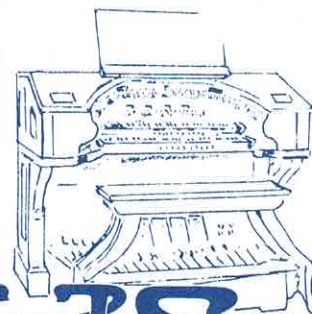
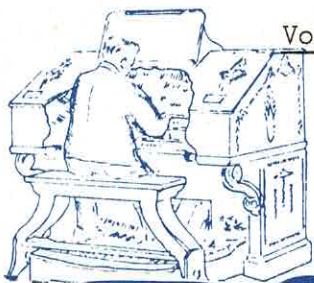


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926 534

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

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SYDNEY SOUTH. 2000.

DIARY NOTES:--

SATURDAY 5th August: Noreen Hennessy in Concert at Burwood.

Noreen Hennessy will be appearing at the 'Organ Stop' which is member Joh Congert's shop in Burwood Road, Burwood on 5th August at 2.30pm. As I mentioned in the last issue of TOSA News, Noreen was the longest organist at the Prince Edward Theatre in terms of residence and will no doubt still be remembered by many Members. This should prove a very enjoyable afternoon. Admission \$2.00 Adults \$1.00 Children. Please phone 747 4055 for telephone bookings which can only be made at the Organ Stop.

10th ANNIVERSARY OF MARRICKVILLE INSTALLATION WEEKEND OF MUSIC.

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th September.

The Executive of the Society would like to see as many of the Members and their Friends as possible attend the Weekend of Music that has been planned for Saturday and Sunday 23/24th September. This weekend has been planned so that friends can renew friendships and everyone can have a good get together with plenty of the music that we have all come to like to listen to at three separate places.

Three Organists have been selected for your entertainment and listening pleasure, (in order), DAVID PARSONS, RAY THORNLEY, DAVID JOHNSTON. With names like these the weekend should be a very memorable one. Please see details overleaf.

2...

10th Anniversary of Marrickville Installation Weekend of Music.
Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th September.

The very first public Concert on our Wurlitzer Pipe Organ took place during 1968, with our Patron, Mr. Ian Davies at the Console.

This was a very historic occasion, and marked the culmination of much hard work by many skilled and unskilled organ builders trying to work things out who had dismantled the Organ from the Prince Edward Theatre and had re-installed it in the Marrickville Town Hall. This I believe was the first such installation in Australia of one of the oldest instruments in Australia so the very incident was quite unique. Looking back, we have come a long way in knowledge of Wurlitzer Pipe Organs and many people have had the chance to play an instrument that they would not have otherwise had the chance to and we are now starting to see the younger people take an interest in the Theatre Organ. How coincidental is it that ten years after our installation a Sydney suburban cinema has just completed it's own installation of an imported Wurlitzer pipe organ.

We have had many Concerts, both with free and paid audiences, both with free and paid artists, with what has afterwards been decided as artists of all calibres, we have seen good attendences and poor attendences, and yet in all of these years it has been interesting keeping a Society of friends with mutual interests in good going order. In that time another instrument has been purchased and we are almost back where we started from and when details of where we are going to place our 3/15 are known it will be like the old song, 'Here we go again, happy as can be' .

Anyway, a celebration is most definitely called for, and after much discussion we were able to arrive at the following:-

SATURDAY 23rd September.

1. A visit to St. Columbs, West Ryde, to hear the Christie Pipe Organ, (ex Kings Theatre Gordon), played by our well known member, Mr. David Parsons. This will commence at 2.30pm.

2. Dinner at Caesars Palace Restaurant at Parraweena Road, Taren Point, with the entertainment by our popular member Mr. Ray Thornley, playing an electronic organ. This will commence at 7.30pm.

SUNDAY 24th September.

A Concert at Marrickville Town Hall on our own Wurlitzer Pipe Organ, featuring well known artist Mr. David Johnston. This will commence at 2.30pm.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS WILL BE A VERY SPECIAL WEEKEND WITH TALENTED ARTISTS DOING THEIR VERY BEST TO ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE A MOST ENJOYABLE WEEKEND.

