

EDITOR.

Ian Hansen.

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

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

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Please Address all Correspondence to: THE SECRETARY,
P.O. Box A584, SYDNEY SOUTH 2000.

"T.O.S.A. Diary"

Sunday July 3rd at 2.00PM

Australia's most gifted Theatre Organist, RAY THORNLEY, will be heard in concert at his old stamping ground, the Victory Theatre (now MECCA) Kogarah. Ray will be playing the latest model Allen 425 with 500 watts R.M.S. with alterable voices and double memory combination pistons. You will see some very fast changes of registrations at this concert. The Mecca Theatre is located at 28 Station St., Kogarah. (opp. Rlwy. Stn) Phone: 587 0564.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 8TH, at 7.20PM.

THE SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING OF MEMBERS will be held at St. COLUMBS CHURCH of ENGLAND, BELLVUE Ave. WEST RYDE. At the conclusion of the business meeting a recital will be given by our member organist and

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business meeting a recital will be given by our member organist and recording artist, CLIFF BINGHAM. For the benefit of the newer members and those who don't know, the organ in the St. Columbs Church is a "Christie" Theatre Pipe Organ and NOT a CHURCH ORGAN. The instrument was installed in 1928 at the now demolished Kings Theatre Gordon, and was one of the more popular recording instruments around. In 1958 the exhibitor of the Kings Theatre sold the organ to St. Columbs. The instrument is in excellent condition and has been restored to its former status as a theatre organ, complete with some percussions.

A donation to the artist will be payable and the ladies are asked to bring a plate, as supper will be served later in the evening. Ladies your assistance in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

The main item for discussion will be the alteration to the Constitution as per the Notice of Motion presented by Mr. N.A. Weismantel relating to the Spouse of a member having voting rights at Society Meetings. The second item for discussion will be the Notice of Motion presented by Vice - President J.A. Weismantel, relating to the involvement of the N.S.W. Division with the proposed National Secretariat of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25th at 7.30PM

A HOME ORGAN PARTY is to be held at the home of our Concert and Activities Sub - Committee, Members Representative, Ron and Phyllis Wilson. Several organists will play mini recitals and members will have the opportunity to play the Thomas Celebrity Organ during the evening. The dress is informal to set the scene for a relaxed and enjoyable evening. A charge of \$2.00 for gentlemen and \$1.50 for the ladies who are also asked to bring a plate to assist with the supper. The Address: 120 Dennis St. Lakemba. 759 6050 for bookings. GET IN EARLY, AND SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY. Don't forget your nameplate..

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE, 2.30PM AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

THE MAGNIFICENT MARIA KUMAGAI DIRECT FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
AT THE CONSOLE OF THE MIGHTY WURLITZER THEATRE PIPE ORGAN. DON'T MISS HER ...

FRIDAY 24th JUNE AT 8.00PM

Our member RAY THORNLEY will once again be heard in concert at the British Ex - Servicemens Club, 541 Kent St., Sydney at 8.00PM. On this occasion, Ray will be playing a Lowry Organ in a variety performance with supporting artists. Tickets are \$3.00. Ring 747 1925 for details.

SUNDAY 10th JULY at 2.30PM FREE CONCERT.

In conjunction with the Marrickville Municipal Council, the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, N.S.W. Div., will present the first of three free concerts to be held at the Marrickville Town Hall. Performing on the Prince Edward Theatre Wurlitzer Organ will be Society members Greg Abrahams and David Smith. These are two young organists who are well worth hearing. Greg performed under great difficulty to members at the 1976 Annual General Meeting, and at the request of members returns to the bench on this occasion. David on the other

hand us unknown to most members having only recently joined, and is none the less quite at home on the Wurlitzer. The format will also be different on this occasion as the auditorium will not be set out in the customary manner. Those present will have the opportunity of mingling together over a cup of tea or coffee and and have the chance to hear two very talented artists.

Committee

15th June at 8.00PM.

The Executive and Committee will meet at St. Annes Church of England Strathfield at 8.00PM in the Church hall.

MEMBERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

CAPITOL WORKING BEE

For those members who are interested in assisting in the restoration of the Societys' 260 Special Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ, ex the Capitol Theatre Sydney; will note that the next working bee will be held at the Organ Loft, 79 Boomerang St. Habberfield.

The date: Wednesday June 15th and the time: 7.30PM.

