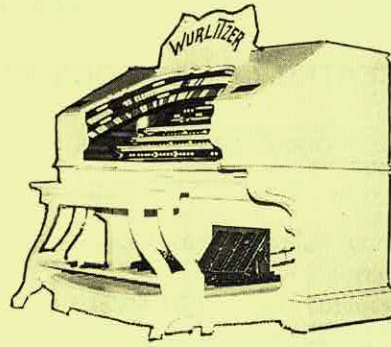
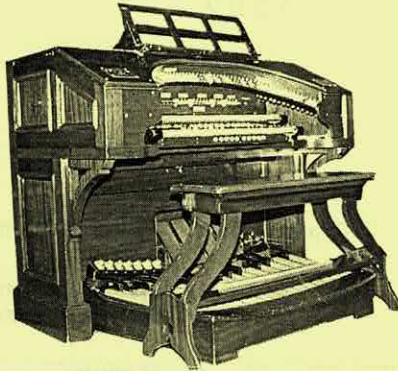


TOSA

SEPTEMBER 1992

Marrickville Town Hall



Orion Centre Campsie

NEWS

World Famous American Theatre Organist *Jim Riggs - In Concert*



THE ORION CENTRE - Beamish St. Campsie -

27TH SEPTEMBER 1992

AT 2.00PM

Volume 31

Issue 8

PRINTED BY TOSA

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TOSA NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1992

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&
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COMING EVENTS

- 1992 -

AUGUST

Sun 30 at 2.00pm CHARITY CONCERT -CAMPSIE

In aid of St. Vincent's
Hospital - Aids Ward)

SEPTEMBER

Mon 21 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed 16 at 7.30pm MEMBERS CLUB NIGHT
(Campsie Orion)

Sun 27 at 2.00pm JIM RIGGS - Campsie Orion
ATOS American Organist
of the Year for 1990

OCTOBER

Mon 19 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING

Sun 25 at 2.00pm MARGARET HALL in concert
Marrickville Town Hall

NOVEMBER

Wed 11 at 8.00pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
M.T.H.

Sun 15 at 2.00pm MEMBERS' PARTY M.T.H.

DECEMBER

Sun 13 at 2.00pm TONY FENELON'S
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
(Campsie Orion)

The Secretary
T O S A (N S W Division) Inc.
P O Box 151
ALLAWAH N S W 2218

Letters & contributions for TOSA NEWS
to: 24 Rosedale Road, Gordon NSW 2072

REMEMBER TO TUNE-IN TO 2CBA-FM

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 9.00pm -

For: "Theatre Organ Highlights"
Presented by Chris Styles



Articles in this journal need not represent the views of the committee or editor.

Editorial

Due to the unexpected delays in finalising the August 'Charity Concert' TOSA NEWS, we sincerely apologise to David Devenport for the delayed publication of the Red Cross Charity Film Luncheon at the Hayden Cremorne Picture Palace, 10th August. Unfortunately, most newsletters were received by mail on the day following the concert.

As the September issue is already 'on the drawing board' for distribution at the concert, 30th August, my mind is a 'blank' for editorial news, just to say all good wishes for a wonderful Charity Gala Concert. I do hope that you have supported these fine artists and St. Vincent's Hospital.

Ritchie Willis deserves a special merit for singularly booking approximately 85 seats. Thank you Ritchie.

Fond regards,
Miriam Morris



35 Wolger Street
COMO WEST 2226
10th August, '92

TOSA NEWS.

As a recent member of TOSA, I was surprised to hear of a theatre organ in the Epping Baptist Church.

Would it be possible to have an article or a series of articles written on the history (origin and present location) of theatre organs in New South Wales.

I am sure many other new members would be interested.

Regards,
Dave Martin

MAYORAL DINNER DANCE
Friday, 4th September, 1992
ORION CENTRE, CAMPSIE, 8 PM.



His Worship, the Mayor, Alderman John Gorrie, and the Lady Mayoress, Shirley Gorrie, will be hosting the Dinner Dance, to the music of the Yellow Rolls Royce Orchestra, accompanied by world famous organist Neil Jensen on the Wurlitzer Organ. The cost of the tickets is \$50 per person, which includes a three course meal, wine, beer and juice. proceeds to the Mayoress' Charity Fund.

For bookings, please contact - Mrs. Rita Liseo, Telephone 789 9300, ext 327.

(We were not able to publish this information in the August TOSA NEWS as it was received after closing date).

BOB STAUNTON'S ORGAN PLAYING
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

Following the success of the last term of Organ Playing Workshops, would all members proposing to join the new sessions, please contact Bob, telephone no: 607 8925.

