

T.O.S.A. NEWS

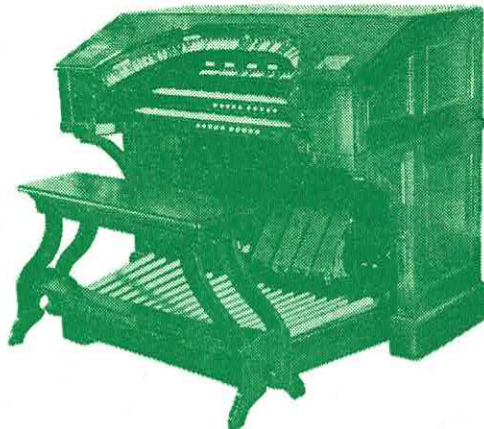
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE DIVISIONS OF N.S.W., QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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1st February 1969

--NEW LOOK TOSA NEWS FOR 1969--

WHAT'S ON IN N.S.W. IN FEBRUARY.

WEDNESDAY 19th FEBRUARY AT 8pm.

Our Honorary member REUBERT HAYES will make his first appearance at the console of the Society's Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ at the Marrickville Town Hall. Although REUBERT HAYES has given many concerts for the Society in the last few years on electronic organs, this will be the first time he has appeared at the console of a Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ since he played the opening recital of our 1963 Convention at Sydney's Capitol Theatre. The guest artist will be Miss JULIE CARR soprano, who was such an outstanding success at the Premiere of our Wurlitzer last November. Tickets are already on sale at R.H. Elvy's organ showroom in Clarence Street Sydney, and will also be available at the doors on the night of the concert. The price to the general public will be \$1 each with children half price. TOSA members will be given a 25% reduction by presenting their 1969 membership cards at the doors. Children of members will be admitted FREE as is our usual custom. All pensioners will be admitted for 50¢ each on production of their entitlement at the doors. This is a NOT TO BE MISSED EVENT and will be widely advertised in the daily press. REUBERT HAYES AT THE SOCIETY WURLITZER - 19th FEBRUARY.

SATURDAY 1st MARCH AT 8pm - TECHNICAL LECTURE.

Lecturer Ray Garrett will be giving the second half of his lecture on loudspeakers at the residence of our members Mr & Mrs Arthur Spring on Saturday 1st March at 8pm. Ray has arranged a number of practical demonstrations to illustrate his lecture, and members will be invited to ask any questions regarding their own organ speaker problems. All those planning to attend are asked to phone Vice-President Des Russell at 42-4729 and make a reservation. If seating accommodation permits, members may bring interested friends by making arrangements with Des Russell.

SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY - 1969's FIRST ORGAN PARTY.

The first organ party for 1969 will take place at the residence of our members George and Joyce Walker at 21 Lyne Road, Cheltenham on Saturday 22nd February at 8pm. The Walkers are now the proud owners of a new organ - a Conn Minuet model 543 which has the same specifications as the Conn Theatre Spinet. George and Joyce are donating the proceeds of the evening to the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund and a charge of \$1 per person will be made. You are asked to phone them at 86-5871 if you plan to attend, and let them know how many in your party. There is always a friendly welcome to our members at the Walker home, and all those who have attended previous organ parties there know just how pleasant an evening there, can be. With a brand new organ to add to the occasion, this promises to be a wonderful evening. George and Joyce organised the Christmas dinner and concert which took place at the Ryde Presbyterian Church Hall last December and was such a great success.

NEW LOOK" TOSA NEWS FOR 1969.

As you may already have noticed, TOSA News has a "new look" this month. The handsome-looking console pictured above is that of our own Wurlitzer organ at Marrickville Town Hall. This replaces the picture of the State Theatre's 4 manual Wurlitzer, which we had used for so many years. The Society's image will be enhanced by having the console of our own organ pictured each month and it will serve to remind us all of the debt we owe to the members who gave up so much of their time to carry out the task of restoring and re-installing it in the splendid auditorium which is its new home.

COMING EVENTS.

In March there will be a concert on the John Clancy residence Wurlitzer organ featuring an artist we have not previously heard playing a Wurlitzer organ. Full details will be given in next month's TOSA News.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Newly elected members of the Committee, in particular, are reminded that Committee meetings are held on the first Monday in each month at 7.15pm sharp at the Latvian Hall, Parnell Street Strathfield. The February meeting will be held on Monday 3rd February and the March meeting on Monday 3rd March.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.