Please ring our member of Committee responsible for the Capitol Restoration Program, Ernie Vale, on 759 6816, for details.

BALLOT WITHDRAWN

PLEASE NOTE

FOLLOWING A DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE, THE BALLOT APPEARING IN THE MAY ISSUE OF TOSA NEWS HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN AND DECLARED ILLEGAL.

NEW MEMBERS.

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined us during April and May: Mr. and Mrs. Bower, Merryweather; Mrs. Broughall of Bankstown; Mr. D. Smith, Bondi Junction; Mr. P. Kilkelly, Bondi Junct.; Mrs. U. Brodsky, Neutral Bay; Mr. K. Langridge, French's Forest; Mr. Clinton White, Canberra; Mr. George Lind, Revesby; Mr. and Mrs. Boulton, Hunters Hill; Mrs. B. Ticehurst, Campbelltown; Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, Grafton.

To these good people we bid you welcome and trust that through membership with T.O.S.A. your knowledge of our common interest in the preservation and understanding of the Theatre Pipe Organ may be achieved to the enjoyment and benefit of all.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE.

At the elections for the executive and committee positions held in November last year, you the members elected me to the office of President and at the same time various other members to fill the executive and committee positions. -This was done fairly, and with each candidate having the equal opportunity at a secret ballot. The result as you had decided it was declared officially by a Returning Officer and two scrutineers appointed by you at your Annual General Meeting.

Having served two terms as Secretary and working closely with my predecessor, Mr Tom Halloran, during that period, I was well aware of the responsibilities placed in the hands of the President. By accepting nomination and then election by the majority of members I accepted the responsibility of administering the Societys affairs proposing policy, the leadership, and to publicly represent the Society as a whole. This is the way I interpret the position, as this is how it has been carried out by my predecessors. This I have also done. There are instances where the President is required to make decisions for the Society and under those circumstances has the right to expect the support and co-operation of the majority who have placed him in that position and the respect of the office he holds by those who didn't.

The Presidents task is not simple. It doesn't stop as some would prefer it at the Chairing of meetings, for if this were the case the welfare of the Society would not be handled in the best interest of the General membership. But the most important thing for a President to do is to be open with the members and keep them fully informed with what is happening and the reasons for it - hence "The Presidents Message", which now appears in TOSA News. To be an effective leader, one must not only have the support of the majority who elected him to office, this I know I have but also the co-operation and even consructive opposition of the people he has to work with - the Committee.

Since taking office I was assured that the support and co-operation of a majority of the Committee I would not have. This was not only evident at the time of the election but since then has proven to be fact!!

It is not difficult to work with a healthy and constructive opposition for when mistakes are made, and I make as many as the next fellow, one must expect opposition from those who are elected to formulate the policy and manage the Societys affairs. Some members of the committee and the executive are such people - who have independant views and are genuinely concerned for the welfare of your Society. Unfortunately however, the majority are not! As a result a harmonious working relationship between members of the committee, the executive and both is impossible under the current circumstances. I believe that I have carried out my responsibilities as President to the best of my ability and contrary to what some would have you believe have acted in the best interests of the Society as our progression has shown. I know the same to be true of some of the executive and some of the committee, however that is as far as I would care to comment.

Your committee will function correctly when some of its members realise that they do not have the right to turn committee meetings into a Slander and Character Assassination meeting and so many motions, resolutions and petty arguments complicated enough to prevent the progression of general business being conducted within a reasonable time, not to mention a congenial atmosphere. I for one cannot effectively work under these circumstances and I know several other people who serve you the members concur. If it be considered that I exaggerate then I would suggest confirmatio be sought from those members who have taken heed of my invitation in TOSA News to attend and observe committee meetings.

We have a members quarterly meeting in June, and on this occasion you will have to decide what is to be done.

Regards

Steve McDonald.

HECTOR OLIVERA PLAYS FOR FORESTVILLE MUSIC CENTRE.

