

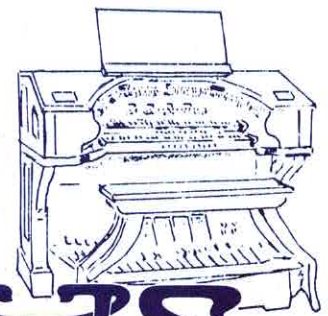
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August, 1976

EDITOR

John Atkinson, 46 Lily Street, Allawah, 2218
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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

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

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				Phyllis Wilson	759 6050

Please address all correspondence to Box A584 P.O. Sydney South, 2000

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

Saturday, 14th August, 1.30 p.m.

Organ Restoration Tutorial Afternoon: In view of the Prince Edward Organ being out of action while the regulators are being re-covered our member Ernie Vale has organised at his home in 49 Boomerang Street, Haberfield, a Tutorial afternoon to train members in the necessary work for our Capitol Organ Restoration. Further details of this work appear on page 4 of this issue and we ask all members who can attend to please do so and telephone early on 798 6816 and enjoy a constructive afternoon of good fellowship.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

It is anticipated that a quarterly general meeting will be held on the 7th or 8th of September, the final date to be announced next month. The venue for the meeting will be Murlitzer Australia Pty. Ltd., 56 Alexander Avenue, Taren Point. The exact final details will be published in next month's Newsheet.

Sunday 12th September, 1976. 2.15p.m.

The organ retailing organisation, Gulbransen, in association with the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, announce an outstanding programme featuring Lyn Larsen and Tony Fenelon in a concert at the Regent Theatre. This will be an exceptional concert worth your attendance and further details are presented on page 3 of this issue. Tickets available, P.O. Box 150 Epping, 2121.

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26th September, Sunday, 2.30 p.m.

Free Sunday Afternoon Concert featuring Cliff Bingham at Marrickville Town Hall.

OCTOBER Visit to East Lindfield Baptist Church

NOVEMBER From America Dennis and Heidi James in Concert at Marrickville Town Hall.

TOSA Annual General Meeting and election of officers.
Christmas Cabaret

MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The membership correspondence being sent to the Society's Post Office Box has been causing delays in such correspondence reaching the Membership Secretary with resultant delays in processing. Approval has been given that all membership matters should be addressed directly to the Membership Secretary Ron Smith, 47 Horbury Street, Sans Souci. 2219.

REVIEWS

Free Sunday Afternoon Concert, 7th June

It should be recorded here that arrangements made on behalf of the Society should be taken more seriously both by those doing the arranging, and those accepting the arrangement this comment has been prompted by a number of incidents taking place over an extended period.

Well the afternoon almost turned into a fiasco with the sudden withdrawal of the advertised organist. The 160 people in attendance at Marrickville Town Hall, including visitors from Newcastle heard as a substitute organist Vice President, Herbert Wyatt who stepped into the breach at the last minute with very little practice time available and helped out in what could have been a very embarrassing situation. Herbert's associate artist for the afternoon was a singer arranged by Herbert through his association with other musical societies and the excellence of the entertainment has been demonstrated amply by the reaction of the audience and the letters received by the committee. Our mutual thanks is extended to the organist, Herbert Wyatt and Baritone, Leonard Lee for an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment, which was appreciated by all those in attendance and we look forward to our next Sunday afternoon concert with Cliff Bingham on 26th September, 1976.

20th July, Quarterly General Meeting

It would be insufficient to merely record here that the business meeting was unable to resolve any of the problems placed before it, due to the lack of a Quorum as it is a reflection on all members of the society that the meeting was underattended by merely 10 people and although a vote was taken and the majority decision was in favour of the motion the motion cannot be ratified and this vote could only serve as a recommendation to a further meeting at which time it is earnestly hoped some majority decision can be recorded. At this quarterly meeting we had all the ingredients for good attendance in the form of entertainment by our members, David Parsons and Bill Schumacher who played exceptionally well considering the organ has not been tuned for some time. It would also be of interest to members to note here that since this meeting the reservoirs have been removed and taken to Melbourne by George Stevens for re-covering, which means of course that the Marrickville Wurlitzer is at present time out of action so any members with practice times are advised that until further notice in these pages, practice times are suspended.