A SPECIAL PACKAGE PRICE OF \$14.00 Adults, \$12.00 Children and Pensioners
\$11.50 to Y.O.A. Members in Uniform.

PLEASE WRITE DIRECT TO THE SECRETARY, T.O.S.A, 58 Rosebank Avenue, KINGSGROVE 2208
making all Cheques payable to T.O.S.A., and enclosing a self addressed envelope,
stamped, please!!

Before you start thinking about the cost too much please remember that the most expensive part of the weekend is the Ceasars Palace venue where dinner is included. We have booked the whole of Caesars Palace for the function and the package price quoted above is the LOWEST that we can come up with for the three functions.

Next Page Please

There are tickets available for the individual functions if required, and the cost of these are set out below:-

<u>VENUE.</u>	<u>ADULTS.</u>	<u>CHILDREN AND PENSIONER.</u>
St. Columbs, West Ryde.	\$2.00	\$1.00
Caesars Palace.	\$10.00	\$10.00
Marrickville Town Hall.	\$3.00	\$1.50
	\$15.00	\$12.00

WE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT THE ADMISSION TO ST. COLUMBS IS A DONATION TO THE CHURCH WHICH WILL COVER TUNING THE INSTRUMENT ETC., AS WELL AS PROVIDE A DONATION TO THE CHURCH. ANY CHURCH THAT ALLOWS THE SOCIETY TO PUT ON A FUNCTION RECEIVES A DONATION FROM THE SOCIETY.

QUARTERLY MEETING 13th SEPTEMBER.

This was mentioned in the last edition of T.O.S.A News as being held at Marrickville Town Hall. This has now been changed to St. Annes, Strathfield and so has the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 22nd November. BOTH OF THESE MEETINGS ARE VERY IMPORTANT AND AS MANY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND. The meeting on 13th September will be for the nominations for the various positions of Office and the Annual General Meeting will amongst other things be the announcement of the results of the ballot for the various positions of office.

ORGAN PARTY AT JANICE WILSONS, Sunday 23rd July.

(Jack Gibbs)

What a splendid afternoon!, I thought it rather a shame that there was such a poor attendance by T.O.S.A, members but those that were present reaped the reward. The artists that preformed were:- Margaret Hall - organ, Janice Wilson - organ, Richard James - organ and piano, Ron Smith - organ, Doug Smith - piano, Bill Schumacher - organ, Vicky Olsen and Allen Wilson - flute and piano/organ duet, (not simultaneously).

It was certainly a relaxed and informal afternoon and the artists are to be commended for sharing their talents and fine musicianship with us that are less fortunate and giving their time to further the cause for T.O.S.A. A well balanced programme which was beautifully rounded off by Vicky and Allen's rendition of a selection of the classics. Thanks also to the ladies that provided afternoon tea and again to Ron and Phyl Wilson for making their home available. BUT --- that wasn't all!,, those who stayed on into the evening were entertained by Bill Schumacher at the Piano and Richard James at the Organ. The music was endless, not forgetting Stella Mac Kenzies short Charlestone and tambourine accompaniment. Stella, Les said, "not bad for an O.B."; those that may be curious what "O.B", may stand for should ask Stella!.

My personal experience of such home functions is that I have come to know more members of the Society socially, have gained a wealth of knowledge musically and a greater knowledge and understanding of the Theatre organ because of their willingness and ability to share such experiences and hope that in some way I may be in the position in the future to do the same.

Thanks for the article Jack, I left at what I thought was the end of the Concert but should have stayed around as it seems that the evening portion was as good as the main portion was in the afternoon. Ed.

DO WE HAVE ANY OTHER MEMBERS THAT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THEIR HOMES AVAILABLE FOR SIMILAR FUNCTIONS???

If anyone is interested in helping the Society in this way we would love to hear from you. Please contact Doug Smith, Secretary, advising the room that you may have available. It may be entirely possible that the Society can bring chairs etc., and the ladies can certainly bring a plate for afternoon tea and assistance can be provided to help you. Please advise in this matter as soon as possible!!!