GET WELL GREETINGS
-0o0-

Those who saw Barry Tooker on the 2nd August, would have been amazed to know that the following day Barry was rushed into the Masonic Hospital, Ashfield for immediate surgery. Barry spoke very highly of the wonderful care and attention he received while there, and hopes to be attending the Charity Concert on the 30th August.

Neil Palmer also had a short visit to hospital, and we certainly send greetings to Neil for a speedy recovery.

--00o00--

From the President's Corner

IS TOSA ALIVE AND WELL ? -
.....YOU BE THE JUDGE.

Since my appointment as President of T.O.S.A. (NSW Division) I have looked into a number of areas of the Society - and in consultation with the Executive and Committee, suggestions for improvements have been made and in some instances implemented.

I believe that if our organisation is to survive, it must function in a strictly business-like manner and at all times be totally supported by its members.

In the past, discussions have taken place concerning a maximum term to be served in various committee positions. YOU the members, have the power in your vote to implement change at each Annual General Meeting - when all executive and committee positions are declared vacant. From our total membership with voting rights, only a small percentage of members take time to attend the A.G.M. or forward a postal vote - to express their thoughts and exercise their voting rights in support of their society. Remember YOU elect your Committee and give them direction. The elected committee is then authorised to work for the good of it's members and the society. The role of the members does not end at the conclusion of the General Meeting. They are expected where possible, to support their society and its activities.

After perusing past concert attendance statistics, it is obvious that only certain artists command 'top billing' status and these concerts are well patronised, but other artists who work hard and 'give their all' for TOSA are not rewarded by large audiences. There are a number of dedicated members who totally support the society's activities - and to them I am grateful and say "Thank You".

There are others who, through sickness, continuing ill health, lack of transport, or are outside reasonable transport area, are unable to give their support - BUT WHERE ARE THE OTHER TOSA MEMBERS ?

It is your Society, formed and operated for your enjoyment, so why not support the functions it arranges. Here are some statistics to think about. Concert patronage over the past three years.

	1989 %	1990 %	1991 %
January	12.9	NIL	NIL
February	15.0	21.5	11.6
March	10.1 4.6	NIL	13.6
April	5.3	6.3 17.0	17.4
May	NIL	5.7	NIL
June	9.1	7.3	7.5
July	10.4	11.2	18.3
August	3.9	NIL	NIL
September	4.3	6.6	10.6
October	10.6	5.7	5.2
November	NIL	NIL	NIL
December	13.8	18.7	15.4

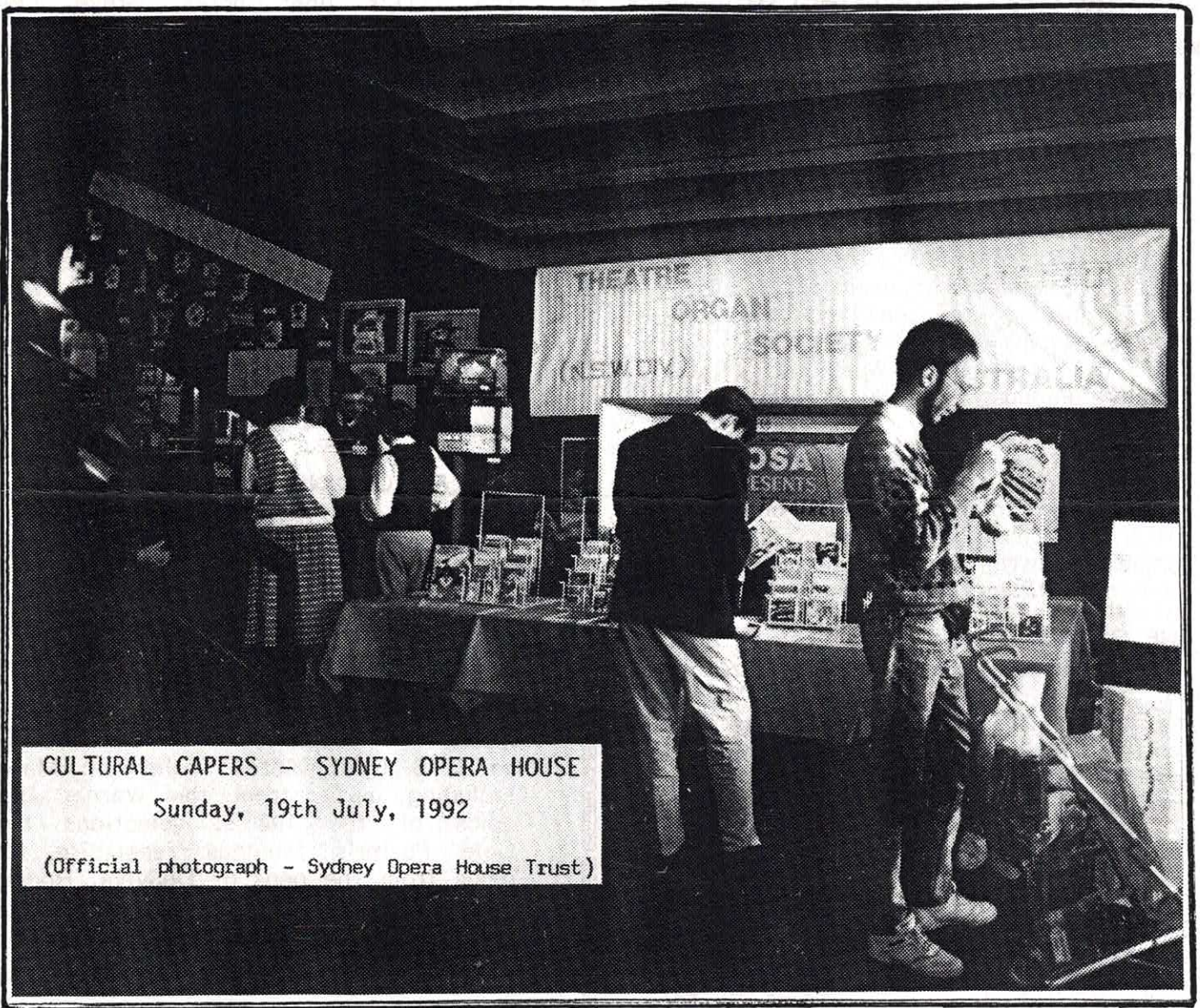
If TOSA is to survive, it must become attractive to the generations of people who came after the era of 'The Mighty Theatre Pipe Organ'. The 'King of Instruments' is a versatile musical instrument - and may be used to present music from any era, so why not do so? Concerts may have to be re-designed and presented to reach the younger groups, or maybe the concert format may have to include other areas of entertainment, such as our current Gala Concert at the Orion Centre, August, 1992.

If support is not freely given by members and friends, together with new membership drives, the theatre organ will once again (as in years gone by) descend into the pit to remain silent and forgotten forever. If this happens, where will generations in the future find dedicated people - who know the theatre organ, it's history and have a love for it's music - to foster this form of entertainment and preserve it for generations to come.

I would like to hear the members' thoughts on this matter and would be pleased to receive constructive suggestions on the future of the Theatre Organ Society, it's instruments and music.

Until next issue, regards,

Bob Staunton
President.



CULTURAL CAPERS - SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE
Sunday, 19th July, 1992

(Official photograph - Sydney Opera House Trust)

There was great enthusiasm amongst the many helpers for the T.O.S.A. display at the Opera House. Apart from the superb efforts of the entire Executive and Committee, special thanks go to Ross Adams for his transportation of the display to and from the Opera House. To Jack Leech, Copies Plus for enlargements of pictures used, Peter Harding for the display banner and Jack Lawson, Ed Wharton and Rob Gliddon for their special interest and support on the Cultural Capers Day.

For those who missed seeing the display, the complete stand is being reproduced in the foyer at Campsie at the next concert.

Our final expression of gratitude goes to our President, Bob Staunton, for his untiring efforts in co-ordinating the entire event and his total devotion to the welfare of the Theatre Organ Society.

PARAMOUNT ON PARADE

Review by John Giacchi

In anticipation of the forthcoming tour by American Organist, Jim Riggs, I have been asked to review Mr. Riggs' second latest recording "Paramount On Parade".

In the U.S. summer of 1990, en route to the Indianapolis convention, I visited San Francisco to see and hear the theatre organs in the Bay Area. The Oakland Paramount Wurlitzer stands proudly amongst the Wurlitzers of the Berkeley Community Theatre (4/33) and the Castro (4/21) and Stanford (to be 4/20) theatres respectively - each having their own tonal characteristics, coupled with their individual unique acoustic environments to give their own distinctive "In Theatre" sound.

THE ORGAN

The Oakland Paramount Wurlitzer - the original Wurlitzer (Opus 2164) was the last of the Publix No.1 models built by the Wurlitzer Company (4 manuals and 20 ranks). It now survives in the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis (a la pizzeria) greatly enlarged to 42 ranks.

The present organ is assembled around Opus 1123 built in 1925 as the first of the Publix No.1 models. Being an early Wurlitzer, it has not one, but two beautiful Tibia Clausa ranks, 8 ranks of Strings and 11 ranks of reeds. Its predecessor (Opus 2164) had only the usual 4-16' pedal stops, which basically supplied nothing but a woolly, undefined and overpowering pedal department (Tuba, Diaphone, Tibia, Bourdon). The Wurlitzer you hear on this C.D. has many more luxuries than specified on a majority of Wurlitzer standard models - such as the Horn Diapason, Solo Strings and Oboe Horn extended to 16' pitch. This consequently provides the pedal with not so much 'grunt' but more colour and definition necessary for ballads and mezzo-forte tunes - (not to mention clarity of line in quicksteps and marches).

THE ORGANIST

Most readers will know of Jim Riggs' musical background, as his profile has appeared in TOSA NEWS. I would like to add that Jim possesses a unique sensitivity to the music that made

theatre organ what it is today. In the C.D.'s liner notes, Steve Levin states that .."like the paramount itself, Jim offers no apologies for the past. Like may not have been better then, but the music certainly was".

His ability to make theatre organ virtually 'sing' is uncanny and even his presentation of theatre organ 'potboilers' his harmonies add a refreshing dimension to an otherwise lacklustre piece of music. I shall always remember when, after playing for Jim at the Paramount Wurlitzer, Jim proceeded to reharmonise what I had already re-harmonised. Jim's permutations and combinations seem endless....

THE RECORDING

There is no better choice than Jim Riggs to succeed the former house organist of the Paramount, Jim Roseveare, after his untimely death three years ago. He knows the tunes that will work best on the Paramount Wurlitzer and this understanding is evident in the recording - all period music from 1926 'All Alone Monday' to 1946 Eric Coates 'Television March' including music from the Warner Bros. epics of the 1930's, selections from Cole Porter's fabulous repertoire, and gems from the pens of DeSilva, Rodgers & Hart, Walter Donaldson and others.

SOME OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

1) Paramount on Parade - the title track, albeit short, is played with much gusto and fire. Listeners may recognise it as the theme from the Paramount newsreels.

2) Baby - Oh Where Can You Be? - Several people have asked me - What's the big deal with Jesse Crawford's playing? Had they asked me years ago, I probably would have said 'nothing'. However, having heard Jesse Crawford's music played by Jim Riggs, I began to realise the meticulous phrasing Crawford employed, and his unique way of transcribing the words of a song to music. Jim has the ability to recreate Crawford's 'poetry' in a 'fake' Crawford arrangement of this lovely tune, apart from employing Crawford's style as part of his own.

3) A Warner Bros. Medley - Harry Warren is by far my favourite composer of the silver screen music.

(cont'd. page 7)

Profile of Jim Riggs

Jim Riggs is one of the leading theatre organists playing today. In addition to a heavy concert schedule in the United States and abroad, he serves as House Organist for the landmark art-deco Paramount Theatre in Oakland and the newly-restored Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto, California. In Bay Area theatres alone, it is estimated he has performed for over 450,000 movie patrons over the last five years.

In 1990, the American Theatre Organ Society named him their Organist of The Year.

Jim has played Concerts at five Annual Conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society (A.T.O.S.) and is currently serving on the Board of Directors.

Jim has played several highly acclaimed Concerts in the United Kingdom and has been invited to play at the 1993 Cinema Organ Society Convention.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY ...

"It is difficult to describe the joy that Jim Riggs finds in the music he plays. Whatever its description, it came to us from the stage and from the chambers with every piece he played. It distinguished the evening by its dignity, power and joy."

...Stephen L. Adams
Theatre Organ Magazine
December 1991

"Friday evening was the first official convention event. Jim Riggs at the Warnors. A consummate nostalgist, Jim has done his homework and has researched a number of obscure pieces from the 20's and 30's, which added to the sense of timelessness that this theatre manifests. **I'm Doin' What I'm Doin' For Love** - was not only Sophie Tucker's philosophy in 1931, it also described Jim Riggs in 1990. And whoever heard of **The Peanut Polka**? No words better describe this evening than 'pure nostalgia at its best."

Grace McGinnis
Theatre Organ Magazine
January 1991

PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE AND
A SPRING IN YOUR STEP WITH THESE
GREAT JIM RIGGS RECORDINGS !

GRANADA



Recorded on the 3/20 Barton at the Granada Theatre, Kansas City.

PARAMOUNT ON PARADE



Recorded on the 4/26 WurliTzer at the fabulous Oakland Paramount Theatre, Oakland, Ca.

SINGIN' IN THE BATHTUB



Recorded on the 4/21 WurliTzer at the Alabama Theatre, Birmingham, Al.

REAL RHYTHM!



Recorded on the 3/13 WurliTzer at the Grand Lake Theatre, Oakland, Ca.

AVAILABLE IN AUSTRALIA

SEPTEMBER 1992

from page 6

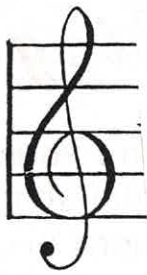
An eclectic collection from the Warner Bros. musicals, ending with the fabulous **All's Fair in Love and War**.