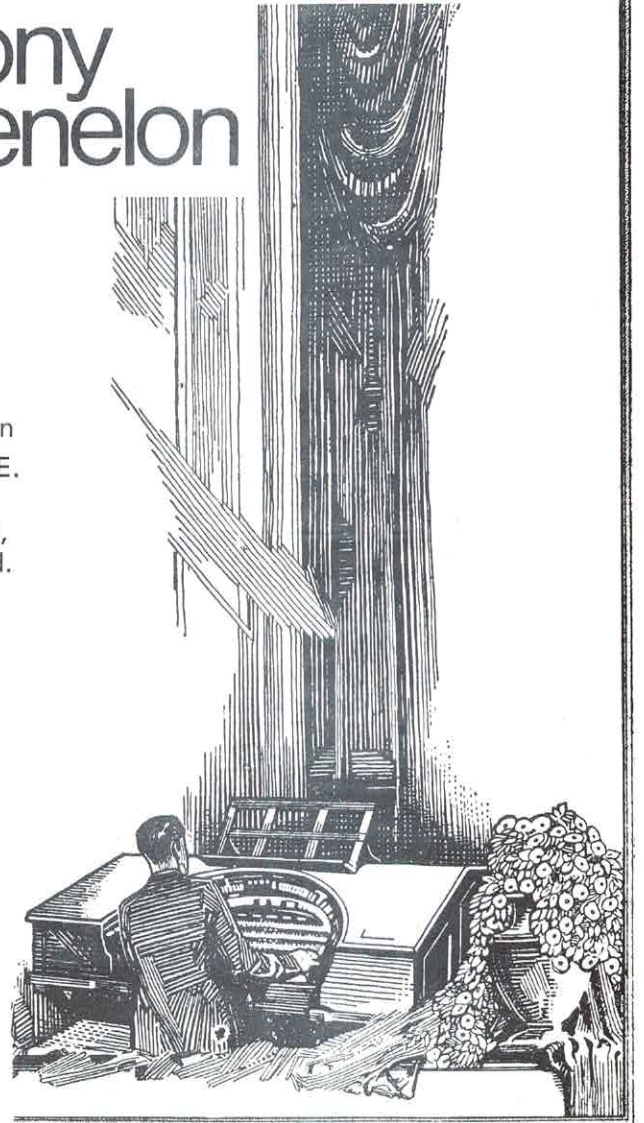
Lyn Larsen



Tony Fenelon

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and at Society functions.

**AN HISTORIC OCCASION AS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME FOR
16 YEARS THAT THE SOUNDS OF THEATRE ORGAN MUSIC
HAS BEEN HEARD IN**



CAPITOL ORGAN RESTORATION - by Ernie Vale

Firstly I am pleased to report that a member from Mosman has kindly donated a glue pot in response to my appeal in last months TOSA News. I am most grateful as this is another step forward in the restoration programme. I would like to thank the Weismantels for supplying amongst other things the shellac that was used this afternoon to rejuvenate the timber pipes and for their continued enthusiasm. Thanks also to George Smith for supplying further shellac for use on chests, pipe racks, etc., and to Ron Wilson for supplying material to cove-swell shutter motors etc.

By the time you read this issue of TOSA News we will have moved a substantial part of the organ again to make room at Haberfield for the tutorial afternoon and to work on the console. To this end I would like to thank members Wilf Leeder and Ray Braley for arranging storage space and Ross Adams for the use of his van for the move.

President Tom Halloran, Ron and Edna Smith and myself spent a most enjoyable day in the sun and fresh air cleaning down and shellacing 3/4 of the timber pipes today in preparation for storage. Believe me the water got very black very quickly. The end result was most satisfying and one comes to appreciate the fact that Wurlitzer Organs were indeed very well built.

Committee have discussed the matter of solid state re the Capitol and have deferred any final decision until the result of solid state work being carried out on the Chatswood organ is known. Opinion at this stage seems to be in favour of solid state relays only and restoring the console as original.

At this point I would again ask any members who are able to supply any of the following items as their contribution to the restoration programme to contact me on 798 6816 between 7.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. or on weekends.

ITEMS REQUIRED

1. 5/8" or thereabouts, but not smaller, woven nylon tape (preferably white) approximately 100 metres.
2. 1/4" or thereabouts, woven cotton tape (preferably white) approximately 50 metres.
3. Thick blotting paper approximately 1/32" thick approximately 20 sq. metres.
4. Pearl glue - up to 1/2 doz packets.
5. Plastic dust shetts to cover the parts of the organ in storage and being worked on - 6 sheets 10 ft. x 15 ft. or larger.
6. A sharp guillotine suitable for cutting perflex. Ideally the blade should be at least 2 ft. long. If this item could perhaps be borrowed for a short while I would be grateful. It is required to prepare material for the tutorial so please contact me as soon as possible.

Thanks are due to a group in Newcastle organised by Geoff Moore for covering a number of primary and secondary motors. Tom Halloran is carrying out some tremulant experiments with a small 12 pipe chest.

TUTORIAL AFTERNOON

Saturday the 14th August at 1.30 p.m. at 49 Boomerang Street Haberfield, is the time and location where all members who would like to assist in the restoration of the Capitol Organ will be shown how to carry out various tasks such as, stripping and covering motors, making and fitting gaskets, renovating the boots for the larger pipes, renovating pipe racks etc.

All those members who have offered assistance are particularly invited to attend, namely:- George Walker, Ben Vernon, Peter Bidencope, Reg Chivers,

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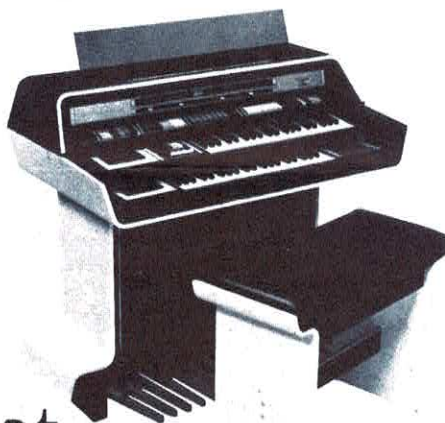
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John Atkins, Ron and Edna Smith and David Bruce.

