

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: FRANK ELLIS

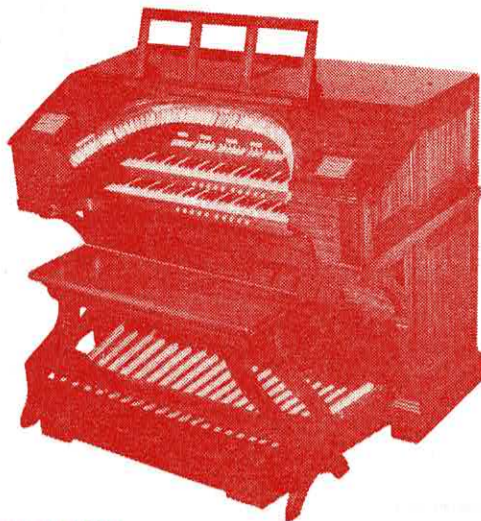
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WHAT'S ON IN MAY.

SATURDAY 9th MAY AT 8pm. There will be an organ party at the home of our members Oscar and Marjorie Moen of 68 Shepherd Street Ryde. The Moens have a Schober organ (Recital model) installed. They also have a talented young daughter who plays a very nice organ indeed. As only 25 guests can be accommodated, those who plan to attend are asked to phone Oscar or Marjorie at 80-3896 and confirm their reservation which will be on the basis of "first come - first served". The evening will be a "players" night, so if you are a player, don't forget your music. There will be a donation of \$1 per person in aid of the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund. Will ladies please bring a plate of goodies for supper.

FRIDAY 15th MAY AT 8pm. There will be a Technical lecture at the home of our members, Mr & Mrs Arthur Spring of 22 William Street, Henley. Arthur and his wife are ever ready to throw their home open to the Society for technical lectures, and this is greatly appreciated by all. The lecturer for this particular evening will be Mr Ron Moodie, the Australian assembler of Baldwin organs. If you would like to attend, please telephone Vice-President Des Russell at 42-4729 a few days beforehand to ensure a reservation.

SUNDAY 24th MAY AT 2.30pm. The Society will present another of its popular FREE Sunday afternoon concerts at our Wurlitzer in the Marrickville Town Hall on this date. The organist will be our member ALLAN TRANTER who has recently joined the NSW Division, and will be giving his first concert for the Society. He owns the Christie theatre pipe organ in the Victory Theatre, Kogarah, and also the 4/19 Wurlitzer formerly in the Regent Theatre Melbourne. Bring along as many friends and neighbours as you possibly can - in fact, you could play host to a large party of your friends without it costing you a penny. It's an ideal way to spend a Sunday afternoon - Wurlitzerising at Marrickville.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - NEW LOCATION.

IMPORTANT..... Committee members please note the change of location for future meetings - effective as of now. The new address is St Anne's Church (rear hall) at the corner of Homebush Road and Beresford Road Strathfield. The next meeting will be Monday 4th May at 7.15pm and the June meeting will be Monday 1st June.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE.

Deadline for material for the June TOSA News, will be Friday 22nd May. Please ensure that your copy reaches here by the due date.

COMING EVENTS.

The Society expects to present its first "Dance To The Wurlitzer" evening during June. Music for both modern and old time dancing will be provided by our own Wurlitzer in Marrickville Town Hall. Further details will be given next month. Also coming up in the near future, will be a morning concert at either the Capitol or State Theatres.

LOOKING BACK AT APRIL.

MUSICAL EVENING AT PADDINGTON. Saturday evening April 11th, DAVID PARSONS entertained an audience at Ritchie Willis's Selwyn Theatre Club, Paddington. No organ being available, DAVID played a Gulbransen Piano on which he gave a sparkling performance playing everything from Chopin to the Beatles. In the second half of the programme, he played requests from the audience who were delighted to hear their favorite number played by a Master of the Keyboard.

At the conclusion, President Tom Halloran, proposed a vote of thanks to DAVID for his magnificent playing, as well as for donating his services. The sum of \$30 was presented to Mr Halloran for the Wurlitzer Pipe Organ Purchase Fund, donated by the audience. Arrangements are being made to hold another such evening later in the year when it is hoped to donate a further sum to the Fund.

