

Volume 22 Issue 12 Price 40¢ December 1983

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 by Australia Post - Publication No. N.B.H. 1058



Merry
Christmas



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a busy, exciting year! Convention, Concerts, Tosatour and finally a chance to install our 3/15 Wurlitzer.

As outlined at the Annual General Meeting, a new installation together with our existing committments will tax our overall resources to the limit. I am quite confident however, that with the friendly and co-operative spirit which exists generally within this Division, everyone will rise to the occasion and we will achieve our aims.

Thank you all for being such a wonderful group and the very best of wishes to all for the coming Festive Season.

Alan Misdale.

PRESIDENT Alan Misdale (525 5554) PATRON Ian Davies
VICE-PRESIDENTS Frank Ellis (649 7011) Doug Smith (750 0917)
SECRETARY Ernie Vale (570 4953 or 798 6816)
TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Mrs. Edna Smith (529 7379)
RESEARCH & ARCHIVES Ian Cameron
PRACTICE CONVENOR Jim Crombie (750 4294)
COMMITTEE Mrs. Phyl Wilson, Ron Wilson, Bill Schumacher,
Robert Gliddon, Neil Palmer, John Weismantel.
TOSA NEWS EDITING & PRINTING Ron Wilson & Doug Smith
Address all correspondence to: The Secretary
TOSA NSW Division
Box A584 P.O.
SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As members are doubtless aware, the primary topic for discussion at the Annual General Meeting of the Society was the feasibility of installing the former Capitol, Sydney 3-manual 15-rank Wurlitzer in the "Orion Centre", Campsie. It was pleasing to see approximately 100 members in attendance at the meeting for these vital discussions.

The project architects very kindly forwarded a detailed plan of the stage area with provision made on this plan for the understage organ chambers. Additionally, they also provided architectural coloured renderings of both the interior and exterior of the building, drawings of proposed lighting fixtures, wall stencil designs and carpeting - - - all true replicas of the "art deco period" in which the theatre was originally constructed. Naturally, all these plans were the subject of much scrutiny by members during the supper break, prior to the main discussion of the night.

Much debate ensued as to various details of the installation, accessibility of the organ to members and most importantly the final cost to the Society to properly install, and tonally finish the organ to the highest professional standards. It was agreed by those technically involved with the Society's organs that the cost would be somewhere in the region of at least \$50,000. It was finally moved and seconded that negotiations should proceed with the Canterbury Municipal Council with a view to the installation going ahead, in the "Orion Centre". An installation fund was immediately established and 20 members present at the meeting either contributed \$50.00 on the spot or pledged same.

THE INSTALLATION FUND NOW STANDS AT \$1,000 - ALL MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO SUPPORT WITH THEIR INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES OF WHATEVER MONEY THEY CAN AFFORD TO ENABLE THE FUND TO GROW AT A RAPID RATE YOUR ATTENDANCE, TOGETHER WITH THAT OF YOUR FRIENDS, AT ALL OUR FUNCTIONS WILL HELP SWELL THE FUNDS. THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT MORE NOW THAN EVER BEFORE IN ITS HISTORY.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1983.

By the end of this year this Division will have presented 3 Free Concerts, 7 Paid Concerts, 7 Home Organ Parties, 4 Club Nights, and arranged a visit to Belmore Lodge for a most enjoyable Sunday Lunch and Music, and to Mastertouch Piano Roll Company to view the piano roll manufacturing process and see and hear their most interesting collection of pianos and organs. We have also spent another very enjoyable evening at Bondi-Waverley R.S.L. Club as guests of our Patron, Ian Davies. A large contingent of our members travelled to Adelaide for the 1983 Easter Convention, a memorable part of which was the opening of the "Capri" organ. This installation is unique in Australia and has brought the theatre organ into the 21st Century in this country. The Division has also promoted a most enjoyable and comprehensive tour of the West Coast of the U.S.A. where members had the opportunity to see and hear many theatre organ installations, play many of them, and see a number of the most desirable tourist attractions including San Sylmar Museum.

I believe the concerts this year have given members and patrons considerable variety and we are thankful to all artists who performed for the Society. As well as presenting two overseas artists - Tom Hazleton and Warren Lubich - at Marrickville, members heard for the first time the combination of the theatre organ and the Salvation Army Congress Hall Band which proved to be most successful. Another memorable dual concert was performed by Tony Fenelon and John Atwell.

Maintenance on the Marrickville Wurlitzer has progressed steadily throughout the year with the Chrysoglott being re-strung and adjusted to give a live response, the tap cymbal striker being converted to a real drumstick, castanets receiving some attention, several bottom boards having new valves fitted and one of the sections of water-damaged trunking in the main chamber (carrying three regulators) being completely replaced with new trunking. One of the sets of shutter motors was rebuilt because of water damage. The section of trunking under the main chest in the main chamber was stripped and checked for leaks and rebuilt to eliminate air leaks, and the tensioning on the regulators improved to enable more precise adjustment. Numerous primary motors have been replaced in the relays to make the relays reliable. Currently the tremulants are being rebuilt to provide more reliable and consistent operation. An intercom system has been installed in the chambers to improve communication for tuning and maintenance generally.

Your Committee has been negotiating throughout the year for the purchase of a solid state relay system for the Marrickville and 3/15 Wurlitzers to make them more reliable in operation and we are now finalising details to place an order which will considerably deplete TOSA funds. Whilst this is a major cost, it should make the organs extremely reliable in operation, eliminating a lot of maintenance work as well as providing a high level of flexibility.

Work is proceeding on the 3/15 Console which has been dismantled and stripped ready for painting. The stop rails have been rebuilt to accommodate the new electric stop switches and new stop tabs, which have been purchased from the U.S.A. and conform to the slightly enlarged specification and unification. The keyboards and pedals of the 3/15 organ are being re-built and new contacts fitted. Three ranks of pipes from the 3/15 organ were recently transported to George Stephens in Adelaide by our President, Alan Misdale, for cleaning, voicing and regulation. The bass drum and snare drum have been recovered and restored and the toy counter from the 3/15 organ is being rebuilt and is nearing completion.

The Committee has obtained approval from Marrickville Council to build a new enclosure for the organ.

The Committee has made a substantial outlay on equipment to prepare print and assemble the TOSA News which has resulted in considerable time savings and a marked improvement in quality of presentation. The content of the magazine continues to grow and other divisions have taken the opportunity to borrow several articles.

The tape library was established this year and is growing to be quite successful thanks to the efforts of our recording engineers and to Neil Palmer for managing the library. The purchase of a recording mixer (multi channel) and associated leads and plugs has enabled a high standard of recording together with flexibility. We continue to provide the largest selection of Theatre Organ Recordings available in Australia.

The Committee has planned an exciting programme for next year and has already held a Convention Planning Meeting for 1985.