I would like to contact all members personally regarding this afternoon however, it becomes an impossible task because there are no doubt members whom I don't know who would like to attend. Consequently I ask those members who will be coming to this tutorial afternoon to ring me on 798 6816 between the hours 7.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. to give me some idea of how many are coming or if there are any queries about the programme. Please wear your gardening clothes or similar because organs tend to gather dust over a period of 40 years. It is hoped to be able to farm out certain pieces on the day for members to work on in their own time. Like most things it is not difficult work when you are shown how to do it and there is a certain amount of satisfaction to be gained from such work. I would like to say at this point, that the standard of workmanship has been set fairly high because we are hoping for a high degree of reliability when the organ is installed. All this means is that with a little care and patience we will be able to achieve reliability. Several members will be on hand to demonstrate how to do things then those attending will be able to carry out the tasks under supervision. I look forward to a good attendance and please call me and let me know you are coming.

Regards, Ernie Vale.

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NEW MEMBERS

We have 18 new members to welcome this month two of whom are New Zealanders we seem to be getting quite a few members of NSW from the 'Shaky Isles' and hope they enjoy getting the newsheet and hearing what goes on here in Australia perhaps we might get some correspondence from them bringing us up to date on the situation in New Zealand so we can pass it on through these pages. Welcome is extended to Ron Bettinson, Epping ; Stan & Lynette Willmott, Gordon; David & Evelyn Williams, West Ryde ; Chris & Carol Palmer, Crows Nest; Lyall & Miriam Stacey, Hamilton New Zealand ; Graham Glendenning, Eastwood ; J.C. Nicholls, Northmead ; C. H. Bell, Napier, New Zealand ; A. Flemming, Caringbah ; Alan & Jean McNamara, Como ; James & Yvonne Bennison, Georges Hall ; Trevor Green, Balgowlah.

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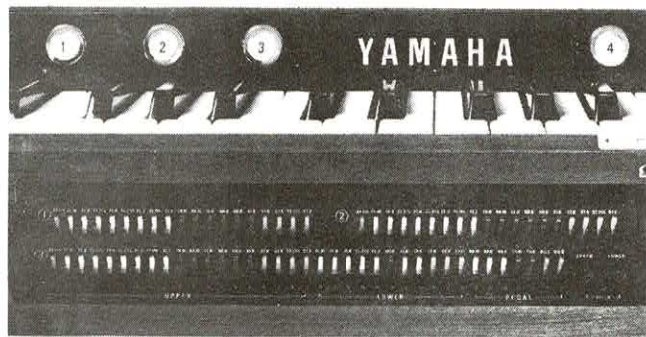
LYN LARSEN AND TONY FENELON AT THE REGENT

FOR DETAILS OF TICKET SALES SEE PAGE 3 AND MAKE SURE OF YOUR SEAT NOW!

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THE GRANADA TOOTING, LONDON

Ack: 'Theatre Organ' February, 1970.

In the year 1931, the residents of Tooting in the South West District of London watched the construction of a large new cinema to become known as the 'Granada' Tooting. The architecture had been designed by Komisarjevsky in Romanesque-gothic style and the National Press at the time described it as 'the most romantic theatre ever built'. The two photographs in this edition are of the interior of the Granada taken in the stalls area.

To most of us the most outstanding aspect of the theatre would be the Wurlitzer Organ which had been playing seven weeks prior to the opening in England in a theatre in Sacramento California USA, having been installed there in November 1926 as a 3/10 instrument. At Tooting the organ was enlarged to a 4/12 plus grand piano, the fourth manual is devoted entirely to tonal percussions and traps.

Some of the organists who have appeared at Tooting over the years have been Harold Ramsay, Robinson Cleaver, Reginald Dixon, Stuart Barrie, John Madin.

Following 'The Battle of Britain' in 1940 came the long nights of the blitz and many patrons found it preferable to sit in the Granada and sing to the organ music rather than wait at home for what might descend from the skies. Thus the sing-songs there became almost an institution while organists played themselves almost to sleep. It became more or less the rule, rather than the exception to play tune after tune until well into the early hours sometimes as late as three or four a.m. until the blower became almost red hot. Many of the 'Granada boys' had of course joined the Forces and donned khaki, navy or air force blue and when on leave they invariably came back to keep the shows going. During a short 24 hour or week-end pass from some isolated and lonely base, it is certain that many wives must have groaned at seeing them depart for a Granada interlude.

The organ had certainly done a magnificent job under all circumstances and so after the war a reward was agreed in the form of a partial re-build. The ensuing years saw the instrument in use as much as ever for solo interludes, variety accompaniment, broadcasts and the recording of L.P.'s for American Decca by Robinson Cleaver.

However as time passed cyphers and other small troubles became very common and it was soon realised that the organ was in need of much greater attention than could be given at maintenance visits.

In early 1953, it was therefore decided that Wurlitzer should give it a complete rebuild and this took place between March and May of that year.

The chambers were completely stripped and backstage the dressing rooms became workshops where everything was thoroughly cleaned, overhauled or re-placed before final re-assembly. In full splendour, the organ was re-opened on 1st June, 1953 by Robinson Cleaver with a special slide presentation entitled 'Organ Cavalcade' or 'The Tooting Granada Organ makes history'. Broadcasting from the theatre was resumed on 3rd July of that year by John Madin and from then on the instrument resumed as a regular feature with weekly organ interludes, radio and special shows.

