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# T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

ADDRESS BOX A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

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## "T.O.S.A. DIARY"

October 2nd. Sunday, 2.30p.m.

Member Richie Willis is having an organ party at his home on this date. Reg. Black will be the featured organist and the address is 13 Rosemont Avenue, Mortdale. Please phone 57 3581 for reservations as seating is limited.

October 8th. Saturday, 2.30p.m.

As noted in last month's News Ian Davies will be featured at a concert at 10 Caloola Rd, Wentworthville. Admission is \$2.50 and all seats must be booked in advance by 'phoning 631 6189. See last month's News for details.

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October 9th. Sunday, 2.30p.m.

Here is your chance to hear BYRON MELCHER at the Marrickville Town Hall playing our Wurlitzer. Byron Melcher, the well-known American Theatre Pipe Organ Concert Artist is making a whirlwind tour of Eastern and Southern Australia to introduce the new three manual Thomas Organ. He was President of the Los Angeles Chapter and is regularly featured at ATOS Conventions. He was featured at the last Convention in Chicago on the Wurlitzer-Kimball 3/13 organ at Radio Station W G A, Chicago. He has a 2/8 Morton Pipe Organ in his own home. He has made many recordings and had the honour of making the last commercial recording of Harvey Hech's 4/28 Wurlitzer (originally from Grauman's Egyptian Theatre Admission \$3.00, TOSA Members \$2.50, Pensioners and Children \$1.50

October 19th. Wednesday, 8.00p.m.

This is the occasion of our Organ Spectacular at the Bankstown Civic Centre.

SPRING INTO SUMMER WITH SPECTACULAR MUSIC.

Six dealers will be exhibiting different makes of Electronic Organs for your pleasure. Tickets to this function may be obtained at the door priced at \$3.00, Tosa members \$2.50, Concession \$1.50

October 30th. Sunday, 2.00p.m.

The Music Teachers For Youth Rostrum (Campbelltown) will be presenting a 'Concert For Youth' at the 'James Meehan' High School Auditorium on the above date. A wide variety of music and musical instruments will be featured including Piano, Organ, Vocal, Acting and other features promising young artists from the studios of local teachers. Come along and give these young artists some encouragement at the James Meehan High School Auditorium at Glenquarie. For bookings and other details contact Mrs Buck, (046) 25 2792.

October 30th, Sunday, 7.30p.m.

An organ concert sponsored by the Campbelltown School of Music, which is run by our member Joe Lefcovitch, will be held in the James Meehan High School Auditorium, Glenquarie. Our Vice-President, Herbert Wyatt will be the featured artist and he will be assisted by Joe Lefcovitch and singer Helen Acton. The organ used will be Joe's own Allen Digital Computer Organ and the proceeds will benefit the 1st Kentlyn Troup of Boy Scouts.

November 5th. Saturday, 2.30p.m.

A barbecue and pool party will be held at the home of Ron and Phyl Wilson on this date and our popular hosts will make everyone most welcome. For the non-swimmers there will be music during the afternoon provided by Peter Held and others who care to 'tickle the ivories'. Guests are asked to bring their own steak, liquid refreshment, swimmers and towel, the remainder will be provided. Cost per person is \$1.50, please make your bookings for catering purposes by phoning 759 6050 after 5.00 p.m.

November 6th. Sunday, 2.30p.m.

Come and enjoy music played on our Wurlitzer organ played by RAY THORNLEY. Ray has his own style which is a delight to listen to and many of our members will probably have Ray's own records at home in their collection. If not, get them, you will enjoy them. This is not a concert you can afford to miss so note it down NOW. Admission \$3.00, TOSA Members \$2.50, Concession \$1.50

November 13th. Sunday, 2.30p.m.

A Home Organ Party will be held at the home of Ritchie Willis & Norm Read,



13 Rosemont Avenue, Mortdale. Members David Smith and John Shaw will be playing the Thomas Lawrence Welk Theatre organ and the Gulbransen piano. The total proceeds of this function will be donated to the Capitol organ fund. Please book early by phoning 57 3581 or 529 7379 as seating is limited. Gents \$2.00 and Ladies \$1.50 and a plate of goodies for afternoon tea on the back lawn. Please support this afternoon's concert and help our ex-Capitol Wurlitzer organ.

November 18th, Friday-7.00p.m.

Just to remind you of our end of year Cabaret. See the detailed 'ad' in last month's TOSA News. The price is \$15.50 a double as mentioned in last month's ad and not \$15.00 as incorrectly stated in the booking slip. Singles are of course \$3.00. The meal will be first class and I am told (by a most reliable source) that the chicken will be both succulent and tender. Dare I use the phrase 'finger lickin' good'? Ian Davies will entertain us and we know from experience that that means a really good night. If you haven't already done so fill in in booking form, reprinted again in this issue, and post it in together with your cheque.