As a bonus for all those lucky people who went to the 6th. National Convention in Brisbane, on the night 13th, April, Hector Olivera, on his way back to America, stopped in Sydney to give one performance for the Forestville Music Centre on the Conn Theatre and Classical Organs. As with Lyn Larsen and Tony Fenelon Concert in the Regent Theatre, a T.V. camera was on stage to show the audience what Hector was up to on the keyboard. Hector's wide appreciation of music was apparent by his selections for the concert. Ranging from Bach to novelties, such as the "Typewriter Song", Hector displayed his talents to the utmost and held the audiences attention to the last second of the concert. During the quiet passages the large audience was silent a sign that the whole audience was completely rapt in Hectors music. Of course, Hector was called back for encores, one of which was the "Flight of the Bumble Bee" played on the pedals of the Classical instrument. After Hectors last number, owner/manager of the Music Centre, Len Thomas, presented him with two gifts from Australia for his children. Our thanks must go to Hector for the Concert, Len Thomas and staff for putting on the Concert, and to the T.V. Team for making it easier for us to follow the action on th keyboards. The loud and long applause was an indication of the audiences appreciation of the Concert.

*** *** ***

IAN DAVIES AT THE "LYCEUM" CHRISTIE.

Those present on Saturday April 30th. at 8 a.m. at the "Lyceum" Theatre Pitt Street. Sydney, saw our Patron, Ian Davies, at the Console of the magnificent Christie Theatre Organ, for the first of the three or four concerts on this organ. Despite what many people think, this is a theatre organ, and Ian made it his business to prove it, with a programme of old theatre organ numbers. The Lyceum is fortunate enough to have access to the Roxy "Parramatta" Christie percussions, while the rest of that organ is undergoing extensive restoration by its owners. One unit in particular whic has been temporarily installed is the Vibraphone. For those readers who are not up to date with theatre organs, a vibraphone is a very soft percussive instrument resembling a very soft piano in sound. Vanes in each of the resonator tubes under the bars rotate causing a vibrato on each note played. This instrument alone was worth going to hear. Ian used the Vibraphone on three occasions and the effect was very moving indeed. To show the versatility of the re-installed organ, Ian played old tunes from the heyday of the theatre organ to classical, a hymn, and a couple of recent revivals.

Ian played for the maximum time available before screening commenced, after which our President thanked Ian for his concert, the Young Organists Association for ushering the very small crowd into the theatre and the theatre management, the Central Methodist Mission and Eric Smith for allowing us to use the Theatre and the magnificent Christie.
 Don't miss the next Lyceum concert. Watch TOSA News for details and dates.

Rob Weismantel.

Letters to the Editor.

Dear sir,

Referring to May 1977 issue of TOSA News and the Presidents Message therein, in particular to the formation of a "National Secretariat" at the Convention in Brisbane last Easter. Whilst it has been suggested that certain benefits will accrue to each Division, such as central booking for overseas artists, promotion of local talent on a National scale, none of the other points raised bear too much closer thought. For example; how will closer ties Nationally make for better Conventions? -- surely this matter is up to Convention organizers in the Capital city concerned, as to how they can best use their resources; "Each Division is assured of co-operation in ensuring the exclusive use to the host state of a Convention Artist." -- We have that now, as N.S.W. Division was able to secure this right for the 1976 Convention just by mutual agreement with the artist involved.

Now let us take a brief look at the costs, the only firm price mentioned in the article is 10¢ per membership for the administration expenses. We read that twice per year two representatives from each division would meet at a central point for discussion, and one - seventh of the transportation costs would be borne by each division. One would doubtless assume that travel would be by air due to the great distances and time involved with travel by other means.

Set out below is a summary of Air Fares based on two ports:-

Perth	-	Melbourne	\$326.20
Adelaide	-	"	\$ 90.00
Hobart	-	"	\$ 87.00
Canberra	-	"	\$ 70.80
Sydney	-	"	\$ 97.00
Brisbane	-	"	\$180.40
			<u>\$851.40</u>

Four Fares per year - total \$3405.60

Perth	-	Canberra	\$378.60
Adelaide	-	"	\$142.40
Melbourne	-	"	\$ 70.80
Hobart	-	"	\$139.60
Sydney	-	"	\$ 44.80
Brisbane	-	"	\$128.00
			<u>\$904.20</u>

Four fares per year - total \$3616.80

These fares are calculated at current ruling

Four fares per year total -

\$3616.80

These fares are calculated at current ruling normal return Economy - Class prices and represent the two most economic locations for holding such a meeting. Adelaide and Sydney, if chosen would be even more expensive at \$4102.40 and \$3768.80 respectively.

When one considers the normal return Economy Airfare from West Coast U.S.A. to Sydney or Melbourne is just slightly in excess of \$1100.00, all divisions could pay the international airfares of 3 U.S. artists per annum for the price it costs us to fly Divisional Representatives to a meeting to talk about just such an enterprise!

The writer is certainly not against the concept of a National Body, but surely it can operate effectively by telephone and letter without placing a financial burden on this and other Divisions, which we are unable to bear.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Gliddon (signed)

Re The National Secretariat.

With the May issue of TOSA News, I presented for your consideration proposals relating to the involvement of the N.S.W. Division in the National Secretariat of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia. As the decision to form the National Secretariat was implemented at a meeting of the Executives of every Division, with the exception of Tasmania, who were not represented, it was felt necessary by those present that the facts of the proposals be outlined and presented to all divisions and that the results of the decisions reached be communicated to the National Secretary, (Mr. Ted Lloyd, Vice - President S.A. Div.) direct.

Three Divisions, W.A. S.A. and Queensland have already pledged their support by communication with Mr. Lloyd.

The decision as to how this matter was to be presented to the N.S.W. Division for your approval or rejection was not taken lightly. Because the proposal involved alteration to the Constitution and would therefore effect the future of your Society to a marked degree, I took the decision to authorise a ballot to be presented in the same issue as the notice of motion appeared. My reasons for approaching the situation in this somewhat unorthodox manner were:-

1. A decision was required by the National Secretariat at the earliest possible time, and as the decision to form an organisation such as this was taken in April, the proposals had to be presented to you, as they were in the May edition of TOSA News along with a notice of motion, which is required to be presented one month prior to becoming a formal motion. This would have occurred at the June meeting of members.

2. As the decision, if adopted, would involve alteration to the Constitution of your Society, then you the members, as a whole had the right to either adopt or reject the proposals. The most logical and fair way to insure this, was to provide a ballot worded exactly as the notice of motion with the provision of a YES or NO indication, to be completed by you the member and returned in a sealed envelope marked for the attention of the Returning

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A full console residence organ with unmatched tone quality. Advanced tone generation system stores actual theatre pipe organ sounds in digital form, recreates them at a touch of the keys.



STOP LIST

SOLO

Tibia	16'
Trumpet	8'
Tibia Clausa	8'
Oboe	8'
Salicional	8'
Vox Humana	8'
Clairon	4'
Tibia	4'
Salicet	4'
Twelfth	2-2/3'
Piccolo	2'
Larigot	1-1/3'
Fife	1'
Percussion	
Vibrato	
Chiff	
Fast Attack	

ACCOMP.

Tibia	16'
Horn	8'
Clarinet	8'
Concert Flute	8'
String	8'
Cello	8'
Concert Flute	4'
String	4'
Piccolo	2'
Mixture IV	
Percussion	
Chrysolott	
Vibrato	

PEDAL

Ophicleide	16'
Diaphone	16'
Tibia	16'
Lieblich Gedeckt	16'
Tuba Horn	8'
Diapason	8'
Tibia	8'
String	8'
Tibia	8'
String	
Tibia	4'
Short Sustain	
Accomp. to Pedal	
Solo to Pedal	

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Pictured: Shirley Kulz at the 651 CONN.

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FORESTVILLE

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PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE



WILL PRIOR
Wielding the baton of the Prince Edward Symphony Orchestra of 20 performers.

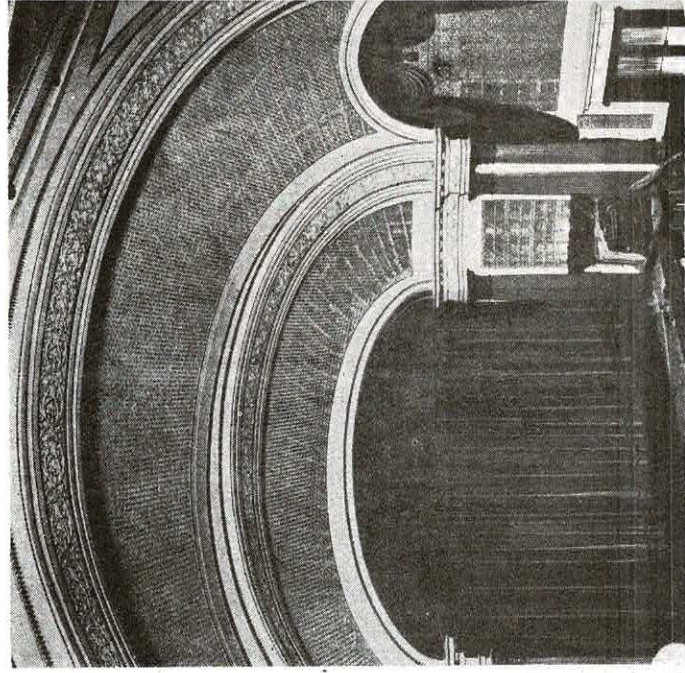


EDDIE HORTON
Master Organist, whose playing of the mighty Wurlitzer is a sensation at every performance.