It may perhaps be thought that an instrument originating in 1926 would have much of the 'orchestral organ' tone associated with say, the New Gallery Theatre in London's Regent Street. This however is not so with the Tooting Wurlitzer although those who prefer extension of the reeds will find them in the revised specifications of the organ at the Gaumont, Manchester. This particular instrument which was also designed by Harold Ramsay, was installed in 1935 and although strangely enough this cinema was also built by Granada,

it was sold to Gaumont British before opening its doors to the public. At Tooting with an organ placed under the stage and 'speaking direct to the audience', one can shudder to imagine the effect of an English Horn chorus in the first dozen or so rows of seats. However a glance at the specification will prove that the whole provides an interesting organ tone wise. The English Horn for example, blended with the Gamba, Tuba and Clarinet makes a very pleasant and well known sound familiar to British audiences both in the theatre and over the radio. The organ is installed in two chambers under the stage with the blower alongside and contains the following units:-

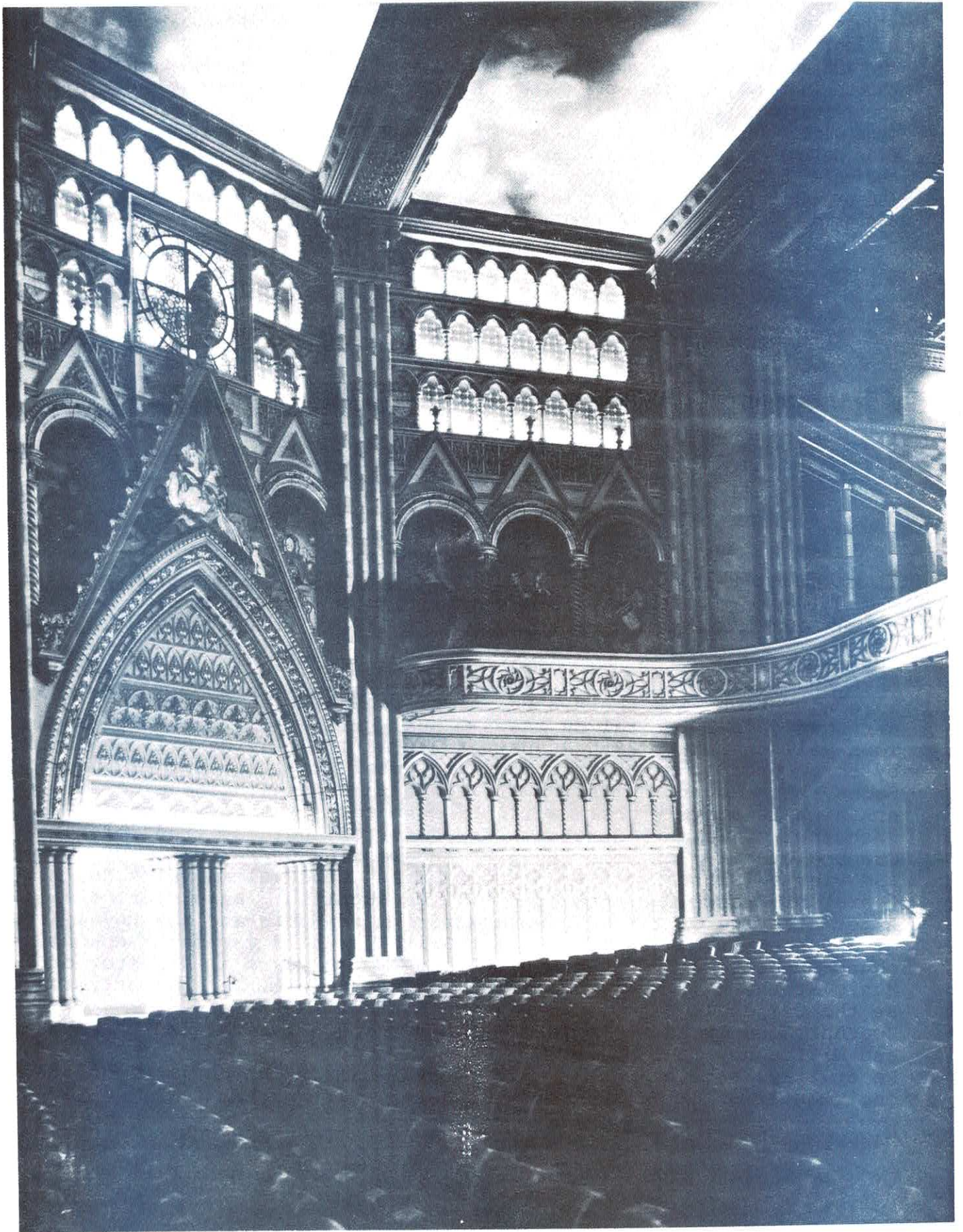
Diaphonic Diapason	16
Tibia Clausa / 2 (TC)	16
Concert Flute	16
Gamba	16
Violin (TC)	16
Violin Celeste	8
Clarinet (Main leftside)	16
Tibia Clausa /1	8
Orchestral Oboe	8
Saxophone	8
Vox Humana (TC)	16
Kinura	8
English Horn	8
Harmonic Tuba (solo rightsided)	16