"NINETY NINE SONGS" AND WILBUR KENTWELL.

Thursday April 23rd will long be remembered by Society members as the night of the Cavalcade to end all Cavalcades. A large and enthusiastic audience sat enthralled as WILBUR KENTWELL wove his magic spell - a spell compounded of musical ability, personal magnetism, a measure of showmanship plus a lifetime of experience, and there is no substitute for experience. It enabled him to present 99 songs in a programme around 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours long without, at any time, appearing to hurry through even one song. MR KENTWELL'S programme opened with his own concert arrangement of selections from "The Sound Of Music" - delightfully played, it built up to a massive full organ finale. Second on the bill, was "This Is All I Ask" which was sung by WILBUR who, in his spoken introduction to this number, explained that the lyrics conveyed his own feelings towards music.

Next came "Manhattan" and "Blue Moon" with a fascinating sidelight on the early history of both these melodies which the audience obviously found very interesting. "Oh What A Beautiful Morning" showed the organist's ability to change key at the drop of a hat, and could be described as a "tongue in cheek" piece of fun and games with music. The next item was, for me, a highlight - the KENTWELL arrangement of "I Hear A Rhapsody". This was an exciting performance - seldom have our Wurlitzer's Tibias sounded so lush or full organ so majestic. Woven into this arrangement were themes of the "Hungarian Rhapsody" and "Rhapsody In Blue". It was indeed a show-stopper.

WILBUR'S affection for the old Prince Edward Theatre and its Wurlitzer were clearly demonstrated as he spoke of the theatre's early history in his introductory remarks to what was probably one of the most unusual theatre organ presentations ever heard in this country. This was a Cavalcade of songs which were first introduced to Sydney audiences in films presented at the Prince Edward Theatre in a forty year span from its opening in 1924 to its demolition. There were 83 songs in this presentation which WILBUR divided into six segments of from 13 to 20 minutes each. This was not just a mere playing of 83 choruses - each was an individual presentation in its own right. At the start, he had announced that he was going to include one song which should not have been included in the presentation, due to the fact that it came from a film which had never been shown at the Prince Edward Theatre. He offered to present his latest L.P. record to anyone in the audience who could pick that song. As each song in the Cavalcade began, one could hear the "ooh's and aah's" as the audience recognised another old favorite they had perhaps forgotten. The "wrong" song in the Cavalcade proved to be "September In The Rain" and it was not picked by anyone in the audience.

After the first two segments had been played, a break was made for intermission, and the programme resumed with an Australian Fantasy in honor of the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Celebrations. Clever arrangements made this bracket of well known Australian songs sparkle with a new brilliance. Then it was back to the remaining four segments of the Prince Edward Theatre Presentation. To sum up - a nostalgic journey down Memory Lane, brilliantly played, and presented with an engaging commentary full of interesting historical facts about the composers, the music, and the films which gave these songs their birth. In the audience were the Mayor and Aldermen of the Marrickville Council, and at the end of the performance, the Mayor presented WILBUR with a memento of his part in the Captain Cook Celebrations, on behalf of the Council. The show was introduced by your Editor who would like to say a special word of thanks to our member John Whitehouse, who stage-managed the entire show so expertly. In the excitement of the finale, I overlooked John's splendid contribution to the success of the evening in my "thank you" credits.

The entire concert from start to finish was recorded by Radio 2GB Sydney who arranged for two land lines to be made available by the P.M.G. Department especially

to record the concert in their studios, for broadcast at an early date through their wide network of stations. This is very probably the first time that a commercial radio station has recorded a $2\frac{3}{4}$ hour theatre organ presentation in this country for more than twenty years, and the Society warmly congratulates 2GB on its initiative, as well as for its interest in the "King of Instruments".

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

We are pleased to welcome to the Society Mrs Val Fitzpatrick of Austinmer and Mr Keith / Mrs June Pavey of Merewether. We're glad you've joined us and hope you will join in our functions as often as you possibly can.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF ORGAN FUND.