4) **Television March** - According to the liner notes, Coates wrote this March when television was still in its infancy. Jim plays the march with authority and some beautiful Coates harmonies.

Dick Clay must be commended for capturing the Paramount sound for the first time in digital stereo without sacrificing the WurliTzer's impressive dynamic range and expression (all 92 shutters !!!).

The whole package also includes some breathtaking pictures of the Paramount Auditorium and Lobby - and of course, the WurliTzer.

Hopefully Jim, it won't be too long before theatre organ audiophiles will be able to enjoy 'Paramount on Parade -Volume 2'.



RECORD BAR NEWS

Due to many requests, TOSA has specially imported the following PHIL KELSALL recordings.

Phil Kelsall Music Video Vol 2: Tower Ballroom & Opera House Wurlitzers, Blackpool. \$46.00

Phil Kelsall Music Video Vol 3 "All Time Favourites", Tower Ballroom Wurlitzer. \$46.00

Phil Kelsall Music Video Vol 4 "Dizzy Fingers", Tower Ballroom, Blackpool & Free Trade Hall, Manchester. \$46.00

Phil Kelsall Music Video Vol 5 "Live in Concert", Town Hall Wurlitzer, Burton-on-Trent. \$46.00

ALL VIDEOS ARE VHS FORMAT

BLACKPOOL MAGIC Tracks incl. Entry of the Gladiators, Chattanooga Choo Choo, Bless This House, plus more.
COMPACT DISC \$28.00 CASSETTE \$18.00

COME DANCING AT THE TOWER BALLROOM Tracks incl. You're Driving Me Crazy, September Song, Anniversary Waltz, plus more.
COMPACT DISC \$28.00 CASSETTE \$18.00

SEQUENCE DANCING FAVOURITES Tracks incl. I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Chicago, Hello Dolly, Dancing with Tears in my Eyes, Diane, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$28.00

BENEATH THE LIGHTS OF HOME Tracks incl. Wedding of the Painted Doll, Stella by Starlight, Glocca Morra, Laura, Black & White Rag, Cheek to Cheek, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$28.00

PHIL KELSALL AT THE WURLITZER ORGAN OF THE TOWER BALLROOM,
BLACKPOOL Tracks incl. Bring Me Sunshine, Jealousy, Tiger Rag, Shaddap You Face, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$28.00

UNFORGETTABLE HITS OF THE FIFTIES Tracks incl. He's Got the Whole World In His Hands, Unforgettable, Damdusters March, Three Coins in the Fountain, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$28.00

OTHER NEW RECORDINGS

STRIKE UP THE BAND! Patrick Wedd plays the Orpheum Theatre Wurlitzer, Vancouver. Tracks incl. Entry of the Gladiators, Ritual Fire Dance, Funeral March of a Marionette, The Swan, Gershwin Selection, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$27.00

IT'S A GRAND OLD FLAG Melissa Ambrose at the Senate Theatre Wurlitzer, Detroit. Tracks incl. Strike Up the Band, Yankee Doodle Dandy, 76 Trombones, American Patrol, Battle Hymn of the Republic, plus more. "SURROUND SOUND" COMPACT DISC \$22.00

TOWER BALLROOM FAVOURITES Reginald Dixon. Tracks incl. Tiger Rag, Autumn Leaves, These Foolish Things, Sabre Dance, Moonlight Serenade, Stardust, La Paloma, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$22.00

THE ALL-AMERICAN MUSIC OF IRVING BERLIN Dwight Thomas at the Paramount Music Palace Wurlitzer. Tracks incl. Alexander's Ragtime Band, Change Partners, Always, Heat Wave, Annie Get Your Gun, Puttin' On the Ritz, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$27.00

THE BYRD SINGS! Ron Rhode at the Byrd Theatre Wurlitzer, Richmond, Virginia. Tracks incl. Barcelona, Slow Poke, Slaughter on Tenth Avenue, Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana, Night and Day (with Chuck Rhode, Tenor) plus more. COMPACT DISC \$27.00

THE "WURLITZER WONDERLAND" SERIES.