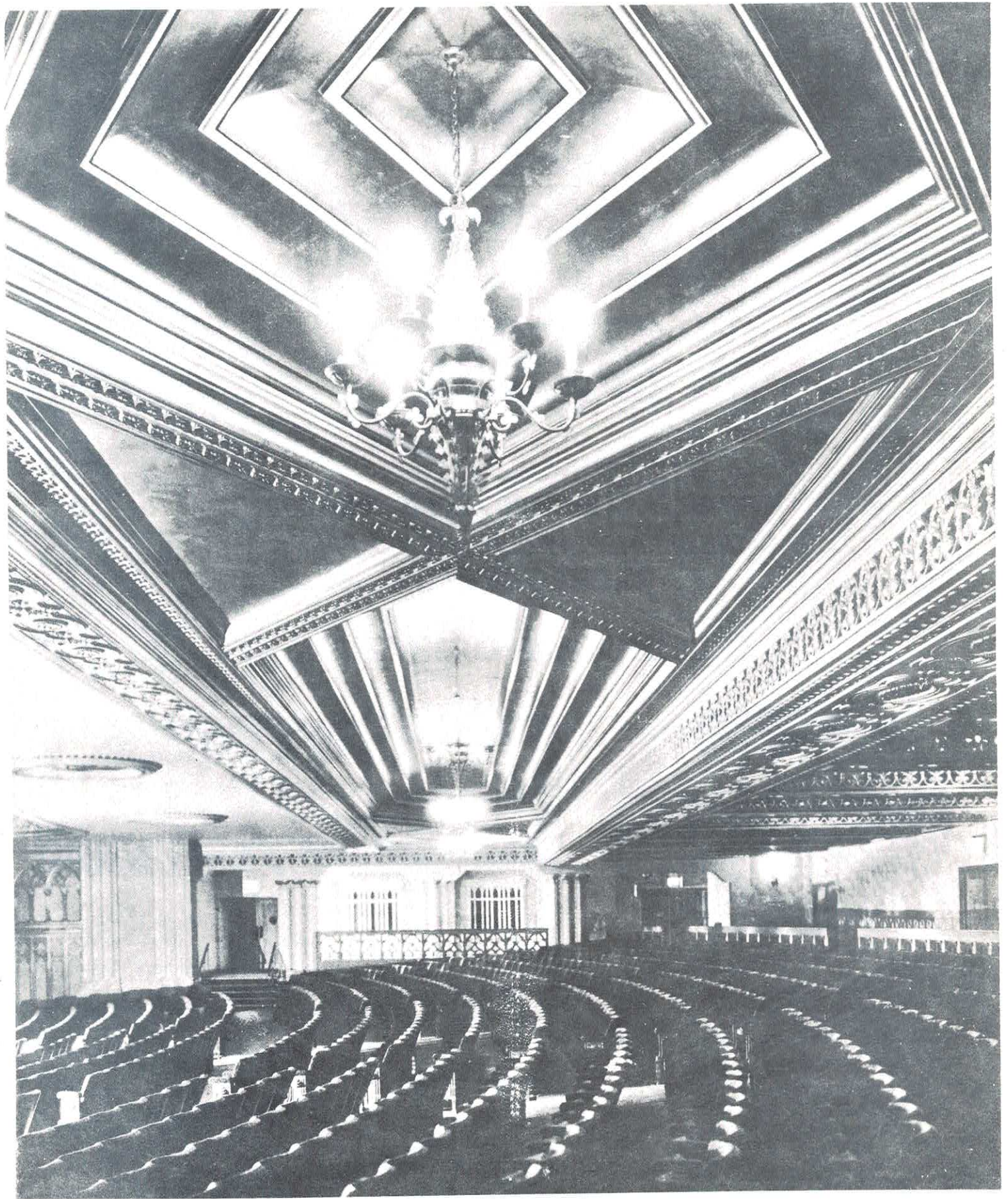
It is understood that Tooting is closed now and has been for some time past, the stalls area is reported to be flooded with water and in spite of a preservation order stay on demolition the organ is now in very bad state.

FREE SUNDAY RECITAL IN THE SYDNEY TOWN HALL

In conjunction with the A.B.C. the Organ Society of Sydney has arranged a free recital on the 5-manual Hill pipe organ in the Sydney Town Hall on Sunday 29th August at 3.p.m. The playing will be shared by three organists; Heather Moen and Peter Bray from Sydney and Sydney-born Robert Smith, now resident in England. The programme contains relatively short works by composers of five nationalities Pachelbel of Germany, Bairstow and Parry of England, Vrana of Czechoslovakia, Jongen of Belgium and Daquin, Dupre, Guilmant, Mulet and Vierne (blind organist of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris for many years) of France. Annotations will be supplied. Enquiries: 428 1463. After studying at the NSW Conservatorium of Music and the Royal School of Church Music in England, Robert Smith has held various teaching and church positions in England, including seven years as Director of Music at the Well-known St. Bride's Fleet Street. He currently teaches at the Guildhall School of Music in London. Heather Moen is known to TOSA members through recitals in the Sydney and Willoughby Town Halls. Peter Bray, active in the music of St. Philips Church is organist and choirmaster of St. John's Pro-Cathedral, Parramatta.

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SEE PAGE THREE





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OBITUARIES

BILLY DICK well known Sydney organist passed away on 4th July, 1975, this information and the following facts were supplied by John Gardner. Billy was born in Sydney in 1891 and after serving with the AIF during the 1st World War returned to take up a clerical position with the Repartriation Department. From there he went to 2GB and during there formative years became known to the younger listeners as "Little Willie" between 1926 and 1930 when following the advice of Ernie Barnett, who was the Town Hall Recitalist, he took up Theatre Organ and became a pupil of Fred Scholl and was subsequently appointed to the Capitol Staff in January, 1930 as assistant organist. His post at the Capitol lasted until 1942 when he jointed a Civic Construction Corp. for three years returning to the Capitol in 1945 where he stayed until 1947. At this time Billy retired from the full-time world of music although he provided accompaniment as rehearsal pianist for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society whilst working in a factory. He has spent the last fifteen years in retirement until 1974 when it is thought he had a stroke which put him into a nursing home where he passed away last month. Our Sympathies are extended to his family and friends.