The Society sincerely thanks the following members for generous donations to the Organ fund. Lance and Mrs Wells \$36 - the proceeds of an organ party at their home. Cliff Calinan \$15 - proceeds of sale of colored slides produced by Cliff.

ORGAN PRACTISE SESSIONS FOR MAY.

Members practise sessions at our WurliTzer have been tentatively set down for the fourth Saturday (23rd) and the fourth Tuesday (26th) for May, however members are asked to phone Bill Richards at 85-3427 about the middle of the month to confirm these dates.

LETTER FROM OUR PATRON - REGINALD DIXON.

Following the re-election of Reginald Dixon as our Patron for 1970 and in view of his (at that time) approaching retirement from the Blackpool Tower's famous Wurli, your Editor wrote to him offering congratulations on his re-election and best wishes for his final concert, on behalf of TOSA News. In a delightful, long, newsy letter, Reg had the following to say.

"I was very pleased and must say extremely proud when I received your letter of the 8th February. I would have understood had you written to say that as I was now retiring from Blackpool that it would be rather nice to make a change of Patron for the N.S.W. Division of the T.O.S.A. However, I do appreciate the thought more than I can express."

It is a measure of his modesty that he should think his retirement would no longer make him eligible to be Patron of the NSW Division. TOSA News hastens to assure him of the affections and regard of us all, which will not end with his final concert at the Tower. Happily, his long association with the Blackpool Tower WurliTzer has been preserved forever through the medium of hundreds of records made over the years. Perhaps his retirement may make it possible for him to visit his friends in Sydney town and perhaps play a concert for us, a wish he has expressed a number of times.

UNCONFIRMED NEWS FLASH.

It has been reported to TOSA News that the BBC have bought the famous Blackpool Tower WurliTzer organ for \$600 (£300). It will remain in the Tower and be maintained by a Theatre Organ Club group. If this report is true, this means that the BBC are now the owners of four theatre organs. The future of theatre organ broadcasting appears to be a very rosy one in England - the BBC didn't buy them just to look at and it is to be expected that full use of the instruments will be made. Theatre organ fans in England are jubilantly rubbing their hands with glee, the lucky stiffs. Will the boffins at the ABC please note and inwardly digest??

QUEENSLAND DIVISION'S "TIBIA" GETS SCOOP.

The monthly journal of the Queensland Division, "Tibia" has scooped us all in printing a report on REGINALD DIXON'S final concert at the Tower. Editor Tom Ellis, hails from England and he received an Air mail report which was actually being written as the concert took place - his correspondent listened to the radio broadcast. The radio announcer said that people had travelled from all parts of England for the event, and that there wasn't a dry eye in the house. ROBIN RICHMOND spoke a tribute to REG and this was followed by "The Dream Of Olwen". It was reported to TOSA News that 4,000 people were present for the final concert.

REWARD FOR EARLY BIRDS. Many TOSA members may not know that our Honorary member REUBERT HAYES is heard playing a Conn Theatrette model organ on Channel 7 every Thursday morning between 7am and 9 am. Its a request programme, so send in your favorite to REUBERT and you'll get to hear it real soon.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS. (From "Tibia")

A glowing report of the DON KINGSTON-WILBUR KENTWELL concert at Brisbane's Rialto Theatre on April 7th appeared in the latest issue of Tibia. The function was reported as being a huge success musically and financially. Some interesting facts about DON KINGSTON were given which will be of interest to NSW members. DON is a bachelor and spends his short stays at home with his parents. He would be in his early forties (this is Tom's educated guess) and in 1969 had only 27 weekends at home. His annual vacation is of only two weeks, and since his last visit to Australia he has appeared in England, Belgium, Sweden, Germany, France, Holland, Switzerland, Italy and South Africa. When he left Australia he was bound for Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Hawaii before returning home for a short well earned rest. This guy sure gets around, and around and around.

Saturday May 23rd, will see WILBUR KENTWELL in concert at his three manual Conn Theatre organ in the Toowoomba Town Hall. This follows his extended concert and promotional tour in NSW due to end on May 8th.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS. (From Vox)

Vox announces that the Victorian Division will be screening the special organ film, "My Wife Said That's Enough" for their members and friends on Sunday 3rd May at 8pm.

It is also announced that TONY FENELON and CLIFF BINGHAM will appear in concert at the Camberwell Town Hall on the first Thomas Electra organ to arrive in Melbourne.

The opening of the 4/21 WurliTzer in Moorabbin Town Hall on April 29th is to be followed by a second concert featuring LYN LARSEN on Wednesday 20th May at 8pm. This second concert will not be an all-organ programme but will take the form of a variety concert.

The third concert at the Dendy Cinema by LYN LARSEN was reported to be a huge success. Main associate artist was TONY FENELON. Memories of an earlier LYN LARSEN concert which included a deafening "pop" group on the bill, to the dismay of many Victorian Division members, have now been replaced by more pleasant memories of a splendid farewell appearance, in this, his second season at the Dendy Cinema.

WEST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS. (From "Cipher")

It is announced from West Australia, that they have bought their own theatre pipe organ. The instrument chosen is the 3 manual 10 rank Compton from the Plaza Cinema, Worthing, Sussex, England, and the J.W.Walker Organ Company will shortly commence the removal and packing of the five tons of organ. The organ is reported as being in such good condition that the BBC had no hesitation in recording it for a final farewell concert for broadcast.

This is great news for theatre organ society members around the country, and, in fact, the general public too, for once there is a theatre organ in top condition in each State, the possibilities of visits by top overseas organists, and our own artists too, are increased tremendously. A concert circuit can be set up with each State participating in every way to ensure that successful concerts on theatre organs will be heard by the general public as well as TOSA members.

LOCAL NEWS.

We are sorry to announce that our member PETER GROVES, a former English theatre organist, is moving away from Sydney town. He moves to Goodooga near the Queensland border to manage a 15,000 acre property named "Muckerawa" on the Brewarrina Road. PETER asked TOSA News to let members know that there's a welcome waiting for any NSW member who should be motoring up that way. He will sell his fully furnished home in the Fairfield district of Sydney before going up. If you know of someone looking for a home why not phone him at 604-3582 before its too late.

DENIS PALMISTRA spent an afternoon and evening with your Editor on Anzac Day. The tape of DENIS'S concert at Marrickville Town Hall last November was aired and very critically listened to, as he had not previously heard the recording fully. He was pleasantly surprised at the "big" sound of our WurliTzer on tape and commented that member Geoff Rowston's recording of the concert was very good.

NEWCASTLE HAMMOND ORGAN CONCERT SCHEDULE.
announce the following concert schedule:-
15th May - Warner's Bay Church of England.

The Newcastle Hammond Organ Society
1st May - Cessnock Methodist Church.
22nd May - Tighes Hill Methodist Church.

Members of TOSA are always welcome to attend functions of the Newcastle Hammond Society.

The Diaphone

SECTION

EDITOR : ROD BLACKMORE

SOME MEMORIES OF THE "SAVOY" THEATRE, ENFIELD

Originally this theatre was known as the Enfield Cinema and was controlled by Western Suburbs Cinemas Limited. Work on remodelling commenced in December, 1937, and the theatre re-opened as the "Savoy" on 26th July, 1938 (complete with Christie organ).

The "Savoy" never had quite the same brighter and friendlier atmosphere of neighbouring organ-equipped theatres such as the "Melba" Strathfield, and the "Palatial" Burwood, despite its contemporarily decorated style. Whereas the other Western Suburbs cinemas were situated close to the railway and drew audiences from far afield, the "Savoy" was somewhat "out of the way" from a transport point of view and depended largely on local patronage. Even in its hey-day the "Savoy" opened only nightly, with one matinee session on Saturdays. On these latter occasions, the time reserved at other theatres for organ presentation would be taken up by the stage appearance of children belonging to the theatre's "Birthday Club"; the organ console half-emerging from the pit to accompany community singing.

MUCH TRAVELLED ORGAN:

The 2/8 Christie theatre organ at the "Savoy" had been installed originally in Hoyts' "De Luxe" (now "Esquire") Theatre, Bourke Street, Melbourne, in July, 1929, where it was opened by CHARLES TUCKWELL. It was Melbourne's only-ever Christie installation; it later fell into disuse and was transferred to Hoyts' "Plaza" Theatre, Sydney. In 1938 it was again dismantled and re-installed in the "Savoy", Enfield (being replaced at the "Plaza" by the Wurlitzer from the "Wintergarden" Theatre, Brisbane, a 2/7 enlarged to 2/8).

It is interesting to note in these times when one considers the work involved in dismantling an organ of even only 8 ranks and re-installing it in a new location, the apparent ease with which theatres regarded these transfers, even from one State to another. No doubt the organ was such a drawcard in those days, that major removals were easily financially feasible.

The "Savoy" Christie was disposed of by Hoyts at about the same time as its other suburban organs, and came into the hands of Mr. Franklin Baldwin of Castle Hill who installed it as a residence organ.

The Christie's opening at the "Savoy" was played by DENIS PALMISTRA who had been just previously engaged at the "Civic" Wurlitzer, Auburn. He was followed by NICHOLAS ROBINS (advertised as Norman Robins), JIM WILLIAMS and BARRIE BRETTONER. Barrie Brettner had recently arrived back in Australia from overseas; a photograph showing him at the console of the "Palladium" Wurlitzer, Copenhagen, was displayed in the foyer. RAY CHAFFER, KNIGHT BARNETT, HARRY WELDON, PAUL CULLEN, ANN JEVANS, GUNNAR PAULSEN, BERT MYERS and BRUCE BISLEY are others who followed, the organ sometimes remaining idle for short periods between appointments.

Hoyts' Theatres Limited controlled the theatre from 1944 until the theatre closed, and at last-sight the theatre had become a carpet warehouse.

(Thanks are due to JOHN GARDINER, feature writer for "Music Maker" magazine for his assistance in the compilation of this article.)



In 1966 "The Diaphone" published this photograph in the belief that it was the 2/8 Christie at the Melba Theatre, Strathfield. Closer inspection has revealed that this is the "Savoy", Enfield, Christie - installed on a similar hoist.



This photograph of the 2/8 Melba Christie was taken after it had been installed in the old Christian Broadcasting Association studios (Presbyterian Church) at Five Dock. It there had a veneer case and lid. The C.B.A. has since disposed of the organ to a private buyer.



BARRIE BRETTONER at the "Palladium" Wurlitzer, Copenhagen, Denmark.



The "SAVOY" THEATRE, ENFIELD.

"DIAPHONE" SECTION

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION AT R.S.L. CLUB,
BONDI JUNCTION:



Members arriving at the auditorium.



IAN DAVIES resident organist at the club's 3-manual Rodgers organ.



BILL SCHUMACHER entertains.



ERIC SMITH selects a suitable combination.



PETER HELD concludes an item.



A section of the audience.

JANUARY VISITORS TO SYDNEY:



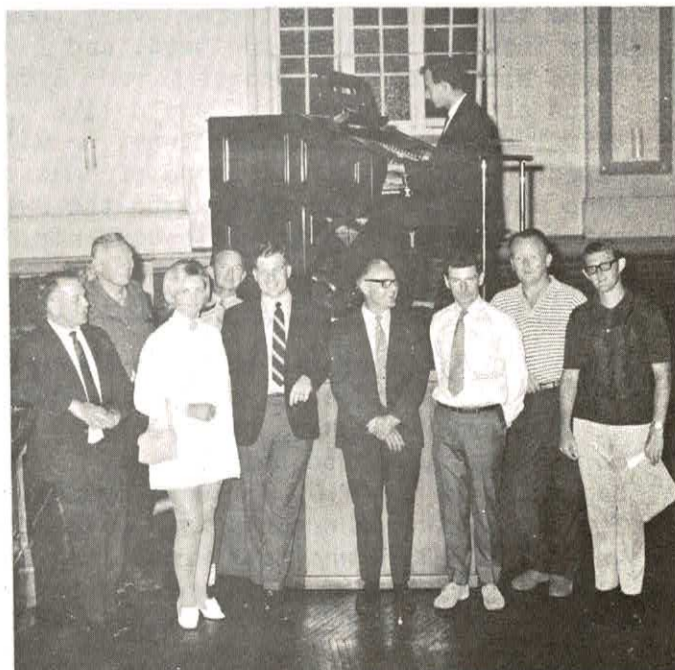
The January Committee meeting at which HOWELL & DORIS WHITEHOUSE from Brisbane were present.



The group includes Perth visitors RAY CLEMENTS, DOUG MILLER, JOHN GREEN, JOHN FURHMAN (at console); and BEN BAILEY an American serviceman here on R. & R. leave from Vietnam.



JOHN FUHRMAN (organist of the Metro Theatre, Perth) tries our Wurlitzer at Marrickville.



FOR SALE.

WURLITZER ELECTRONIC ORGAN. Model 4080 Theatre Spinet with horse shoe console
2 x 44 note manuals 13 note pedal board Comprehensive percussion and two
speed rotating speaker system. This organ is almost new with 11 months warranty.
Original price \$2830 What offers ?? Phone member Ian Pogson at 86-3199 or
call at 30 Hanover Avenue Epping.

CONN THEATRE DE LUXE ORGAN Model 645 fitted with Conn Fun Master
Price \$5200 Contact K. Kelly 9 Moola Road, Ashgrove, Queensland.
Phone 38-3238.

Should this organ be bought by a NSW member an adjustment will be made to cover
freight charges etc.

Selmer Electronic organ (tube model) complete with bench
Series 5416 2x61 note manuals 5 preset pistons 1 hand set 27 pedals 7 stops
Upper manual 11 stops 16' - 2' Lower manual 12 stops 16' - 4'
Dark brown console Appearance good Price \$200 Contact Reg Hutchings of
5 Edgecliff Road, Bondi Junction (Piano dealer)
Although Mr Reg Hutchings is not a member of TOSA we have run this advertisement
for him in order to allow our members the opportunity of a bargain which other-
wise they would miss out on.

NEW ORGAN AT EARLWOOD.

We have been advised that the Earlwood Baptist Church are installing a pipe organ
which has electro-pneumatic action. Mr Eric Field is in charge of the installation,
and it is understood that he would welcome members of the Society who wish to ins-
pect the organ, and would be grateful if any TOSA member would like to assist with
the project. Contact Eric at St. George County Council, telephone 587-5022.

MUSIC MAG INTEREST IN T.O. HOBBY.

"MUSIC MAKER", Australia's leading music magazine, has, in the last few months,
shown a keen interest in the theatre organ hobby. Through the good offices of
their reviewer, Mr John Gardiner, a splendid write-up of the DENIS PALMISTRA con-
cert last November appeared in the January issue of the magazine. Lavish praise
was given to DENIS in what amounted to a rave notice. In the April issue of the
magazine, an article appeared which gave a great deal of background information
concerning WILBUR KENTWELL with mention of his coming concert at Marrickville Town
Hall.

Apart from mention of WILBUR KENTWELL, there is another excellent reason why every
member of TOSA should try to obtain a copy of the April "Music Maker". It carries
one of the best articles of its type I have ever read - I can only hazard a guess
as to the amount of research John Gardiner must have done to come up with the vast
amount of information contained in this article. Titled "Castles In Spain" it is
a four page feature story about the Plaza Theatre Sydney and the Roxy Theatre in
Parramatta. It lists organists and their seasons at the respective theatres, some
of the more memorable films, and a vast amount of fascinating information which
makes the story a "must" for every theatre organ fan. There is a picture of the
Roxy Theatre interior included, and I would advise every member to contact music
store Nicholson's in George Street Sydney immediately and try to obtain the April
issue of Music Maker. I would like to point out to members, that by the time
this TOSA News is in your hands, we will be in the month of May, so it can be
expected that the April issue of "Music Maker" will be in short supply - possibly
even sold out. The race is to the swift, so don't lose any time or you may miss
out on this well worth while souvenir. At only 20 cents, it's a bargain.

AMERICAN MEMBER WRITES TOSA NEWS.

BILLY NALLE, celebrated American Theatre organist, and a member of the NSW Division
of TOSA has written to your Editor asking would we care to have an article on the
theatre organ which he has written. We most assuredly would, and a letter is now
on its way to him to that effect. BILLY is very keenly interested in what is
happening in the T.O. world in Sydney, and writes to us frequently. In the past
few weeks, two other organists have written from U.S.A. They were BILL WORRALL
and DON THOMPSON who both wrote long and friendly letters to us. It is indeed
rewarding to receive such warm letters from organists overseas, who, after all,
know very little of the activities of TOSA.

SUNDAY MAY 24th at 2.30pm...ALLAN TRANTER AT THE MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL WURLITZER.

ARCADIA THEATRE HISTORY.

Our member, Ian Griggs, has been collecting various historical information on the Arcadia Theatre Chatswood, and its organists. It is anticipated that the Willoughby Council, of which Ian is an employee, will use some of this material in a commemorative booklet when the 2/10 WurliTzer is re-opened early next year.

If you haven't been visited or telephoned by Ian, and you have some photographs, old newspaper clippings or simply interesting reminiscences, then he would be very pleased to hear from you. Any material supplied will be carefully copied and returned in good order.

If you know the whereabouts of a 35 mm silent film made in late 1925 of the arrival of this organ at Chatswood, this information is just what Ian is looking for at the moment. It was reported to be extant as late as 1962, so it must be around somewhere. This historical piece of film must be found if it is at all possible. Ian's phone number is 41-0133 (business) and 86-1586 at home.

THERE'S A WARMTH IN QUEENSLAND.

There's a warmth in Queensland that doesn't only emanate from the rays of the sun. Its to be found in the warmth of the welcome that members of the Queensland Division of TOSA extend to their visitors, and after just having a brief visit to Brisbane in the last couple of weeks, I can assure my readers that my visit was a very memorable one indeed. In particular, I would mention Howell and Doris Whitehouse, and Wilbur Kentwell whom I saw daily. Howell and Doris allowed me to make their organ showroom my headquarters and Wilbur and I were popping in and out at all odd hours. With Kentwell and Ellis barging in and out, their smooth running organisation must have been thrown into a turmoil, but did they mind? Not a bit. They were just as involved in the fun and games, and the excitement as we were.

They invited me to dinner one evening, after which the Queensland Division Committee members all came along and I was able to have the pleasure of meeting them all. I was excused from kissing the bald head of their "Tibia" Editor, Tom Ellis, but had the opportunity of having some fun with him just the same. They proved to be as enthusiastic and capable a Committee as one could possibly wish for, and it is my guess, that once their pipe organ arrives, they will be a very live wire Division of TOSA. They are of course, "on the ball" right now as far as present activities are concerned, but when that theatre pipe organ arrives to provide an exciting stimulus to their efforts, we can expect big things to happen.

Wilbur of course, was a generous host, dashing in to my motel to pick me up, two or three times a day, whisking me to either Channel O, or to meet friends, as well as introduce new ones to me, or rushing to the Regal Motel where he plays in the restaurant three nights each week. It was in this restaurant, as I dined, that I timed Wilbur's programme with his stop watch - the whole 268 songs of it, then regretfully, commencing with Wilbur, the difficult task of pruning the programme down to acceptable limits for Marrickville's WurliTzer concert, the final result of which, as already reported elsewhere in this issue, being 99 songs.

I spent a most enjoyable evening at the home of Frank and Carmen Leonard and heard their son Dirk (a pupil of Wilbur's) play their Lowrey, and a wonderful day as guest of Dr Dick and Olive Paterson of Glen Innes on the way down to Sydney. So many people showed so much hospitality that it is hard to know where to begin my thanks. To all of them, I am grateful. I would like to extend my greetings to all members of the Queensland Division whom I was unable to meet personally through "Tibia" if Tom Ellis will be so kind as to mention it. I shall look forward to my next visit to Queensland, whenever that may be.

THE AMERICAN SCENE. (From A.T.O.S. official Magazine "Theatre Organ".)

Residents of San Diego are much more aware of their motion picture palaces as the result of two articles appearing in local newspapers. On November 6th, a lengthy article gave some of the history of the Fox Theatre which was observing its 40th anniversary. Prominently mentioned was the 26,000 pipe organ which was opened by C Sharpe Minor.

On November 9th, an even longer feature complete with a page and a half of pictures, reviewed theatre history in San Diego. Mentioned were organs in several houses, and a picture of the console from the Balboa Theatre organ, now part of the Fox instrument. Mention was made of the organ in the Cabrillo. After getting no takers in an attempt to sell it, the organ was finally given away.

THE AMERICAN SCENE (Cont).

Herbert Lee, "our man in Atlanta" reports the announced retirement of J. Noble Arnold, for 19 years the manager of the 4000 seat Fox Theatre in Atlanta. It was during Arnold's managership that the 4/43 Moller organ was restored and intermission music (played by Bob Van Camp) resumed. Arnold retires after 42 years in the management end of theatre business, a career which found him guiding some of the South's great showplaces. At first he wanted to be a vaudeville performer, but Elizabeth, who would become his wife, couldn't see a "life on the road" so Arnold went into the management of theatres and never regretted it. He doesn't mind retirement; he feels the glamour left the theatre when entertainment delivered in a can replaced live talent completely.

A "THEATRE ORGAN" PROFILE.DON THOMPSON CONCERTISING IN WEST. (By Elmer Fubb)

DON THOMPSON, an import from Great Britain, has settled on the West Coast of the U.S.A. to pursue a career as an organist, with pipes employed as often as possible. DON was well known overseas as a performer on electronics and comes to us with a formidable repertoire.

Being an unknown in the U.S.A., he pulled fewer than 50 to his initial concert at the San Francisco Avenue Theatre. But favorable word apparently spread because his second concert at the same 3/14 WurliTzer in mid-November, 1969, drew more than 300, even though it came on the date of an anti-war demonstration which kept many a non-demonstrator at home. Even so, a 500% increase in drawing power was encouraging.

DON has travelled extensively in Europe and the Middle East and where ever he visited, he collected folk tunes and pops indigenous to the countries and cultures. He colors his concerts with these, but is careful to avoid a preference in volatile political situations; after playing a set of Arabic tunes he counters with "Hava Nagilah" to "even things up". His repertoire is well salted with organ-transcriptions of themes from the classics such as Wagner's bristling "Ride of the Valkyries", and a slew of von Suppe Overtures. One of his specialities is reviewing music of the '20's especially the "jazz age" tunes typified by "Doin' The Racoon" and "Black Bottom". A current Concert Recording Release is devoted entirely to the ballads and dance tunes of that memorable era.

He can also play in the manner of other organists, with special attention to REGINALD DIXON and the late FATS WALLER. The "Tabs & Drawbars" reviewer of DON'S concert in November was enthusiastic about his way with swing-band stylings such as Woody Herman's "Woodchopper's Ball" stating "all who heard him must agree that THOMPSON is an outstanding technician."

DON is an unrepentant ATOSer and sells plug-ins in his spare time. He lives in Studio City, California.

COMPLIMENT TO TOSA. Member Ian Pogson, who joined us a few months ago, told your Editor how much he enjoyed being in the Society. Said he wished he'd discovered us years ago. He thinks TOSA is the greatest invention since girls. Look out, you girls - you're about to be replaced with a WurliTzer organ. How about that??

A MAYBE BARGAIN ??

Whilst in Brisbane, your Editor called on Peter Johnstone at King & King's organ showroom. My eye was immediately caught with a really big beast (for an electronic I mean). It turned out to be the WurliTzer Concert Organ, model 4700 and, I was informed that it is the only one of its ilk in this country. Whilst it is not a theatre organ, having the traditional console styling, it does have a few rather theatre-ish voices. It was very impressive in appearance and the price tag was just as impressive - around \$7,500 which is one heck of a lot of price tag. Peter introduced me to the new manager and we had a pleasant chat in which I got the distinct impression that if some one were to flash about \$5,500 around their showroom (waving it in the air of course) they could become the owner of the only model 4700 in Australia. But, don't mention my name - just say you read it in TOSA News.

Well that's it for this month folks,
Organically yours,

Frank Ellis
EDITOR.