

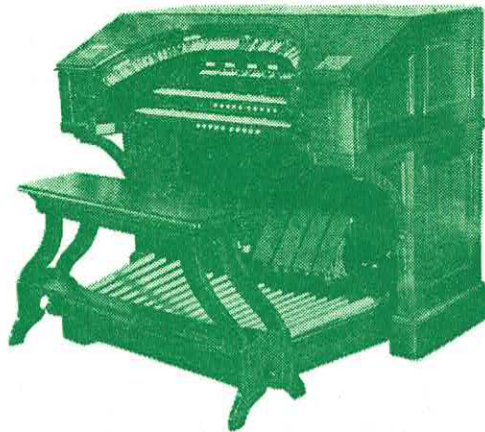
T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

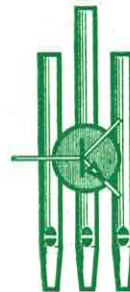
PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

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~~All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 108, Marrickville, N.S.W., Australia~~

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 10

1st October 1969.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH.

SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER AT 8pm. There will be an evening at the home of our members, Mr & Mrs Arthur Spring, of 22 William Street, Henley on the above date. The evening is being held in order that our member Colin Tringham, recently returned from several months in U.S.A., can give his impressions of the organ scene in America. Colin attended the A.T.O.E. 5 day Convention during his visit, and has much to tell of what went on during this exciting time. As well, he will give details of the latest developments in electronic organs and describe the new models. He will screen slides of his trip, as well as play tapes and records which he brought back with him. Would those who are desirous of attending this function please telephone Vice-President Des Russell at 42-4729 a few days beforehand, and make a reservation.

SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER AT 2.30pm. There will be another of the popular FREE Sunday afternoon Organ Concerts at the Marrickville Town Hall on this date. This function will be open to the public and TOSA members alike. The featured organist will be our member DAVID PARSONS, whose previous Sunday afternoon concert on our Wurlitzer, was a SMASH hit. On that occasion DAVID was twice recalled for a number of encores. There will be a guest organist presented at this concert, and the Society is delighted to introduce member RAY THORNLEY, one of our teenage organists, who will feature prominently in the programme. A very bright future is predicted for RAY, who is a very talented young organist, and his debut at the Society Wurlitzer is in accord with our policy of encouraging young organists as much as possible.

REMEMBER - SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL FOR THIS DUAL CONCERT.
DAVID PARSONS AND HIS GUEST ORGANIST - RAY THORNLEY DON'T MISS THIS ONE.

THURSDAY 30th OCTOBER AT 8pm. Our Honorary member IAN DAVIES will be heard in a concert to be presented at the Paddington-Woolahra R.S.L. Club which is located at 226 Oxford Street Paddington. This concert is being presented by the R.S.L. in aid of Legacy funds, and although it is not a TOSA function, a very warm invitation to all members of TOSA has been extended. Admission is 40cents each. That's right only 40¢ each, and one must agree that this is real value in this day and age.

D E N I S P A L M I S T R A IS COMING TO MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

OUR WURLITZER'S FIRST BIRTHDAY.

In November, our Wurlitzer will be celebrating its first birthday in the Marrickville Town Hall, and the Society is making arrangements to honor the occasion with a very special concert. Arrangements have been concluded to present the brilliant theatre organist MR DENIS PALMISTRA at the console of our Wurlitzer. The previous Society concert played by this famous artist, was an outstanding event, and we can look forward to an exciting and memorable concert to mark the end of the first year of operating our own Wurlitzer in Marrickville Town Hall. THIS IS A NOT TO BE MISSED EVENT. ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST THEATRE ORGANISTS - DENIS PALMISTRA - IN AN EXCITING FIRST BIRTHDAY CONCERT SPECTACULAR. THE DATE; THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER.

ORGAN PARTY.

Also in November, there will be an organ party at the home of our members, Mr & Mrs George Walker of 21 Lyne Road, Cheltenham. This will take place on Saturday 8th November, and will be run in aid of the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund. The Walker's

have the happy knack of making each evening they hold, a success, so everyone is assured of having a wonderful evening. If you plan to attend, please phone George or Joyce at 86-5871 a few days before and let them know how many in your party.

There will be a charge of \$1 each.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded that the next meeting will be on Monday 6th of October at 7.15pm. The November meeting will be on Monday 3rd, also at 7.15pm.

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER TOSA NEWS.

Would those having copy for the November issue of TOSA News please note that the closing date will be Friday 24th October. Please ensure that your copy reaches here in time.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.

1969 CONVENTION OPENED BY CHARLES TUCKWELL.

A splendid concert by our Honorary member CHARLES TUCKWELL was the first event of the 1969 Convention. CHARLES' precise fingers seemed to set the standard for this year's three day organ wing-ding, for there is little doubt that musically, this was one of the best Conventions the NSW Division has yet held.

Opening with a sprightly "In Town Tonight" CHARLES TUCKWELL brought to Eric Coates' piece, a stirring and imaginative approach, whilst at the same time retaining traditional theatre organ registrations. His programme ranged from a quite delightfully played selection of "Lilac Time" melodies, through such favorites as "Manhattan Serenade", "American Patrol", Songs from stage and screen, Gilbert & Sullivan, as well as Hits of the Day. MR TUCKWELL rang the changes well and often. The second half gave us a wide variety also, from "Savoy-American Medley", "Dream of Olwen", "Comedian's Gallop", "Strauss Waltzes" to a Medley of Old Favorites. One of the highlights of his programme, for me, was "The Petite Waltz", and this was a fluffy and lilting confection indeed. T.V. personality JAMES DIBBLE was the compere, and to him we are indebted for the smooth linking together of the entire programme. Thank you JIM. Guest artist was the soprano, Beryl Brownlee, whose rich and lovely voice was a delight to hear - she was an engaging performer throughout, and her warm personality came across excellently. CHARLES TUCKWELL'S sympathetic accompaniments to Miss Brownlee's singing were in copybook style, and fully complimentary to her well chosen items. Both artists received very warm ovations. The 1969 Convention had been launched right Royally indeed. And so to the next event....

IAN DAVIES PLAYS CAPITOL WURLITZER.

(By R.D.B.)

IAN DAVIES presented a bright and breezy programme at the very much rejuvenated Wurlitzer at the Capitol Theatre. Those who braved the early Saturday morning cold and wind were well rewarded for so doing, whilst those who stayed at home are much the poorer for missing this musical delight. From his theme "Cruising Down The River", the programme was one of movement; theatre organ memories included "Good Morning", "Blue Moon" with a particularly lilting upper accompaniment, "Steinsong", "The Storry Of A Starry Night" (with that Capitol ceiling twinkling in time), through a jazzy "Makin' Whoopee" and "Limehouse Blues".

A really thunderous "Road To Mandalay", a romantic "So Deep Is The Night" and "Yeomen Of England" comprised a bracket of ballads, followed by requested items "Lara's Theme", "La Vien Rose" and "Sweetheart Tree". IAN further exploited the organ with "March Of The Toys", "Dancing Tambourine", "Vagabond King", "Sunrise, Sunset" and a "Gondoliers Selection, together with a bracket of current pop hits. A foot-tapping nostalgic section of the programme was IAN'S "Western Selection". Much of the recital was new music from this stalwart member and greatly appreciated by the audience indeed.

ERIC SMITH PLAYS SILENT FILM.

The third session took place at the Anzac Auditorium at 2pm on the Saturday afternoon. The function commenced with a splendid demonstration of Stereo equipment installed by W.C. Wedderspoon Pty. Ltd. of Clarence Street Sydney, who gave the first hearing for the Society, of the sensational new BOSE speaker system, in association with a high quality amplifier and tape recorder. All those present were very impressed with the quite fantastic reproduction of the BOSE speakers, and many of those present are probably now making a new appraisal of their present equipment. The tape played was a recent recording made by Victorian Division's TONY FENELON and was top class.

LOOKING BACK AT THE CONVENTION (Cont)

Then came the screening of the Society's archive copies of the ABC TV feature about the opening of the Society WurliTzer organ at Marrickville, and the film which was made prior to the closing of the Prince Edward Theatre, and gave a final look around this lovely old house, now demolished. Next we saw the official color film of the Moon shot landing showing the astronauts and Apollo 11. This, in turn, was followed by two organ films kindly made available by Palings Pty. Ltd., and these were greatly enjoyed, particularly the film, "Meet The Organ" with PORTER HEAPS at the Hammond, especially enjoyable were this genial organists many touches of humour.

The main feature however, was a silent film comedy classic with organ accompaniment by our Honorary member ERIC SMITH and this was an hilarious affair with ERIC'S perfectly timed percussive and other effects adding more than just a little to the general merriment. TOSA News congratulates ERIC on his clever handling of this part of the programme. After a brief interval, ERIC SMITH returned to give a well detailed lecture with practical demonstrations on the organ, on the art of counter melody. This was highly interesting, well presented with seeming ad-lib, yet it must very obviously have been well prepared, it was of immense benefit to all present whether organists or not. The organ used during the afternoon session was a Thomas Lawrence Welk model, kindly made available by Winton Music Centre to whom we extend our thanks.

Conventioneers then made their way to Cahills Vintage Bistro, opened exclusively for our use, and in a private room, enjoyed the Convention dinner. There was ample time during and after the meal for members to gather and chat, and from the hubbub of conversation in the room, everyone took full advantage of it. We were pleased to welcome three interstate visitors, Mr & Mrs Harris from the Queensland Division, and Mr Gary Vanderwerp from the South Australian Division. They were made to feel very welcome and met many old and new friends in the Society.

PETER HELD'S HAMMOND CONCERT.

The fourth session of the Convention featured our Honorary member PETER HELD in concert on the Hammond model H111 equipped with a Series 10 tone cabinet plus a Leslie tone cabinet also. PETER'S was a differing style of programme which was brilliantly played and presented with traditional theatre organ styling and polish.

Opening with his Signature tune, "The Minstrel Boy" PETER'S programme consisted of seventeen brackets of items - each bracket having its own style of playing and type of music. PETER'S "dizzy fingers" are devastatingly accurate in their keyboard mastery, and the same could be said of his changes of registration - they were very fast and accurate as well as being most pleasing tonally. His arrangements, particularly in such orchestral numbers as the "Overture Zampa" were outstandingly good and fully revealed his experience as a theatre organist.

It is extremely difficult to select a highlight from a programme which has been of a uniformly high standard, but I would personally feel that Eric Coate's "London Suite" and the "Zampa Overture" would have been the choice of many of his audience, they were certainly highlights for me. In all, it was a most enjoyable musical experience, and judging by the applause which followed PETER'S final item, those attending the concert, thought so too.

SESSION NUMBER 5 - JAM SESSION.

On Sunday morning at 10am Conventioneers gathered at Marrickville Town Hall for the Member's Jam Session. This was a very informal affair indeed and those who were there enjoyed themselves fully, it was reported to TOSA News.

REUBERT HAYES IN CONVENTION FINALE.

The final session took place at Noel Winter's lovely Odeon Theatre at Campsie with our Honorary member REUBERT HAYES at the console of the theatre's electronic organ, and he excitingly rang down the curtain on our three days of organ pleasure. Long known as a perfectionist, REUBERT HAYES has, over many years, set himself a standard of musicianship from which he does not depart. We were once again, treated to a recital in which timing, showmanship and programming matched the organists ability at the keyboard. The only word of criticism I would dare to offer, is that it all ended too soon! The Society extends its grateful thanks to the organists for their dedicated work in preparing, rehearsing and presenting concerts that were truly memorable. On behalf of all members TOSA News salutes you all. Congratulations and long may you all continue to play the kind of music which brought so much pleasure to us.