EDWIN NITSCHKE popular member of the Theatre Organ Society passed away 5th July whilst holidaying in Cairns. He will be sadly missed by his wife and two sons and his many friends. Edwin was an active member within the Society and at the time of his death was storing part of the Capitol Organ. We extend on behalf of all members our sympathy to his family.

FOR SALE

YAMAHA E3 Organ in 'as new' condition for any additional information contact 'Cliff's World of Music' on 046 25 1540 and there will be a reduction in price for any TOSA member.

DEATH OF WELL KNOWN BRITISH ORGANIST

Noted British Organist **Harold Ramsay** passed away in California in July. He was resident organist at the four manual fourteen rank Wurlitzer installed the the Granada Theatre Tooting, (See article page 8.) Mr. Ramsay, who became musical director for Granada Theatres, made his first appearance there in 1932. He has been living in retirement in the USA for some time.

GOOD NEWS FROM CANBERRA

TOSA (ACT Div.) have been given approval to put their Pipe Organ in the Albert Hall. Really marvellous news and we can imagine the feverish plotting and planning going on at the moment.....Congratulations Canberra we look forward to an invitation to the opening and hope it will be a smooth operation from now on!

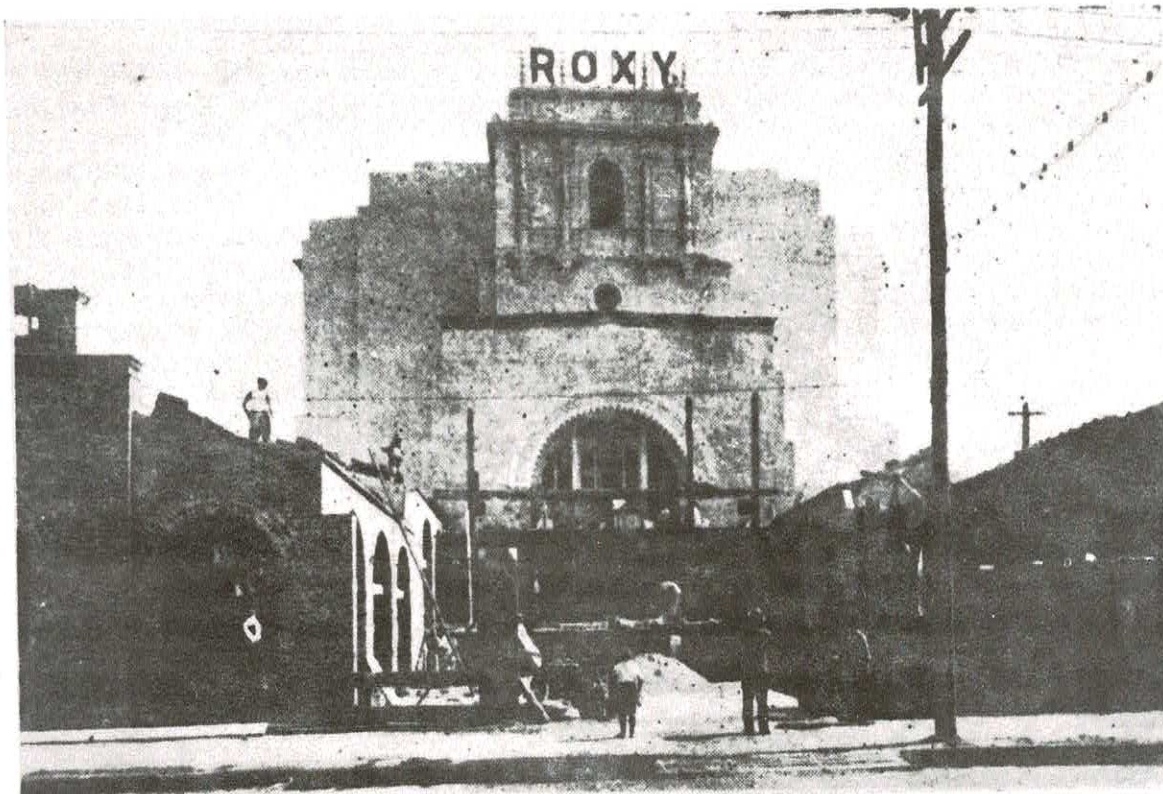
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COMINGS AND GOINGS

- by Ian Hanson

Work is proceeding rapidly on the completion of the new 'Roxy' Cinema Centre, which of course is being built inside the old 'Roxy' Theatre, Parramatta.

The accompanying photograph was taken in the final weeks of January, 1930 when work was nearly complete on the then new 'Roxy' Theatre.

Three new cinemas will replace the old 1,929 seater. Cinema 1 is located in the old dress circle area and will retain much of the old spanish charm of the former 'Roxy'. Cinemas 2 and 3 will be located in the stalls area and will be internally different. All the foyers will be restored to their former status.

Entry into the 'Roxy' is by way of a courtyard 70 feet long and 42 feet wide, paved with colourful tiles and fringed with palms and lawns.

Hoyts purchased the property outright in 1946 and it is anticipated the new complex will open in late August. the 3/10 Christie is at the moment in storage.