WURLITZER WONDERLAND Keith Tomlin & John Barnett at the Wurlitzer Pipe Organ & Electronic Organ in the Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham. Tracks incl. California Here I Come, Five Foot Two, Rhinstone Cowboy, Always, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$27.00

VOL 2 Tracks incl. Around the World, Pal of my Cradle Days, Edelweiss, Are You Lonesome Tonight, Don't Dilly Dally, The Happy Wanderer, Down Town, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$27.00

VOL 3 Nicholas Martin & Ian Darlington at the Wurlitzer Pipe Organ & Yamaha at Turner's Musical Merry-Go-Round, Northampton. Tracks incl. Whistling Rufus, Twelfth Street Rag, Root Beer Rag, Scotland the Brave, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$27.00

GOLDEN OLDIES VOL 1 Nicholas Martin plays Strict Tempo on the Wurlitzer at Turner's Musical Merry-Go-Round. Tracks incl. Hello Who's Your Lady Friend? Lucky Day, Sally, Roses of Picardy, The Lambeth Walk, Booms A Daisy, plus more. COMPACT DISC \$27.00

AVAILABLE AT TOSA CONCERTS OR BY MAIL ORDER

POSTAGE: for Video \$3.70, 1 CD \$2.55, 2 CD's \$3.70
1 Cassette \$2.45, 2 Cassettes \$2.55

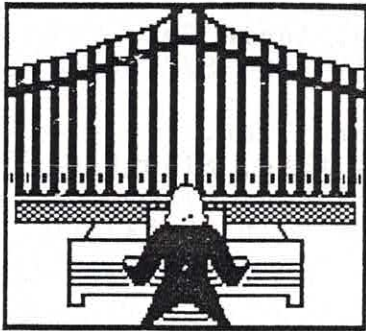
WRITE TO: TOSA MERCHANDISING
C/- 304 Parramatta Road
ASHFIELD NSW 2131



Neil Palmer

Friday 9th, Saturday 10th, in August TOSA NEWS
Sunday 11th, Monday 12th, (omitted, printed below)

Sunday 11th



OPEN PIPES from 9.30am till lunch time on the 2/12 Wurlitzer in Pulteney Grammar School. Open console for those who wish to play a few tunes on our sweet sounding organ.

An **ANGLICAN CHURCH SERVICE** will be conducted at the St. Peter's College Chapel at 10.00am.

PIPE POURRI at 2.00pm at the Capri Theatre will feature organists *David Johnston, Chris McPhee* and *Sean Henderson*.

BIG EVENT!

SIZZLIN' PIPES at 8.00pm at the Capri Theatre with our special guest artist from the USA, *CLARK WILSON*.

Monday 12th



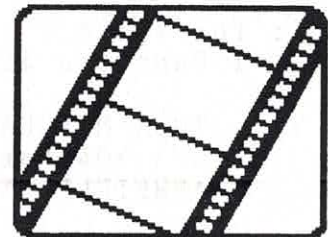
EXHAUST PIPES at 9.00am at the Capri Theatre.

CLARK WILSON will conduct an organ workshop on the Capri Theatre's 4/21 Wurlitzer Christie organ.

As part of this segment, a **MYSTERY TOUR** with a barbecue lunch and a visit to hear a church organ will follow the workshop. Following the tour, conventioners will return to the Capri Theatre for another Open Console and Farewells, with the closing of the convention at 4.00pm.

Every person with a full convention registration is given an automatic entry to a lucky draw.

Prizes totalling \$1200 will be won!



PIPE DREAMS. Full ticket conventioners are invited to attend the evening film session at the Capri Theatre, free of charge.

Full convention package price: \$180

Discount price if paid before December 31st: \$165

DON'T MISS IT!

Convention Registration Forms will be available soon.

Convention enquiries should be directed to the TOSA Convention Secretary
P.O. Box 307 Goodwood, SA 5034.

Convention Secretary, JAN F. MALLET, 69 Ayers Avenue, DAW PARK SA 5041

One special segment in which we invite all Divisions to apply to participate is the section "IN THE PIPELINE - TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY", in which we will be selecting eight young organists from around Australia and New Zealand to play on the Wyatt Hall organ, at a concert to be held on Saturday 10th April, 1993 in the morning commencing at 10.00 a.m. to approximately 12.30 p.m.

Due only to restriction on time, we must limit the number of Artists performing to eight. These are to be selected by a panel of three, who will listen to a tape to be submitted by each interested Artist, and will be selected on best performance, and variety of music.

We therefore ask that if you have an up and coming young Artist, 25 years of age or under, as at the date of the Convention, to make a recording of their own playing - the tape not to exceed ten minutes playing time, and to consist of two contrasting pieces. They could choose to play from a Latin; Classical or Light Classics; Jazz or Swing; Ballad; March or Waltz; Gospel; or any other selection, providing both pieces are contrasting.

The adjudicators will not know who the artist submitting the tape is, nor what Division they are from. This could result in more than one person being accepted from the same Division, and possibly, other Division/s missing out completely. The eight chosen will be selected totally on their entertainment ability, musicality, choice of registrations and overall general appeal. There will not be any favouritism as to who the musician is, or where they come from.

Please however make sure the Artist supplies their name and address, contact telephone number, and the Division they represent with the tape, which should be forwarded to myself, Jan Mallett, as Convention Secretary, TOSA, SA Division, and forward to my private address at 69 Ayers Avenue, DAW PARK SA 5034.

