, however casuals will be employed to play the organ on important occasions at the Cinema.



LETTERS FROM MEMBERS:

The references to the old Victory Theatre at Kogarah in the October issue of TOSA News jogged my nostalgic memories, and I thought up some facts and not-so-facts which might interest some other readers who, too, might have memories of those days of long ago.

I was fourteen when I first made acquaintance with the Victory (still standing and now known as the Mecca). In that year, 1926, the Victory was the proud possessor of an Orchestrion, a forerunner of the theatre organs we love so well; the console was a gigantic upright piano, with two manuals and a row of balancing stop tablets above the upper manual; it had a full pedal board too; behind the music rack was a large box built in with provision to play two large music rolls, one above the other; at Saturday afternoon matinees, these rolls provided the music for our blood and thunder serials; below the straight row of stop tabs, just above the upper manual was a row of push-buttons which could produce pistol-shots, whiplashes, fire bells, train whistles or boat whistles, cow bawls, barking dogs, rain, surf, thunder, cannon fire, klaxon horns, a barrage of rifle fire and a variety of other sound effects which were inserted in appropriate places in the dramatic films projected for the kids on Saturday afternoons; a versatile chucker out would sit on the organ-stool, attend to the rolls and press the buttons in the right places; when the top roll cut out, it automatically started the lower one and the attendant would let it rewind and load another one into the machine to play in its turn.

On Saturday nights the Orchestrion had a completely different role (no pun meant!) Two sisters sat on the organ stool and played music which fitted in with the films being shown; the rolls only worked the very robust-toned piano, but the manuals operated the several ranks of pipes which were housed in two box frames standing on the platforms which flanked the stage on each side; these frames were about twelve feet high by eight wide and six deep; they were covered in wire netting and the working of the organ's innards was visible through the wire; there must have been only four or five ranks of pipes, but with extension, borrowing and mixtures it sounded like many more and the two girls were competent to get the best results. I have since learnt that the Orchestrion had an electro-pneumatic action and it must have been very reliable because in some four years of Saturday night attendance at the theatre I don't recall it ever failing or even ciphering. It was well provided with percussions, some operated through couplers from the manuals and pedals, and others having small pedals in the lower frong of the console; this console, as I have mentioned previously resembled a huge upright piano, in fact, basically, that was just what it was; it was so big that it was let down into a well in the floor some eighteen inches so that it would not obscure the screen at the bottom; The Victory had quite a decent sized stage and was used to produce stage shows at times, and it had sufficient head room to allow the screen and other scenery to be 'flown', that is, it could be hoisted up into the space above the stage to give a clear view of the stage.

The Theatre when I first knew it, was as so many Sydney suburban theatres were at that time, a family affair, but in the very late twenties it was taken over by a syndicate and a manager, a Mr. John Wayland, took charge and introduced many innovations; the building was renovated and redecorated inside and out; a new front foyer was built and an entirely new proscenium installed; the Orchestrion disappeared and its place was taken by a small orchestra with a piano for matinees; many regular patrons, myself among them felt this was a

retrograde step, and many folk felt sure that public demand as well as a tendency to bow to the current trend was a factor in the decision to install the Christie organ, which cost at the time, 7,500. When the Wurlitzer was installed in the Prince Edward Theatre in Sydney, Eddie Horton came over from California to play it, and when his contract expired he came out to Kogarah and he was the first organist to play on the Christie; Leslie V. Harvey had taken his place at the Prince Edward and when Horton left the Victory, Leslie Harvey took his place at Kogarah; my memory is hazy about the length of time he was there, but I am sure it was well in excess of twelve months; I think it may have been closer to three years; at any rate, he was the best all-round organist ever to play the Christie; no matter what was demanded of him as a musician, he met and passed it with flying colours, theatrical presentations, community singing accompaniments for concert artists and singers, oratorio accompaniment, nothing presented the slightest difficulty to him; I am very happy to relate that I received a letter from him only last week, and he is alive and well and keeping musically busy. Besides a permanent Church engagement, he plays in a theatre in San Francisco which specialises in Movie House nostalgia, Wurlitzer organ and all, and he also does a regular annual tour in England.

Hoping that all the foregoing may be of interest to some of our readers,
I am, Yours faithfully,

Frank T. Walker.

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--oOo--

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TOSA GENERAL FUND FOR YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 1975

RECEIPTS

General Subscriptions	970.90
Transfers from Building Soc. A/c	1100.00
TOSA News Subs	1566.69
Marrickville Concert Receipts	1696.80
Other Concert Receipts	362.00
TOSA Advertising and Printing	990.88
Cash Donations	12.00
Sale of Discs	32.00
Bankstown Spectacular Receipts	1300.83
Sale of Badges & Stickers	83.55
Proceeds of Sale of Tapes/Cassettes	701.86
Reimbursements and Refunds	56.00
Christmas Party/Mid Year Cabaret	1478.20
<u>SUNDRIES (consisting of)</u>	
Transfers to Capitol Fund	53.00
Mecca Sunday Concert Competition	43.40
Bank Interest C'wealth Bank	28.62
Rent received (C.R. Jones)	25.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS

10501.73

PAYMENTS

Petty Cash Float	21.00
TOSA News & Printing Expenses	2316.25
Typewriter purchase	592.00
Postage	143.22
Cost of Printing Machine	150.00
Printing Charges (prior TOSA	235.05
printing of Newsheet) Plates	599.36
Artwork Spectacular	129.03
Paper Chemicals etc.	522.59
Stationery and Office Supplies	214.46
Other Meetings (Biscuits, Tea, Coffee, etc.)	23.30
Marrickville Concert Expenses (including payment	977.92
of Artists)	
Postage charges (excluding Tosa News)	140.13
Marrickville Maintenance	1838.98
(Including Payment of \$1550.00 to G. & J.	
Stephens for regulation work)	171.62
Capitol Organ Maintenance	280.04
Concerts (not Marrickville)	407.11
Organ Spectacular Expenses	1418.41
Christmas Party & Cabaret Expenses	769.16
Cost of Tapes/Cassettes	.30
Bank Charges	70.23
Insurance Premium Charges	124.95
Refund of overpayments (consisting of)	
Overpayment of Subscription	27.00
Overpayment of Advertising Charges	97.95
<u>SUNDRIES (consisting of)</u>	
Organ Cartage	40.00
Cost of Badges	186.88
Tfr. of funds to Building Society	700.00
Floral Tributes	16.40
Miscellaneous	42.45

TOTAL PAYMENTS

9759.59

ADD: Bank Balance as at 30.9.75

1415.96

11175.55

11175.55

OTHER Funds Balances as at 30th September, 1975

Electronic Organ Construction Fund	57.34
Prince Edward Maintenance Fund	40.21
Theatre Pipe Organ Purchase Fund	478.17
N.S.W. Permanent Building Society	1072.99

BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNT CONSISTS OF:

Capitol Organ Fund	842.96
General Fund	230.03

TOTAL

1072.99

TONY FENELON - A SMASH HIT AT MARRICKVILLE - John Shaw

A capacity audience of alsmot 900, welcomed Tony back to Sydney for his concert for 1975. This was the first function held since the major task of regulating, voicing and tuning the Marrickville Wurlitzer along with a few added extras borrowed from the Capitol 3/15 for the occasion. A most noticeably different sound emerged at the hands of Mr. Tony Fenelon. The show got underway rather late due to the excessive crowd arriving all at once, however, no time was wasted in introducing the opening number, Porters 'Another Opening, Another Show' played with gusto. Full percussive effects and orchestral Bells which left no doubt Our organist was in top form and ready to give the audience a real treat. Eritz Kriesler's 'Liebeslied' was the first of the popular classics in the programme in which the recurring main theme was played with contrasting registrations and added effective chromatic passages. A lively rendition of 'Swanee' left us ready for Greig's 'To the Spring' which must lend itself to organ even more than piano when played with such varying, colourful tones suited to the Norwegian scenery created in Greig's poetic music. Paul Hogan's friend Tchaikowsky, the ever humorous Tony quipped, provided the material for the next little number which was none other than the 'Waltz from Swan Lake' Roders and Hart's 'My Romance' was played with contrasting light and shade with, I believe, a passage on Tuba on 2nd touch and overall brilliant tones. Two Spanish flavoured numbers 'Maleguana' and "Granada' with its unobtrusive pedalling allowed the interesting counter melody to be heard blending with the main melody complete with castenets in the background. A surprise to the audience came when Tony was presented with his second gold record (a 3rd is to come) by the Managing Director of Press Records. No doubt he will run out of room to hang them before he is finished. Congratulations Tony! The exotic sounds of 'Caravan' amongst other numbers in the second half led to a comedy number borrowed from Lyn Larsen entitled 'Mouse of Ages'. To close the programme Chopin's Fantasie Impromptu, which Fred borrowed from 'I'm Always Chasing Rainbows', joked Tony and indeed some very modern harmonies found their way into that theme. After an encore of 'Buglars Holiday' the audience was left exhausted from applauding and indeed the organist deserved a well earned rest. The only disappointment was that the programme did not regrettably include any newer or sophisticated numbers for the younger folk and perhaps left some of the organists creative flair untapped. However we certainly heard some of the older numbers with interesting modern extended chord progressions and pleasant soft pedal tones.

NOTE!!! Please bring along this back page to the Annual General Meeting or follow the directions for Postal Voting thereon. If you are unwilling to be without this page of TOSA News additional copies of the voting sheet will be available at the meeting.

FOR SALE

Excelsior Electric Chord organ with Rosewood Veneer cabinet and matching stool \$200.00 or near offer - please contact Miss Thomason 92 7614.

THE U.S. ORGAN

Due to the more than obvious lack of space in this month's edition we have been unable to complete our major article entitled 'The U.S. Organ' however we will be completing this in our December issue together with the final photograph in that series.

STOP PRESS

We have just had word that the Capitol will have to be moved once again and at the present time we have no offers of where or how!!! Any one who could let us know of any available space or volunteer their services to aid with the shift would be welcomed with open arms - please ring President Tom Halloran on 523 5077 as soon as poss.

BALLOT SHEET

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28th NOVEMBER, 1975

BURWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BURWOOD.

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A. MISDALE

B. SCHUMACHER

R. GLIDDON

R. GARRETT

J. WEISMANTEL

K. EADIE

I. CAMERON

J. LAWSON

J. SHAW

For the following positions only one nomination was received, therefore they are automatically elected unopposed, it will be necessary for them only to be confirmed into office for the coming year:

SECRETARY: S. McDonald

MINUTE SECRETARY: B. Weismantel

RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

TREASURER: M. Gabriel

NEWS EDITOR: J. Atkinson

I. Cameron

All positions on the voting section of this sheet were allocated by ballot.