THE PRINCE EDWARD USHERETTES.



The army of attractive ushers, part of the staff of Sydney's Prince Edward Theatre, and their very attractive uniforms.



The imposing proscenium of the Prince Edward Theatre, Sydney, as viewed from the Dress Circle. Throughout the entire organ and orchestral overtures this is bathed in an imperceptibly changing color symphony of light, an effect dazzling beyond description.



MISS NOREEN HENNESSY, resident theatre organist at the Prince Edward Theatre from 1945 to 1965, and an Honorary Member of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia.

8 more days then FAREWELL. After careful consideration and due to the great number of our patrons asking for a further viewing of Tolstoy's great classic, and also a nostalgic viewing of the theatre itself, we have agreed on this choice.

PRINCE EDWARD

The "Theatre Beautiful"

3 sessions only 10.40, 1.58, 7.53

Reservations Theatre (28-8313)
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FOR GENERAL EXHIBITION



Officer in order that it remain unopened until presented to the June quarterly meeting of members.

3. The decision involved the spending of your money to provide for the travelling expenses incurred by your representatives to a place of meeting and the provision of a levy, which at this time would be considered to be approximately 10¢ per person. This would have to remain flexible owing to cost increases and would cover our contribution to the office expenses incurred by the National Secretary. This is clearly stated in paragraph 3 of the notice of motion, although it has been pointed out that the wording of this paragraph doesn't define as clearly as it appeared in the Presidents Message that we as a participating Division are responsible for an equal share of the costs with the other Divisions and not, as it appeared, responsible to match the total of the others.

4. Those who represent you now and in the future do so to the best of their ability and in some cases to a great deal of time and expense. If they are to carry out the responsibilities you have elected them to do, and I refer to your Presidents and Secretaries, the people who have publicly represented you in the past, the present and in the future, have the right to expect your support for their term of office. In expressing this opinion, I feel that paragraph 3 above is not unreasonable.

Unlike some of the feedback received to date, nobody has anything to gain but the Society as a whole. It has been suggested that the President and the Secretary would gain an all - expenses paid holiday from the above, however if one considers the amount of work involved over and above that required already, one can see the absurdity in the suggestion not to mention the damaging remarks relating to the integrity of those concerned.

In affording you the opportunity to decide the issue, I feel the action taken was clearly in the interests of the Society. Unorthodox I agree, though by cutting down on the "Red Tape" it would have availed the membership the opportunity to decide the outcome of the issue for themselves and give the National Secretariat the prompt answer they required.

Steve McDonald.
PRESIDENT.

Review - Noreen Hennessy Concert, April 2nd, 1977 - Wentworthville.
form - Bert Smith.

After reading a short article in the March TOSA News, your scribe attended a Wurlitzer Theatre Organ recital at "Clancy's Music Hall", Wentworthville. The bench was occupied by Miss Noreen Hennessy, whose very name conjured up nostalgic memories of glitter and grandeur, gold leaf and tinsel, great orchestras, enormous Wurlitzer Organs, the greatest and most difficult overtures and arrangements, the like of which will probably not be seen or heard again.

My personal memories of Noreen shows a beautifully gowned and bejewelled always smiling figure esconced in the organ loft to the right of the proscenium. Her beautiful legs richly shod and stocking'd under the glare of the powerful spotlight. "Well, well you men again" were at all times the cynosure of all eyes - cute management.

Let us charge key for

Let us change key again for the next 16 bars.

It is felt that our more distant members and readers might appreciate a round by round description of "Clancy's Music Hall", so grab a glass and put your feet up - gents only.

The title "Clancy's Music Hall" was used by by an ex resident organist of the Civic Theatre Auburn, Dennis Palmistra whilst in the U.S.A. At the time he was recording some of the performances of the Wentworthville organ.