November 27th, 2.30p.m.

On this occasion Peter Held will be playing at Ritchie Willis' & Norm Head, 13 Rosemont Avenue, Mortdale. Phone 57 3581 and reserve a seat if you would like a pleasant Sunday afternoon of good entertainment.

Saturday November 26th, 1.30p.m.

The organ loft gathering in August was again most successful in spite of the August winds and a lot of progress was made on the cleaning of guide pins on the top boards and removal of the Central Railway soot from same. More gaskets were cut and glued, more secondary motors were covered and a start was made on the glueing of primary motorsthanks to some very effective jigs made by Norm Weismantel. You will have seen that there is no working bee in September nor will there be one in October. The next working bee at the Organ Loft will take place on Saturday 26th November commencing at 1.30p.m., 345 Boomerang Street, Haberfield. Please phone 79 6816 for details and ask for Ernie Vale. Thanks are also due to Des Russell for providing a nice large piece of perflex for the primaries. All the chests at the loft are looking very clean now and we should soon be putting them back together.  
Ernie Vale.

November 30th, Wednesday, 8.00p.m.

This is the date of the Annual General Meeting. Full details in our next issue. Keep this date free.

December 11th, Sunday, 2.30p.m.

As noted in the last issue this will be the occasion of our third free concert this year. This concert, held in conjunction with the Marrickville Municipal Council will feature two young artists, Margaret Hall and Joe Lascovitch. Come along and give them some support.

ORGAN FOR SALE.

For Sale: Conn Model 589, three manual Theatre Organ, 11 months old, as new condition. Phone 067 92 2209, (after hours), Mrs C.R. Ives, P.O. Box 16, Marrabri, 2285.



## THE A.T.C.S. CONVENTION.

I suppose we would all like to attend a Convention of this nature but alas, finances and/or time does not permit it for most of us. Therefore I have prevailed on our member Bob Liddon to write this report showing the type of holiday that would have been enjoyed by us, if we could have gone.

What better way to start a trip to the U.S.A. than to stop over in Hawaii for a time? Unfortunately, one day is not long enough to do much else than to recover from the long flight of approximately ten hours from Hawaii. Honolulu has a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society and it is appropriately named, Aloha Chapter. The Honolulu Theatres have three organs installed, both instruments are 4 manual 16 rank Robert Johnsons. The one in the Waikiki Theatre is featured every week end by John De Belle who has been playing in theatres for over 50 years. Robert Johnsons are usually superb instruments, famous for their beautiful strings, both big reeds and good percussions, and the organ in Waikiki Theatre is no exception. The theatre building is very interesting and follows the Hollywood remiere style of forecourt entrance somewhat like Grauman's Chinese Theatre Hollywood, or Genevieve's own "Roxy" Theatre at Parramatta. The inside of the building is very definitely Hawaii Atmospheric with the traditional cobalt blue ceiling and side walls lined with palm trees and tropical flora.

The next stop over on the tour was Seattle, Washington. Seattle is located in the Pacific North West section and is best known for the manufacture of Boeing Aircraft. The scenery in the Pacific Northwest is most taking - pine trees, snow capped mountains, and lake as far as one can see. Seattle too, has some notable theatre organ installations, though only one remains that is original. The 4 manual 20 rank Public One Murlitzer was installed new in the Paramount Theatre in 1920, though the organ hasn't been used much in the last few years it was featured in the 1971 A.T.C.S. Convention, it is truly a beautiful sounding instrument. The Green Pizza Chain have two fine installations "Pizza & Pipes" Greenwood and Bellevue (both Seattle suburbs). The two organs are very similar, both having 3 manual 17 rank Murlitzers - they are in top playing order and great care has obviously been taken with the installation, as usual they are fully viewable from inside the restaurants. Local and imported artists, (from other states) play six nights per week. We had the opportunity to hear both instruments on the same night - the Greenwood organ played by Jimmy Paulin formerly of the Radio City Music Hall, New York - the Bellevue organ played by Don Clayton, a local musician who plays a bright bouncy style which is popular with his audience. There are between 10 and 15 home installations playing in the Seattle area and it is planned that the 1981 A.T.C.S. National Convention will be held there.

Portland, Oregon was the next point of call, about three hours easy driving south of Seattle. Similarly, Portland too is a very beautiful city, the principal industry there being the manufacture of electronic equipment, and also the home of the Rodgers Organ Company. The chief touring attraction other than skiing are the magnificent rose gardens and the Rose Festival which is held in early June. Organ wise, Portland has one of the most notable Murlitzers in the U.S.A., and certainly the second largest installed in a public place. Yes, you guessed it - I'm talking about the Organ Brinder Pizza Organ. The Murlitzer currently stands at 4 manuals and 40 ranks of pipes! The building seats approxi-



ately 450 people and as you may well imagine the organ is virtually never played "flatt out". For those of you who attended the Convention here in Sydney last year and saw the film made at the "Grinder" you will understand when I say that this organ has to be one of the greatest entertainment instruments ever assembled. The entire chambers are under glass, including outside walls so you can see the workings from the street as well as from the inside of the building. The chambers are air conditioned by a completely independant unit from the one which supplies the restaurant though both units are of equal capacity! There is a panel of top artists -Jonas Nordwall, Paul Quarino, Don Simmons and several others who provide the music from 12 noon until 1 a.m. daily, it just has to be the most played WurliTzer anywhere in the world. Whilst in Portland I was privileged to visit the home of Milt & Shirley Keefer. The Keefer's have a beautiful 2 manual 9 rank WurliTzer installed in their living room and a neater installation it would be difficult to find anywhere. This organ is proof that a small theatre organ can fit into a home environment and still sound superb.

The main purpose of the trip was to attend the Chicago A.T.O.S. Convention. Headquarters for the event were at the "Palmer House" Hotel, on the corner of State and Monroe Streets, right in the heart of Chicago's loop district. By the evening of Tuesday 28th June nearly 1,100 people had registered for the Convention. The final attendance was 1152 persons, the largest ever yet. As there were so many events over the next seven days I will list them making some brief comments.

Tuesday evening was reserved for the always popular "No Host Cocktail Party" where many had a chance to see old friends and acquaintances from past Conventions. Whilst the Cocktail Party was in progress, the Chapter Representatives and the National Board of Directors were meeting in another area.

Wednesday morning saw us all boarding buses for the Giant "Chicago Stadium" to hear Ron Bogda play the 6 manual 62 rank Barton Theatre organ. I must admit I was really expecting the Stadium Organ to have a big, raw unrefined sound, as this is the way it always comes over on record, this was certainly no the case hearing the organ in live performance. A brief time only then for something to eat and a quick trip to the Patio Theatre to hear Hector Olivera play a 3/17 Barton. As always, Hector played a spectacular concert with plenty of visual action at the console. The balance of the afternoon was spent at the Pickwick Theatre where Tom Cotner (a local artist) played a cleverly prepared sing-along and silent movie presentation. The organ in the Pickwick Theatre is a 3 manual 11 rank WurliTzer and was almost certainly the best small organ in the entire line-up. Wednesday evening after Dinner there was a piano and organ duo-concert at the Opera House on the 3 manual 50 rank Skinner Classic Organ installed therein. Unfortunately the writer was feeling unwell and was unable to attend this event, however I heard from several different people that they had enjoyed the evening immensely.

Thursday morning and it was all aboard for Joliet - a town about 40 miles from Chicago to hear the 4/21 Barton organ in the Rialto Theatre there. The weather was not at all kind this day and the rain poured down, even more in Joliet than Chicago. We were no sooner seated in the magnificent surroundings of the theatre when there was a power failure. After some minutes Don Baker, the featured artist for this programme was able to commence his recital although there was no lighting in the theatre. Don was able to register the instrument with the aid of several hastily found



torches. Unfortunately Don's problems were just beginning, it was immediately evident that the organ had suffered badly also, from one cause or another. It was a great disappointment to all that Don was in no way able to show off the fine artistry of which he is capable, particularly as the Rialto Theatre itself is in such beautiful condition and could be compared to a super-clean version of the Sydney "State". By lunch time the weather had improved considerably and we enjoyed a delightful lunch at the dining room of a large hotel located near the next venue, at the Arcadia Theatre. The theatre is located in the outer suburbs of Chicago and houses a 3/16 Geneva-Wurlitzer. (The local firm Geneva rebuilt the console and added certain ranks). Lowell Ayars was the featured artist of the afternoon. Lowell is a very popular musician and has appeared at no less than 3 National Conventions. The afternoon's entertainment included not only items by Lowell but an excellent stage show as well. There were two seminars at the "Red Lacquer Room" at the Palmer House after dinner, but having been thoroughly bored and annoyed by the first lecturer I didn't stay for the remaining part of the programme. (Ed. The rest of this article will appear in the next month's issue.)

#### New Members.

At our last committee meeting the following new members were admitted to membership of the Theatre Organ Society; Mr and Mrs Allen Macmillan of Leura. Associate Members admitted were Mona Wyatt (Wahroonga), Nan Tucker (Belfield), Pearl Lawson (Petersham), Coletta Misdale (Gymea), Anne Halloran (Cronulla), Norma Smith (Burwood). We welcome these new members to our fellowship and ask you to make yourselves known to us all at home organ parties and concerts.

#### PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

Friends of Mrs Ruby Findlay will be glad to hear that she is now out of hospital and is installed once more in her own flat. She was admitted to hospital in July 1976 with a broken leg with complications but is now mobile. Good luck, Ruby, your friends hope to see you participating as actively as ever in the society's affairs.

We have just heard of the death recently of Vernon Dunk, Father of member Lawrence Dunk and father-in-law of his wife Pat (daughter of Oscar Loen). Our sincere sympathies are extended to Laurie and his family.

Friends of Robert Cliddon will be sorry to hear that his mother is at present in Parramatta Hospital. However we are happy to say that the illness is not serious and she is expected home shortly.

Our member Des. Russell and his wife Olive are shortly leaving us for a holiday in Japan. On the way they will spend some time in Hong-kong. I am looking forward to seeing a pictorial record of their trip, I know Des expects to bring back plenty of photos. Des has been hard at work on the Wurlitzer organ now installed in the Willoughby Town Hall. Quite a few of our members living on the North Shore have been assisting him in this task and they hope to have the organ back to first-class playing order in the New Year.

Thank you, Graham Glendenning for your cheery letter. I am working hard in my garden and it is looking well. I will be able to publish the information you require in the next month's issue. Sorry I couldn't publish it this month but I only got your letter last night and haven't yet got the information together.

BYRON MELCHER  
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LIVE  
AT THE  
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL  
SUNDAY OCTOBER 9TH  
AT 2.30P.M.

HEAR THIS FAMOUS ARTIST LIVE AT MARRICKVILLE (PLAYING OUR OWN WURLITZER ORGAN) DIRECT FROM HIS SUCCESSFUL APPEARANCE AT THE RECENT A.T.O.S. CONVENTION IN CHICAGO. IN THE STATES LITERALLY THOUSANDS HAVE THRILLED TO THE MAGIC OF HIS MUSIC, IN CONCERT, OVER THE AIR, AND BY RECORD. COME ALONG AND ENJOY THIS WIZARD OF THE ORGAN - THE INCOMPARABLE

BYRON MELCHER.

ADMISSION: \$3.00, TOSA MEMBERS \$2.50  
CONCESSION: \$1.50

YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO HEAR HIM LIVE  
ON PIPE THEATRE ORGAN IN SYDNEY

BYRON MELCHER !!!!!!!

LIVE  
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL  
SUNDAY OCTOBER 9TH  
2.30 P.M.



## SUBURBAN GATHERINGS.

Our member, Bert E. Smith, 371 Burns Bay Road, Lane Cove is desirous of arranging meetings of members at his own home to discuss electronic organs and to play them. Bert's Music Room is quite spacious and is equipped with the latest model Celebrity Organ fitted with a 600 Leslie Speaker, a Grand Piano and excellent Tape Recording equipment. If sufficient members are interested Bert would like to see regular meetings held there just for discussion of subjects of mutual interest and for each member present to play or hear others play the organ. There will be no charges for admission. Bert will supply light refreshments at the first meeting when future arrangements could be discussed. For further information contact Bert E. Smith, 'phone 42 5293 by day or night. His address is 371 Burns Bay Road, Lane Cove.

FOR SALE - 2/8 Pipe Organ.

The Canberra Division of the Theatre Organ Society has just bought a 3/8 Compton Pipe Organ for installation in Canberra's Albert Hall. For this reason the 2/8 Theatre Pipe Organ on which they have been working is now redundant and they are selling the organ. The 8 pipe ranks consist of Diapason, Tibia, Viol d'Orchestre, Viol Celeste, Flute, Trumpet, Clarinet and Vox Humana. There are 5 Chromatic Percussion Units. There are 2nd touches on the Pedal and Accompaniment, 4 tremulants, (Tibia, Flute/Clarinet, Strings and Vox Humana) as well as Bird Whistle, Klaxon and Siren. For further information please write to:-

Mr D. L. Dunnet, Organ Marketing Sub-Committee, T.O.S.A. (ACT),  
Box 367 P.O., Civic Square, ACT., 2608.

STOP PRESS.

The Warringah Music Club is sponsoring a concert in Pittwater R.S.L. Club, Mona Vale Road, Mona Vale on Tuesday, 18th October at 8.00p.m.. The featured artist will be our member Bill Schumacher who on this occasion will be playing a Hammond Concorde. Bill is a hard working member of your committee, actually he has been on it for 14 years, so roll up at this concert and support him.

On Sunday, October 2nd, Frans Wieringa will be the solo artist at the Mecca Theatre, Kogarah. The concert will start at 2 p.m. and he will be playing on an Eminent Solina Organ. The proceeds of this concert will go to the Young Organists Association.

PLEASE NOTE!

Will members practising in the Town Hall kindly turn off the lights when they leave. Thank you.

## Editors Note!

I forgot to mention on page 2, for information about the concert in the James Meehan High School, Glenquarie at 7.30p.m. please contact 046 25 5419.

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