The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers of the Society, took place at Wesley Auditorium on Wednesday 22nd January. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, after which reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and President were read out. Retiring Committee man, Stan Holland was elected as Returning Officer, and conducted the election of Officers most efficiently. The elections resulted in the following persons being chosen as Officers for the next twelve months:-

Patron - Reginald Dixon MBE

President - Tom Halloran

Vice-Presidents - Frank Ellis & Des Russell

Secretary - John Clancy

Treasurer - Rod Blackmore

Committee:- A. Byrne - W. Schumacher - D. McDonald - W. Richards - R. Garrett and W. Schnitger.

Diaphone Editor - Rod Blackmore

TOSA News Editor - Frank Ellis

Auditor - Oscar Moen. Minute Secretary - Kevin Clancy. Host - Aubrey Byrne

Capitol Organ Maintenance Sub. Committee :- B. Tooker - W Schumacher - I Cameron - R. Gliddon - R. Reid.

P.E. Organ Maintenance Sub. Committee :- W. Richards - S. McKern - M. McKay - J. Quinnell - J. Waters - D. Parsons

Electronic Organ Sub. Committee:- D. Russell - R. Garrett - A. Spring - C. Tringham
E. Mirovitch - G. Hughes

Ladies Social Sub. Committee:- Mesdames Halloran - Walker - Castray - Wells

Research Sub. Committee:- V. Leon - I Cameron - G. Berry - R. Blackmore - Col Robertson

Pipe Organ Emergency Group:- S. Freeman - K Clancy - J. Castray - L. Wells - R Wells - M. Moore

Honorary Members :- Mannie Aarons - Cec Cranfield - Reubert Hayes - Ian Davies - Harry Weldon - Jean Penhall - Noreen Hennessy - Clarence Black - Charles Tuckwell - Peter Held and Eric Smith.

During the General Business discussions, which followed the Elections, member Robert Gliddon raised the question of the availability of the Society's organ at Marrickville for practise sessions by members. President Halloran stated in reply, that the organ would be available to members when certain work remaining to be carried out, was completed, and arrangements had been finalised regarding control of practise times. These details would be announced in TOSA News as soon as was practicable

JOH CONCERT IN POPULAR CONCERT.

Following the Business meeting, member JOH CONCERT presented a concert of popular organ music with the emphasis on the popular - hardly a classical note in sight. Due to the delay in the arrival of some components being shipped from Italy, JOH was unable to finish the three manual electronic organ he is building for use in the Club where he is resident, in time for the concert, as had been announced. Instead he appeared on stage with two quite small organs on which he and Stan Berry had spent a lot of time equipping with a complex big speaker system, in order to show what can be got out of even small organs when hooked up to a number of large speakers. The organs were a Toshiba and an Electroholme, a new arrival from Canada. The Electroholme was made available to JOH by Alec Brittain of Hurstville, who distributes the instrument.

The programme chosen by members who had telephoned their requests to JOH some days before the concert, obviously pleased the audience judging by the reception he received, and if, perhaps, he seemed a little nervous at the start, who could blame him - the ordeal of playing an entire recital on two such tiny instruments would have un-nerved

many an organist, but in minutes only, he was his old confident self and the show was quickly swinging along in fine style. It was quite surprising just what he was able to get out of both organs in the way of different voices. The guest vocalist, Miss JANET KAYE was a sophisticated and polished performer with an engaging personality. She obviously is a very experienced Club artist and her audience were quick to acclaim her polish and ability with several encores. The Society thanks JOH for a fine start to our 1969 Concert season as well as for his enthusiastic work in equipping the organs with all the extra gear necessary to make something special out of two small instruments. We also thank Stan Berry who gave up the whole day to assist JOH with the setting up and then spent the evening up in the projection booth operating the lights and sound systems during the concert.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

The N.S.W. Division welcomes the following new members who have just joined us and hopes that you will attend and enjoy as many of the functions as you possibly can. Its hello now to D. Marcy of Primbee - Mr & Mrs Bird of Sydney - and J. Sullivan of Cowra. Three new members joined the Western Australian Division and they are:- John Fuhrman of Perth - Francis Ryan of Perth and Ross Loneragan of Perth. A special welcome to John Fuhrman who is the resident organist at the Wurlitzer of the Metro Theatre, Perth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF PIPE ORGAN PURCHASE FUND.

Proceeds of tape copying \$6 - amounts of left over change from members dues, the sum of \$1 from member N. Stinson - and \$4 from member Noel Hanson. We sincerely thank the above for their help. The fund now stands at \$140.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS.

At the time of going to press (a week later than usual due to the Annual General meeting) the bulletin has not yet come to hand from our Queensland friends, so we apologise for the lack of news from "the sunshine state".

WEST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS from Ray Clements

At the Xmas party held by the W.A. Division on Friday December 13th, we were pleased to have quite a few visitors. The event was held at President Jim Thompson's home, and a gay time was had by all who attended. Three organs were on hand for the occasion, and those members with gifted fingers were kept busy changing from organ to organ.

The Division extends its congratulations to member Doug Miller on the acquisition of a new Thomas Theatre Organ.

For details of the February meeting, please phone the Secretary on 3-7854 during the first week in February when the venue for the function will be known.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS from The Vox Magazine

The Vox reports the sad news that the Melbourne Regent Theatre's Wurlitzer has been sold. "Sunday 12th January saw the last performance of the 4/19 Wurlitzer at Melbourne's Regent Theatre. The sumptuous sound of this installation will never be heard again. After an introductory welcome by the Division's President, Alan Glover, to the 500-600 attending, member Malcolm Simpson introduced TONY FENELON who opened the programme with his well known theme "Everything's Coming Up Roses". Despite the fact that as far as TONY and everyone else was concerned nothing could have been further from the truth, TONY played with his usual dash and brilliance of technique." With his familiarity with the instrument, TONY was able to cover up any defects in the organ as perhaps no other organist could have done. And so ends, very sadly, a brilliant era in the history of the Melbourne Regent Theatre - the combination of brilliant organist and an outstanding Wurlitzer installation in a theatre of dignity and beauty. TOSA members everywhere in this country are the poorer for the loss of the Regent's mighty Wurlitzer.

NSW Division Honorary member ERIC SMITH was featured in concert on the Dendy Wurlitzer on Sunday 19th January. Although TOSA News has not received any official report from the number of NSW members who attended the concert, we have been informed that ERIC gave a fine performance and has been invited to open the Wurlitzer organ now being installed in the Moorabbin Town Hall. This is the organ formerly in the Melbourne State Theatre, which the Victorian Division are installing for the Council.

RECORD NEWS.

As the release for February has not yet arrived from Concert Recording of USA, this give us the opportunity of a "catch-up month" and members who may have joined the "Organ Of The Month" Club in recent months may like to take the chance of buying some of the discs which were released before they joined the Club. Among the records which are available are the following:- These are in Stereo & Mono.

CR 0009 "French Goes Oriental" Don French
 CR 0011 "Paisley" Organist Frank Olsen
 CR 0013 "Concert Time" Dick Smith
 CR 0014 "The Grand One" Cecil Cranfield at Sydney Town Hall Organ
 CR 0026 "It's Wonderful" Ron Curtis
 CR 0027 "Thoroughly Modern Morton" Dalton McAlpine
 CR 0034 "The Paramount Sound" Bill Floyd

ALL THE ABOVE ARE PRICED AT \$5 EACH PLUS POSTAGE.

Also available in MONO only is "Dick Schrum at the Seattle Paramount Wurlitzer" the price of this disc being only \$4 including postage. The proceeds of this record go to our Pipe organ purchase fund. Available in Stereo only is the historic final recital at the Sydney Prince Edward Theatre played by our member Miss Noreen Hennessy. This disc is priced at \$5 including postage.

A GOOD CHANCE TO CATCH UP ON DISCS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED OUT ON IN THE PAST.

ORGANIST DEL CASTILLO MAY VISIT AUSTRALIA ??

In a letter to TOSA News Editor received a couple of days ago, famous American Theatre organist DEL CASTILLO offered his congratulations to the members of the NSW Division on having successfully opened the P.E. Wurlitzer organ at the Marrickville Town Hall. DEL would like very much to visit Australia, but its a long way off and he is a busy man with little time to spare, however he expressed a desire to get acquainted with us and said that if he is lucky he may get to make a visit. He is assured of a warm welcome should he be able to make the visit. DEL CASTILLO'S last recording was "HALF & HALF" on the Concert Recording label and featured a different organ on each side of the disc. He is also the author of a Primer of Organ Stops which is now available from Secretary John Clancy. This authoritative and informative booklet which describes the stops of the organ and their origins, is written with a good deal of humour by an organist of the widest experience. Its a must for organ lovers. Released at the A.T.O.E. Convention last year it was a big hit with Conventioneers at \$2 a copy. DEL has given permission for a limited number to be sold to our members at \$1.50.

LOCAL NEWS.

Over the Xmas Holiday period we were pleased to welcome Ray Clements, Secretary of the West Australian Division of the Society, to our city. Your Editor took him to visit John Clancy where he was able to try out the residence Wurlitzer, and also took him to have a look around the State Theatre as well as have a look at the mighty Wurlitzer. He was invited to try out the organ by the Management and enjoyed this privilege very much. He was also taken by the President to have a look at the Marrickville Town Hall installation, and before returning to the West, paid a couple more visits to John Clancy. Ray Clements is a very talented organist and we enjoyed listening to his handling of the Wurlitzers

During December, John Clancy also entertained the Vice-President of A.T.O.E., Richard Kline, during a brief visit to Sydney. Richard Kline has a 4/28 Wurlitzer currently being installed in his home and also an antique tracker action instrument. He was taken to inspect the historic St John's Parramatta tracker action instrument, as well as the Cec Taylor residence organ. He inspected and played the Sydney Town Hall organ, and also tried out the Clancy residence Wurlitzer. He and John had discussions on TOSA and A.T.O.E. matters and this of course is all to the good helping to bring our two organisations closer together. He was impressed with all he saw and since arriving back in America has written a letter of thanks to John in which he made mention of the 64' Reed in the Sydney Town Hall organ saying that although it hadn't shaken the walls down, it did put the fear of God into a person.

HAMMOND ORGAN CONVENTION. The Newcastle Hammond Organ Society will be holding their Annual Convention on 3rd and 4th of May at the Hunter Theatre. This will be their third Convention and judging by the success of the previous two, it should be a first class week end of organ music. It is planned to have reservations only for the event. Further details will be published when they are received from Newcastle.

AMERICAN 9th ANNUAL HOME ORGAN FESTIVAL "BEST YET"BY Peg Nielsen

(ASSOCIATE EDITOR -
 ("THEATRE ORGAN" MAGAZINE.
 (SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR TOSA NEWS)

The "Ninth Annual Home Organ Festival," again held at "Hoberg's in the Pines" (of Northern California), was from all indications, the best yet. Contributing factors to the excellence of the 1968 "Greatest Organ Show on Earth" were the choice of artists, improved staging (especially the lighting) and the introduction of an "artists pool" of organists who were available to play any of the brands of instruments on hand.

To place more stress on music and music makers, the Pacific Council for Organ Clubs, sponsor of the event, encouraged only limited participation by manufacturers this year with the result that only three of the big names, Conn, Wurlitzer and Thomas, participated fully, meaning they selected the models to be played, delivered instruments and set them up, maintained showrooms, and supplied their own artists. The other brands which appeared were solicited locally (in the San Francisco Bay Area) from merchants or individuals and artists were hired by PCOC to play them entirely independent of the manufacturers. One of the advantages of this system is that a given artist may be heard on several different organs instead of the one brand the firm-supplied artists must stick with. Thus, Mildred Alexander, so long associated with Hammond and Hammond alone, could be heard on the Conn and the Rodgers.

Another plus factor was in the choice of models possible with the new system. Firms nearly always want to plug their most colossal, most hyped models. PCOC didn't necessarily push the big models. Thus the largest Rodgers was a new "Trio" model, the popular but more modest best seller which is far more attainable for most people than the twelve to twenty-thousand dollar "specials" usually featured under Rodgers sponsorship in former years. The "full participation" firms this year brought along their best but not necessarily their largest models. For example, Conn featured its new model 642 instead of its more highly unified (and more expensive) "super deluxe" theatre model 645. Wurlitzer, back after a too long absence from the Festival, was the one exception in limiting the size of instruments played in concert. The model 4520 shown had the largest console and the greatest accumulation of sound power heard during the Festival.

The "full participants" demonstrated their more modest models in their showrooms, but none larger or more elaborate than those played in concert.

The roster of artists was the best balanced in years. It was Gaylord Carter's initial appearance at the HOF, and as anyone who knows Gaylord even remotely could predict, he was an instantaneous and smash hit. As Gaylord states it, "Thank Heavens, corn still pays off," but there's a lot more in the Carter bag of tricks than his reference to "maize" explains. Summing up, Gaylord is a wonderful showman in addition to being a top musician. And Mildred Alexander was on hand, for the first time free of the shackles of a single brand of instrument. She "may hay" on the Conn and Rodgers to flaunt her independence of the brand name so closely connected with her over the years, and also to state in music that her new teaching studio in San Diego, Calif., will be devoted to all kinds of organs, including a pipe organ when she can locate one. Never before has the graciousness and charm of this southern lady been more aptly demonstrated than at the 1968 Festival. And, due to the variety of instruments she played, her music had a greater scope than ever before.

Other artists were: Gus Pearson for Wurlitzer, Bill McCoy for Thomas, Lyn Larson on Baldwin, Al Bollington and Bud Iverson. Don Baker was simply magnificent'. A new artist, Helen Dell, played the Hammond X77 Model with devastating effect. She can play over a range of music from subtle to musical bawdiness, but always with delicacy.

Opening night broke all records, with the 800 seat auditorium full.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS.

Caption: THE MAIN GATE, just 'up the road a piece,' bore this greeting to Festival goers.

Caption: THE LINEUP. Six consoles are in evidence before the 'All Star Show' when all organs and star organists get a workout.

Caption: A LITTLE LEARNING. Conn's Bud Iverson explains how to play 'triplets' against a 4/4 beat during one of the Festival 'workshops.'

Caption: A rare sight -- Mildred Alexander (foreground) playing a Conn model 642. Until mid-1968 it was 'Hammond only' for 'Millie.' Helen Dell plays the Baldwin HT-2 for this 'jam session' duet.

Caption: THINGS FROM ANOTHER WORLD invade the Festival Costume Ball and hope for a prize. The Festival 'theme' for 1968 was 'a Trek to the Stars' and nowhere was it more evident than in the 'creatures' who attended the Ball.

TOSA HONORARY MEMBER IAN DAVIES PLAYS STATE THEATRE WURLITZER 4/21 AT PREMIERE OF FILM 'SHALAKO'.

Caption: FIRST GLIMPSE. After a winding journey through the pine hills of northern California, the main building of Hoberg's resort looms. The auditorium is in this building.

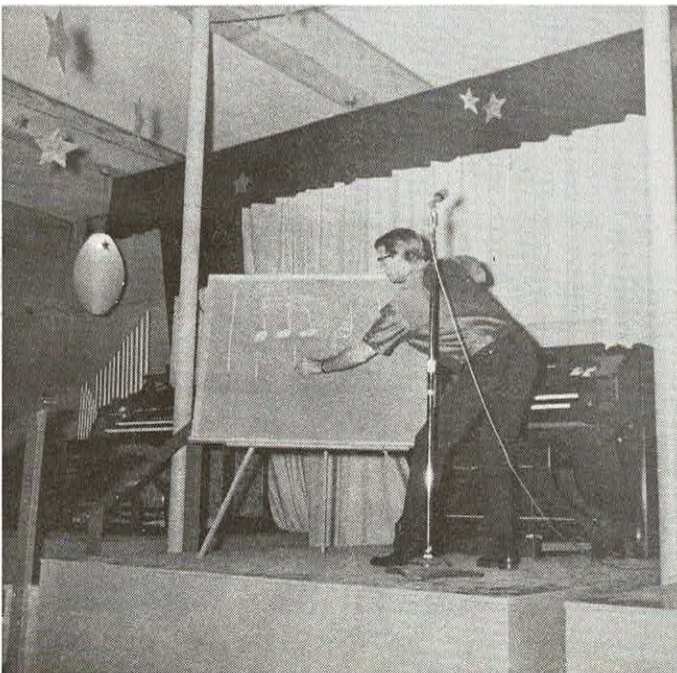
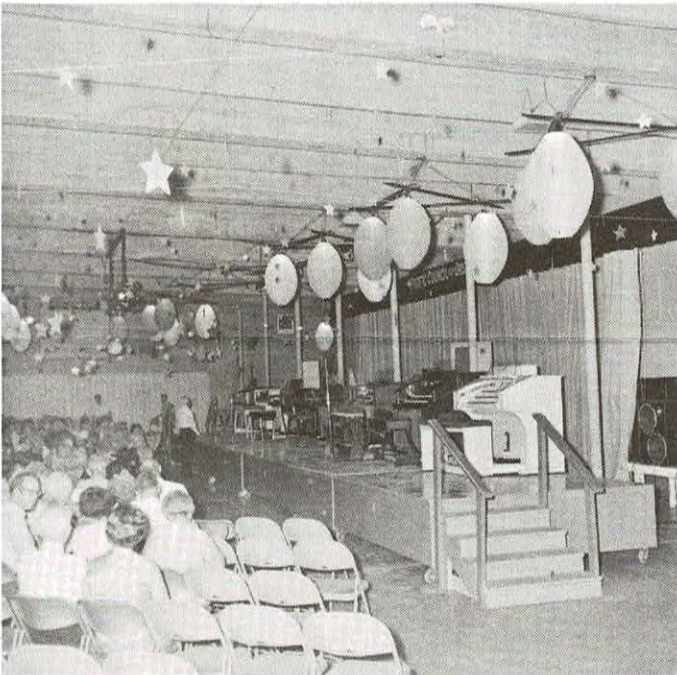
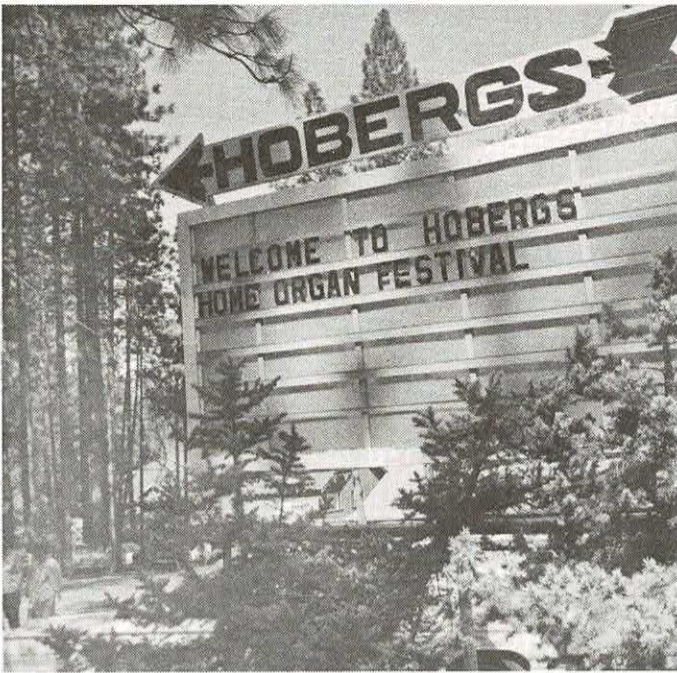
Caption: Organists Gaylord Carter and 'Tiny' James (who served as a lighting technician for the Festival) talk it over with Festival founder Dewey Cagle (right) during a backstage lull.

Caption: Al Bollington, organist-comedian, displaying his 'Cotton pickin' gloves and RAF flying boots. He played a goodly portion of 'La Giaconda' thus handicapped and never hit one 'Clinker.'

Caption: SOFT LIGHTS AND SWEET MUSIC. Couples dance to the late night 'jam session' music, heard on as many as four organs simultaneously.

Caption: OLD PRO Gaylord Carter created a sensation during his initial stanza, playing the Allen theatre organ. It was his first appearance at the Festival.

TOSA HONORARY MEMBER CHARLES TUCKWELL PLAYS CONCERT AT CLANCY RESIDENCE WURLITZER.





ABOUT THE ORGANS.

Now about the instruments. We have already described some of the features of the Conn model 642, a solid state descendant of the original Conn theatre model, the 640. Two new voices have been added to the upper manual, a Clarinet (good) and a Saxophone (needs further voicing development). Most of the other makes which offer new models this year have followed the pattern of making former "Extras" standard equipment.

One Allen two-deck theatre model was on hand. It was played by Gaylord Carter and Helen Dell during their initial concerts but wasn't heard very much afterwards. It is the same model heard during previous Festivals, the one with a sharp "trumpet" and excellent celested "strings."

One instrument which had a high popularity quotient with organists (those free to choose their instrument) was the Baldwin HT-2. The model is essentially the same as last year's but much refinement in the voicing is apparent. In the hands of a Lyn Larsen or a Helen Dell it became a generator of beautiful sounds. Balance between the families of tone has been achieved without much taming of the biting "reeds" which formerly dominated the output. And the "Tibia" voice has been improved.

Thomas, which had a much improved organ last year, had an even better one in 1968. Although overburdened with gadgets ("sales points" we are told) as always, Bill McCoy was able to produce interesting combinations and solo voices. Thomas now boasts a "Vox Humana" stop which still doesn't quite equal Conn's from the tonal viewpoint, but it's available on the bottom (accompaniment) manual of some models, where it is needed as an accompaniment mixing voice. Rodgers and Wurlitzer also have accompaniment "Vox" stopkeys on bottom manuals. Other manufacturers take heed!

Pedals seem to be encompassing a greater range of notes. Allen, Conn and Rodgers have led the field in adopting the 32-note pedalboard devised by Robert Hope-Jones before the turn of the century (and now referred to as "AGO standard"). H-J's pedalboard is concave and radiating and the larger models by Allen, Conn and Rodgers have had it for several years. Others are slowly discovering it but aren't building it to the AGO standard. Pedals are usually shorter and few, other than those builders mentioned, provide more than a hint of concavity in the pedals.

The Rodgers "Trio" continues to be that firm's most competitive organ. It was the model loaned by Rodgers to represent the line at the Festival and in the hands of Gaylord Carter, it's an effective instrument. "Tibia" voicing has been improved as have the pitched percussions e.g. "Harp" and "Piano". Like Conn and Allen, the Rodgers has a separate tone generator for each note (as opposed to the more common method of dividing several octaves of pitches from 12 tone generators), and the resulting sound justifies all those additional oscillators.

This year there was a paucity of "attachments" shown (short manuals of special sounds which can be clamped to the bottom manual or replace a music rack, such as Allen's "Explorer.") The notable exception was Wurlitzer's "brass horn," a loudspeaker with both trumpet and trombone exponential horn projectors. Mounted on a stand within reach of the organist, the player can produce "wah-wah" effects (when he can spare a hand) in exactly the same manner the brass instrument player does, by passing his hand across the mouth of the flared horn. It's novel but of limited application; probably of interest to cocktail lounge organists.

If there is one questionable direction taken by too many organ builders, it's the use of far too many non-speaking stops. While these extra stop keys fill out the horseshoe prettily, they originate no voices. Most control the degrees of reverb, attack, "emphasis", tremulant, repetition or designate which manual the tom-tom, for example, will play on. Some of these switching features are necessary but one horseshoe model heard in concert, with a total of 69 stopkeys and rocker tablets, can boast of only 26 sound-producing stops. The remaining 43 stops are mute! This is overdoing "gimmickry."

The presentation of instruments and artists in the auditorium was another highlight. All speaker paraphernalia was concealed behind a thin curtain, with only the console visible on the roller-equipped platforms which, together, make up the stage. The curtain which concealed the speakers provided a playground for lighting effects made possible by a new light console which permits colored projections and mixing of colors in a seemingly endless pattern.

This facility was used effectively during all concert presentations which are played with houselights off to heighten the theatrical effect.

It hardly seems necessary to state that all brands of instrument played at the Festival are by now equipped with horseshoe consoles, Hammond being the one holdout. The horseshoe is one theatre organ feature which has caught on solidly among electronic organ builders.

In addition to the concerts, there were the workshop classes conducted by Mildred Alexander, Gus Pearson, Don Baker and Bud Iverson. These are as much entertainment as instructive sessions when conducted by such strong personalities with various degrees of comedy talent, and the idea of attracting only teachers of organ long ago gave way to making sessions palatable to all Festivaleers. They might be called "educational laugh-ins."

On the social side, the Festival was better than ever with its abundant but informal cocktail parties, the space-oriented costume ball, the swimfest in Hoberg's giant pool and the nightly jam session dances which often brought the simultaneous music of four fine organists at as many different organs. The Pacific Council for Organ Clubs, with Florence Lehtinen at the helm (president) and Dewey Cagle and Kay Chenoweth as chief "sparkers" of a smooth-running production group, is to be congratulated for the best Home Organ Festival to date.

In summary it can be stated that the surge of progress made by US organ manufacturers when they adopted the theatre pipe organ's horseshoe console, colored stopkeys, overhanging inclined manuals, orchestral tonal divisions, and other Hope-Jones developments, has slowed to a trickle in most cases. The fault appears to be in the manufacturers' preoccupation with sales-promoting gadgetry ("chop-chop" repetition and non-speaking "emphasis" switches, for example) rather than buckling down to improving the families of tone they adopted from the pipe organ. All imitative voices heard during the Festival could stand much improvement before they begin to resemble their pipe forebears. While one may have a good "string," another a passable "tibia," yet another a fine "vox" (one has an excellent trumpet -- at 8' only!), not a one has recreated the "pipe" organ tone many of them lay claim to. It is to be hoped that the next "giant stride" will be the improvement of voices and the wider application of unification.

Dates for the 1969 Home Organ Festival (Sept. 16 through 21) were announced during this year's session, and plans were being made even as these words were being written. One idea initiated this year, the "artists' pool" (unaffiliated topflight organists) worked out so well in 1968 that plans are in the mill to expand it for 1969.

Peg Nielsen, Hollywood.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

Famous American Theatre Organist BILLY NALLIE, who is also a member of the NSW Division of TOSA has been recorded in a four record Album of organ music to be issued by the Reader's Digest Organisation, which is planned to release about the middle of this year. He has since signed exclusively with Concert Recording Company.

WANTED.

Our member RICHARD HURFORD, organist of Grafton Cathedral, is looking for a large scale Trumpet or Tuba Unit of 16' - 8' - 4' for the Cathedral organ. If any member has these items for sale, or knows where they may be obtained, write to him care of P.O. Box 4, Grafton, NSW.

TONY FENELON AT CONSERVATORIUM FOR HAMMOND SOCIETY.

The Hammond Organ Society will present TOSA member TONY FENELON in concert at the Conservatorium of Music on Friday 21st February at 8pm. Associate artist will be TOSA's Honorary Member ERIC SMITH who will be featured at the Steinway grand piano in a number of special presentations with the organ. It is expected that there will be a very interesting installation of the Hammond organ with a number of PR 40 and Leslie speaker systems. From past experience in the Gershwin concert, the combination of Hammond organ and large Steinway piano in the Con's perfect acoustics, provides an excellent combination. Tickets will be on sale at the doors at \$2 each and are also available from Iris Begley, Bill Schumacher and John & Marj Whitehouse. Ken Begley informed TOSA News, that the city of Melbourne now has a Chapter of the Hammond Society in operation. He attended the second meeting of the Melbourne Chapter recently.

CELEBRITY ORGANIST AT SYDNEY TOWN HALL.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission will present the world famous American organist E. POWER BIGGS in a special organ recital at the Sydney Town Hall on Saturday February 8th at 8.15pm. Prices of admission are \$2.45 \$1.85 \$1.55

REVIVAL OF THEATRE ORGAN MUSIC.

Those of us who believe that the theatre organ would be revived have been heartened by an article in the November issue of The Console magazine which reports that The New York Times, one of the world's leading newspapers has finally noticed the growing interest in the Wurlitzer organ. TOSA News reprints the following report from The Console. "A long time was required for the theatre pipe organ to crack the review columns of The New York Times, one of the world's leading newspapers, but when at last that staid, great publication did open its pages to the pipe organ, the space allotted was far in excess of what a new musical review receives - and to make matters much better, Reviewer Allen Hughes "flipped" over the wondrous sounds produced by the Mighty Wurlitzer and called Concert Recording across the nation in Lynwood, California to interrogate Concert's head man, Bill Johnson about theatre organ recordings and to learn all about "how long has this been going on?"

Cause for all the pleasant furore was LEE ERWIN and his New York ATOE-sponsored show at the Academy of Music on 14th Street where Chapter members have restored the Wurlitzer pipe organ. The Times Reviewer also gave an accounting of the New York Theatre Organ Society, and went on to tell how a nation wide revival of theatre organ is resulting in the establishment of a concert circuit. He also listed the names of prominent theatre organ artists. In his telephone talk with Johnson, he indicated that it is possible there will appear in The Times at a later date reviews of theatre organ long-play albums." Your Editor doesn't wish to be smug about this by saying "I told you so" but it is indeed exciting news - theatre organ is standing on the threshold of a new and wonderful world. With today's modern communications, new trends, fashions, or fads (if you like) which start in America or England today set the fashion for us for tomorrow. And a growing interest over there will be followed by a growing interest here later. Once the younger generation have been captured by the sounds of the Wurlitzer, might not their love for its music stay with them just as it has stayed with us in our life time. Most TOSA members who heard the Wurlitzer or other make of Theatre organ in their youth have been fascinated by the instrument ever since, and are members of the Society today because of that very reason - the instruments ability to capture and hold interest year after year. If the Reviewer of the New York Times "flipped his lid" on hearing the Mighty Wurlitzer then it is a safe bet that many others, if they can be induced to attend their first concert, will very probably "flip" themselves. We should all try and induce as many friends and neighbours or workmates to go and hear our Wurlitzer "just once" and they may come back for more. Let's all try the "just once" method and see what happens.

THE BOMBARDE MAGAZINE CLEARS TOSA NEWS.

Editor Stu Green of The Bombarde, official A.T.O.E. theatre organ magazine, has written to us with a "full confession" that he was the culprit who misquoted TOSA News re the two organs in Brisbane theatres and the eighteen in Sydney theatres which we are supposed to have said are "still in the theatres". (See TOSA News for November 1968).

Stu has sent us the cartoon featured on this page, with the thought that all fair-minded organ lovers would regard the whole episode as a "storm in a teacup" as he so obviously does. Thank you very much Stu - we are very glad to regard the whole matter as now closed, and as the Editor of TOSA News, I am very happy to be in the clear with our many friends here and overseas.



Editor of TOSA News to Stu Green, "Sorry Stu, but I'm no artist, and that's the best I could do with your cartoon"

Stu Green to Editor TOSA News, "So you should be sorry - it doesn't even look like me" "What's more, the waves in my tea cup were much rougher"

SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Hereunder is a summary of the President's report at the Annual General Meeting held at Wesley Auditorium last month.

"I am pleased to report that 1968 was the biggest year ever for the NSW Division. During 1968, we had no less than 19 recitals, 5 organ parties, 3 technical lectures, 2 Church recitals, 1 jam session at the Capitol Theatre, and 2 Premieres at the State Theatre, when our members were guests of the Management.

The leading organists of Australia appeared in our concerts, as well as overseas artists, Don Kingston, Jack Malmsten and Vic Hammett. Vic Hammett appeared in two concerts for us. We were also able to feature New Zealand organist Ann Holmes. Australian organists who were presented were:- Clarence Black, Tony Fenelon (2 concerts) Ian Davies (3 concerts) Len Badman, Peter Held, Eric Smith, Reubert Hayes, Charles Tuckwell (2 concerts), Bill Schumacher and David Parsons.

During 1968, there was a considerable gain in membership, and no less than 107 new members joined our Society.

The highlight of the year was the opening of our own WurliTzer organ at the Marrickville Town Hall in November. This event marked the culmination of three years of hard and dedicated work by the members responsible for the installation, and the audience of 1,200 enabled the Society to present a cheque for \$1,071.10 to the Children's Medical Research Foundation which was greatly appreciated by that worthy organisation. We look forward to another very successful year in 1969."

Until the next issue,
Organically yours,
THE EDITOR