Renovations to the tune of \$750,000 are being carried out at the 'Capitol' Theatre Haymarket. According to newspaper reports the Haymarket area is to receive a general face lift with the first stage concentrating on 'cleaning up the Capitol'.

Melbourne's 'Esquire' Theatre closed its doors quietly last month. In 1922 this theatre was very much in the news as it was the first theatre in Australia

to possess a 'Wurlitzer Hope Jones Unit Orchestra'. The organ had 2 manuals and 7 ranks of pipes and was opened by the late Horace Weber. In 1929 it was moved across the street to the 'Paramount' Theatre where it remained disused for many years until 1945 when 1 manual and four ranks were incorporated in the new 4/19 "Regent" Wurlitzer in Melbourne.

Coles will convert the old theatre into a new retailing store.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LANCASTRIAN THEATRE ORGAN TRUST

Some years ago a small group of theatre organ enthusiasts in the Manchester area who were concerned that organs were being lost to the public because of closure, for various reasons, of cinemas and theatres, formed the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust in October 1968. The Trust's aims included the preservation of the Odeon, Manchester organ, manufactured by Wurlitzer the famous American builders; the encouragement of young talent on the pipe organ and the establishment of vintage organ records and sheet music libraries. Visits to other organs and social events began to take place.

The Trust purchased for preservation the Christie organ from the Odeon, (ex Pyramid), Sale. This organ is to be used for local concerts and tutorial purposes and arrangements are now in hand for its installation in the Blue Coat School, Oldham. L.P. records have been produced, some featuring established organists, whilst new organists have been recorded on others. These high quality recordings have helped in fund raising for the Trust. Founded in October, 1968, the Trust was registered as a Charity in September, 1970 and invited membership from the public, which by 1973 had topped the 200 mark. By 1974 the Trust's principal aim began to be realised the big Wurlitzer, after removal from the Odeon cinema, started to be installed in its new home, the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, one of Britain's famous concert halls. The Trust in 1974 also purchased the Gaumont, Manchester organ another Wurlitzer, and it now awaits the selection of another hall for re-installation. The farewell concert in the Gaumont for the last cinema based organ in central Manchester was a sell-out - all 1970 seats filled and hundreds of people turned away. Parts of this and other Trust sponsored concerts have been presented on radio, as have the Trust's L.P. records. It is through this media that young organists have reached a wide audience in the last few years.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As the Annual General Meeting date is drawing ever nearer it is time for members to start putting their minds to the election of officers for 1977. There are in all, 12 positions which automatically fall vacant at the meeting and the forms necessary to make nominations for any one of these positions will be published in next month's TOSA News. If you would be willing to serve in next year's committee or feel you have something to offer the society in the framework of its aims then contact the President or any member of the committee for it is with new and fresh ideas coming forward year by year that many achievements are made. The positions for your consideration at the Annual General Meeting are:- President, 2 Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, 6 Committee Members, and TOSA News Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE

We have had a letter from a Kiwi enthusiast, Ian Hulme of 5 Maple Street Avondale and Ian is seeking information of the current whereabouts of Arthur Young he has just purchased a double album of Vera Lyn's and Arthur is playing

in five of these recordings re-released on this Album and as Ian met Arthur last whilst in Sydney he thought perhaps he may still be about and would be interested in hearing of the recording which is Decca No. DPA 3023/4 another organist accompanying Vera Lyn on this recording is Charles Smart.

THE BOOK 'THE BEST REMAINING SEATS' AVAILABLE AGAIN IN AUSTRALIA

We are pleased to be able to announce that we have news that the American book written by the late Ben Hall titled 'The Best Remaining Seats' is available once again in limited stocks from the Anchor Bookshop - also known as the Movie Bookshop- 590 George Street, Sydney, 1st floor Crystal Palace Building, next door to the Plaza Theatre. It is understood that it is selling for \$9.95 and anyone who doesn't have a copy is advised to get in early as the 1st edition of this book, published many years ago, sold for more than \$12.00.

PIT ORGANS - by Dianna Brown

Between 1910 and 1928, there were many small theatres which could not afford large pipe organs, but which still needed some sort of music to background the movies. Organ manufacturers were able to satisfy this desire by designing what were known as 'pit' organs. (because they were usually situated where the orchestra pit would be if the theatre could have afforded an orchestra.)

The best known builders were Wurlitzer and the American Photoplayer Company. The pit organs were developed from simple player pianos, and were actually small theatre organs fitted with sound effects, and built around a powerful piano. The Wurlitzer YO model, for example, had an open flute and a violin



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THE FAIRGROUND ORGAN - Eric V. Cockayne

\$8.50

The mechanical organ used to be one of the fairground's most popular attractions. Supplying the gay background music for the rides, it also acted as a 'front of house' enticement for the side-shows. This book describes the mechanisms of the organs, the music they played and their history.

FROM MUSIC BOXES TO STREET ORGANS - Mr. R. de Waard

\$7.95

Mr. Romke de Waard several years ago combined his great interest in the instruments with his literary ability and historical knowledge, and wrote for the benefit of ours and future generations this wonderful story.

from top to middle 'C', then two octaves of stopped flutes down to bass 'C' plus an 88 note piano. The style 15 Photoplayer had a stopped wooden flute from bass 'C' up to middle 'C' then a claribel flute and metal gambe to stop 'C' plus piano.

Both instruments used vacuum for all the action, and wind pressure of 4 inches was used for the pipes. Neither the Wurlitzer or the Photoplayer were unified, and while Wurlitzer provided a set of toe studs to operate the toy counters, Photoplayer had a set of direct pull leather cords.