MEMBERS CLUB NIGHTS.

The month of July was to have been the first Members Playing Night or Club Night and we were all looking forward to this and the evening had been advertised in the June issue of TOSA News.

We were all horrified when on Friday 30th June we were advised formally that the Town Hall had been let for the Wrestling instead and we tried to contact as many members as possible to let them know so as not to make the trip, (There was one person coming from Armidale!!!), and if there was anyone who did arrive at the Town Hall and got treated to the Wrestling we hope you enjoyed it and can only emphasise that the fault was not that of the Committee.

Regretfully we have to advise that for the moment at least, Club Nights or Members Playing Evenings are off. The problem is that at this point of time, Marrickville Council Administration want in the vicinity of \$80.00 for us to hire the hall for the evening and this would only run our finances out as there is no way we could break even on an amount like that. So, for the moment at least, we will have to consider that the Marrickville Town Hall will not be the venue for our Club Nights. It may be possible that some alternative can be found as we are most anxious to bring together as many members as possible in an atmosphere of congenial relaxation without the atmosphere that prevails at a Concert. In small groups, members of the Society could meet in members homes or in Showrooms of Dealers or similar. The main thing is that we all get together in the same sort of way that we got together at Janice Wilsons on Sunday 16th July.

So if any of you have ideas please get in touch with the Secretary or any of the Committee. The important thing is that we get this type of activity going as soon as we can.

HAMMOND NORTHSIDE CHAPTER NO. 3.

I received a letter from the President pointing out that I had made a slight error with respect to the review I did of the Concert that was held on 20th June, I pointed out that Y.O.A. Member Craig Duthie had had some practice time on the Hammond 'Grandee', it was pointed out that he had had no practice time at all so I must make amends.

For anyone who lives on the Northside in any way, this Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Kendall Centre, Warwick Avenue, Cammeray and Miss Carmen La Motte is the most enthusiastic President. Each meeting is a musical evening as well and a Hammond X 5 is provided for the evenings duration. Each of the members seems to be very dedicated and it is indeed a very warmly knit little group of people. There are many benefits and I would urge any member who may have the time to contact Carmen La Motte direct on 439 2821 or simply turn up. I can assure you all that you will be made feel welcome.

THE St. GEORGE AND SUTHERLAND FAMILY ORGAN CLUB.

This Family Organ Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Caesars Palace and is run by Janice Wilson and Noel Smith who are at present establishing an organ and musical business at Figtree, Wollongong. I have no further information other than what I have already mentioned but if anyone is interested they can get hold of Janice Wilson on 759 6050.

ANY CLUB NEWS IS SOUGHT AND IF SPACE PERMITS WE WILL BE ABLE TO PUBLISH NEWS OF YOUR CLUB SO ORGANISERS PLEASE NOTE AND FORWARD INFORMATION DIRECT TO THE EDITOR. ARTICLES OF INFORMATION TO OUR READERS ARE ALSO SOLICITED, THE ONLY STIPULATION BEING THAT THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONTRIBUTOR MUST BE SUPPLIED.

PRACTICE NIGHTS MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

There have been quite a few alterations to Practice nights which are normally held on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday Evening at Marrickville Town Hall. Please read and take note of the only days that we have for practice in August, September and October.

<u>AUGUST.</u>	<u>MONDAY.</u>	<u>TUESDAY.</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY.</u>	<u>THURSDAY.</u>
			2	3
		22	23	
	28	29	30	31
<u>SEPTEMBER.</u>				
	4	5	6	7
	11			14
	25	26	27	28

You will notice, however, that we have secured a few extra Wednesdays which we will use to try and make up the time. Please phone Chris Palmer on 926 534 if you are interested in the Wednesdays which will be checked out on a first in first served basis!!

To make this a bit simpler here is the breakdown;-

Ron Wilson, Don Mc Donald and Peter Held will miss out on Monday 7th August.

John Roberts and the two spare positions will miss out on Tuesday 1st August.

Joe Lefcovitch and Barbara Ticehurst and spare position will miss out on Thursday 10th.

Noel Carezo, Peter Sheldon and Ron Smith will miss out on Monday 14th August.

Doug Smith and Ron Wilson will miss out on Tuesday 15th August and also Tuesday 19th September.

Kevin Eadie, Tony Ney and Jask Gibbs will miss out on Thursday 17th August and also Thursday 21st September.

John Wiesmantle, Jan Wilson and George Walker will miss out on Monday 21st August and also Monday 18th September.

Chris Palmer, Barbara Dixon and Harry Jones will miss out on Tuesday 12th September.

I have published this as I feel that it is quite important the reasons that we are going to lose so much time are mainly attributable to maintenance work being carried out at the Town Hall. The floor will be sanded and the organ will not only be shut down but also sealed up and it may even be possible that Alan Misdale and Tom Halloran will keep the organ closed for a bit longer because it is not the large pieces of timber that come up when a floor is sanded so much as the really fine pieces which seem to just hang in the air. If any of these get caught up in the organ it will cypher from now till eternity and we know what that means. Also after all this is done there is the Mayoral Ball and in September there is some Ethnic function that will be taking a week or so so there is the bad news.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY QUERIES WOULD THEY PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AS WE WILL HAVE A BIT OF EXTRA TIME WHICH WE CAN ALLOCATE IF SUITABLE ON A FIRST IN FIRST SERVED BASIS.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE SOCIETY BUT ANYONE WHO HAS SEEN THE TOWN HALL RECENTLY WILL AGREE THAT IT IS LOOKING MUCH BETTER THAN IT HAS EVER DONE BEFORE.

MISS NOREEN HENNESSY. Appearing at the 'Organ Stop' on Saturday 5th August.

Miss Noreen Hennessy was born in Brisbane and first began playing the piano at three years of age under the guidance of her mother, who was a famous concert pianist and organist. Her name was Mary Agnes Mogan. At the age of six Noreen Hennessy commenced the study of the violin and one year later appeared as a guest artist with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, and by this time was known as a child prodigy on both piano and violin. Within the next decade her musical studies progressed to the cello, church organ and singing at the N.S.W. Conservatorium of Music. As a singer she appeared in leading roles of productions of 'The Giesha', 'The Toreador' and 'The Country Girl'.

Early in 1944 she commenced the study of advanced Theatre Organ technique on Australia's largest Wurlitzer Organ, at the State Theatre, Sydney, under tuition from the great Master, Mannie Aarons; and on the 18th August 1944, she was appointed organist at the Prince Edward Console. Here she had the distinction of being the youngest theatre organist ever appointed to a large city cinema, and was to remain at the Prince Edward Wurlitzer for 19½ years, the longest residence of any of the eight organists of the Theatre. She became as much a personality in her own style of presentation as her predecessor, Eddie Horton, part of whose original programme she introduced during the run of the later version of the 'Ten Commandments' of 1958.

It has been estimated that during her appearances at the Prince Edward Theatre, 2½ million people heard her play the Wurlitzer Organ. She played three times a day, six times a week - a real achievement. She made many broadcasts from the Prince Edward Console, and accompanied world famous artists such as Danny Kaye, Bob Hope and Shirley Abicair.

A beautiful blonde, Noreen Hennessy always dressed in the most becoming of gowns, and, seated at the Console with the spotlights playing over presented a picture of grace and elegance, while the lush sounds of the Wurlitzer flooded the Theatre. As well as her musical accomplishments, Noreen Hennessy has a delightful personality that endears her to all that meet her. In 1962 she was paid the highest compliment that the Theatre Organ Society of Australia can bestow when she was made an Honorary Member of the Society, in recognition of her efforts in preserving the tradition of the theatre organ.

(Reprinted from the literature that went with the Prince Edward Farewell Recording that was made on Sunday 15th August 1965).

NOREEN HENNESSY DESERVES YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS CONCERT THAT HAS BEEN ARRANGED BY MEMBER JOH CONGERT. SEE DETAILS FRONT PAGE.

NEW MEMBERS:---

We would like to welcome the following new members:- Robert Hely, Croydon Park, Mr & Mrs de Closey, Caloundra, Derek and Gwen Abbot, Lilli Pilli, Frank and Nancye Hall, Kenthurst, Diane Nassor, Killara, Metha Johnstone, Wentworthville, Noel Smith, Kograh, Paul Bell, Armidale, John Winter, Parramatta, Jack and Alice Barnes, Ermington.

WELCOME TO OUR SOCIETY AND DON'T FORGET TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!

T.O.S.A. 1979 NATIONAL CONVENTION - MELBOURNE.

We are presently holding limited accomodation and flight reservations to coincide with the 1979 Convention next Easter.

The cost including return flights and three nights centrally located accomodation with full breakfast is currently \$164.00 per person when based on a twin room. Single or triple rooms will also be available by ringing Ron Smith on 529 7379. While a Group Booking is held using T.A.A. to Melbourne on Good Friday, (13.4.79), alternative means of travel can be arranged for anyone requiring it.

We ask that everyone who is interested in attending the convention complete the application form on the back page of this issue and return it to Ron and those people requiring either accomodation or flights will need to send a fully refundable deposit of \$20.00 per person with the form.

YAMAHA ELECTONE FINALS: Sydney Conservatorium Sunday 23rd July.

The evening began with a full house with the Young Organists showing the people to their seats in a very efficient manner and the evening proper got under way with a Mr. Phillip Burn doing a very good job as compere.

The contestants played well, particularly Mr. Rodney Smith from Tasmania who played a now superseded model Yamaha E5AR to advantage with the film score of Starwars using the various effects that were on that model to great advantage. Each contestant appeared twice, the first time played their own free choice of some six minutes, the second time around was the more difficult as each contestant had to improvise on a motif of some twelve notes only and make this into a full piece of music. The contestants only had ten minutes with the motif prior to going on stage and they were not allowed to take any notes on stage with them at all, only the actual motif itself. The only allowance was the fact that there were three motifs that they could chose from.

As a bit of a diversion two very excellent guest artists appeared in the form of Don Burrows and George Golla, neither of whom would need any introduction both being excellent artists as well as ambassadors for this country who have recently come back from an overseas tour.

There were six finalists and the winner of the evening was Cheryl Smith from Wollongong, second was Stephen Russell from Queensland and third was Joan Campbell from Victoria.

This function at the Conservatorium represents the final of the Yamaha Electone Festival for 1978 as far as this country is now concerned and it all started out some time ago with the various Dealer finals, progressing to the Area finals, then to the State finals and last of all the Australian Final. The winner of the Australian Final goes to Japan where they have a chance of entering the Grand Prix.

Congratulations to Cheryl Smith and one day we may even get to hear her on our Wurlitzer at Marrickville Town Hall.

FOR SALE.

Conn Martinique Model 644 with 2 x 61 note manuals, 25 pedals with sustain, One man band unit, Tuned percussion voices, calliope tuning, 5 preset pistons, 4 accent pistons, string bass, reverb and sustain. This model first appeared in 1976 and also features tremelo and chorus. The organ is for sale from member Mr. Lancaster on 524-8917 and the asking price is \$8,000.00. The replacement value is much more than that.

HAMMOND SPECTACULAR.

Editor.

Tuesday 25th July saw a reasonable crowd attend a concert given by Keith Beckingham for Palings on the Hammond organs. The venue of the concert was the Recording Hall of the Sydney Opera House and the acoustics were superb. Keith opened up the first segment of the concert on the Hammond 'Aurora' which is only a spinet but nevertheless a spinet which has quite a formidable array of stops as well as presets as well as having a music lamp built in, (how many of us spend a fortune on an organ only to have to stick a music lamp on top to read the music with?), and Keith certainly proved that a good spinet is as good as any console.

Keith next moved on to the latest range of Hammond 'Romance' series, Models 123J2, 124J2, 125J2 and the 126J2 and it was only in this area that the concert was a bit dissapointing because when people pay \$3.00 to attend a concert the last thing that anyone wants is to be given a sales pitch for the latest models of organs to come on to the market. People who are interested in seeing the latest models simply go along to the showroom and hear it from the salesman. One does not expect to pay for this type of sales blurb.

After interval, (no refreshments available at the Opera House at all!!), Keith went on to play the Hammond Concord and proved that he was a good player and quite at home on the instrument.

Quite a few notable people were seen at the concert including Les Flanagan, Don Jenkins to name a few and a good evening was had by all. I did comment on what appeared to be the austerity of the Recording Hall and was told that the space the Recording Hall is situated in was originally the machine room for the Opera Hall before the design modifications were made. It had been intended that all the machinery required to change the scenery, rotate the stage and raise and lower curtains etc., would have been installed in this space but during the design alterations the larger hall of the two was turned into the Main Hall and the smaller hall was made into the Opera Hall and hence the space that was vacant and thus the Recording Hall. Walking into the Recording Hall gives the impression that it was built in a bit of a hurry but, as pointed out earlier, the acoustics are superb and the small Hammond 'Aurora' could be heard with no difficulty without a tone cabinet being fitted.

THE SOCIETY PRINTING PRESS.

The Society is the owner of a Remington 'Rotaprint' which is currently undergoing repairs having been out of order for quite some time. This machine has saved a lot of money in the past by printing both the T.O.S.A. News and anything else that the Society required such as 'handout sheets' envelopes etc., and will shortly be operational once more.

For quite some time now, this machine has been stored at Ernie Vale's residence in Haberfield and, considering that Ernie Vale has most of the Capitol Theatre Organ there also he is finding that the printing press is now getting in the way as the space that it is taking up could be used for the pieces of the organ.

Has any member got the space to put the printing press in please??. The press is not that large and the member who can assist would also no doubt be able to assist in the production of the newsletter and various other things that are done from time to time.

If you have a garage but no car and the garage is a lock up type then you may be able to assist us in this matter. If you feel that you could, please contact Ernie Vale on 798 6816 evenings and he can discuss the matter with you and clear up any points you may wish to raise in connection with the matter.

STATE THEATRE COLLECTION.

Acknowledged world wide as one of the most beautiful cinemas ever built, the State Theatre, venue for the 25th Sydney Film Festival, has been classified by the National Trust of Australia as - - "A building having great historical significance and high architectural quality, the preservation of which is regarded as essential to the heritage of the State".

The State Theatre opened on June 7th, 1929 and was the last of the great movie palaces built in Sydney. Today, the State stands as a monument to Stuart F. Doyle and the pioneering Australina Film Industry. Stuart F. Doyle, then a Director of Union Theatres Ltd., personally supervised every detail of construction and decoration of the State Theatre.

Doyle was an artist keenly aware that someday the Australian public would come in greater numbers to see a local film than they would for the latest American blockbuster. As well as championing production at Cinesound in the early 1930's Doyle was directly concerned with establishing a continuously productive industry and in giving Australians a screen identity.

Lost for many years were the personal collection of photographs and artwork on the Sydney and Melbourne State Theatres. Owned by the late Stuart F. Doyle, the collection consists of hundreds of original photographs and sketches bound in a number of hand printed books.

Beautifully preserved, a rare opportunity exists for the purchase of the collection. Enquiries regarding an inspection etc., can be made to John McLean, 96 City Road, Chippendale. Telephone (02)660 4740.

RAY THORNLEY IN CONCERT.

Commiteeman Ray Thornley will be appearing in Concert at the Auditorium, Ross St Parramatta on Friday 25th August. The new Gulbransen Organ will be heard at this Concert and this will be the console model of the spinet 400 Series which some of you may have seen already.

Prices are \$3.00 Adults, Concessions \$1.50, Y.O.A. in uniform .50¢ Bookings can be made at Yamaha Musicland, (Flanagan and Winter), 1 Palmer Street, Parramatta and further enquiries can be made on 630 8550.

GLENN DERRINGER IN CONCERT.

Brilliant American Organist Glenn Derringer will be appearing in Concert at the State Theatre, Sydney on Thursday 17th August and this will be the introduction of the Model 950 which is the latest Wurlitzer console model. Your Editor has had a sneak preview of this model some time ago and it is this model which will be installed in Mike Walsh's Regent Theatre in Richmond and was ordered some time ago but could not be supplied until it was officially released by Glenn Derringer. Proceeds of this Concert have been donated to the Young Organists Association and the prices are: Adults \$2.50, Children \$1.50.

This will give members who have not been inside the State Theatre an excellent opportunity to have a good look around. Unfortunately the Wurlitzer 4m/2lr will not be used on this occasion.

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSIC TRADES FAIR. 22nd July to 24th July.

This was the first trade fair that was put on by a purely Australian organisation and, in keeping with the event, the public was not allowed in to see the show. What an opportunity was lost by this wonderful piece of logic. Anything and everything that was new and on the market was all under one roof at the A.M.P. Pavillion and we, the buying public, could have collected all the brochures in one hit instead of going from this dealer to that dealer and wasting a weekend or two going from one location to another. Public exhibitions of this nature are needed from year to year. While ever this type of closed house system is in operation people will be denied the right to see at the one time just what is offering.

OVERSEAS NEWS....

For those of you that were lucky enough to purchase the Doric recording of the 'Magnificent Moller' as recorded in the Organ Power Pizza from distributor John Atkinson you now have quite an historic recording. The organ has now been removed from the Organ Power Pizza. A brief history of the instrument is outlined below. Back in the 1930's, BBC Organist Reginald Foort had an idea that paid off. That was in the decade during which the theatre organ was in its ascendancy in Great Britain, in contrast with the abandonment in the U.S.A at the time. Noting that many British variety theatres were not equipped with organs, Reg decided to do something about it. He envisaged a 'portable' organ, a conception that ran counter to all previous experience with pipe organs, which generally are best adapted to permanent locations. He got no encouragement from British organ builders, but the Moller Co., in the U.S.A., was willing to try out the idea. Moller was quite successful in assembling a 5 manual, 27 rank instrument in several chamber boxes which were connected by cable and hose. The organ was premiered by Foort in a London Theatre in 1938. It was an immediate hit and the procession of trucks which carried the disassembled giant across the English countryside became a familiar sight on British highways. War clouds put an end to the 'portable organ' idea, and when the Luftwaffe made a direct hit on the B.B.C organ studio, Reg offered his instrument to replace the loss. It survived the war unharmed and remained the 'BBC organ' for 18 years. After a few years of neglect in a Dutch broadcasting studio, it was purchased by Preston 'Sandy' Fleet for use in the Organ Power pizzeria in San Diego. One Major tonal change made in the installation was the substitution of the the Tibia Clausa, (on 25" wind) from the Brooklyn Fox theatre for the original Moller Tibia rank, a move which gave the instrument a much more theatrical make up tonally. The organ also has the standard Toy Counter common to all Theatre Organs of the era. In addition a 6 rank style D Wurlitzer was installed in the back of the Power Pizza which could also be played from the console of the Moller.

(These notes extracted from the record cover of 'Magnificent Moller' Doric DO (Q) 1502. Contact John Atkinson 587 3374, there may still be some left!!).

Well!! Nothing lasts forever as they say and the Moller has been taken out of the Power Pizza and is currently reposing in the San Sylmar Museum having some work done to it prior to being donated by J.B. Nethercutt to the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. The refurbishing of the instrument will cost in excess of \$40,000.00 and the organ will be installed by the Moller Company which is still in existence and doing quite well.

EXCERPTS FROM THE NEWCASTLE ORGAN SOCIETY NEWS!!

"Do you believe in clubs for women?" a friend asked W.C. Fields. "Only if every other form of persuasion fails" he replied.

"Has he finished yet?" inquired on fugitive listener of another slipping out of the auditorium door.

"He was finished a long time ago," was the disgusted reply, "But he just won't stop".

Well, that is about it for another month. During this issue and between page 6 and 7 your Editor spent some more time in hospital but that is the way these things go I suppose. Still, should be all right now for a while until something else happens that will have to be repaired.

See you all next edition when I hope to be able to do an article on Christie Organs.