

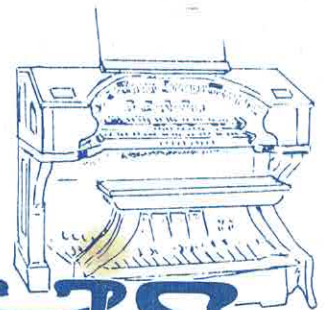
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T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

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T.O.S.A. DIARY: SUNDAY 16th April.

The next Concert at the Marrickville Town Hall will be held on Sunday 16th April, at 2.30pm and will be a free Concert at which everybody will be welcome.

At the time of going to press, the choice of artist had not been finally decided upon by Committee but the short list looked very interesting and promises another fine performance in the style that we have become accustomed to hearing over the years.

A problem with the selection of the artist who will be entertaining us was caused by availability of dates for the Town Hall, which artist will be available on that date and the postal strike which has not helped the confirmations of verbally made arrangements. Please keep in touch with abovementioned phone numbers for details when the date is coming around and we will be able to advise you but remember, be at the Town Hall on the Sunday 16th April for a pleasant afternoons music.

T.O.S.A DIARY: SATURDAY 15th April.

Flanagan and Winter are holding the 'Yamaha Electone' Area Finals at the MacArthur Girls High School Auditorium on Saturday 15th April at 7.30pm. Member Ray Thornley will be playing as a special Guest Artist as will the Crossroads Youth Big Band which will contribute Glenn Miller style music to the program. Members of the Young Organists Association will be playing in the aim of earning their uniform decorations. This Concert was held to a capacity house last year

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is the final culmination of the 'Yamaha Electone' Area Festival which has meant hundreds of hours work by all competing members, most of whom are youngsters trying their hardest.

Admission to the Concert is by ticket and these are available from Flanagan and Winter, 1 Palmer Street, Parramatta. Further particulars concerning tickets etc., can be obtained by ringing Les Flanagan or John Winter on 630 8550. Admission charges are \$3.00 for Adults and \$1.00 Children and Pensioners.

One of the high spots of the evening will be the fact that some lucky person will win a Yamaha Organ or a Trail Bike and this will be presented by local Rugby League Star John Peard on the evening. The trophies that will be awarded to the successful entrants are worth hundreds of dollars and this evening promises to be a most spectacular one.

T.O.S.A. DIARY: Tuesday 18th April.

Long standing member Bill Schumacher and well known artiste Carmen La Motte are presenting a Duo Organ performance on Tuesday 18th April at 8.00pm at the Kendall Community Centre, Warwick Avenue, Cammeray. Admission \$2.00, Supper available. This particular evening should delight all the Hammond buffs as I believe this brand will be used and Carmen La Motte is the President of the local Hammond Chapter.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES.

Committee met on Wednesday 8th March at Marrickville Town Hall and several issues were discussed to the members advantage. One of the issues was the first Concert for which a date was set and the choice of Artists was decided upon and also various overseas artists availabilities was drawn up. It is to advantage to have an overseas artist play in the various States to a program so that each State Division can take advantage of the artist's presence in the country.

A simpler method of both paying in the practice fees due and also a simpler method for the Treasurer Mrs. Smith to do the necessary accounting for was devised and this will be brought into operation as soon as practical and will save a lot of us practicees who keep the ratepayers awake at night the problem of how to get the money to the Treasurer and wondering about if it got through the Postal services or not. It will be possible to place the money in an envelope of which a supply will be kept on the Console, put your name on it with the date and the amount and poke into a letter box opening in the Solo Chamber door. Behind the door will be a suitable receptacle and, once the envelope is placed inside the slot on the door that will be that. The only access to the locked receptacle will be to people authorised to collect the envelopes and, having the date and name on them, they can be checked off on the duplicate copy of the practice list by Mrs. Smith and remitted direct to the Society Bank Account.

Assuming that both Monday and Tuesday Practice sessions are attended, the practice fees in one year would come to \$624.00 which is quite a healthy amount. There are more practice sessions generally which will actually when fully utilised produce even more money.

The next Committee Meeting is at St. Annes Church Hall, Strathfield on Monday 3rd April. Members are welcome to attend as visitors at all of these meetings. As this is your society your participation is essential so your attendance is a great help to those that are trying to make decisions on your behalf. The meeting will begin at 7.45pm.

THE MARCH EDITION OF T.O.S.A NEWS!!