Pit organs were equipped for roll playing and one roll could be set up while the other roll was playing so that the player could cue the picture with continuous appropriate music. The piano could be shut off, or both piano and pipes used together.

The Wurlitzer Company mainly concentrated on its style Y0, however, the Photoplayer Company had a much larger range; from the basic style 15 described above; through styles 20, 35, 40, 49 and 50; each model having extra ranks of pipes, sometimes free reeds, and traps being housed in swell boxes on either side of the piano console. The biggest models abandoned the piano and became small scale player organs, such as the style 49 with its horse shoe console and highly unified Tibia, String and Vox.

It is known that from 1914 until the early 1920's at least 4 Photoplayer Organs were installed in Sydney Theatres (one being in the former Lyric Theatre). These were identical in size with 4 ranks of pipes Tuba, Vox String and Flute. Perhaps they were specially designed for Australian theatres. When their usefulness was over with the introduction of sound movies they were sold and removed. Four were bought as a job lot by the late Mr. Lord and used in his residence pipe organ, the metal pipes being melted down and recast as classical ranks.

Pit organs in complete and original condition are extremely rare today and even in America few are left. It is a shame that none of the Sydney examples were saved. However, real enthusiasts live in hopes that perhaps some were installed in NSW country theatres and that one day they may stumble on a complete embalmed specimen. The late Mr. Broadbent of Adelaide had one installed in his barn, although much of it had deteriorated when he acquired it and he had to replace missing pipes and parts.

FOOTNOTE: According to the late Mannie Aarons the Sydney State Theatre Wurlitzer was originally fitted with a roll player, and one day when a music hating patron threw a banana into the 'works' he had to learn to play 'by hand' in a hurry!

FOR SALE

CONN - 640 - 2/61 Note Manuals and 25 pedals with Manual Rhythm - for further details please contact 86 1607.

REVIEW OF ST. ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ORGAN RECITAL

Sunday, 11th July, 1976 - Stephen Bosanquet.

I was fortunate to be able to be in attendance at the organ recital advertised in TOSA News on the above date.

The organ is a four manual instrument with about 5,000 odd pipes. The organ is set on the northern and southern side of the Cathedral and having great regard for the sounds of the Theatre organ and Cathedral instruments I together with Herbert Wyatt spent an agreeable afternoon. A brief summary of what was heard

would be

1. Trois Pieces pour Grand Orgue - C'esar --Auguste Franck
 - a) Fantaisie in A
 - b) Contabile
 - c) Piece Heroique
2. Crucifixion from Symphonie .. Passion Op 23 by Marcel Dupre
3. Symphony No. 2 by Louis Viene
 - Allegro, Choral, Scherzo, Contabile, Final.

A VISITOR FROM SUNNY SOUTH AFRICA Ack. Cinema Organ, Journal of the British Cinema Organ Society kindly loaned by Peter Bidencope.

Eric Penny, head of the LTOT Technical Team, writes:- Recently a holiday trip to Britain was made by Mr. Keith Jarrad of South Africa. Keith is a professional organ builder and has done a considerable amount of work on the magnificent Wurlitzer installation in the Johannesburg residence of Dean Herrick. Keith had been introduced to John Potter when John was on a business trip over there, and John had invited him, at some time during his holiday here to pay a visit to Manchester and have a look at our efforts in the Free Trade Hall.

He did more than just look! He took off his jacket and started in to help for four days! After his return to Brighton, where he had been staying with his parents he kindly wrote to me with some comments on his visit and these follow:- 'From sunny Southern Africa to rainy Manchester! That has been my recent experience On holiday in my native Brighton, I was given the opportunity to make the trip to Manchester by the invitation of John Potter and Eric Penney to 'inspect' the work on the transplant taking place in the Free Trade Hall. On arriving in the city under the above climatic conditions, I was invited to attend a meeting of the 'wheels' of the Trust. During the course of the meeting I was struck by the efficient and businesslike way in which the proceedings were conducted. All decisions were of a positive nature, and the Committee was made up of men dedicated to the cause. I feel that this goes a long way to making the Trust the success it is.

During the course of my short stay in Manchester, I was taken to see the Hope-Jones Opus 1 at St. John's Birkenhead, which has been given to the Trust. I also paid a distressful visit to the late lamented Manchester Gaumont cinema now completely gutted of fittings etc., and looking very sorry for itself. Then I visited the Free Trade Hall, and here I would like to express my view of the work in progress. Having been an organ builder all my working life, I was prepared for anything with work being done by amateurs having come across this type of situation before on more than one occasion.

On entering the chambers my first thoughts were that if I had not known it the work could have been done by any reputable organ builder. On taking a closer look (I'm short sighted) I was amazed at the high standard of workmanship from chaps who have had no former experience of this type of work. One may smile at screws standing in regimental ranks in cardboard, all newly painted, but it showed me the extent of the enthusiasm of the team in this difficult project. I was also shown the blueprints from which they were working together with a comprehensive collection of photographs, showing all strategic points, taken prior to removal of the organ from its former home. I am writing this in early early October and it is hoped that fairly soon the renovated blower will be given its first puff into the main chamber. At the time of writing all chests there have been placed into position, and most of the trunking has been fitted. The wiring of the chests to the relay stacks has yet to be done, but should be completed during the next couple of months.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH.