

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

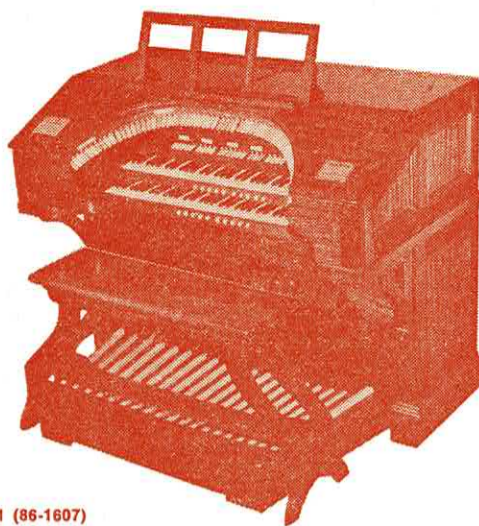
PATRON: IAN DAVIES

EDITOR: ALAN KITLEY

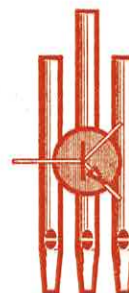
REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

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PRICE
40c



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PHEW!!

That was a month, that was!

Not good grammar, I must admit, but it sums up the feelings of so many of our members that I claim writers licence to let it stand.

Saturday February 5th saw the final concert at the Capitol (see page 4), and on Sunday afternoon, Feb 20th the last lorry-load of components were loaded to the intense relief of Barry Tooker and his team of thirty or so "volunteers" who had, many of them, worked ridiculously long hours in the previous ten days to dismantle the 3/15 WurliTzer. Well done!

Meanwhile, over at Chatswood, work was proceeding under equally "high pressure". One day I might write up the Chatswood saga specifically for "The Diaphone" but here I must content myself with a few sentences.

As I could not promise completion of the installation by March 15th Wilbur Kentwell has been asked to change the date of his visit to early May Saturday 6th. subject to confirmation.

After much verbal battling between organ-builder, architect, Mayor, town clerk, builder, building inspector, acoustic consultant, electrician, old uncle Tom Cobbly and all, the old original Spencer Orgoblo was finally installed immediately beneath the organ, NOT in a water-logged concrete lined pit in the car park.

While I slept in the early hours of Thursday 24th Feb. two weary, zombie-like electricians connected the starter swithh to the blower.... at about 2 A.M.

With the aid of Ian Griggs and my brother it was just possible by 8.30 P.M. on Sunday 27th to play a few odd notes from the console, but by a miracle (or hard work by Ken Noad) on Monday 28th Feb at 8.30 P.M. Ron West played the old Arcadia organ to a capacity audience of 1,000. Few seemed to care that there were merely 60 of the 73 tibias, 80 out of 97 flutes, and a handful of Diapasons working.

Knowing that the installation could not possibly be completed in time for the pre-arranged "switch-on" ceremony Charles Tuckwell refused to participate and Ron West bravely stepped in at the last moment, literally. Those who knew the instrument in the "Arcadia" assure me that the Tibias still retain their unmistakable tone quality in their new home. Another month's work is needed to make the instrument fully operational but in this fine new concert hall I have no doubt that the organ will sound really great (or swell?)!!

Octagenarian Albert Crispe (brother of the former manager of the Arcadia) officially declared the organ open in a commendably brief speech, and then unveiled a plaque stating that the organ had been presented to the people of Willoughby by the Crispe family in February 1962. Albert then played a few notes and the organ was heard in public for the first time in ten years. Let us hope that the Capitol organ is not out of action quite so long!

It is particularly fitting that Ron West should be the first organist to play on the new installation as he was also the last to play at the "Arcadia" during a film session. Owing to the severe limitations of the state of the instrument Ron played some of his numbers on a "Gem" electronic, an instrument he was not familiar with but soon mastered. A fine performance at incredibly short notice. Bill Schumacher at the grand piano joined Ron during the community singing. The two musicians were working together for the first time. Their styles are complimentary and it possible that they may appear as duettist in future concerts.

The wife and son of former Acadia organist Nicholas Robins and organists Penn Hughes and Muriel Jeavons were among the audience. Ian Griggs projected coloured slides he had taken during the installation and your editor improvised a commentary on them.

As most reader will be aware, Ian has prepared a historical survey of the Arcadia, its organ and organists. This booklet has been published by Willoughby Council, price 50 cents. He has also been actively assisting Noads staff as a representative of the Council so it was most appropriate that he also figured prominently in the opening performance. He accompanied the Charlie Chaplin 1916 silent film "The Rink" on the Steinway, and finally played a bracket of three numbers on the Wurlitzer that means so much to him: "Begin the Beguine", "Eidelweiss" and "Climb every Mountain" to conclude the evening.

"THE EDITOR"

DEMISEMIQUAVERS (or very short notes)

The film evening at David Parsons home raised over \$40. The evening was so popular that it was planned to repeat it on March 3rd.

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Rees Wills has opened a new music shop at Mona Vale, on the corner of Barrenjoey and Pittwater Roads. Good luck to the venture.

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Ian Shipway is now an executive of Wadsworth-Stamford

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Piano for sale. Apply to Mr Shaw, Manager, Capitol theatre, Sydney.

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Organ for sale: As new. Toshiba SME 411, \$800 o.n.o.
Contact Clarie Smith, 14 Golf Links Drive,
Batemans Bay.

.....

Organ for sale: As new. Toshiba ME 311, \$495
Contact Stan Holland, 37 Barnsbury Grove,
Bexley North, 2207. Phone: 507322

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With the cancellation of Wilbur Kentwell's concert at Chatswood the only event in March is on the 27th. at the Burning Log Restaurant, Dural. This is in aid of the Capitol organ Purchase Fund. Organist Joh. Congert will be playing the outstanding Wurlitzer electronic installation with 13 loudspeakers well distributed throughout the restaurant. The event is being held at the invitation of the owners Robert and Elaine Creighton to celebrate the first anniversary of the installation of the organ. The concert will begin at 8p.m. and for the suggested donation of \$1 tea or coffee and biscuits will be served. In addition to the organ other entertainment will be provided.

The following is a page reproduced from a catalogue of residence Wurlitzers printed by the Australian importers & installation firm of W.A. Crowle; the catalogue was made available by member Jack Sutton. "This beautiful pipe organ will make your home a musical centre. The sheer beauty of its performance will prove an unending source of enjoyment to you, your family, your artistic and music-loving friends" it says, in much the same terms as modern brochures for compact electronic organs! Note the console style which is similar to the Wurlitzer formerly in Brisbane's Regent Theatre, and akin to the larger 4-manual consoles in this country.



R16
WITH SPECIAL REPRODUCING
ROLLS.
(165 Notes)

SPECIFICATION OF R 16 THREE MANUAL WURLITZER HOUSE ORGAN
With Reproducing Player Attachment

Pedal

Compass 32 Notes	
Bass	16 ft.
Bourdon	16 "
Tuba	8 "
Diapason	8 "
Tibia Clausa	8 "
Clarinet	8 "
Cello	8 "
Flute	8 "
Dulciana	8 "
Accompaniment to Pedal	
Great to Pedal	
Solo to Pedal	

Accompaniment

Compass 61 Notes	
Contre Viole (Ten. C)	16 ft.
Tuba	8 "
Open Diapason	8 "
Tibia Clausa	8 "
Clarinet	8 "
Oboe Horn	8 "
Salicional	8 "
Voix Celeste (Ten. C)	8 "
Flute	8 "
Vox Humana	8 "
Dulciana	8 "
Octave	4 "
Piccolo	4 "
Salicet	4 "
Octave Celeste	4 "
Flute	4 "
Vox Humana	4 "
Dulcet	4 "
Chrysglott	49 notes

ACCOMPANIMENT—Contd.

Solo Sub-Octave to Accompaniment.
Solo Unison to Accompaniment.
Solo Octave to Accompaniment.
Five Adjustable Combination
Pistons

Great

Compass 61 Notes	
Bass	16 ft.
Tibia Clausa (Ten. C)	16 "
Clarinet	16 "
Oboe Horn	16 "
Contre Viole	16 "
Bourdon	16 "
Tuba	8 "
Open Diapason	8 "
Tibia Clausa	8 "
Clarinet	8 "
Oboe Horn	8 "
Salicional	8 "
Voix Celeste (Ten. C)	8 "
Flute	8 "
Vox Humana	8 "
Dulciana	8 "
Octave	4 "
Piccolo	4 "
Salicet	4 "
Octave Celeste	4 "
Flute	4 "
Dulcet	4 "
Twelfth	2-2/3 "
Piccolo	2 "
Solo Sub-Octave to Great	
Solo Unison to Great	
Solo Octave to Great	
Five Adjustable Combination Pistons	

Solo

Compass 61 Notes	
Tuba	8 ft.
Open Diapason	8 "
Tibia Clausa	8 "
Clarinet	8 "
Oboe Horn	8 "
Salicional	8 "
Flute	8 "
Vox Humana	8 "
Octave	4 "
Piccolo	4 "
Salicet	4 "
Flute	4 "
Twelfth	2-2/3 "
Piccolo	2 "
Cathedral Chimes	25 notes
Five Adjustable Combination Pistons	

General

Two Balanced Expression Pedals.
One Balanced Crescendo Pedal.
Two General Tremulants.
One Vox Humana Tremulant
Electric Rotary Blowing Apparatus.
Generator for furnishing the necessary current to operate the Electro-pneumatic Action.
Organ fitted with Automatic Playing attachment so that instrument is playable by means of a paper music roll which operates the complete instrument as well as being available for hand playing.

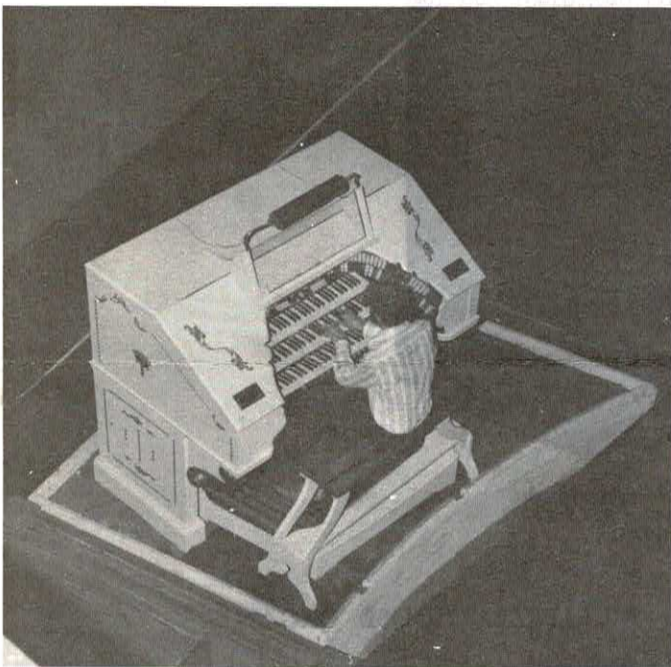
CAPITOL THEATRE - LAST CONCERT



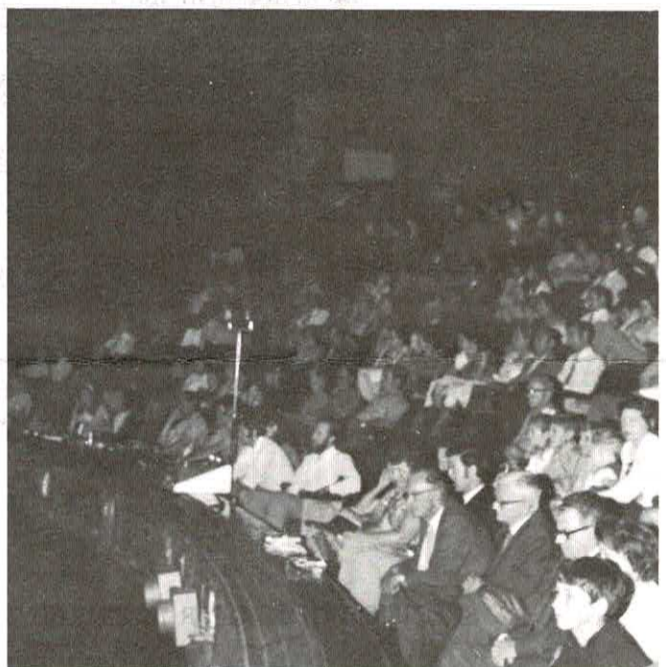
Frank Ellis briefs the organists
before the concert



Frank comperes the last concert



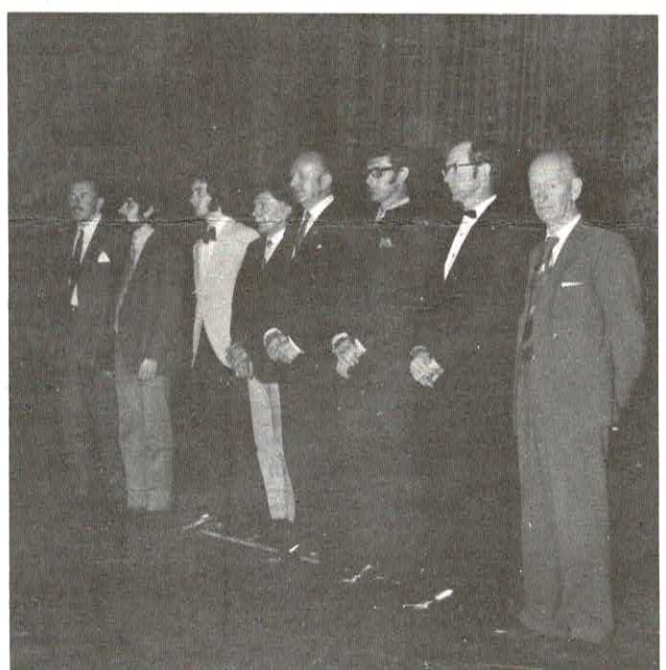
Cliff Bingham - first to play



An enraptured audience packs
the balcony



Our patron plays the final music
- Photos by TOSA (N.S.W.)



Final ovation to 8 of the 10
organists who gave one of our
finest concerts