In recent months the Placement Committee and the President have been negotiating with Canterbury Council for the possible installation of the 3/15 Wurlitzer Organ in the Orion Theatre Campsie and this matter will be dealt with later in this meeting.

In conclusion, I feel that the Committee has worked hard for the Society this year and I would like to thank Norm Weismantel for taking the minutes for me and Betty Weismantel for typing the minutes and preparing the copies for distribution throughout the year. Our appreciation to all those members who helped us in the many aspects of running concerts and functions and a special thank you to the ladies who work so hard on the refreshments at our concerts. A thank you also to the members of the Y.O.A. who help out as ushers. Thanks to the members who have made their homes available for Home Organ Parties throughout the year. Thanks also to the Committee Members who have opened their homes for meetings during the year.

The membership stands at approximately 500 and with your support both physically and financially throughout the coming year I feel sure this Division of TOSA will move forward to a bigger and brighter future.

E.W.VALE.
Hon. Secretary.
16th November 1983.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



DECEMBER

SUNDAY 4th at 2.00pm

PAID CONCERT at the Marrickville Wurlitzer
Featuring: TONY FENELON
Admission: Adults \$6, Members \$5, Concession \$3.

MONDAY 5th at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE MEETING at 120 Dennis Street, Lakemba.
Visitors are welcome to attend.

FRIDAY 9th at 7.00pm

TOSA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Venue: LYNDEL LODGE
99-103 The Avenue, Hurstville.

Guest Organist: RORY THOMAS

Special Guest Artist: PAUL MAYBURY

Dinner and Dancing.

This will be a night to remember!

See inside for booking details.

JANUARY

MONDAY 9th at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE MEETING 120 Dennis Street Lakemba.

WEDNESDAY 25th at 7.30pm

CLUB NIGHT at Marrickville Town Hall.

Bring your music and play the Wurlitzer!
Come along and join your fellow members for a
relaxing evening. Inspect the pipe chambers and
get to know your instrument and its wonders.

SUNDAY 29th at 3pm

POOL PARTY at the home of Phyl and Ron Wilson

at 120 Dennis Street, Lakemba. Bring your own steaks,
Salad etc will be provided. Don't forget your swimmers
and your music!

Admission: Gents \$2, Ladies \$1.50 plus a plate please
towards supper.

Bookings: Call 759 6050 and be early!

IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME!

HOME PARTY at Oyster Bay, Sunday 16th October.

This Home Party had all the ingredients for a super time of entertainment. Our Host, Joseph Maennl had made every effort to see that his star pupils were all prepared to give their best and the talented line up of younger players were a pleasure to hear. Unfortunately, the only thing missing was TOSA members which was a shame. The lack of support for this well planned afternoon rather surprised me. However, those who couldn't attend missed some great music and top entertainment.

Among the many artists who performed were Simone Fuller (piano) Erik Tomek (organ) Briggitte Maennl and singer Debbie McGuinness who also played the organ and piano. Sharon Maennl played the piano, Edith Tomek (organ) Jennifer Fosket (piano) and Giancarlo Giacci(organ).

We also had the pleasure of hearing Clinton White from the ACT Chapter and TOSA member Peter Held who excelled himself on the big Hammond organ. I think you can gather from this collection of artists we got a big variation in pieces and presentations which made it a very rewarding time for all the listeners.

Joseph Maennl let go on his beautiful set of vibes accompanied by some recorded music, another thrill for everyone and a rare happening at any concert. Many thanks to all the artists who performed and particularly to our hosts the Maennl family for this wonderful afternoon of variety.

STOP PRESS: Joseph Maennl will be holding a further Home Party early next year, so I advise you strongly. DONT miss it! (Watch TOSA NEWS for the advice)

**PANTOMIME
LIVE ON STAGE**

— JANUARY, 1984 —

Philip W. Doyle Presents

THE MECCA THEATRE PRODUCTION
OF
ALL NEW and NEVER SEEN BEFORE
FABULOUS, FUN PANTOMIME

"HANSEL AND GRETEL"

Starring Jo Peters as Panto Dame
with Stephen Hayes and Christy Miles
as Hansel and Gretel.

Under the musical direction of
Carey Beebe

Sets and scenery design by Morris Toohey
and directed by Philip W. Doyle

AT LAST A FAST MOVING PANTO
WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE —
ADULTS AND CHILDREN ALIKE!

FULL BAND IN THE PIT —SIX
SCENERY CHANGES — SINGING —
DANCING — VARIETY ACTS — GAGS!

**MECCA THEATRE
KOGARAH**

Commencing January 9th for exciting
Two Week Season . . .

JUST TOO GOOD TO MISS

PLUS

Silent Film

"Railway Stowaways"

WITH

ANDY CLYDE & BILLY BEVAN

and the

Mighty Wurlitzer

Weekdays....11am - 1.15

Saturday....2pm

\$5.00 & \$3.50



Clinton White



Brigitte Maennl plays for singer Debbie McGuinness



Peter Held



Mercedes Maennl disco-ing with Ernie Vale

Joseph Maennl playing the Vibes



CRONULLA ARTS THEATRE. (by Jane Raines)

On Friday night, November 4th, I had the pleasure of attending the Cronulla Arts Theatre in Surf Road Cronulla. Although it's very small, the theatre is beautifully appointed and is ideal for shows. Upon entering the theatre, to my great surprise and delight, I saw a very old and rather small organ which proved to be an original made by W. Dakertz and Co.

The organ had seven stops which included a Diapason 8ft, Violetta 4ft, Forte, Vox Humana, Forte, Voix Celeste 8ft and Diapason Treble 8ft. Nine small pipes were visible and the console boasted two foot pedals. Originally being in a church, the organ has since unfortunately lost all care and attention, but I'm sure if this was restored it would be a beautiful sounding instrument. Apparently the organ was used in the previous show but the owner still hadn't picked it up and left it on loan to the theatre.

WANTED TO BUY.

A record of Wilbur Kentwell playing the Bourne Electronic Organ. I require same for my library, having recently purchased the Bourne organ on which the recording was made.

Any other information photos, programs, tapes etc of the Franklin Show, The Great Levant etc that featured the organ. Please write to -

Ted Lloyd
'Windways'
27 Fairford Terrace
SEMAPHORE PARK STH AUS. 5019

or phone (08) 49 8416 at any hour.

(Any literature available on the Bourne Electronic organ would also be greatly appreciated as Ted intends to restore the instrument to its original condition)

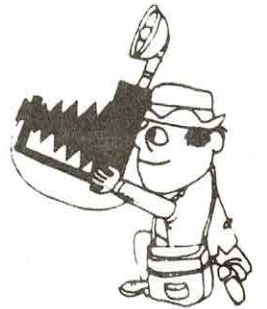
VISIT TO MASTERTOUCH PIANO ROLL COMPANY. Wednesday October 19th.