Before people decide to wring the Editor's neck for the last issue, let me point out that the Newsletter is typed on a special sheet which is processed and comes out in the familiar form. As new Editor it was quite natural to make a few typing errors and, considering this prior to the typing up of the issue I consulted Sperry Remington and went and saw them and I was supplied with a bottle of fluid which, I was told, was that good that nothing on the market was as good. This was prior to 24th February which was when the issue was put together, I wound up in hospital on 25th February which was good timing.

Imagine my horror when the very first issue came to light and I saw what looked more like a spotted dog than a Newsletter. I would like to point out that the issue was taken straight to Sperry Remington at North Ryde and the matter was taken up at quite a high level and, after much discussion by their staff, it was agreed that an error in this matter had been made. I was then supplied with an eraser which has been claimed to be the correct type and this issue will tell if this is indeed, correct.

A further problem is that our Society Remington 'Rotaprint' seems to have done it's last job for the time being at last. All efforts to resuscitate appear to have failed and enquiries made of Remington reveal that it is a very early machine and that they have no parts available. Until we can either repair it or find someone who has the time to pull it apart completely and try to give it the kiss of life we must thank a member who wishes to remain anonymous who is only charging a token fee for each issue as it is being done more or less as a foreign order but whilst we would like to thank the member by name we must respect his wishes in this matter. This is one reason why copy that was done on 24.2.78 was not available for collation until 14.3.78., the intervening time was spent trying to get our own machine going and or working out possible suitable alternatives and getting quotes from commercial offset printers and the resultant quotes from some of the printing houses could have cost us the earth. As we are a Society of people who have a common leisure interest we are not a commercial concern and have to watch all monies spent with an almost eagle eye and our present arrangements are very satisfactory from all points.

YOUNG ORGANISTS ASSOCIATION.

A lot of our members have heard of the Young Organists Association but may not be fully aware of what the overall conception of this organisation is and I have obtained permission of Les Flanagan, Australian Director of the Y.O.A., to reprint the following article which appeared in the Keyboard World publication last year. " The Young Organists Association was founded in America by Bill Worrall. In the United States it boasts some 110 Chapters. Here in Australia Les Flanagan introduced the movement one and half years ago and already there are 30 Chapters with some one thousand children involved. Les is National Director as well as being on the International Committee and writes to children all over the world who are part of the movement. It is hoped that Bill Worrall and Les Flanagan can present an International Convention of the Y.O.A. in this country within two years. This would involve large numbers of International tourists visiting Australia.

There have always been plenty of clubs for young people who liked sport and outdoor activities. The child who liked music was always the odd one out and regarded as abnormal. Whats wrong with a child liking music? We say nothing. Thousands of decent living and sincere Australian youngsters are discovering this new life.

The Young Organists Association is opened to all young people under the age of 21 years. The ability to play a keyboard instrument is not necessary to join. Members pay \$3.00 a year which entitles them to attend educational lectures, dealers showrooms, pool parties, disco nights, keyboard jam sessions and keyboard concerts. Other bonuses include discounts on clothing and other merchandise. Australia's leading keyboard musicians are advisors to the movement and help police the constitution.

The Y.O.A. is not owned or associated with any one particular brand of organ. Learning to play all types and brands of keyboard instruments is the goal. The movement can be likened to the boy scouts or the girl guides with its own uniform and levels of attainment. After performing twice in Concert with a recognised and paid Concert artist a young member is presented with his or her proficiency decoration by one of the national advisors. A waiting list currently exists for young people wanting to achieve this decoration.

The second decoration, the Command, is soon to be announced. To achieve this level a member will have to amongst other things, perform in a group situation and prepare a paper on a musical subject. Higher levels will lead the young person to a professional situation capable of taking his or her place in the most demanding areas of showmanship and entertainment.

The movement is self generating. As a young person reaches the age of 21 years they do not leave the Y.O.A. but become an advisor either of their present chapter or of a new chapter. In such ways the high standards of the Young Organists Association is passed from generation to generation. "

At the time of printing of that article in Keyboard World there were some twenty nine Chapters from Perth to Cairns. Others have since been formed and more are in the process of being formed. Within the Theatre Organ Society there are two of the Advisers, Cliff Bingham and Ray Thornley and the efforts that these men have put in to help these youngsters has been enormous. Other advisers are Rory Thomas, Russell Springfield, Tony Fenelon and these names I am sure will be familiar to everyone. The Young Organists Association has quite an interest in our WurliTzer and practice is arranged once a month under the direction of Les Flanagan and Ernie Vale and the results are quite good considering the difference between the two types of organ that the kids are playing. There could never be any comparison between an electronic plug in organ with a couple of loudspeakers and a pipe organ such as the one that the Society owns and maintains at Marrickville. This may draw some criticism but when logically looked at becomes a fact. On the other side of the coin not many of us would like to try and plug the Wurly into our living rooms!!