This room or hall was built around the organ. Both hall and ceiling are wedge shaped and measure 90' long and 30' wide and 45' to the peak of the ceiling. The audience occupies approximately 1/3 of the space whilst the remainder houses all sorts of musical instruments the console and etc. for a further organ installation, plans for which have not yet been completed.

The Pipe Chambers are 35' x 25' and 35' x 15' respectively, the larger being slightly funnelled and lined with highly polished hardwood. The smaller chamber is completely lined with trowelled plaster to a highly polished degree.

This is quite an impressive set - up.

Now for the "Piece de Ristance"- Noreen Hennessy. This lady is truly a phenomenon. After nine years of serious illness and in that period never touching the Clancy organ or anything like it, she opened with a short introductory speech then straight into a 2¼ hour recital without any music whatever. On this very rare occasion, those present were treated to what amounted to be a nostalgic return to the sounds of the Prince Edward for Noreen played such numbers as:-

"Home Sweet Home, Bless This House, overtures from Carmen, Nuns Chorus, Sweet la Gaité Parissienne, Strauss Waltzes", the numbers that linked the Prince Edward with the name Noreen Hennessy.

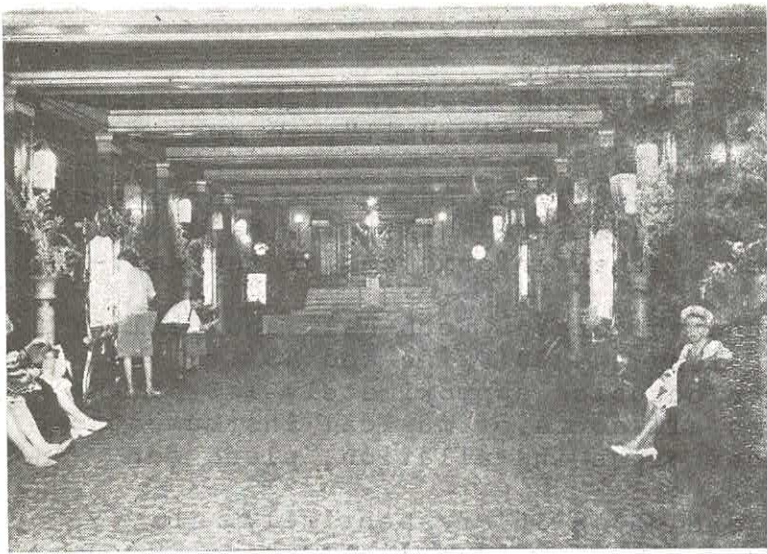
It wasn't long before we heard the style of the fabulous Noreen Hennessy of the old Prince Edward Theatre - it takes time for one to get the feel of things again when considering the time lapse since Noreen left the Prince Edward.

Quickly passing the introductory speech, mention was made of two very dear friends, Merle Webb and Brenda Leece. Merle was the personality girl at the Prince Edward during portion of Noreens stay, and old - timers like myself will remember the beautiful girl wafting directions from a dias in the foyer, frocked in the manner of the 1800's. Merle was a beauty contest winner of the period - not the 1800's (ha! ha!) Brenda is the true friend who transports Noreen to hospital and to recitals and generally looks after her.

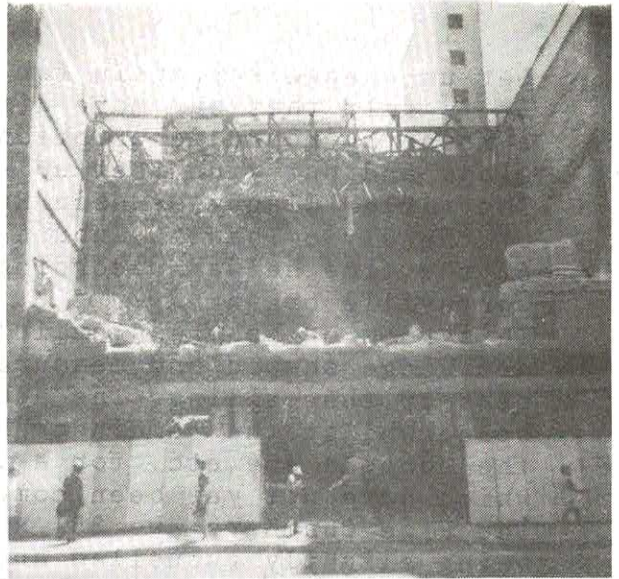
Noreen then spoke of the twelve years she spent with ABC Radio and Radio Australia, finishing with regrets that allegations had been made in the past denigrating her lifestyle. All these allegations had been brought to her notice and she there and then strongly denied any departure from the normal way of living at any time in the past. "Forgive and forget", she added and hoped that a complete return to health would enable her to enjoy the great love of her life - Theatre Organ.

To sound the final chords a Scottish medley was chosen embracing all the heart warming numbers we know so well, to finish with a realistic skirl of the bagpipes in "Amazing Grace" and "Auld Laing Syne".

After the final skirls had broken through the hall, many admirers gathered around the organ bench to swap anecdotes with Noreen who was in her element, enjoying every moment. There is no doubt that The true Artiste is born and not made! A remark was heard from the surround - "A ledgend in your own Lifetime" which sums up this great trouper.



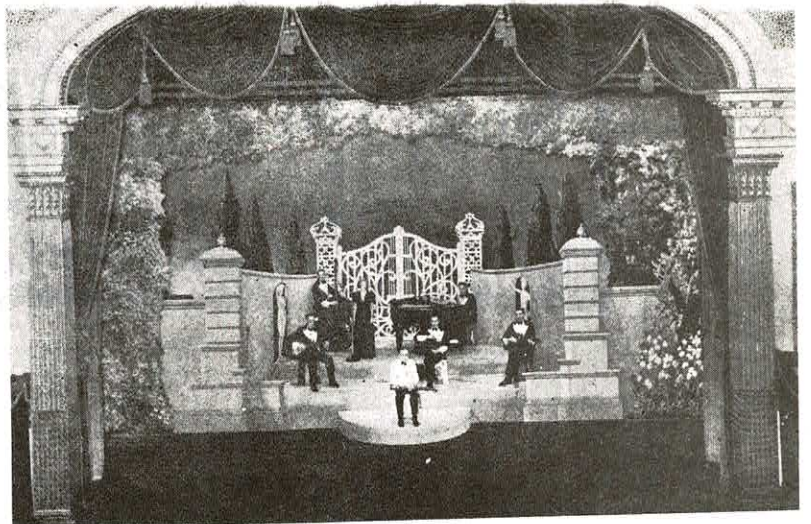
Scene of main vestibule leading from Castlereagh Street.



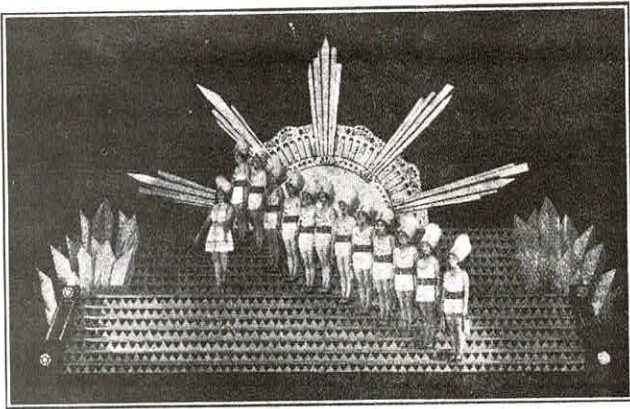
Scene of main auditorium taken from the stage, showing 16 foot crystal chandelier and murals in dome of theatre.



The Reg Lewis band was a popular Prince Edward highlight for several years. Current conductor Colin Anderson is seated right, front row, with Harry Willis standing behind him.



MEL. G. LAWTON'S PRINCE EDWARD PRESENTATION.



Keeping up the standard of stage presentation at the Prince Edward Theatre, the "Shanghai Express" season saw a particularly smart piece of work by the Twelve Prince Edward Girls, Olivette (solo dancer), and Nea Hallett (soprano). The finale called for a round of applause every performance.

SHE LIVED A DREAM OF A LOVE
TOO EXQUISITE TO LAST!
Starts TOMORROW at 11 a.m.

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Olivia DeHavilland IN

To Each His Own
JOHN LUND
ROLAND CULVER


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The story of a love every woman will understand — but few will dare to live!

Noreen Hennessy at the ORGAN

Reg Lewis BAND
WITH GEOFFREY MOORE

PRINCE EDWARD

THEATRE  BEAUTIFUL
SHOWPLACE of PARAMOUNT PICTURES