Congratulations to Mr. Barclay Wright and his dedicated group of friends for a most informative and interesting night.

After being made welcome to Mastertouch, a short colour-sound film was shown, after which the 87 members of TOSA were broken up into three groups to facilitate easier movement from the musical instrument section to the down stairs section which houses the recording room and roll making machinery.

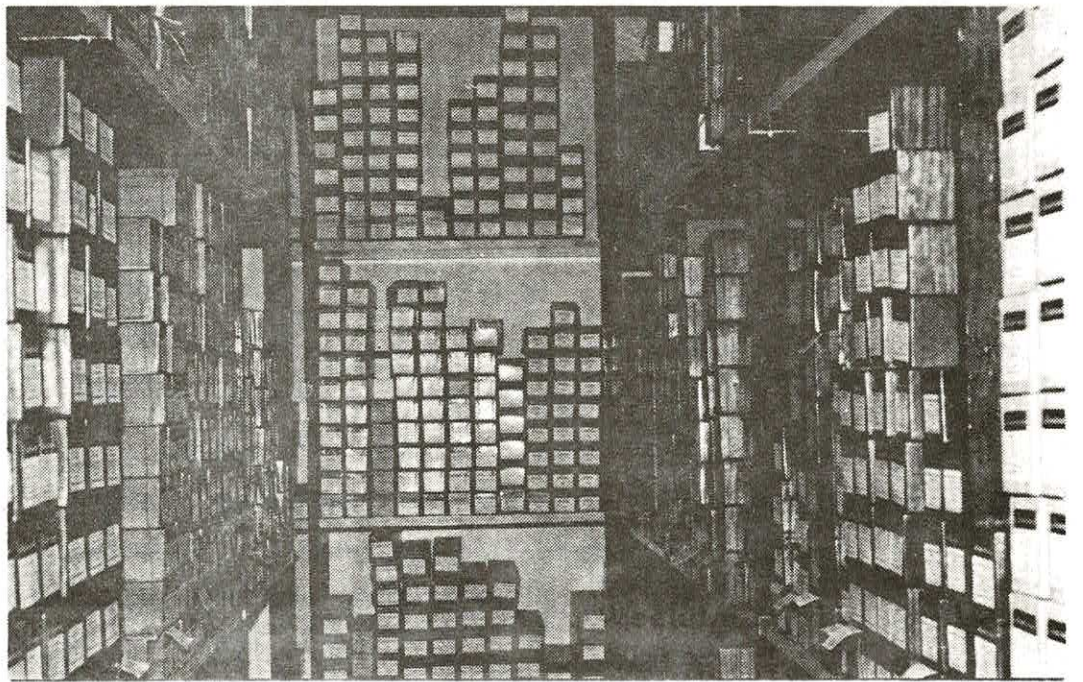
During the night, tea and coffee was served and members were able to wander around and admire the wonderful collection of musical instruments. Thanks must go to the 87 members who made it possible to raise the Mastertouch restoration fund by \$174.

Barclay Wright holds the interest of TOSA members as he describes and demonstrates some of the instruments on display.



TOSA members gather around the paper cutting machine for a demonstration.

A view of a small part of the vast Mastertouch collection of rolls



RESULTS OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1984.

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	Alan Misdale	
<u>VICE PRESIDENTS</u>	Doug Smith Frank Ellis	(unopposed)
<u>SECRETARY</u>	Ernest Vale	(unopposed)
<u>MINUTE SECRETARY</u>	Norm Weismantel	(unopposed)
<u>TREASURER</u>	Edna Smith	(unopposed)
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Bill Schumacher Neil Palmer Ron Wilson Phyl Wilson Robert Gliddon Ron Smith	

THE SELWYN THEATRE GROUP, MORTDALE.THEATRE ORGAN RECITALS, 1984.

January	22nd.	Sunday	2.15 p.m.	SIMON ELLIS.
February	19th.	Sunday	2.15 p.m.	ALEX BRITTON.
March	4th.	Sunday	2.15 p.m.	CHARITY CONCERT (Bardwell Park R.S.L.)
April	29th.	Sunday	2.15 p.m.	DAVID PARSONS.
May	20th.	Sunday	2.15 p.m.	DAVID JUDD.
June	17th.	Sunday	2.15 p.m.	REG. BLACK.

All the above functions may be booked in advance by phoning Ritchie Willis, on 57.3581. SELWYN PRODUCTIONS, 13 ROSEMONT AVENUE, MORTDALE. 2223.

THE SELWYN THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS - A CHARITY CONCERT.

(in aid of THE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S CENTRE of NEW SOUTH WALES.)

on SUNDAY, 4th MARCH 1984, at 2.30 p.m.

FEATURING:

VALDA LANG.	Organist.	MARIE TYSOE.	Mezzo Soprano.
DONALD WALL.	Baritone	BERNARD WALZ.	Pianist.
PATRICIA WOOLDRIDGE.	Soprano.	DAMIEN SCOTT	Organist.

ADMISSION: ADULTS. \$5.00. CONCESSION. \$3.00.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS: Available from Ritchie Willis. Phone 57.3581.

Tickets also available at the door.

ORGAN: By courtesy of the "ORGAN STOP", WALTONS, BANKSTOWN.

DINING FACILITIES: Available to the Concert Audience at the Club.

WARREN LUBICH CONCERT...Sunday 30th October

(by Doug Smith)

To describe the exaltation deserving of this concert is very hard, so I will simply mention some of the comments I overheard from the obviously delighted audience and I quote...Super!...Fantastic!...Best artist this year!...When's he coming back again?...just to give you a few of them.

A no nonsense artist, Warren Lubich commenced the program with a rousing On A Wonderful Day Like Today, then apologised because it had started to rain! The seldom heard Chloe came next then a 20's medley consisting of At Sundown, Honeysuckle Rose and Blue Room. The audience was now warming to Warren Lubich and his pleasant style of playing and the applause got louder with each piece. The well known 'Ice Castles' movie theme, Through The Eyes Of Love was next then a small touch of ragtime with a catchy Bohemia, both well received.

Warren's forte was his excellent expression, giving the melody line full attention without overdoing the razmataz and 'technique', and the audience accepted this as quite a nice change. His bench patter was pleasant but was kept short and to the point, another obvious variation to something that seems to get overdone these days. After a delicate Softly As In A Morning Sunrise we were treated to that old favourite medley from Showboat...Along Came Bill...Make Believe, Why Do I Love You...01' Man River, bringing forth big applause from the very appreciative listeners. Then a change of times and we heard the theme from the Thorn Birds by Henry Mancini and the Beatles hit When I'm Sixty Four. There's no doubt that Warren Lubich had given his program some very careful thought and his promise of something for everybody was completely fulfilled. Even Strauss got his spot with I'm In Love With Vienna and then came the well known Frank Mills' Music Box Dancer, again both very well done.

As described by our artist, the next piece was the original introduction number for the Capitol Theatre in New York City whenever the Wurlitzer was presented during performances, namely the Capitol March. This was an inspiring tune and one could easily imagine the console rising in the theatre as this stirring theme progressed. Our very own M.C., Vice-President Frank Ellis was so impressed he even publicly suggested we might use it ourselves one day in the future..oh well..ho hum.

The second half opened with Under The Double Eagle in fine style, then the ever popular Smoke Gets In Your Eyes and Cornsilk (a first for Marrickville) from the early forties. John Denver's My Sweet Lady and then a touch of Samba with a catchy Brazil with tasteful use of the percussions.

The ever popular Tara's Theme from Gone With The Wind followed Ivor Novello's Waltz Of My Heart and the afternoon slowly came to a close with Estrelita del Sur a Peruvian Walz, a delightful Habanera from Carmen then some New York melodies which included the best calliope segment I've ever heard at Marrickville in Sidewalks Of New York. His final medley was the famous Student Prince medley, Golden Days...Just We Two...Serenade...Drinking Song...Deep In My Heart Dear, and the Students Marching Song. This brought a huge round of applause and yells for more and Warren obliged with the usual San Francisco medley..I Left My Heart and Open Your Golden Gates etc.

A most enjoyable concert throughout and I'm sure that those people who could not attend missed a very appealing afternoon of 'greats' played in the manner we like to hear them. Thanks indeed to Warren Lubich who will always be most welcome back to Marrickville. Our thanks to the three Sutherland YOA girls for their ushering efforts and who were rewarded with a personal photograph at the Wurlitzer with our artist and a signed autograph each. Total attendance..240 persons.

RON SMITH. Newly elected committeeman Ron Smith (or perhaps it's re-elected after two years rest??) was unable to attend the Annual General Meeting due to a short stay in St. George Hospital. Ron has only just recently returned from a posting in New Guinea with Westpac Travel Service. By the time you read this message Ron should be home recuperating. We all wish you a speedy recovery, Ron.



Warren Lubich in concert at Marrickville Town Hall, 30th October 1983.



Warren Lubich with three members of the Sutherland branch of the Youth of Australia. From L to R Kathleen Hoddinott, Janelle Hoddinott, Andrea Harrison.



INTERSTATE NEWS

JENSEN BACK FROM TRIUMPHANT TOUR.

Neil Jensen arrived back in Melbourne on Sunday October 23, on top of the World at the success of his two months concert tour of New Zealand, the United States and Canada. Audiences at his 20 concerts totalled approximately 11,500, the largest being 2,000 at the Riviera Theatre, Buffalo, and an incredible 2,500 for the concert on the 4/22 Wurlitzer in the Auditorium Theatre, Rochester, N.Y.

Neil will be the featured organist at the TOSAVIC Club Night in Moorabbin Town Hall on Wednesday night, November 1. As well as playing some music on Australia's largest Wurlitzer, Neil will talk about his tour, and if they are back from processing, show some slides of the installations he played.

Neil also scored a hit with his record, released here shortly before his departure overseas, Neil Jensen Australia Wide, the items on which are played on four Wurlitzers - - Wyatt Hall 2/12 and St. Peter's College 3/15 in Adelaide, and the Dendy 3/15 and Moorabbin Town Hall 4/22 in Melbourne. Sales on the tour totalled about 900. The Americans were amazed by the quality of the organs in Australia, and according to Neil, found the sound of the Dendy Wurlitzer "unbelievable".

- - - Vox Magazine, T.O.S.A. Victoria Divn. Nov. '83.

T.O.S.A. VICTORIA - ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.

At the recent Annual General Meeting of T.O.S.A. (Victoria Division) the following people were elected to serve as the Executive for the next twelve months. The Members of the N.S.W. Division wish them a successful year in office, and look forward to a great Convention in Melbourne during Easter 1984.

President: Kent Wilson, P.O. Box 147, Warragul. Vic. 3820

Vice President: Ray Gregory, 62 Sussex Street, Coburg. Vic. 3058.

Secretary: Mrs. Betty McKillen, 13 Berkeley Street, Doncaster, Vic. 3108.

Treasurer: Don Bladier, 20 Alice Street, Mt. Waverley, Vic. 3149.

NORFOLK ISLAND - WHAT BETTER PLACE FOR AN ORGAN CONVENTION.

The Norfolk Island Concert Organ Society's "Mini-Convention" week 10th to 17th September 1983, was a great success, to say the least. We were fortunate enough to be able to join them and twenty two members of the Howick Organ Club (Auckland, New Zealand). Organised by President, Peter Irwin and wife Joan, in close collaboration with Ray Stanton (President of the Howick Club), we were feasted, toasted and entertained right royally. We were all able to "have a go" at Peter's C3 Hammond, his Compton organ and his magnificent 1821 Broadwood grand piano. Another interesting organ was Jim Anderson's Schober, which he has built entirely himself. Then there was the Old Father Willis organ in St. Barnabas' Chapel, over 100 years old and needing some repair, but still being used for Sunday services. With one manual of only thirty two notes, it was something of a challenge!

If any T.O.S.A. members are wondering where to go for their next holiday - why not Norfolk Island? Only 2¼ hours from Sydney, this gem in the Pacific is a little world where cows have the right of way over motor cars (costs you \$200 if you hit one), only one street light on the whole island, beautiful scenery at every turn, lots of good accomodation and eating places, duty free shopping and friendly people. Their friendliness was only equalled by that of the bunch of Kiwis from Howick, so you can understand why the whole week went off with a bang!

Beryl and Mostyn Lower, - - T.O.S.A. News, S.A. Divn. Nov. '83.

INTERSTATE NEWS ... cont.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PENSIONERS' CONCERT AT BALLARAT.

The second Annual Theatre Organ Concert, arranged and presented particularly for Pensioners, was once again thoroughly enjoyed by a very happy audience of nearly 600 people - - an extremely good attendance for Monday afternoon ...
THE MONDAY FUNDAY.

Many flattering comments were received from various people who attended from many parts - even as far as Sydney. Ian Roche from Sydney T.O.S.A. came to Ballarat especially to hear our Compton in Concert. We were delighted to welcome him to the Ballarat Division and it was interesting to learn that Ian had actually visited the Ritz Theatre at Warrington (the original home of our Compton), about 3 weeks prior to the concert - must have been there about the same time as Winston Loveland. The stalls of the theatre are now being used for Bingo.

A new member from Bendigo told us that he has never enjoyed an organ concert as much as he did on this occasion. It was such a happy atmosphere, with Cyril Pearl, not only in good form, but he played a programme especially arranged for the audience. This was carried out with careful planning by Cyril and popular compere, Ray Gregory, and the audience certainly responded and fully participated.

Ray thoroughly deserved the honor of having his photo on the front page of the "Ballarat Courier", the next morning. It was very worthwhile for our Society to be able to give so much pleasure to so many people. Cyril and the Ballarat Compton gained quite a lot of new admirers, including visitors from Sunshine, Bendigo, St. Albans, Maidstone and Daylesford, who came in special buses arranged by Senior Citizens' Clubs, and of course, many Ballarat people from various groups.

- - - Western Victorian Division of T.O.S.A. Newsletter, November 1983.

KARRINYUP ROCKS 'EM (AND IT'S GROWING TOO!)

The Wurlitzer installed at the Karrinyup Cultural Centre was used for a cabaret evening on a professional basis this month and was played by its owners John Fuhrmann and Ray Clements. A rhythm unit was attached, and just as well as the capacity crowd demanded disco! The Korg unit was quite satisfactory according to Ray Clements and provided a very necessary foundation for modern dancing with the Wurlitzer.

The Karrinyup Wurlitzer has found yet another rank to bring it up to its proposed 15, a Kimball Dulciana has been acquired from the U.S. to fill another spot in the extra 3 rank chest purchased to expand the organ (a 10" Tibia has already been bought from John Ledwon). The boys now only need one more rank and they will be ready to install the extra chest. Trouble is they can't make up their minds what that will be. My vote is a POSTHORN! Of course a new 3-manual console will be necessary to bring it all off successfully and John and Ray are looking into that now. A short additional note to this: Ray Thornley's first concert on this organ was an outstanding success and he took the risk and used that rhythm unit so that he could perform, with some musical integrity, modern RHYTHMIC pieces, and according to reports the hit of the concert was the VERY rhythmic "Flashdance". More please.

- - - Theatre Organ News, compiled by Ian McLean, "Keyboard World", Oct. 1983.



R.T.O.S. ADDING RANKS TO TWO WURLITZERS.

Rochester Theatre Organ Society is upgrading both its 4/22 Wurlitzer in the Auditorium Theatre and its 3/8 Wurlitzer in Eisenhardt Auditorium during the summer months. The Eisenhardt organ is being restyled as a Style 260 - seven ranks are being added to make it a 3/15.

Work on the big Auditorium Wurlitzer is taking more time while officials of the Society consider what new sets they will put in to bring the organ up to 25 or 26 ranks.

When the Eastman Theatre in Rochester removed its large Austin, the Society purchased the 32 ft. metal Bombarde rank. This is one of the sets definitely due to be added to the big instrument.

CROME, LARSEN ON BAY THEATRE JOB.

Organist Lyn Larsen and organman Ken Crome have been working on the Loderhose Wurlitzer at the Bay Theatre in Seal Beach, Calif. (ex New York Paramount Theatre Studio Wurlitzer plus additions. - Ed.) Loderhose has purchased Larsen's grand piano to add to the instrument and has added a five-ton air conditioning system to keep the large organ blower cool. The organ will be ready for its debut early next year.

Although not in finished state, visiting organists have stopped by to play it. In recent weeks Ashley Miller, Robert Vaughn, Dan Bellomy and Larsen have given the Wurlitzer a work-out. All have expressed approval of the installation.

AUSSIE STAR HAS BIG RECORD BILL.

Arriving at Los Angeles International Airport for the start of his U.S. concert tour, Australian Neil Jensen was whisked off to Leisure World at Laguna Hills, Calif., and played two standing ovation programmes. He then returned to the airport area to remain overnight until his flight next day to Chicago. While there he went to pick up his packages of recordings (there were about 700 sent via expensive air freight) and learned the bill was around the \$2,000 mark! Some were sent on to the various locations where he will appear, but he was left with three boxes of albums - 100 in each carton.

What to do with them - the weight, about 50 pounds each - posed a heavy problem. It was solved when "The Console" agreed to pick up and hold them until Jensen returns to the West Coast for his trip home.

It must be added that a copy of Jensen's album was given "The Console" and it has created quite a sensation everytime it has been played. Stateside and English organists had better gather up their laurels and hang onto them because they now have another (Tony Fenelon has already set his mark) Australian whose artistry is exceptional. The arrangements are nothing less than superb and presented in spectacular concert styling. Jensen is without doubt one of the great entertainment artists today. He's no 'flash-in-the-pan' and will be around for a long time to come. It is predicted he will become one of the leading organists who will be in demand for concert appearances internationally. The album, "Neil Jensen Australiawide", was recorded on four Australian Wurlitzers and can be ordered from Keymedia Productions, P.O. Box 78 Glen Iris, Victoria, 3146.

OVERSEAS NEWS ... cont.HOT REMOVAL.

Removal of the Chicago Oriental Theatre Wurlitzer 4/20 is currently underway. The only complaint heard is about temperature. Inside the theatre the thermometer has been hitting the high 90 degree (F) range. This coupled with more stairs than anyone cares to count, discloses who the real organ nuts are - anyone that can overlook discomfort to save another theatre organ!

FRANK OLSON DIES WHILE PLAYING LONDON SHOW.

Frank Olson, well known Scottish/Canadian theatre organist, died Sunday morning, September 4th, in London, England as he was presenting a concert at the Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square, for Rank Leisure Services. According to a telephone report, Olson had just brought up the five-manual Compton console in his opening selection and had turned to acknowledge the applause from his audience when he collapsed and fell from the organ bench into the orchestra pit, the victim of a massive heart attack.

Bert Bartram, head of Rank Leisure Services, came to Olson's aid as soon as he witnessed him falling. An ambulance was called and within five minutes Olson was placed on a stretcher equipped with oxygen and carried out of the theatre. It was not learned if he had died in the fall or later in the hospital. His age, it is estimated by friends, was "well into the seventies". He made his home in Port Colbourne, Ontario, Canada, and as was his custom during past years, returned to the British Isles during each summer on concert tours. The concert during which the tragedy occurred was part of this year's tour. (Many members will have a copy of the recording made by Frank Olson on the Hilsdon Theatre Pipe Organ installed in "The Picture House", Paisley, Scotland, released some years ago by the Concert Recording Company. - Ed.)

- - - News source, "The Console" Magazine, Sept. '83.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Stan Oldfield, Joyce Wallace, Jeff Gehrman, D & M Bates, Warren Lubich (US)

A warm welcome is extended to our new members. Please attend our Club Night in January next year and have a go at the Wurlitzer and meet some of your fellow members.

THANKS TO TOSA PEOPLE.

Lance and Marj Wells wish to thank their TOSA friends for the beautiful flowers and the many cards and phone calls and enquiries since my recent accident. I deeply appreciate your sympathy and hope it will not be long now before I will be in circulation again. The moral to all this is. watch where you walk! With many many thanks.

Yours very sincerely

Marj Wells.

THANKS TO NORFOLK ISLAND PEOPLE.

Mrs. Gloria Loughheed of Caringbah recently holidaying on Norfolk Island spent a pleasant evening at the home of Peter and Joan Irwin at Ball Bay. Many thanks to Peter and Joan for their hospitality and we hope your recent convention was a huge success.

"Did you know that?"

by Ian R. McIver.

Sidney (later Lord) Bernstein opened on 15th September, 1930, his first suburban London "Granada" super-cinema, at Walthamstow. Its richly mirrored foyer led through an Italianate terrace to a 3000-seat Moorish auditorium (now split into a main auditorium and two 'mini theatres' under the circle) somewhat less flamboyant but as impressive as the better-known interiors of Tooting and Woolwich Granadas. The site for this theatre was very appropriate, for it had previously been occupied by the Victoria Hall, which had been a full-time cinema since 1907, and where the first moving picture show in Walthamstow had been presented as long ago as 10th June 1896.

Naturally, an organ was installed, a Christie, like those in most of Bernstein's earlier theatres. This was one with a difference; on the opening night "Mr. Smith" (Charles Willis) rose from the pit seated at a three-manual console, and then the curtains parted to reveal "Miss Smith" (Josie Bradley) on stage seated at an identical three-manual console. The organ is one of the loveliest-toned ever built by Christie, and the effect of the duet by Mr. and Miss Smith" must have been electrifying. Further musical entertainment was provided by a 20-piece orchestra directed by E.J. Barber.

Organ duets continued to be presented for some years, next with Frank Matthew and Elaine Bair, and later by Harold Ramsay and Frank Matthew. Some records were issued of Harold Ramsay at "the organ of the Granada, Walthamstow", on Decca label, but all those I have heard were actually recorded at Tooting Granada!

The provision of two or more consoles capable of simultaneous use on one organ was technically simple for organs equipped with electric or electro-pneumatic action. There had been a few multi-console organs in "pre-electric" days, of which the best known were Flight & Robson's "Apollonicon" of 1817, which had five (later six) independent single-manual consoles and a triple barrel-playing mechanism, and the Hill organ installed in 1853 in the Royal Panopticon of Science and Art, which had three conventional consoles. Once electricity was used to link the console and pipes, it became possible to latch up any number of consoles to an organ. Church, cathedral, concert and residence organs, particularly in America, soon began to appear with twin consoles; in 1924 Jesse Crawford and his wife Helen began playing duets at the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer, and the idea was taken up by several other theatres in America and Australia, culminating in the giant Radio City Music Hall Wurlitzer. At one time the Wurlitzer organ in the Paramount, New York, is said to have had six consoles, all operating one set of relays, and for a short time a further miniature console was connected, to enable Jesse and Helen Crawford's toddler daughter to play trios with her famous parents.

Multi-console organs were not so popular in British theatres, but Compton installed four with twin consoles in Astoria theatres in 1929-30, one at the Ritz Maidstone (1935) and the famous Southampton Guildhall organ of 1937, with a 4 manual theatre organ console as well as the 4 manual concert organ console. Christie installed two such instruments, at Walthamstow and the Pyramid, Sale (1934).

At Walthamstow, the two consoles were connected to a single set of relays. Although both have working stopkeys, these are additive in effect (if Tibia 8 were set on the Solo manual of one console and Trumpet 8 on the Solo manual of the other, both would sound from the Solo manuals of both consoles.). The third manual on the pit console had a couple of speaking stops, plus couplers, whereas on the stage console this manual was permanently connected to the Chrysoglott and had no stops. There is some evidence to indicate that originally the third

GRANADA THEATRE, WALTHAMSTOW ... cont.

manual on the pit console was connected permanently to the Chrysoglott and that the couplers and other stops were added later on.

I am fortunate in having in my possession an old notebook dating from wartime days in which organists noted faults to be corrected on tuner's visits. Granada's policy had for many years been that organists 'toured' the circuit, playing for a week or so at each theatre, so here are some of the names to be found in the book, with the odd candid comment!: Ronald Hanmer (12/4/43), Tony Lowrey (Oct 1943) "Blow it up with dynamite ... I bid 2/6 for old wood"), Doreen Chadwick (24/10/43), Cecil Chadwick (20/11/43), Hal Payne (31/1/44 "Fire alarm ciphering ... it is now in the corner of the chamber (!)"), Jackie Brown (22/2/44 "Main and Solo Swell pedals won't stay closed - not that it makes much difference"), Hal Payne, again (6/3/44 "heartily endorse above") ... Perhaps the most intriguing note is by Cecil Chadwick, and dates from April, 1943, to the effect that a stop cipher which occurred could be cured temporarily by leaning on the lift column! 27 faults were reported in the first six months of 1944. There were no entries between 1st. Aug, 1944 and 9th Feb, 1945. A flying bomb fell outside the theatre on 16th August, 1944, badly damaging the Granada which was closed for three months. The organ was badly shaken, creating conditions which in the years to come were to lead to many pipes, slightly shaken off true, buckling under their own weight.

The organ's mechanical condition was far from perfect even before the bomb damage, and in the early 1950's there was talk of replacing it with the 3/12 Wurlitzer salvaged from the war-damaged Gaumont, Holloway. However, nothing came of this, and by the mid-1950's most Granada organs were hardly used anyway, except for Saturday morning children's shows. In 1957, a big stage spectacular was featured, and the pit, including the console there, was covered over. It is still there, in derelict state. Since then, the organ has been playable only from the stage console, and was last used for children's shows by George Welling in about 1970. By then its mechanical condition had become so bad that one had to play it almost 'flat out' to be sure of avoiding missing notes. Tonally it was still superb; mechanically it was a wreck.

At this point, "RIP" could almost have been traced on the dusty console. However, a team of enthusiasts, John Abson, Pat Dunham, Bob Ince and John Leeming realised that here was something worth saving. They started work in 1974, and devoted many man-hours of work restoring the wilting pipework and overhauling the time-worn mechanisms. In time, their efforts bore fruit, and they transformed it from a beaten-up wreck into an instrument of singular character and beauty. By the summer of 1976, progress was such that John Abson and Alan Newman were able to feature it for a week of special presentations of, appropriately, "The Sound of Music". Soon, afterwards, it took its rightful place on the concert circuit.

The organ comprises 12 ranks of fine-toned well-blending pipes, ranging in volume from the majestic and fiery Orchestral Trumpet to the gentle strings and flute. The Saxophone is a specially-voiced rank of 30-note compass closely imitative of the band instrument. It is possible that the Orchestral Oboe rank was not originally fitted, and was a later addition. The two pipe chambers are located above the proscenium arch and speak through perforations in the arch itself. The shutters face the back wall of the stage, and the sound is directed downwards through a tone chute. The combination piston setter board is also over the stage, and this arrangement must have been soundly cursed over the years by organists facing an Alpine climb up a vertical iron ladder whenever they wanted to change piston settings.

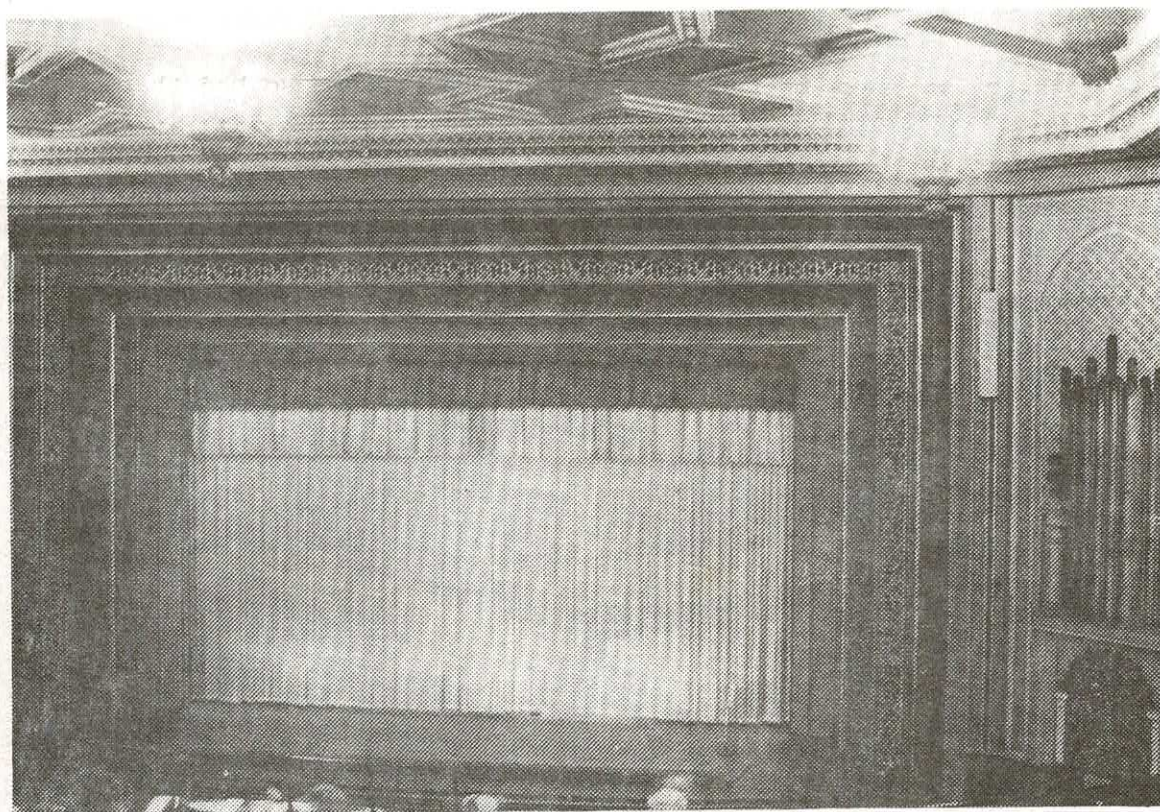
The stage console is mounted on a wheeled dolly, and can be placed anywhere on the stage, trailing the flexible air hose conveying wind to the console piston action and the main cable. In the rebuild a relay was installed to enable the Manual III stops available to that time only on the pit console to be playable from the formerly all-but-useless top manual of the stage console.

GRANADA THEATRE, WALTHAMSTOW ... cont.

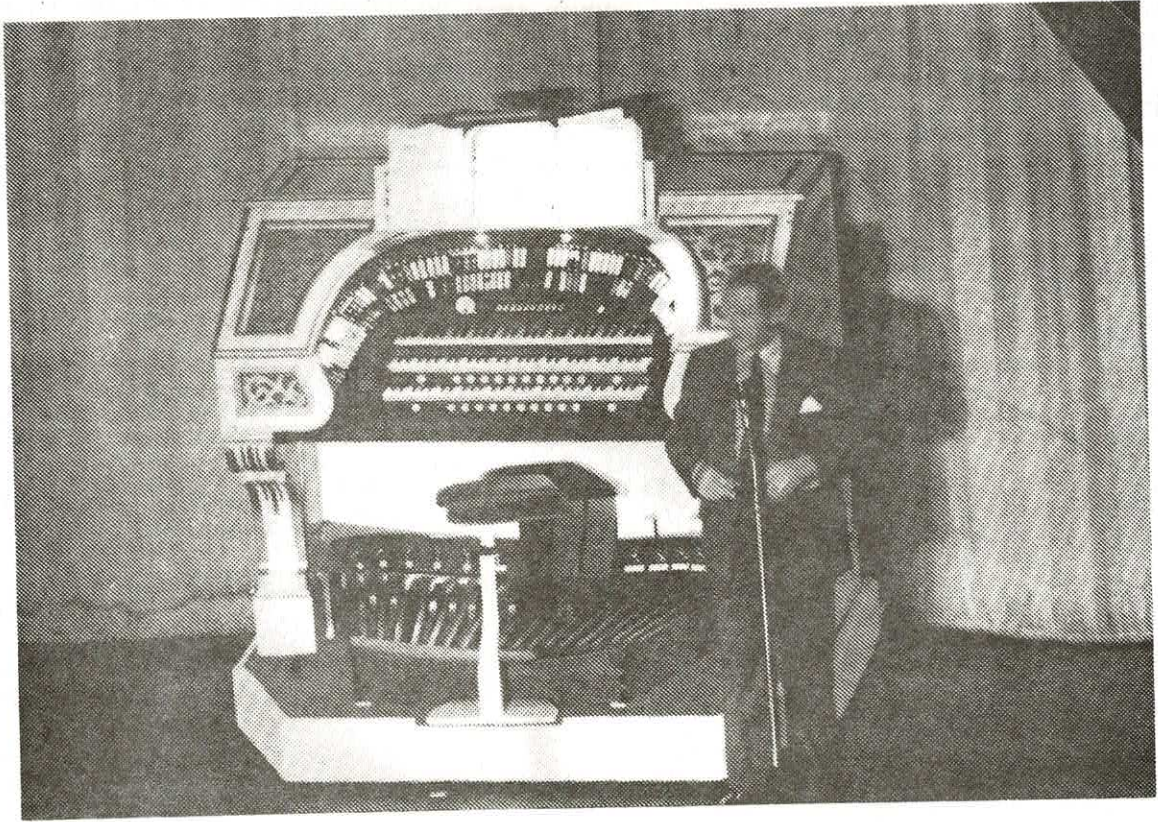
It is a real pleasure to be able to recount such an encouraging tale, as there are only a handful of Christie organs left in Britain in their original theatre 'homes', and this particular example must rate amongst the finest organs the company ever built. I cannot end without mentioning the valuable help and information provided by Granada Theatres Head Office, the management and projection staff of the theatre and John Leeming.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY.

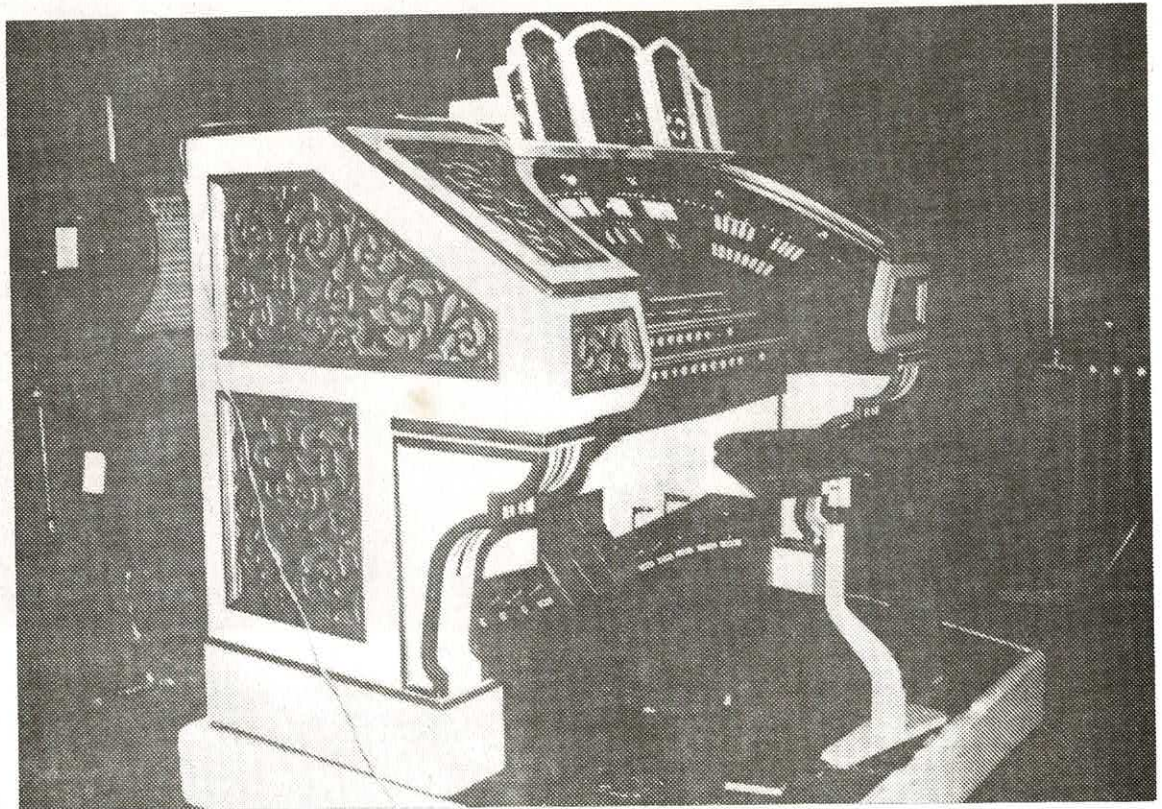
<u>Main Chamber:</u>	Open Diapason	Orchestral Oboe
Flute	Strings (2 ranks)	Chrysoglott
Traps/Effects		
<u>Solo Chamber:</u>	Orchestral Trumpet	Horn
Tibia Clausa (wood)	Viole d'Orchestre	Vox Humana
Clarinet	Saxophone (30 notes)	Glockenspiel
Xylophone	Chimes	



Granada, Walthamstow.



Bryan Rodwell at Granada - Walthamstow.



3/11 Christie - Granada, Walthamstow.

CONVENTION 1984

(BOOKING FORM AND DETAILS OF PRICES IN NEXT ISSUE.)

Day	Period	Time	Function	Venue
FRIDAY 20.4.84.	Afternoon & Evening	From 3 p.m. onwards Light Dinner provided 5.45 - 7 p.m.	Registration - 12 organists to entertain, concluding with supper	Cinema North Reservoir
SATURDAY 21.4.84.	Morning	9 a.m.	Concert featuring leading artists from Australia wide. (Includes basket lunch at theatre.)	Cinema North Reservoir
	Afternoon	1.30 p.m.	Concert, featuring Tony Fenelon & Gordon Hamilton on organ & piano.	Melbourne Town Hall
	Evening	7 p.m. to midnight	Convention Dinner Dance (All drinks included.)	Tivoli Reception Centre, Ascot Vale.
(Bookings for Dinner must close 4.2.84)				
SUNDAY 22.4.84	Morning	10.30 a.m.	Inspection of new Victorian Arts Centre, followed by demonstration of organ by John Atwell.	Victorian Arts Centre
	Afternoon	2 p.m.	Concert featuring Neil Jensen & Ray Thornley	Dallas Brookes Hall
	Evening	8 p.m.	Lance Luce - our special convention guest artist, playing Australia's greatest Wurlitzer.	Moorabbin Town Hall
MONDAY	All Day	Depart 9 a.m. return Melb.	A day in & around Geelong with a visit to hear a 1917 residence Wurlitzer played by Alan Glover	Geelong
TUESDAY	All Day	Depart 9 a.m. return Melb. 6 p.m.	Inspection of Warragul Arts Centre barbeque lunch & inspection of Darnum Musical Village.	Warragul

WURLITZER WONDER - January 7th at 11.00 p.m. at the State Theatre, Sydney

Alan Tranter, resident organist at the State Theatre, will perform a choice selection of traditional organ pops.

The enchanting voice of Jean Kelso Smith will be heard in such favourites as "With a Song in My Heart", "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", "I Get a Kick Out of You", "Summertime", "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", "Lullaby of Broadway", and songs of Noel Coward and Ivor Novello.

Accompanying Jean will be David Kinsela, who will also play Charles Ives' "Variations on America" (better known to Australians as "God Save the Queen")

Admission:	Adults	\$10.00
	Concession	\$ 8.00

BOOKINGS AT MITCHELL BASS AND DOOR.

The above programme is but a small portion of "ORGANFEST" which is itself part of the "FESTIVAL OF SYDNEY. Other programmes and times are listed below, further details and bookings at MITCHELL BASS.

JANUARY 7th: MOSTLY MOZART. - Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House.
WURLITZER WONDER. - State Theatre, Market St., SYDNEY.

JANUARY 9th: PEEP THE PIPER - Sydney Town Hall
(Children's Programme.)

JANUARY 10th: LUNCH-HOUR RECITAL - Sydney Town Hall

JANUARY 11th: PEEP THE PIPER - Sydney Town Hall
(Repeat Programme)

JANUARY 13th: LUNCH-HOUR RECITAL - Sydney Town Hall

JANUARY 15th: ORGANFEST CLOSING CONCERT - Sydney Town Hall.



See page 19 for details