These kids work hard at their music and the enthusiasm is such that they would almost walk a hundred miles to get an appreciative audience and one thing that I notice, having a ten year old, is that the standard of learning is such that my ten year old is not that far behind me and, at the rate he seems to be learning and comprehending I will soon have to possibly regard him as competition. Of course, he is not the only child who is playing well as those who attended the Concert last year that had four Young Organists Association's artists heard. It would seem that the member of the Young Organists Association of today is the member of the Theatre Organ Society of tomorrow playing a different music in a different style altogether as well as being able to play our theatre styles of yesteryear and today.

NEW ORGANIST COMES INTO THE WORLD!!.

Member Ray Thornley and wife Carol have another son born on the 8th March which was both a wonderful event for both of the lovely people and timed to perfection, (Committee Meeting), Congratulations to everybody concerned!!!!

NEW MEMBERS..

There were several new members who were admitted but the list has been either misplaced or is still in Ron Smith's hands so this will have to be put in at a later date. Sorry about that but welcome to our Society and may you spend many happy hours participating in the various activities.

WORKING BEE. 'CAPITOL ORGAN' Saturday 18th March.

This was not what was regarded as a great success because of the weather which was 'on the deck' and the fact that, owing to the Postal strike, not many people knew what was happening and the roll up consisted of four people, three of whom were members and one ten year old, (non-member), but, certain small things were done as really wet weather is not ideal for glueing operations and so on. At the time, a date was not set for the next working bee but anyone interested could contact Ernie Vale at the 'Organ Loft' , 49 Boomerang Street Haberfield, or ring on 798 6816.

It would not be possible to place a price on the work that has taken place in the 'Organ Loft' since the restoration began. In time, this instrument will be heard by the members and only then will the full significance of the dedication of the people who gather at Haberfield to work on this, the Society's second WurliTzer and the largest of the two be known. Other members have parts stored here and there and, when consideration is given to the fact that we are organ enthusiasts not organ builders or repairers it is a job of almost impossible odds which, bit by bit is happening. Our Marrickville instrument has been maintained in much the same manner, persistence by people who have the genuine interest and time.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS.

Mr. Stewart, 13 Montgomery Avenue, Revesby writes to advise of a book called 'THE ORGAN' which recently he obtained from the Bankstown Municipal Council and is written by Willaim Leslie Sumner. Mr. Stewart feels that the book came from the State Reserve Library and should be obtainable at any Municipal Library if ordered. The book was published in 1926 and gives details of the instruments of the time as well as black and white plates. It sounds like a very interesting book and Mr. Stewart has written a copy of an account rendered for the construction of an organ for the Ely Cathedral in 1407!!

20 Stones of Lead	16/9	6 calf skins	2/6
4 horses hides for bellows	7/8	12 sheep skins.	2/4
Ashen hoops for bellows	4d	2 lb quick silver	2/-
10 pairs of hinges	1/10	wire nails, cloths, hoops	
The carpenter, 8 days		and staples.	1/-
making bellows	2/8	Fetching the Organ builder	
12 Springs	3d	and his board for 13 weeks	40/-
1 lb glue	1d	TOTAL COST OF ORGAN	
1 lb tin	3d	Three pounds, seventeen and eightpence.	

It would seem that there was no controversy such as seems to be the case with a certain Opera House at the moment!! Ed.

Thank you Mr. Stewart and please remember that readers contributions are always welcome provided names and addresses are shown.

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Mr. Joseph Hughes, Hotel Inverell Buildings, Inverell 2360 writes as follows;-

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ascertain if you could kindly help me. I am desirous of obtaining a Barrell Organ and was hoping a member of your Society might be able to advise me. Thanking you in anticipation etc.,.

If anyone can help Mr. Hughes in his project they could write direct to him.

REPRINTED FROM FEBRUARY EDITION OF 'COUPLER' Queensland Division February. Gold Coast Chapter.

Laugh Line!

An optimist is a fellow who believes that whatever happens, no matter how bad, it is for the best. The pessimist is the fellow to whom it happens.

The computer is a great invention. There are just as many mistakes as ever, but they are nobody's fault.

Thank you Queensland.

REPRINTED FROM 'VOX' VICTORIAN DIVISION December 1977.

Macs Spot.-

As you read these words yet another organ is on the high seas on its way between England and Australia, where it is to be installed in a Sydney Cinema. The organ in question is a 3/8 WurliTzer, Opus 2222, built for Union Theatres to the design of Harold Ramsay and shipped from the factory at North Tonawonda on 28th January 1938. When the order was placed, it was intended that this instrument would be installed in the Ritz, Wigan, but in the meantime Union Theatre's financial collapse and subsequent takeover by Associated Cinemas meant that the 3/17 WurliTzer ordered for the Ritz, Richmond, was cancelled and Opus 2222 was diverted to the latter theatre. The Ritz, Wigan, never housed a WurliTzer, nor indeed any organ other than occasional visits by the A.B.C.'s touring Hammonds.

Opus 2222 was a typical product of its age. Whereas theatre organ design in Australia, and America as well, crystallised after WurliTzer revised sealings and tonal balance in 1926, it continued to develop in Britain right up to the outbreak of World War 2. The 'Unit Orchestra' rapidly became a kind of 'Unit Dance Band', in line with contemporary popular musical taste. Apart from a few prestige theatres most installations were of 6 or 8 ranks of pipes, loudly voiced to give the maximum volume for the minimum capital expenditure. Organs were no longer required to accompany silent films and to be listened to for hours at a time; instead, organists would play short interludes of around 20 minutes, often ending with community singing. The requirement, therefore, was for punchy snappy organs, full of novelty effects, (coloured lights around the consoles, "phantom" grand pianos, electrophonic devices on one builders instruments etc.), rather than the sophisticated and subtle instruments needed for silent film accompaniment. In extreme cases, organs resulted which might more be properly regarded as public nuisances than musical instruments, (this also applied to some organists as well!), but in general the WurliTzer organs produced during the latter half of the 1930's were of sound highly successful as regards both quality and quantity.

Continued from previous page.

Stock models, obviously, were no longer imported, and the expansion of cinema chains meant that these circuits could order batches of organs to their own designs without the expense of 'one-off' instruments, (similar arrangements applied with regard to some American circuits, notably Fox, Paramount, Publix and Balaban & Katz some years earlier).

It was against this backdrop that Harold Ramsay, Musical Director of Union Theatres, was asked to design a series of specifications for organs to be placed in the rapidly expanding circuit. These ranged from 4 to 8 ranks, and were to be built by Compton and WurliTzer. One of the Comptons found it's way to Australia also, and is now being installed at Ballarat, but we are concerned in this article with the WurliTzers. These were of three closely related designs, a 3c17, a 3 c 18 and a 3/8. All had illuminated console surrounds of possibly the most elaborately hideous, (or beautiful - some people liked them!), design ever seen to the present day. Those with coupler manuals had single bolster console, the 3/8 having double bolsters. Most had grand piano attachments, (one even had a piano on it's own lift), Their ranks were: French Trumpet, Diaphonic Diapason, Tibia Clausa, Saxophone, Clarinet, Gamba, Gamba-Celeste and Flute, (the seven ranks had no Clarinet). The absence of the Tuba rank is notable; instead there is the very rare French Trumpet, a more fiery version, in spotted metal, of what has become known as the 'Style D Trumpet', illustrative of contemporary practice is the replacement of Violins by Gambas and of the Vox Humana by a Saxophone. It may be of interest to note that, at the time the Granada Theatres were installing 3/8 WurliTzers with the following ranks: English Horn, Tuba Horn, Diaphonic Diapason, Tibia Clausa, Saxophone, Gamba, GambaCeleste and Flute, (also with Grand Pianos). After the war, the Clarinet at Richmond was removed and replaced by an English Horn, thus bringing the two specifications even closer. The English Horn came from Opus 2/40, a style 220 Special 3/10, at the Dominion, Walthamstow.

I can recall being impressed most favourably by the sound of the Richmond organ, both on the radio, and at concerts at the Theatre, and thus was very pleased to hear that it had been rescued, minus the console surround, long vanished piano, by the Rawle family, stalwarts of Organ preservation, when the theatre closed. They got it out in the nick of time, as flood waters were building up in the understage chambers, and since then it has been stored in their houses; for a time the console was rigged up as a 'slave' to the 3/19 WurliTzer in Les and Edith Rawle's Northbolt residence. No suitable location for the organ has come to light in England, and so, although they are naturally reluctant to see it go so far, they could not wish for a better for it than a cinema where it will be used regularly during film shows, performing the function for which it was designed.

Editors Note (Vox, Victoria)

We were told in stricy confidence about the 3/8 WurliTzer coming to Australia from England some months ago, but were unable to print anything. Now it can be told that the organ is destined for the Mecca Theatre, (Victory), at Kogerah, former home of a very nice 2/8 Christie, now owned by Alan Tranter.

The owner of the Mecca Theatre, Mr. Doyle, has purchased this excellent late (circa 1937), 'Ramsay WurliTzer' and has two chambers ready to house it when it arrives in Sydney late in January 1978.

We will watch with envy the project as it progresses, and wish him every success with the Mecca and it's organ.

Reprinted from Vox December 1977.

Mr. Doyle is to be congratulated for his enterprise in this installation when, in a day and age when everyone else is almost considering electronics and indeed, the younger members of our society tend to think of an organ as something that is plugged into a power point and sometimes has another box or two connected to it, he has the foresight to be able to arrange for a genuine theatre organ to be installed in a theatre. One is totally suited to the other and we all look forward to being able to listen to the instrument.

MARRICKVILLE PRACTICE SESSIONS.

As has been mentioned in previous issues, there is time available on the Society WurliTzer at Marrickville Town Hall. This instrument is in good order and is both a very satisfactory sounding organ as well as being totally different to play on. All of the electronic instruments of today are direct descendants of the theatre organ of yesterday and, had the line of development originated from the traditional pipe organ such as can be found in the local Church the sales of the electronic instruments may not have been as rapid as it has been. There is not really much comparison between an electronic sound and a naturally created one and every member that can play should try and have a go on the WurliTzer. At least you will be able to see what faces the organist of the various records that you have and, you will join the small number of people who have the availability to play on these unique instruments.

Currently in the stages of preparation is a guide to the instrument and we are working to a standard setting for the presets which will be altered to suit any performing Concert artist and then reset to the standard settings but this will take some time to work out as many opinions have to be sought from those who have played the instrument and are Concert artists as such in their own right.

Please contact Chris Palmer on 926 534 regarding available times. Monday nights are not available at the moment but Tuesdays and Thursdays do have vacancies. There is usually someone to show new people over the instrument and to assist them in getting started on it and all playing members both new and old are invited. Practice fees are not exorbitant, (\$2.00 per hour), and this represents quite good value.

T.O.S.A. NEWS.

When we get things going properly with the printing and sort out how and what with our own press we will be getting back to photographs again and for this purpose I have the aluminium plates that have been used up to date. What we will be trying to aim for is a photographic edition each alternate issue. This would give two months to be able to set up the plates, copy and we should be able to bring you a very good edition in this regard. A lot of the older plates could be run again for the benefit of new members and this will also involve trying to go back to the days of the 'Diaphone' for some of the what would be now very historical blocks and photographs that were taken many years ago. Naturally we will also be doing up to the minute photographs of present day activities so this will be something to look forward to in the near future.

POSTAL DISPUTE.

Most of this edition was typed on 22 and 24 March to enable it to go to the printer on 28th and at this point of time I cannot see around the postal issue which has inconvenienced all of us. On page 1 and 2 I have mentioned up and coming events and I can only hope that the postal issue is resolved in time for you to receive this issue. This type of event, (or non-event), is completely outside the scope of the Society. I am still waiting on important copy from Jack Lawson for the cabaret to be held on 16.6.78 so almost everything depends on this postal issue being resolved.

STOP PRESS!!!!

AT THE TIME OF TYPING THE APRIL EDITION OF T.O.S.A. NEWS IT WAS NOT DECIDED WHO WOULD BE THE ORGANIST FOR THE FREE CONCERT AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL ON SUNDAY 16TH APRIL.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ORGANIST HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED AS DAVID PARSONS, WELL KNOWN IN THE CONCERT FIELD AND A GOOD AFTERNOON'S ENTERTAINMENT IS ASSURED.

T.O.S.A. DIARY. Sunday 14th May.

Confirmation has also been received that well known American Theatre Organist LEE IRWIN will be appearing in Concert at Marrickville Town Hall on Sunday 14th May. This will not be a free concert and further details will appear in the May issue of T.O.S.A News.

EASTER CONVENTION 1978.

I called and visited Mrs. Smith just after they, (Ron Smith went also), got back from Adelaide and it seems that all the members that went from our Division had a good time. President Steve MacDonald saw most of our party leave from Mascot and wished them well. I hope that details will be given in due course in the form of articles to the Editor so that those of us who could not attend will be able to share in the fun by reading about the Convention. Some lucky members were able to take time off and stay till the following weekend. Good luck!!

POSTAL DISPUTE.

This has now been resolved for the time being at least and I hope that everybody will be able to get their copies of both March and April edition without any further delay. From what I hear on the news, the bank up of mail is such that by the time this April edition comes back from the printer and gets posted out both copies should arrive almost together.