TAPES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 1st OCTOBER 1992 -
NO LATE ENTRY TAPES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

- * Each Artist performing in the actual Concert will be paid a performance fee.
- * Artists already invited to perform in the Convention will not be eligible to enter.
- * Artists to be 25 years or under at time of Convention.
- * Audition tape to consist of two pieces only, - total time not to exceed 10 minutes duration, and both pieces to be contrasting.
- * Performance time for Artists finally chosen to play in the Concert during the Convention, will be 15 minutes.

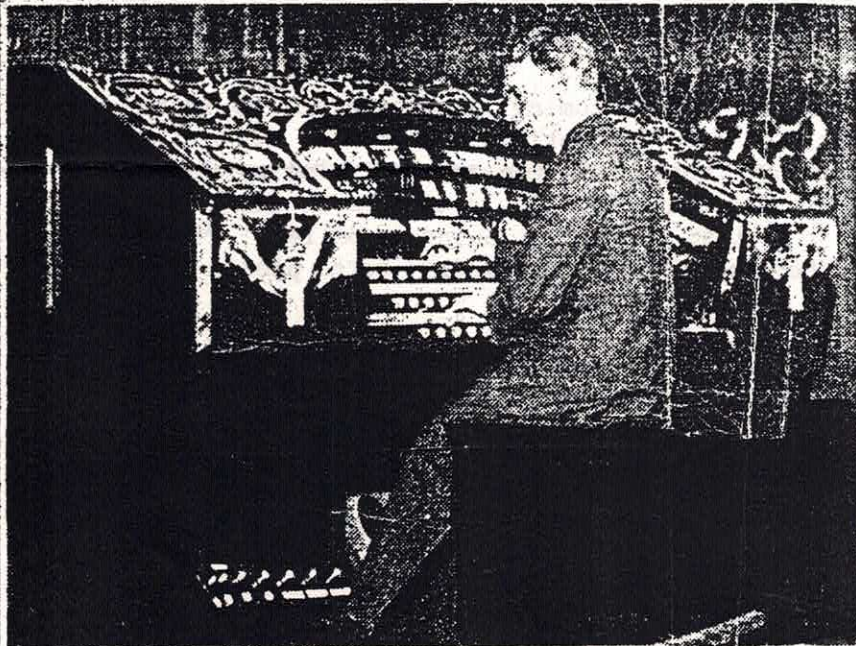
REGISTRATION PAPERS

It is hoped that the Registration Papers will be ready for distribution in August. The Full Registration Fee if paid by 31st December, 1992 will be \$165.00. (\$180.00 if paid after this date), and includes all Concerts, the Convention Medieval Dinner, (which is a must), and most meals PLUS automatic entry into a Lucky Draw with prizes totally over \$1200 in value, plus other special features.

The Registration Paper will also contain required information on transportation, accommodation, and dietary needs.

PARRAMATTA'S HISTORIC ROXY THEATRE ORGAN

HILLS ALIVE WITH SOUND OF ORGAN MUSIC



HISTORIC: Eddie Horton at organ's console in 1930

AUSTRALIA'S largest theatre organ, once the pride of Parramatta's historic Roxy Theatre, has a new home.

But it will take a \$200,000 tuning to have it ready for rehearsal.

The famous organ has been donated to the soon-to-opened Hills Centre for the Performing Arts in Castle Hill by three enthusiasts who bought the instrument almost 20 years ago.

It was previously owned by local identity Stan Baldwin, who had the organ installed in the large basement of his Castle Hill home after he bought it from the Roxy in 1958.

Baulkham Hills Shire President Bernie Mullane said the gift would provide the new centre, to be opened in September, with a touch of history.

By MIKE SMITH

the largest operating Christie organ in the world, boasting 1850 pipes.

The famous organ began its life inside the Spanish-designed Roxy at Parramatta when the theatre was opened in a blaze of glamor in 1930.

The theatre's boyant Christie organ with its massive array of pipes, enthralled the audience with the great Eddie Horton at the keyboard.

Glory

He said under the terms of the donation, Baulkham Hills Council would not be required to provide any funds for the organ's restoration.

"But we will be seeking sponsors to provide the \$200,000 needed to bring it back to its past glory," Mr Mullane said.

"And we estimate it will take up to four years.

"We already have an anonymous benefactor who will underwrite the costs of the first year to enable work to begin.

"We also have \$5000 in materials and \$1000 in cash."

Mr Mullane said the organ would be an asset to the community when it was restored.

"When completed, the organ will be worth \$500,000 — and it will belong to the community," he said.

Experts say it will be

Donors John Andrews, of Cherrybrook, John Whitehouse, of Blacktown and Rob Gliddon, of Westleigh, handed the organ over because they wanted its "full glory restored."