HOWARD RUSSELL AT LYCEUM THEATRE'S CHRISTIE.

Promptly at 1pm on Sunday 24th August, our member HOWARD RUSSELL appeared at the console of the 2/10 Christie Theatre Pipe Organ in Sydney's Lyceum Theatre and presented a most enjoyable concert indeed. It is so many years since many of us heard a Christie organ in a theatre that perhaps we had almost forgotten just what this make of organ sounded like in the theatre atmosphere. It was a refreshing experience to say the least. The weight of the 32' pedal was the first thing to impress me - despite its weight it seemed so much more resonant than I remembered it. Tonally, it is a very bright organ indeed and obviously fast and responsive. After listening for only a short time, my eyes closed and I was back in the Roxy Theatre Parramatta - at least in my imagination.

Despite the fact that this theatre is used as a church on Sundays HOWARD RUSSELL, by his programme content, made it very clear that he enjoys playing theatre organ as much as he does when he uses the instrument for church services, many of which are broadcast widely in this State. Those accustomed to hearing this instrument over the radio as a church organ would have been very impressed had they been in the auditorium and heard it as a theatre organ. And what a variety of fare HOWARD offered us.

Opening with a nicely played "Showboat" selection we were treated to such offerings as Moon River, Five Foot Two, Eyes Of Blue, The Impossible Dream, Bells Across The Meadow, Ave Maria, Toccata, Obla-Di, Ob-la-da, Love Is Blue, Georgy Girl, Hernandos Hideaway, and Never On Sunday. (Never On Sunday??? - well on this occasion - yes definitely.) In his Light Classical Section, HOWARD featured Traumerie, Blue Danube Waltz, Wine, Women & Song, Trumpet Tune, followed by the popular King & I Selection, High Noon and I'll Walk With God. As a final concession, perhaps, Onward Christian Soldiers and The March Of The War Priests, both played with full regard for the organ's straight potential. HOWARD RUSSELL'S concert deserved to have had a full house, for it was a splendid performance characterised by a lot of preparation and hard work. We could not have had a better re-union with such an old friend as the Christie theatre pipe organ than this dedicated organist gave us, and the Society extends its sincere thanks to HOWARD both for his playing, as well as for making this visit possible. We also wish to thank the Church authorities for inviting us to visit their Church In A Theatre - Sydney's Lyceum.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

This month we welcome Mr & Mrs Ian Pogson to the Society. We hope that you will enjoy the many organ functions presented during the year.

RECORD NEWS.

TOSA News has been advised by Stedfast Enterprises Ltd., that Festival Records in Australia have just released a recording entitled "What A Wonderful World" featuring well known B.B.C. organist, HAROLD SMART at the console of a three manual Thomas Palace model organ. The record number is stereo SFL 933231 and it features 11 tracks 26 popular theatre and modern tunes. A complete chart of the voicing which HAROLD SMART uses in every track is supplied with the record. The record can be obtained from any Thomas organ agent or direct from Stedfast Enterprises, 307 Sussex Street, Sydney.

NEXT PRACTISE SESSIONS AT MARRICKVILLE.

The October Practise session times will be as follows.

Group 1. Saturday 25th October

Group 2. Tuesday 28th October

Members should attend punctually at the hour appointed to them.

DAVID PARSONS WINS NSW YAMAHA ORGAN PLAYING CONTEST.

We excitedly announce that our member DAVID PARSONS won the NSW heat finals of the Yamaha Organ Playing Contest held on Monday 15th September. Our heartiest congratulations DAVID and our best wishes for the Grand Final which will be held at the Dendy Theatre in Melbourne on Sunday afternoon 25th October. The winner of that event will have an all expences paid trip to Japan as a guest of Yamaha to enable him (or her) to compete in the International Final in November. Good luck Davey boy from TOSA.

OUR OWN WURLITZER ORGAN'S FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY - THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER NEXT.
WITH D E N I S P A L M I S T R A AT THE CONSOLE OF THE ORGAN

WILBUR KENTWELL TO PLAY NEWCASTLE AGAIN.

Keith Joice, Publicity Officer of the Newcastle Hammond Organ Society has advised TOSA News that WILBUR KENTWELL will be heard in concert at the Hunter Theatre in Newcastle on Saturday 29th November at 8pm. The concert is being presented for a local charity, and is not a Hammond Organ Society function. WILBUR will be playing a three manual Conn electronic organ fitted with electronic pipes.

AUSTRALIA'S YOUNGEST THEATRE ORGANIST.

Our member RAY THORNLEY must surely be the youngest theatre organist in the country at the present time. He now plays regularly each Saturday night at the console of the Christie theatre pipe organ in the New Victory Theatre at Kogarah. It would appear that RAY is following in the footsteps of very many of Australia's theatre organists of the "golden days" a large number of whom played seasons at this well known house, the only suburban cinema which has retained its pipe organ. The term "New Victory Theatre" probably refers to the management's policy of presenting the organ, rather than to the building, to make the situation clear.

LYCEUM THEATRE PREMIERE WITH ORGAN.

Member HOWARD RUSSELL advise that he will be playing the 2/10 Christie organ of the Lyceum Theatre on October 18th for a Gala Premiere - the film title is yet to be announced. The Theatre is currently showing "Oliver" which has had a long and successful season. Can any member remember hearing the organ used during shows?

KOGARAH CONCERT.

Kogarah Congregational Church located in Chapel Street, are presenting a concert of light Choral and Organ music in the Chuech Hall on Friday 17th October at 8pm. The artists will be ALEC BRITTON playing a Yamaha E3 Concert organ and the Amicitia Choir, a Dutch group who have appeared several times on the A.B.C. Admission is 75 ¢ adults Children and pensioners 50¢ Family ticket \$1.50. Light supper included.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS. (From Vox Magazine)

September issue of Vox reports an outstanding concert at the Dendy Theatre by TONY FENELON prior to his taking off for America. It was held on Sunday 31st August and TONY left shortly afterwards to fulfil his USA tour which extends from September 12th through to October 12th. His final concert will be on Sunday 12th at the Wiltern Theatre Los Angeles on the 4/37 Kimball organ there. This takes place in the morning and TONY leaves on his return by QANTAS at 8pm the same night.

The Victorian Division have purchased the grand piano formerly in the dressing room of their late Patron STANFIELD HOLLIDAY when he was organist at the Melbourne Regent Theatre. It will be kept on stage at the Dendy Theatre and used in concerts for the Division in association with their WurliTzer. It was used in the farewell concert by TONY FENELON and is a definite asset to the Division.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS.

The Queensland Division's biggest function to date is the Warana Festival Organ Spectacular which takes place just after we have gone to press. Presented in the Brisbane City Hall, there will be no less than six electronic organs on stage, all played by famous top line organists, plus the City Hall Pipe organ. TOSA News understands the proceeds go to the Queensland Division's pipe organ purchase fund, which should receive a healthy boost from this well organised concert.

Another item of wide and exciting interest, is the announcement that WILBUR KENTWELL will be featured in a concert at the lovely Regent Theatre Brisbane on Sunday 28th September. This event also takes place after we have gone to press. After a rest of six years an organ will once again rise from the pit in this movie mansion. It will not be the theatre's WurliTzer however - this being removed several years ago, but a Conn electronic theatre organ. The thrilling part of this news item is that the console will be placed on the lift thus enabling members of the Queensland Division to savour the excitement of witnessing this most impressive piece of theatrical showmanship. The man who first thought of placing an organ on a lift was indeed a genius, the impact that it made in those less sophisticated days still retains its magic in the jet age of today. Verily, was he not ahead of his time??

Tom F. Ellis, Queensland Division's "Tibia" News Editor, noted that TONY FENELON had

been appointed as Patron of the Western Australian Division, saying that he was a little confused as he thought that REGINALD DIXON was the nationwide Patron of our Society. Not so Tom, my friend. Patrons of the respective Divisions are:-
 West. Aust. TONY FENELON Sth. Aust. KNIGHT BARNETT Victoria GEORGE BLACKMORE
 NSW Division REGINALD DIXON. The ball is now at your feet Queensland.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS.

Ray Clements reports that following the resignation of their President Jim Thompson, Mr Alan Doodson was elected as President. Jim Thompson resigned due to leaving the fair city of Perth and the W.A. Division were sorry to lose him. They have, in Alan Doodson, a worthy successor and TOSA News offers congratulations and best wishes to Alan as he assumes his new responsibilities. Mrs Marion Kidd was appointed Treasurer and we offer congrats and best wishes to her also.

Next Functions in W.A. Thursday October 9th at Dorothy Younes, 8 Lonsdale Street Mt. Yokine - a Hi-fi and tape night.

Tuesday October 28th at Mrs Bergin 12 Grange St. Claremont.

LETTER FROM A WURLITZER WIDOW. (as received)

Dear Editor,

I would like to say a few words this month as a member of your "organ widows Club". It is a most opportune time to do so as our 1969 Convention is now but a pleasant memory, and I know I speak for all the "girls" who attended when I say we enjoyed it all - not only the actual functions, but the air of happiness and friendliness which surrounded one and all, the cozy chatter and lightheartedness which accompanied our delightful meal in very attractive surroundings, and the touches of humour which came over the "mike" throughout the day.

As for our silent film, it was hilarious and Eric Smith's wonderful musical effects just put the final artistic touch to it, so we hope to see and hear more in this delightful vein at future functions where possible. The organ presentations throughout the Convention were all completely different, and the artists did a magnificent job. We fully realise that Conventions and other functions just don't "happen" without a lot of thought, discussion, planning and sheer hard work behind the scenes, so may I take this opportunity on behalf of all TOSA members, of thanking each and every one who has taken, and continues to take a share of this load either in a large or small way, either playing at the console, or working behind the console, either organising or just doing the voluminous paper and accounts work necessary - to one and all, we do just say a very big thank you very much for we do appreciate all these "labours of love" for the organ.

Just a special word of thanks to our "handsome backroom boys" who spend such long hours at Marrickville Town Hall, arriving before everyone else to set up "our organ" and leaving after everyone else after putting "our organ" away, spending Saturdays and Tuesday nights there so that members might have the enjoyment of playing "our organ" - truly/"our organ boys" are a wonderful team, and behind every wonderful "boy", there is an equally wonderful wife or mother who makes many unseen sacrifices for "our organ" so we would like them to know how much they are appreciated too.

In closing, my one suggestion for future occasions (and here I speak for "boys" as well as "girls") is, if its possible, could we please oh please, have a nice hot 'cuppa' during afternoon or night sessions

Written by a member of TOSA Admiration Society.

TOSA News thanks the lady concerned very much for passing on her (and others) quite obvious appreciation. Its sincerity and loyal sentiments mean a great deal to us.

10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS. Our members Geoff Rowston and Warren Wood offer 10% discount to all members on photographic equipment, film hire, film purchase, hi-fi gear, tape recorders and tapes, caravan hire etc. Geoff and Warren will welcome your enquiries. Write or ring Home Talkie Company, 561 Elizabeth Street Sydney for your requirements. Phone 69-1758 after hours 81-1404

Well I guess that just about wraps it up for another month - the 1969 Convention has come and gone, and from the tone of the above letter, it would seem that others hold the view, as I do, that it was one of the best Conventions, musically, that we have held. With the continued loyal support of all members next year can be even better. It just needs a little more effort, that's all.

Till the next issue, THE EDITOR.