The three-man consortium will also donate 18,000 hours of their spare time over four years to supervise the restoration.

The project has already attracted international interest.

Enthusiasts, keen to see the instrument back in its original condition, have sent gifts of parts worth \$10,000 from the USA.

Reproduced with the courtesy of the "Hills News" Newspaper. The article appeared in the newspaper approximately August, 1988.



From left, Rob Gliddon, John Whitehouse and John Andrews with the rare Christie organ.

Shire spurns gift of world's largest organ

The biggest Christie theatre organ in the world — given to Baulkham Hills Council for the Hills Centre — will almost certainly be sold off for parts.

Headlines proclaimed the magnificent gift when it was handed over in 1988 but four years later the organ lies in pieces, stored in basements around Sydney and seemingly forgotten by council.

The rare organ would cost \$300,000 to restore and council says that figure would have to be covered by sponsorship.

In four years the council has managed to raise a total sponsorship of only \$5,000.

One of the organ's three donors, John Andrews of Cherrybrook says neither the council or the Hills Centre board has made the slightest effort to advance the project — but he hasn't given up hope.

The organ once fea-

tured in the Roxy Spanish Theatre at Parramatta but would be doubled in size from its original 10 ranks (sets of pipes) to 25 ranks once installed in the Hills Centre.

Mr Andrews believes it would be worth at least \$500,000 once fully restored.

He and the other two owners, John Whitehouse of Blacktown and Rob Gliddon of Westleigh donated the Christie expecting its full glory to be restored to the public.

"Arts grants and sponsorship have not been pursued and absolutely no publicity has been given to the project to attract public interest," Mr Andrews said.

"We are considerably embarrassed that gifts and donations of labour and materials, some from overseas, have not been able to be used to proper effect."

The Hills Centre board had washed its hands of the project saying it was

initiated by the council and should remain a council responsibility.

A report to council last Tuesday said it would be futile to fund the project at the Hills Centre given the board's resolution.

Council will now look at alternate locations for the organ and the viability of sponsorship.

Meanwhile Mr Andrews says if the organ can't be housed in the very near future it will be broken up and used as parts.

Reproduced with the courtesy of the
"Hills News" Newspaper.

- NEW MEMBERSHIP -

We have just one new member this month, and we extend a very warm welcome to -

JOHN CALDWELL **Concord West**

Our Membership Secretary, Mr. Jeffrey Clark, advises that there are still outstanding membership renewals, due on the 30th June, with a reminder that TOSA NEWS is only forwarded to financial members.

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DANISH DELIGHT

A Victor Borge concert had begun when a woman who was noticeably late hurried down the middle aisle and took her seat. Borge stopped the concert, walked to the edge of the stage and asked "Why are you late?" The flustered woman said she had been caught in the traffic coming from 15 kilometres away. "I came all the way from Denmark" Borge said "And I'm here before you."

Cantos News, July

MELODIC MELODIES

Placido Domingo was speaking about what he would sing at the opening of the Barcelona Games. He commented: "Composers today do not have the courage to write melody". There is certainly not any melody in much of the modern music we are saturated with on the air or TV. But there are exceptions. Modern composers such as Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Is not the theatre organ the perfect instrument to convey those lovely and haunting melodies? Whilst we must encourage our developing young organists of today to enjoy and play the music of the nineties, most of it is more appropriate to the sound wizardry created by present day electronic instruments (which should not be called organs).

Leave the shimmering tibias, vox and strings of our theatre organs convey those enticing melodies most of us love and will never forget.

Ballarat Newsletter, August

FAREWELL CONN - WELCOME RODGERS

The ultimate aim of all Divisions and Chapters of the Theatre Organ Society is to own a Theatre Pipe Organ, and many have achieved this. Some of the larger groups own more than one instrument installed in various venues, with the Sth. Aust. Division owning its own theatre. Over the years the Gold Coast Division has owned several theatre styled electronic organs, the first proud purchase being a WurliTzer 805. Next came a Baldwin Cinema II, followed by the Conn 650 and now our Rodgers Olympic which we expect to enjoy for many years. This type of theatre organ is no longer being manufactured, and is one of only a few in this country. We will be proud to offer it to concert and visiting artists and hope that many of you will accept the challenge of becoming proficient at its console.

Gold Coast Newsletter, August

PS: Margaret Hall will be playing the Rodgers Olympic, In Concert, Sunday - 13th September, at Burleigh Heads.

COLETTA MISDALE

TOSA members were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Coletta Misdale loving wife of one of our Past Presidents Alan Misdale.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Alan and their children, John, Garth, Simon, Anne and Pamela.

We have been advised that many friends and relatives attended a beautiful service at the Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland.