

Volume 26    Issue 7    Price \$50¢    July 1987

# TOSA NEWS

The Official Publication of the Theatre Organ Society  
of Australia, N.S.W. Division, Inc.  
Address - Box 474 Sutherland 2232  
Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. N.B.H. 1038



★ **NEIL JENSEN**

At the console of the mighty  
Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ

**MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL  
SUNDAY 26th JULY at 2.00pm.**

DIRECTORYTHEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W. DIVISION) INC.

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Address all correspondence to:-  
The Secretary, T.O.S.A. (N.S.W. Division) Inc.  
Box 474 P.O. Sutherland N.S.W. 2232.

OBITUARY NOTICE

Our sincere condolences are wished upon the relatives of Mrs. Crystal Thorncroft who passed away peacefully on the evening of Monday 8th June.

During her brief membership of this society, no doubt she will be remembered for her engaging personality, bright conversation and her willingness to assist our ladies with small tasks.

Many thanks to those people who visited her in hospital.

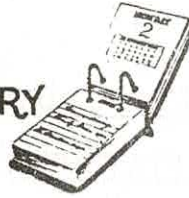
CLUB NIGHT TO BE HELD  
AT  
EPPING BAPTIST CHURCH

FRIDAY 17th JULY at 7.30pm.

The Club Night to be held at Epping Baptist Church will feature a music and slide evening. Since our last visit to Epping, the organ has been expanded in the percussion section. Entertainment will commence with several members playing the Christie organ, which will be followed by supper then a look at some of the many slides that were taken at the National Convention that was held in Adelaide over the Easter Week-end during April.

Please bring something to share for supper.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### JULY

**MONDAY 6th at 7.30pm.**  
COMMITTEE MEETING

**FRIDAY 17th at 7.30pm.**  
CLUB NIGHT  
EPPING BAPTIST CHURCH  
Corner of Ray and Carlingford Road  
Epping. Please bring a plate to share.

**SUNDAY 19th at 2.15pm.**  
HOME ORGAN PARTY  
SELWYN THEATRE  
13 Rosemont Avenue, Mortdale.  
Hear John Shaw, Jan Ingall, David  
Devonport and Ron Smith.  
Proceeds in aid of the Capitol Organ  
Fund.

**COST:-** Gents \$4.00, Ladies \$3.00 plus a  
plate. For bookings, ring Ritchie Willis on  
57 3581.

**SUNDAY 26th at 2.00pm.**  
PAID CONCERT  
NEIL JENSEN  
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL  
**Admission:-**

Adults	\$9.00
TOSA Member	\$7.00
Pensioner	\$6.00
TOSA Pensioner	\$5.00

**Booking form in this issue**

### AUGUST

**MONDAY 3rd at 7.30pm.**  
COMMITTEE MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 19th at 7.30pm.**  
MEMBERS QUARTERLY MEETING  
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

**SUNDAY 23rd at 2.00pm.**  
PAID CONCERT  
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL  
CLIFF BINGHAM AND SYDNEY BOYS  
HIGH SCHOOL BAND  
**Admission:-**

Adults	\$9.00
TOSA Members	\$7.00
Pensioner	\$6.00
TOSA Pensioner	\$5.00

### SEPTEMBER

**SUNDAY 6th at 2.00pm.**  
PAID CONCERT  
HECTOR OLIVERA IN CONCERT  
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL  
**Admission:-**

Adults	\$9.00
TOSA Member	\$7.00
Pensioner	\$6.00
TOSA Pensioner	\$5.00

**MONDAY 7th at 7.30pm.**  
COMMITTEE MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 16th at 5.00pm.**  
NOMINATIONS CLOSE

**SATURDAY 19th**  
NEWCASTLE TRAIN TRIP  
All bookings must be made through the  
Treasurer John Rattray. Phone 517 2247  
**Deadline** for payments by TOSA members  
is **31.7.87**. Bookings will then be opened to  
the general public.

**SUNDAY 27th at 2.00pm.**  
FREE CONCERT  
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

**MONDAY 28th at 7.30pm.**  
COMMITTEE MEETING

### OCTOBER

**WEDNESDAY 7th at 7.30pm.**  
CLUB NIGHT  
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

**SATURDAY 24th at 8.00pm.**  
DAVID JOHNSTON IN CONCERT  
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL  
(Full details next issue)

### NEW MEMBERS

(June meeting)

A cordial welcomed is extended to the  
following new members.

L. Dunlop, D. Wilson, N. Munro,  
J.T. Paterson, F.A. Cahill, T.P. Page.

We hope that you enjoy your association  
with T.O.S.A.

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W. DIVISION) INCORPORATED.CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Period 31 October 1986 to 30 April 1987

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions - general	3456.00	Marrickville Organ	2299.72
- TOSA NEWS	3894.00	Orion Organ	6871.75
Ticket Sales	7705.00	TOSA NEWS	1216.78
Donations	257.67	Donations	
Advertising	110.00	Advertising	100.00
Record Bar	1939.50	Record Bar	1873.85
Tape Library	205.90	Tape Library	314.70
Cafeteria	863.55	Cafeteria	296.63
Bank Interest	2894.92	Bank/Govt. Charges	120.02
Organ Parties	401.20	Stationery	512.01
Organ Practice	264.00	Postage & Phone	364.64
Functions	2807.20	Functions	2064.30
Badge Sales	88.00	Printing	1521.19
Fundraising	912.00	Hall Hire	1964.00
Miscellaneous	171.00	Artist Fees	2426.81
		Repairs & Maintenance	60.00
		Miscellaneous	4396.72
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$25969.94</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>\$26403.12</u>
Deficit for year	(\$433.18)		

BANK BALANCE AS AT 30 APRIL 1987

Cheque Account	6163.54	
Westpac Term Deposits	22062.49	
Advance Term Deposits	1000.00	
Advance Passbook Account	287.61	29513.64

## Orion Accounts

Passbook Account	3527.63	
Term Deposits	14799.76	18327.39

TOTAL STANDING TO CREDIT\$47841.03

# NEWS BRIEFS



## STEAM TRAIN TRIP TO NEWCASTLE AND RETURN

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 1987

Members and their friends are invited to once again enjoy the thrill of travelling behind a steam engine to Newcastle and return. The engine will be the recently restored 38 class express locomotive which came into service in 1943 and hauled the States top trains until 1970 when it created history by being the first and only steam engine to ever cross Australia, East to West and return, (Sydney - Perth).

This tour has been organized as a fund raising venture to assist finance the cost of installation of our organ into the Orion Centre at Campsie.

After arriving at Newcastle, a short organ recital has been arranged at The Christ Church Cathedral located in Church Street, a short distance from the station. Member Mr. Cliff Bingham will be giving the recital, failing this, the Cathedral organist will play for us.

The cost of this tour is \$30 for adults, \$25 for children 15 years and under which will include a boxed lunch. Youngsters 4 years and under sitting on their parents knees and have their own meals travel free.

Timetable that was published in the last issue of TOSA NEWS has still not been confirmed by the Railways, so please watch August TOSA NEWS for any alterations.

It is part of the conditions of the use of the cathedral that **NO FOOD OR DRINKS** be taken inside, also, **NO SMOKING** is allowed in the building. The recital will be from 1.10pm. till 1.45pm.

Members will have from 11.41am. till 1.10pm. to have lunch, the Hunter Mall is only one block from the railway station where some seats and shade are available. Also, Newcastle beach is only a short walk away and a park is located reasonably close to the station.

Please make up your party and **book as soon as possible.** Send your booking and money to the **TREASURER, Mr. JOHN RATTRAY** by the **31st JULY, 1987.**

**IMPORTANT:- ALL MONIES AND BOOKINGS MUST BE IN BY THIS DEADLINE SO AS THE NUMBER OF CARRIAGES REQUIRED CAN BE ORDERED.**

Please make all cheques payable to **T.O.S.A.** not to John Rattray,

Mr. J. Rattray,  
4/5 - 17 Queen Street,  
Newtown. 2042.

### BOOKING FORM IN THIS ISSUE

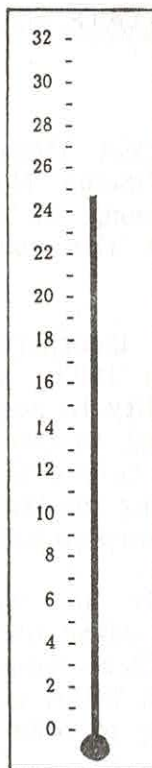
### WANTED URGENTLY

A good reliable vacuum cleaner - with plenty of sucking power! - as a donation to the Orion Wurlitzer workshop.

This matter is urgent, so if you can help, please ring Doug Smith on 750 0917.

### CAPITOL ORGAN FUND

Many members have asked that the Capitol Organ thermometer be published again. At the time of going to press, the thermometer has now risen to \$24,680.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### MACKELLAR BOWLING CLUB

MONDAY, 6th JULY at 7.45pm.

### THE WARRINGAH ORGAN SOCIETY PRESENTS

For this evening we have been able to arrange a concert by **BEVERLEY KENNEDY**. Beverley played for WOS about three years ago and I understand that the attendance filled the hall. Beverley has given three concerts for TOSA at Marrickville Town Hall on the Wurlitzer. She has agreed to play organ and piano for WOS and plays both popular (middle of the road) and classical. So make a note in your diary for this evening. Admittance \$3. for members and \$4 non members.

### GET WELL WISHES

It has been reported that Edna Smith is on the sick list. Edna held the position of Treasurer in the Society from 1978 till 1986. The Society and its members are thinking of you and wish to convey their sincere thoughts for a speedy recovery.

### NEWS FROM INTERSTATE

#### VICTORIA

The General meeting of TOSA Victorian Division, to be held at Cinema North, Reservoir on Sunday afternoon, 31 May will consider again whether the society should become incorporated.

The society first considered incorporation under the then new Act in 1983, at a time when it had the possibility to acquire its own theatre. The proposal to buy the Sun Theatre, Yarraville was defeated, and a year later a general meeting resolved to take no further action on incorporation.

Since then, and especially in recent months, some members have asked for the matter to be reconsidered. These members include some who have joined TOSA in the past three years, and belong to other incorporated societies.

By now, five of the nine TOSA divisions - South Australia, Western Australia, ACT, NSW, and Queensland - have been incorporated. Victoria, Western Victoria, Tasmania and Gold Coast have not.

South Australia was the first to become incorporated, taking advantage of legislation which existed then only in South Australia, which proved its value when the division undertook the purchase of the Capri Theatre.

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### NEWS FROM BALLARAT

The organ sections of the 1987 Royal South Street Competitions at Ballarat will be held on Thursday 10 September, Entries close on 6 June.

The Electronic Organ sections will be held during the daytime in a hall to be selected. The Theatre Pipe Organ section will be played on TOSA Western Victorian Division's Compton in the Memorial Theatre at night.

TOSA ACT vice-president Clinton White will adjudicate all sections.

Sections will be for under 11, under 13, under 15, under 17 and 16 to 20 years. There will also be a VCE Students section, with music to be selected from the VCE syllabus.

In the three Pipe Organ sections, to be played on the Compton, the first will be for at least two classical items, the second for at least two theatre organ numbers, and the third, the Novice under 18 section, is open to anyone who has not won a first or second prize on this organ.

Entries close on 6 June with the Secretary, Royal South Street Society, P.O. Box 33 Ballarat 3350 and must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope if a time-table is required.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### GOLD COAST

The Gold Coast T.O.S.A. Revue Group will present an ALL NEW Music Hall Revue at Kelvin Grove on August 3rd. at 7.45pm.

Come and support them! It is planned to take a mini-bus to Kelvin Grove and any members who would like to travel on this bus to cheer on our group, please contact Bev Black. Phone 52 6425. Approx. cost \$7 return.

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### FOR SALE FOR SALE

#### ELLIOTT ADDRESSING MACHINE

This machine was used for several years addressing envelopes for TOSA NEWS and has been properly maintained. The machine is in excellent condition and comes complete with a 20 drawer steel filing cabinet, box of stencils and ink.

### WHAT OFFERS!

For further enquiries, ring Ron Wilson on 759 6050.

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### FROM YOUR PATRON

#### A STORY OF THE GREAT FRANQUIN

By Ian Davies

Just after the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, and the coming of television, all movie theatres were so badly hit by the new medium that a lot of them closed down and those with theatre organs discarded their organists and showed films only.

I, along with others at that time, was out of work and took a clerical job in a government office for awhile.

Out of the 'blue' one day, there arrived a master showman by the name of The Great Franquin, who was an outstanding hypnotist, performing at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne.

To make a long story short, he applied for an organist who could handle theatre

work, and on auditioning for him, I got the job. I toured with him all over Australia and new Zealand for three years and never did I suffer a dull moment. It was the most amazing show I have ever worked there was nothing orthodox about it for there were never two shows the same as there were different subjects on stage every night.

The organ we had was built by Alan Bourne Electronics of Newcastle out of bits and pieces and consisted of 2 manuals, 25 note pedal board and 2 large tone cabinets. It sounded very well for what it was but how I wish I could have had access to a large Rodgers or some top make. Unfortunately they were not available in those days.

At each show, I would play before the curtain went up, then once it started, I'd throw music away and play it by ear. The antics these subjects did on stage under hypnotic influence had to be seen to be believed.

Franquin and I had a series of signals between us and when I played a few bars of music, certain subjects would come out and perform the most amazing dances and acrobatics you've ever seen. For instance, everytime I played the Mickey Mouse Club song, one character would jump around the stage as though demented. The audiences loved it all and roared their approval. We also had a sound effects box with thunder and lightning, explosions, fire sirens, train whistles, ship sirens, water falls - you name it, we had it, a real toy counter if ever there was one. I can tell you at the end of every show, I was exhausted, what with following Franquin with my eyes round and round the stage all night, plus sound effects plus instantaneous music of all types, you were on your toes from start to finish. Our last show was at the old Empire Theatre, Sydney, now Her Majesty's and it ran for eight weeks.

All very exciting and a wonderful experience, but I felt I had enough full-time theatre, so liking Sydney, I decided to settle here in semi retirement and apart from occasional recitals for TOSA and RSL Clubs, that's my life story up to date.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### LETTER OF THANKS

**2CBA-FM**  
Stereo 103.2 MHz

The Secretary,  
The Theatre Organ Society of  
Australia,  
P.O. Box 474,  
SUTHERLAND. N.S.W. 2232

Dear Mr. McMinn,

The Directors of Station 2CBA-FM have asked me to thank you and your co-workers for two things.

The first is our very pleasant afternoon last Sunday at Marrickville. It was an excellent program which everybody present thoroughly enjoyed.

Second is your cheque for which our receipt is enclosed.

The 2CBA Benefit Concert was once again a most thoughtful gesture on your part and gave us a tremendous boost in these hard times. Frank did a great job, and so did all the team. Thank you very, very warmly.

Yours very sincerely,

Rev. Vernon Turner.  
Managing Director.

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

10th May, 1987

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Convention Committee of the "Festival City Fifteenth" National Convention of T.O.S.A. we would like to express our sincere thanks to all members and friends of your Division/Chapter who attended the recent Convention in Adelaide.

It was most gratifying to organise a Convention which was so well patronised by interstate and overseas visitors. The co-operation and cheerful disposition of all

Conventioneers helped to make the many hours of preparation worthwhile.

We hope that the good fellowship which developed amongst Conventioneers will continue and again be prominent at next year's Convention in Canberra.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Lange  
CONVENTION CONVENOR

Bernice Larritt  
CONVENTION SECRETARY

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### FOR SALE

For sale - Conn Model 652  
2 - 600 Tone cabinet  
2 - 710 Tone cabinet  
Plus 26 sets of pipes.

Currently installed in private home but would suit church or hall.

Deceased estate. Price:- \$22,000

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For sale - Grand piano.

C5 Yamaha 6'6" Grand. 2-1/2 years old.  
Still under warranty.

Price:- \$20,000

For all enquiries on the above items,  
please ring 043 242602.

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### FREE CONCERT

Thursday 9th July 1987

TOSA member, Joe Maennl, would like to let members know that his daughter Sharon, will be playing the organ in the Great Hall at Sydney University at 1.00pm.

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## LOS ANGELES CONVENTION'S

### TEN "NEW" ORGANS

by Ralph Beaudry

News source - Theatre Organ  
January-February 1987

"LA's the Place" where ten "new" organs are being prepared for the 1987 Convention. Chapter members are busy perfecting these installations for your pleasure next June 21 to 27. The most famous of these instruments is the former Foort/BBC five-manual Moller (the world renowned "traveling organ") now installed in its permanent home in Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

In this article we will present brief histories of the instruments. All conventioners will hear the organs installed in the Orpheum Theatre, Founder's Church, Bay Theatre, Wilshire-Ebell Theatre and the Crystal Cathedral. Four of the instruments, however, are in private homes and will be heard by those who select one of the optional tours.

In addition to these, Convention '87 will feature concerts on the magnificent organs in San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, San Sylmar's Tower of Beauty, the Old Town Music hall and the Simonton home.

#### ORPHEUM THEATRE'S 3/13 WURLITZER

Sure to be among the greatest experiences of Convention '87 will be the performances on the Orpheum's 3/13 Wurlitzer. Like the theatre itself, the organ is in its original, unaltered condition. Although it was installed in 1928, two years after the theatre opened as a two-a-day vaudeville house, the sound is perfectly enhanced by the 2200 seat auditorium.

Henry Murtagh was the first house organist when the organ was used to augment the orchestra and to play intermissions. As far as the records indicate, the Orpheum never showed silent films; in fact, the house closed in mid-December 1929 for the installation of sound equipment and reopened as a first-run movie house on December 25, 1929.

Vaudeville returned in 1932, but it was only a few months later that RKO Circuit did not renew its lease, and the house

closed until late 1933 when Sheril Corwin (of Metropolitan Theatres) leased the building and reopened with a program of two feature films and ten acts of vaudeville... all for 25 cents! Live entertainment was featured at the Orpheum until the end of the forties when the theatre went to an all-first-run movie policy. Today, like most of the movie houses on Broadway, the Orpheum shows Spanish-language films and is one of the more successful movie palaces.

Since this theatre is one of the few in the country which still retains its opening-night splendor, a few words must be said about its architecture. The Orpheum was designed by noted architect G. Albert Lansburg. Its style has been described as "Francois I." Gothic arches abound but be sure to note the fan-vaulting used under the boxes, the bronze and crystal chandeliers and the five stained glass panels under the balcony.

#### 4/31 JOHN BROWN COOK MEMORIAL WURLITZER

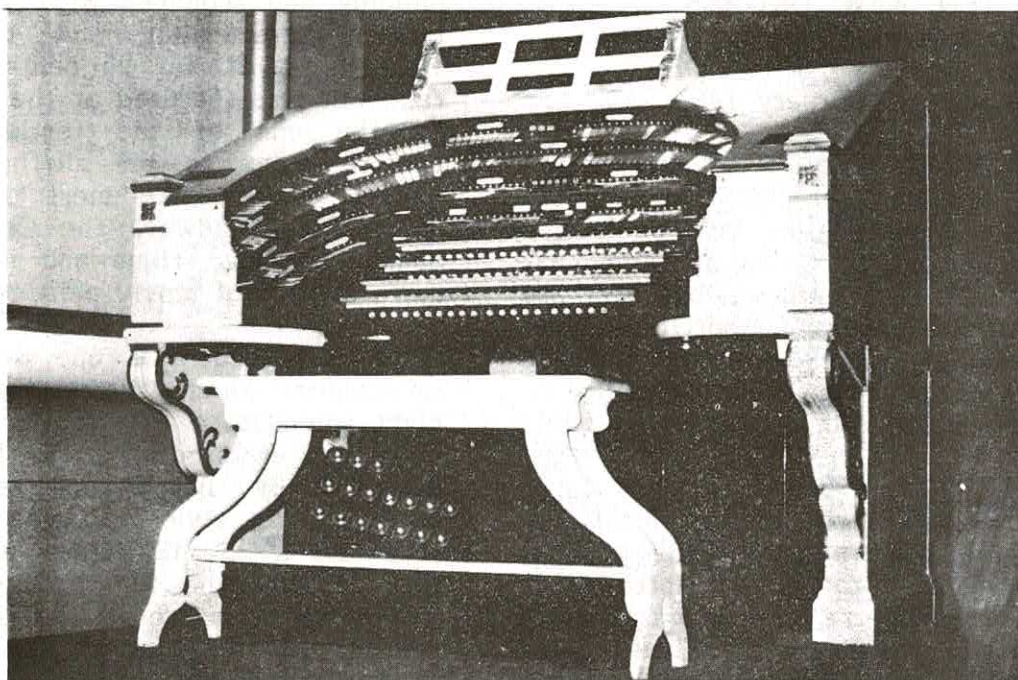
This organ was a gift from Marian Miner Cook to the Founder's Church of Religious Science which is located in the Wilshire district of Los Angeles. It was dedicated in July of 1984.

The organ did not come from one specific theatre but was assembled of the finest parts of a number of instruments. The tonal design and layout were done by Lyn Larsen and Ken Crome. Unlike some theatre organs in church installations, this instrument has all the usual tonal and non-tonal percussions.

The auditorium, which has a balcony, holds 1594 people in theatre-type seats. The organ chambers are in front of the room on both sides of the pulpit and choir, and the console is usually positioned "house left". The organ also boasts a Trompette en Chamade mounted over the lighting booth in the rear of the auditorium.

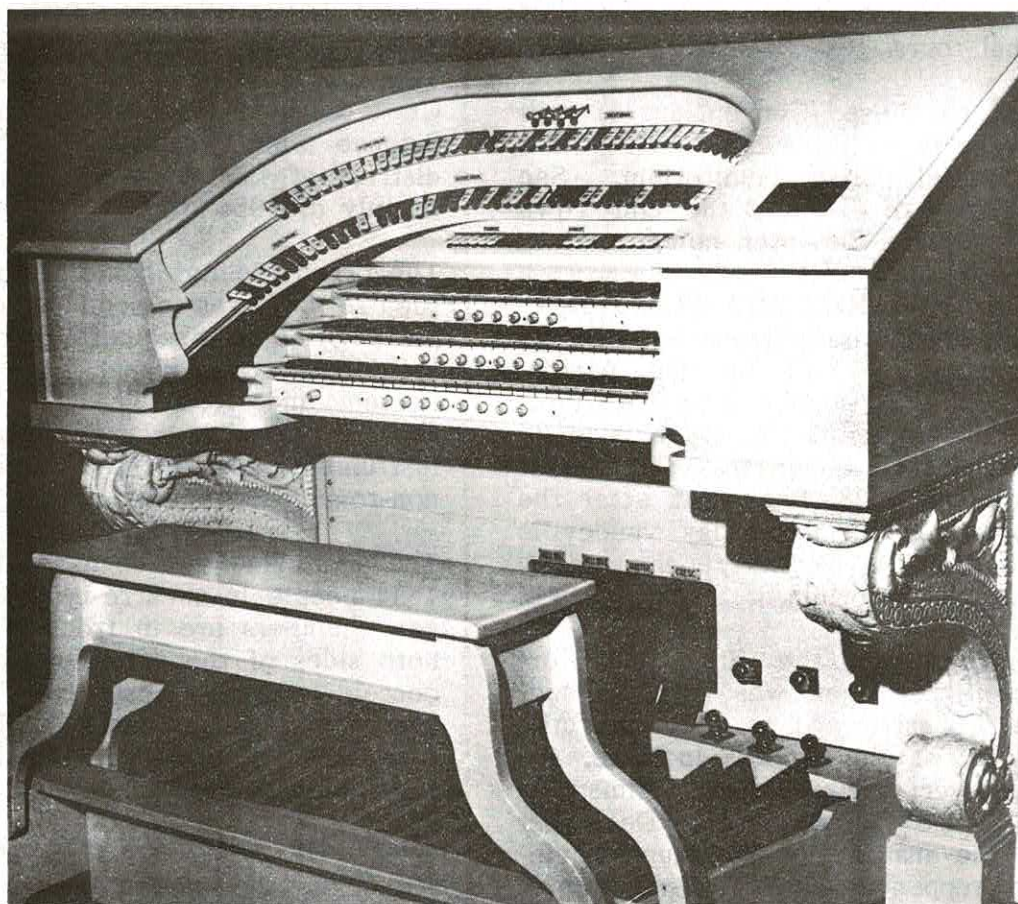
#### 4/42 WURLITZER IN THE BAY THEATRE

Although this installation had not been completed for the 1979 Convention, the former, and much expanded, New York Paramount Studio Wurlitzer is now fully installed and playing. It is Opus 196, installed in the Paramount Studio in 1928,



4/42 Wurlitzer in the Bay Theatre.

(Zimfoto)



3/13 Barton in the Wilshire-Ebell.

(Preston J. Kaufmann photo — B'hend/Kaufmann Archives)

and is the only Wurlitzer designed with 20 pistons on each manual! Originally the organ had a slave console so Jesse and Helen Crawford could practice their duets (this slave console is being installed as a second console on the Oakland Paramount organ).

In 1956 Dick Loderhose removed the organ from the Paramount Studio and installed it in his home on Long Island. At that time he dubbed it "The Crown Prince of North Tonowanda!" Ann Leaf premiered the organ in its new home in October 1958.

Dick purchased the Bay Theatre in 1976 and began remodeling it to accommodate the organ.

Over the years some of the best-known names in theatre organ have recorded this instrument: George Wright, Don Baker, Lew White, Fred Fiebel and Dick Liebert, while it was still in the Paramount; Tommy Sheen, John Seng, Don DeWitt, and Reginald Foort, while it was on Long Island. Loderhose also recorded it under his "professional" name, Dick Scott, while it was on Long Island.

### **3/13 BARTON IN THE WILSHIRE-EBELL THEATRE**

The LATOS-owned Barton was originally installed in 1927 in the National Theatre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as a 3/10. It was one of the approximately 40 organs built by the Wangerin Organ Company for the Barton firm.

The organ was removed from the theatre by an organ buff in 1965 and subsequently installed in a commercial building where it remained until sold to the Junchen-Collins Organ Company in 1977. It was to be installed in a Montreal pizza parlor; however, the restaurant was never built, and the instrument was donated to the Kingston Theatre Organ Society which sold it back to Junchen-Collins.

When Dave Junchen moved to California, his organ firm was bought by Burton A Burton and operated as a part of the Casablanca Fan Company until that business closed its organ department, at which time the organ was donated to LATOS. After keeping it in storage for a year, LATOS negotiated for its installation in

the Wilshire-Ebell Theatre, and Walt Strony played the gala premiere performance in November 1984.

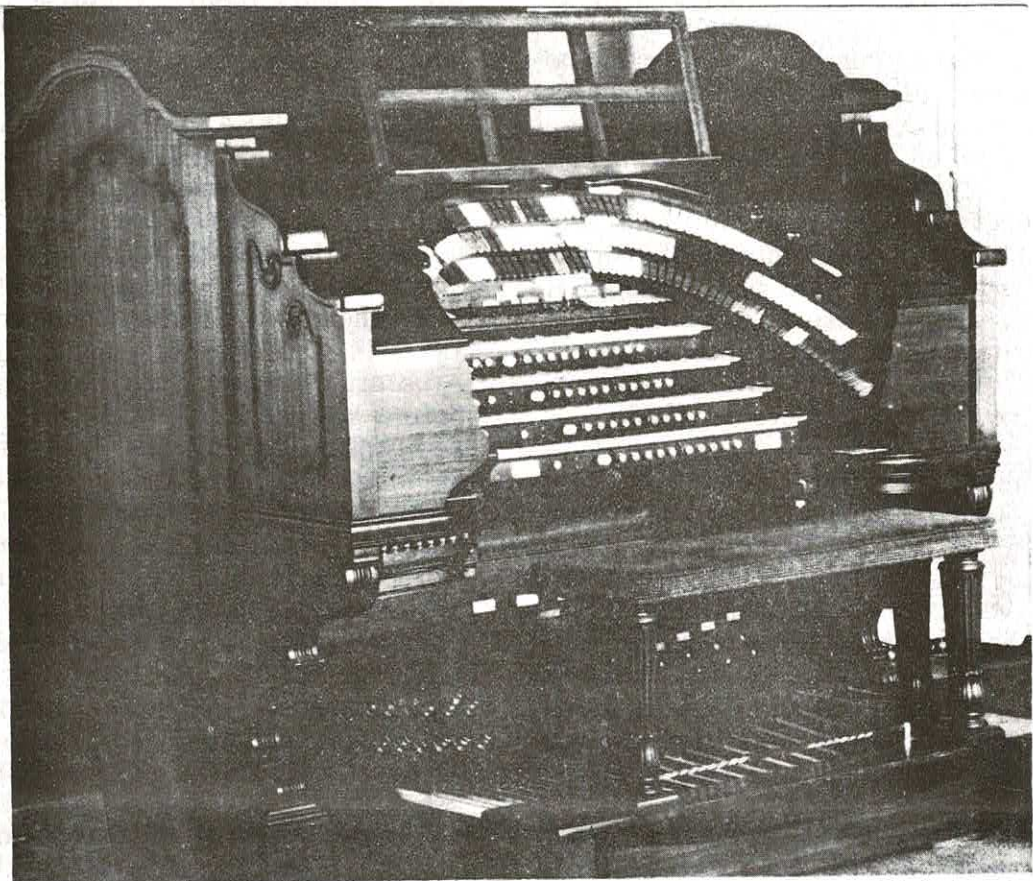
### **5/223 RUFFATTI IN THE CRYSTAL THEATRE**

This is the seventh largest organ in America and the largest west of the Allegheny Mountains! The present organ was developed in three increments. Ruffatti built the first Crystal Cathedral organ in 1977 in the former sanctuary (now the Arboretum where we will have dinner before the concert). This was an organ of 94 ranks. When the 100-rank Aeolian-Skinner organ, which had been installed in Lincoln Center in New York City in 1962, became available, it was purchased by Garden Grove Community Church. Finally, 29 new ranks were added by Ruffatti to complete this five-story installation.

In addition to the main part of the organ facing the congregation, the west balcony contains four ranks of the Fanfare Trumpet, the south balcony houses the antiphonal organ of 43 ranks (including two of the 32' ranks as well as the Celestial organ and, horizontally, the Millennial Trumpet), while the east balcony has three additional Trompettes en Chamade. It should be noted that the main organ has four 32' stops for a total of six 32s on the instrument.

The organ was designed by the late Virgil Fox (who played the dedicatory concerts for the first two Community Church of Garden Grove's organs). This instrument, usually referred to as the Hazel Wright organ, was dedicated on May 7, 1982, by Pierre Cochereau and Ted Allen Worth along with a symphony orchestra conducted by Cochereau's son, Jean-Marc.

The building itself has a curtain wall made up of more than 10,000 windows which are two-feet high and six-feet long. The cathedral seats 2890 and the doors, which open behind the pulpit, are 90' tall; overall, the cathedral stands 128' high, is 207' wide and 415 long; it is designed to withstand winds up to 200 mph and an earthquake of .8 on the Richter Scale! The organ console is the largest ever built and contains over 350 drawknobs; its general piston (of which there are 20) have quadruple memory for a total of 80

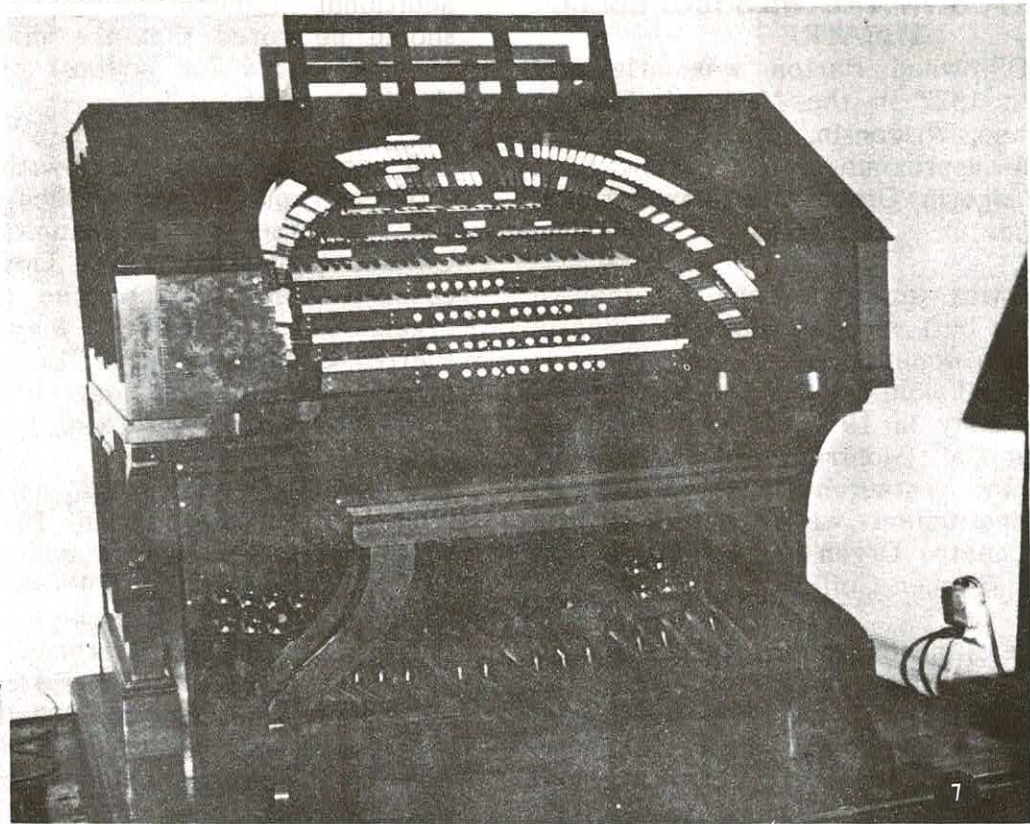


4/26 Wurflitzer in the Dollinger home.

*(Photo from Dollinger Collection)*

4/18 Wurflitzer in the Sargent/Stark residence.

*(Preston Kaufmann photo)*



general pistons - all in addition to the many other controls operated by toe or thumb.

### **3/17 RODGERS IN THE BOB POWER HOME**

Although built by Rodgers, The Bob Power organ was designed in tonal specifications and console layout to be a Wurlitzer 260; in fact, a 260 Special as a piano and Post Horn were added to the specifications.

The engineering of the instrument took seven months plus an additional 18 months to fabricate, install and voice. In the years since its installation in the Power's home, Lee Haggart, Harvey Heck and Lee Sundstrom have contributed their electronic and pipe knowledge to bring the instrument to the peak of perfection in pipe-like sound.

The "C" and "G" notes of each rank in the famous Kearns/Carson organ were recorded, and the Power organ then had each rank adjusted to the quality and volume of the pipe sounds. The glockenspiel and non-tonal percussions on the instrument are real. Unlike its pipe counterpart, this organ has tremulants with separate controls for the Tibia, Vox, Post Horn, Tuba, Clarinet, Strings, Main and Solo. Most recently, two Vox Humanas and a Brass Saxophone have been added.

During the seventies Lyn Larsen, Rex Koury, Maria Kumagai and Larry Vannucci issued recordings made on this instrument, and most recently George Wright recorded his "42nd Street" album on the Power organ.

### **3/29 WURLITZER IN THE LEDWON HOME**

John Ledwon's first organ (the nucleus of the present instrument) was the Style 235, 3/11 Wurlitzer from the Lyceum Theatre in Duluth, Minnesota, which he acquired when he was 15 and installed in his parents' Canoga Park home.

When John planned his new home in Agoura during the late 1960's he intended to enlarge the organ and build his home around it. He decided to make it 26 ranks and, of course, that required a much larger console. The present console came from the Paramount Theatre in Middletown, New York, and John solved its

limitations by putting 18 of the ranks on the stoprail and having an eight-rank ancillary division which could be "coupled" to any manual.

The organ was to have been presented during the 1979 Convention, but the Agoura/Malibu fire in October of 1978 burned first his home and then, from a smoldering pile in his destroyed bedroom, rekindled and broke through the firewall into the Solo chamber. Every pipe over 4' was destroyed. Even the console, at the farthest end of the living room, was damaged by smoke, water and heat. To rebuild, John acquired new ranks (many from the Avalon Theatre in Chicago), completely refinished the console into its present black and gold, and installed a Trousdale relay system.

The restored organ played in October of 1982. The console now controls 29 ranks and 8' Steinway grand (which also survived the fire). John's chamber installation is somewhat unique in that the chests are set into the floor with the pipe toes at floor level, and all servicing is done from the basement where the regulators and tremos are also located.

The most recent improvement to the organ has been the removal of the glass panels, which were designed for chamber viewing from the living room, and the installation of glass swell shades in their place. You will note that the glass shades are mounted vertically, but the original wooden swell shades behind the grillwork are horizontal.

### **4/26 WURLITZER IN THE DOLLINGER HOME**

This organ is the culmination of Dr. Malin Dollinger's dream of having a theatre organ in his home. He began assembling the instrument in 1973 with the purchase of the Wurlitzer from the Royal Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri, and continued the following year with the purchase of the former Indianapolis Circle Theatre Wurlitzer which had been in the Gaines Antique Shop in Beverly Hills.

The console is one of the two that were built for the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre. Over the years, other ranks have been added to the instrument, including a Brass

Saxophone and an English post Horn.

The organ has the usual tuned and untuned percussions and also features a Steinway Duo-Art piano which is playable from the console. Because the Dollinger home is a landmark structure in its area, special care was taken to fit the organ into its two chambers without substantially altering the building.

#### 4/18 WURLITZER

##### IN THE SARGENT/STARK HOME

Designed to be the equivalent of a Wurlitzer Style 260, the nucleus of this organ came from Santa Monica's Criterion Theatre. The organ differed from a 260 in that it has a Cor Anglais in place of the Quintadena and also a "floating" three-rank Echo division.

Recently a four-foot Principal and a three-rank mixture have been purchased and will be added to make the organ capable of playing either theatre or classical music.

Since 1981, when the installation was completed, two recordings have been made on the instrument as well as many radio and television tapes which have been broadcast around the world. Gaylord Carter has scored a number of silent films for the home videotape market using the Sargent/Stark organ.

#### Editor's note.

Several members of the NSW Division will be attending the Convention in the USA, and it will be interesting to hear their reports when they return home.

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#### 2CBA SPECTACULAR CONCERT REVIEW

SUNDAY 24th MAY

By Cliff Bingham

A good crowd of some 500 people attended the 2CBA-FM concert in beautiful autumn weather and thoroughly enjoyed an excellent afternoon's musical fare.

After an appropriate station identification opening, compere Frank Ellis introduced probably the most underrated organist in the country - Bill Schumacher. A player

of great talent and ability. Bill opened with TOSA's radio program signature tune, "Good Old Bad Old Days" and followed up with a novelty version of "Abba Dabba Honeymoon". After some initial nervousness, Bill settled down with a fine arrangement of "Shadow of Your Smile" containing all the Schumacher touches, lush harmonies and smooth registrations. Bill closed his first bracket with an appropriately "bumpy" "Ain't Misbehavin".

The next artist on the program was the very fine soprano, Patricia Wooldridge. A medley of old favorites - "The Old Refrain", "Moonlight and Roses", "When I get too old to Dream" and "My Hero" was greatly enjoyed by the predominantly senior audience. This was followed by a beautiful version of the "Nun's Chorus" with an excellent and ecclesiastical accompaniment from Valda Lang.

Bill returned to the console with "Wouldn't it be Luvly" followed by another of those showcase renditions that earn him the title, "Master of the Romantic Ballad" "What I Did for Love" from "Fame". A slightly subdued version of "Frenisi" with a nicely-done swing middle section closed this segment of the program.

Baritone John Brosnan has a dynamic personality that perfectly matches his voice - big and bright and breezy with a quality that was ably demonstrated in his opening number - "Sergeant Majors on Parade". "Old Man River" seems to be in the repertoire of just about every baritone to sing at Marrickville. John, however, presented a very smooth and not overdone version that was particularly appreciated by the audience. "If I Were a Rich Man" was given the same refined and understated (meaning not over-acted) treatment. Valda's accompaniments complemented John's performance nicely.

Mark Walton is a brilliant saxophonist with a well deserved international reputation. He opened with "Roses of Picardy" and featured some good counterpoints with accompanist Bill Schumacher. "Petit Fleur" was followed by a great performance of Scott Joplin's "New Rag" to finish the first half of the program.

After a refreshing interval, Bill put us all

back in the musical mood with a lively "Dancing Cheek to Cheek".

Patricia and John combined next to present several duets, "The Golden Song" "Drink to me Only", "Wanting You" and a moving version of "Amazing Grace". They had obviously spent much time arranging and rehearsing these pieces and it showed in the balance and blend of their voices. Valda's accompaniments were again competent and complementary.

After a well-arranged "West Side Story" medley, Bill was joined by Mark Walton in presenting "These Foolish Things", "Plaisir d'Amour" and a rip-roaring "Hora Staccato" that had the audience literally roaring for more. Mark and Bill responded with a beautiful haunting "Stranger on the Shore". This piece was the highlight of the concert for this writer as both Mark and Bill played from memory and thus were able to concentrate wholly on interpreting the music.

As a final closer, Bill played an excellent arrangement of "The Breeze and I" featuring both waltz and tango variations.

At the close of the concert, President Phyl Wilson handed over a cheque for \$2401.00 to 2CBA Managing Director, Rev. Vernon Turner whose response left everybody in no doubt as to the success of the afternoon.

All of the artists must be commended for the time and talents (given free of charge) which combined to produce an afternoon of very enjoyable music.

Finally, mention must be made of the excellent job done by organ tuner, John Parker. The organ's tuning in this writer's ears, was equal to the best it has ever sounded.

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#### THEATRE ORGAN HIGHLIGHTS

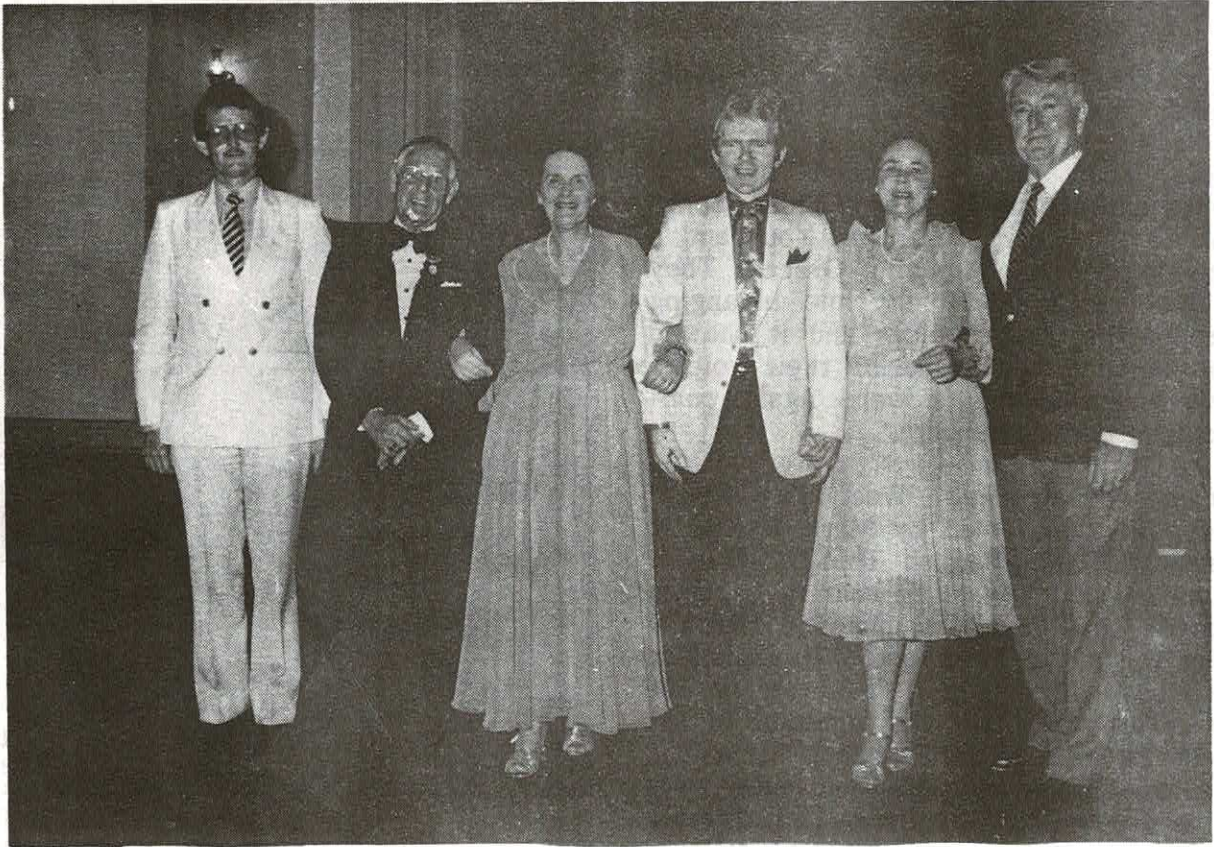
Don't forget to listen to "Theatre Organ Highlights" presented every Monday night at 9.00pm. on radio 2CBA-FM with your host, Frank Ellis.



John Brosnan and Patricia Wooldridge.



Saxophonist David Walton.



From L.-R. Bill Schumacher, Frank Ellis, Patricia Wooldridge  
Mark Walton, Valda Lang and John Brosnan.



President Phyllis Wilson presenting Rev.  
Vernon Turner with the cheque.



## AFTERNOON OF ENTERTAINMENT

HELD AT  
NORTH SYDNEY BOWLING CLUB

Sunday 7th June

The wet and cool conditions did not discourage 25 TOSA members who attended an afternoon of music and song held at the North Sydney Bowling Club.

Andrea Harrison welcomed the members to the club then opened the entertainment by playing the Conn organ that was loaned for the afternoon by Louis McDonald. Andrea's opening number was "Valencia" followed by "Lover Man" finishing with a splendid arrangement of "Stormy Weather".

John Rattray, accompanied by Margaret Hall on the organ, entertained by singing a bracket of three numbers - "Edelweiss", "Climb Every Mountain" and finishing up with "Any Dream Will do". Next on the list of entertainers was Doug Smith who played two numbers, the first being "Daydreams Come True At Night" followed by "Secret Love".

Andrea then returned to the console to accompany Jan Pringle, who sang a bracket of three songs. The first was that popular evergreen, "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" followed by "We'll Gather Lilacs and "Love Is A many Splendid Thing". The next member to entertain was Jan Ingall who played a "Whitehorse Inn" medley. Jan was followed by Lance Wells who played a bracket of old favorites, commencing with "Where The Blue Of The Night Meets The Blue Of The Day" followed by "Till There Was You" and "Twelfth Of Never".

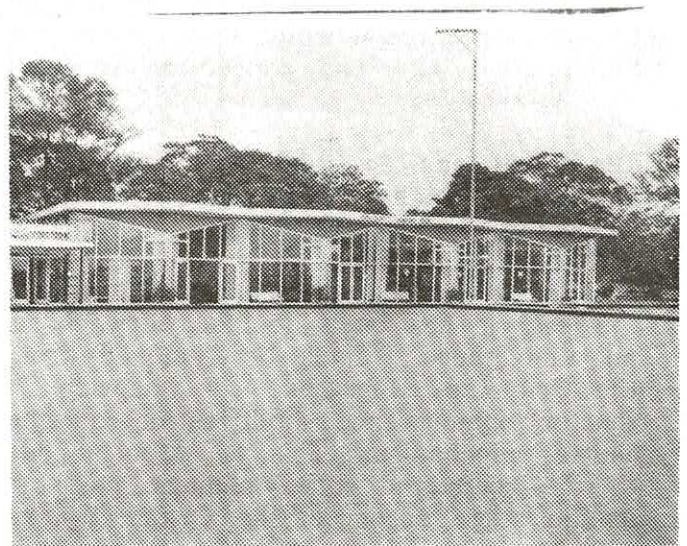
Afternoon tea was then served, and as members wandered around and admired the magnificent view of Sydney Harbour, others chatted and listened to the organ being played. On conclusion, Andrea thanked all the artists who participated and to Louis McDonald for organising the use of the Club premises and the organ. From the 25 members that came along, \$135 was raised towards the Capitol Organ Fund. A special thanks to those who supplied all the 'Goodies' and to Andrea Harrison for all her help in organising this function.



Jan Ingall at the console of the Conn organ.



Jan Pringle being accompanied by Andrea Harrison on the organ.



North Sydney Bowling Club.

### ORION ORGAN REPORT

It is with pleasure that I submit my first report on progress with the Orion Centre Wurlitzer restoration and installation project.

Since arriving in Sydney two weeks ago, I have spent virtually a full week and a half on the job, based at the moment in the church hall at Kingsgrove. Here, working with Doug Smith, we have achieved a good working routine and I am personally thankful to Doug, who is able to put in almost four full days work per week to aid the project.

Work in hand at Kingsgrove Hall is the complete refurbishing of all the 'off note' chests. These are the chests for the larger pipes which cannot stand on the main soundboards with the rest of the pipework. During many years installed in the Capitol Theatre, it is obvious to me that water leaks must have been a problem, as the two chests I have worked on so far have evidence of continued water damage over a long period. Refurbishing in this case means replacement of all felts, leather, pull-down wires, gasketing etc. associated with pneumatic action and pallets. Some chests also require planing to correct warping due to water damage.

Doug has recently completed the testing of three large soundboards which are ready for removal to the Orion centre. This is encouraging, as these three chests accommodate over 70% of the pipes for the Wurlitzer, and once at the Orion - although stored for a while - are ready for immediate wiring and connection to wind at a later date.

The swell shutters and their associated frames, which have caused a few headaches for coordinators Jack Lawson and Ian Somerville, are still prone to creating the odd migraine for me! Nevertheless, it has been decided between us all that these frames be removed from the Orion to Kingsgrove for adaption of shutter opening and modification of the shutter mechanism. This is essential due to the restricted tone openings available in the stage apron at the Orion. I have been to the Orion Centre and inspected the layout of the understage facilities

provided for the installation and after careful consideration, have decided to change - or swap - the positions of the pipes in both chambers. I.E. Solo chamber becomes main chamber and vice versa etc. This was due to a stairway that encroaches into one chamber, partly obstructing one of the shutter openings. This will result in no problems what-so-ever and will probably allow more space all around.

I have made a point of going through all work that has been restored before my engagement by T.O.S.A. and at present time still have a lot more to inspect. Every unit will be thoroughly inspected and tested and those not up to expectations, will be stripped down and re-stored. This is all important if the Society is to have a trouble-free instrument in the future.

Finally a word to those members who are not of a mechanical 'bent' and may find some of my article confusing. My comment is as follows. "Work is progressing well so far, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. A three manual Wurlitzer of 15 units of pipes is a very large and complex piece of machinery. It will take a lot of time in fact; and hard work too! There are literally thousands and thousands of parts and pieces to be restored and then regulated and 'set up' to work properly.

A visit to Kingsgrove would prove that point to you . . . .

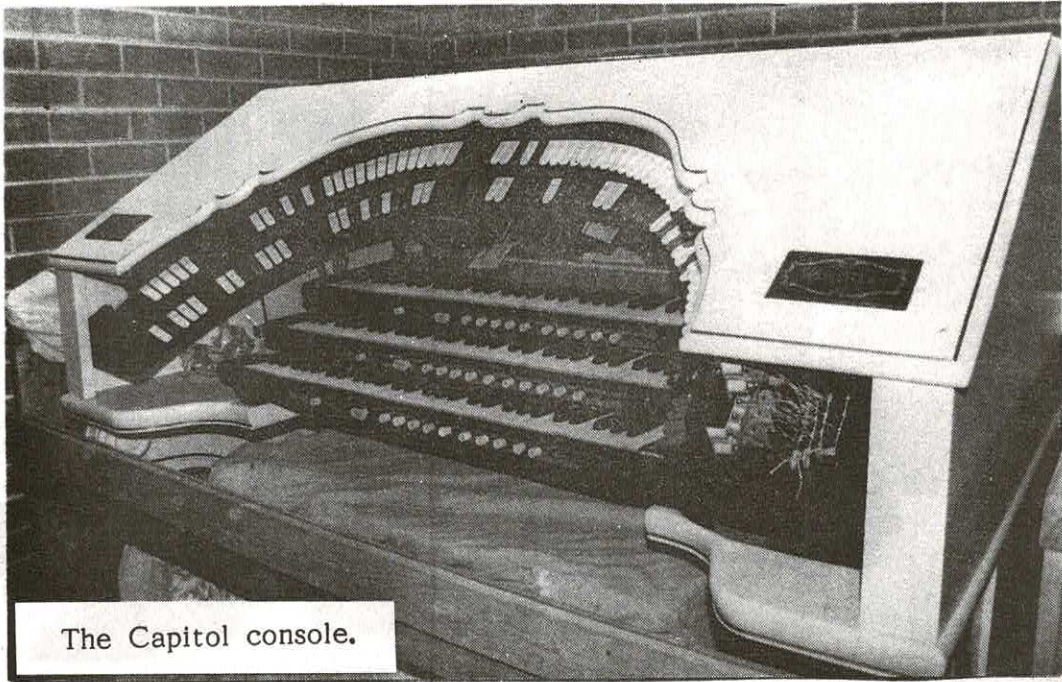
I ask those of you who cannot be actively involved in the restoration, to BE INTERESTED IN IT. The Orion Wurlitzer will be a fine instrument when completed, and one that the Society will be justifiably proud of.

I urge you to support this project by attending concerts, holding Home Parties and taking part in those Fund Raising events your committee arranges. I must take this opportunity to again thank Doug, Russell, Bill and Norm for their continued efforts.

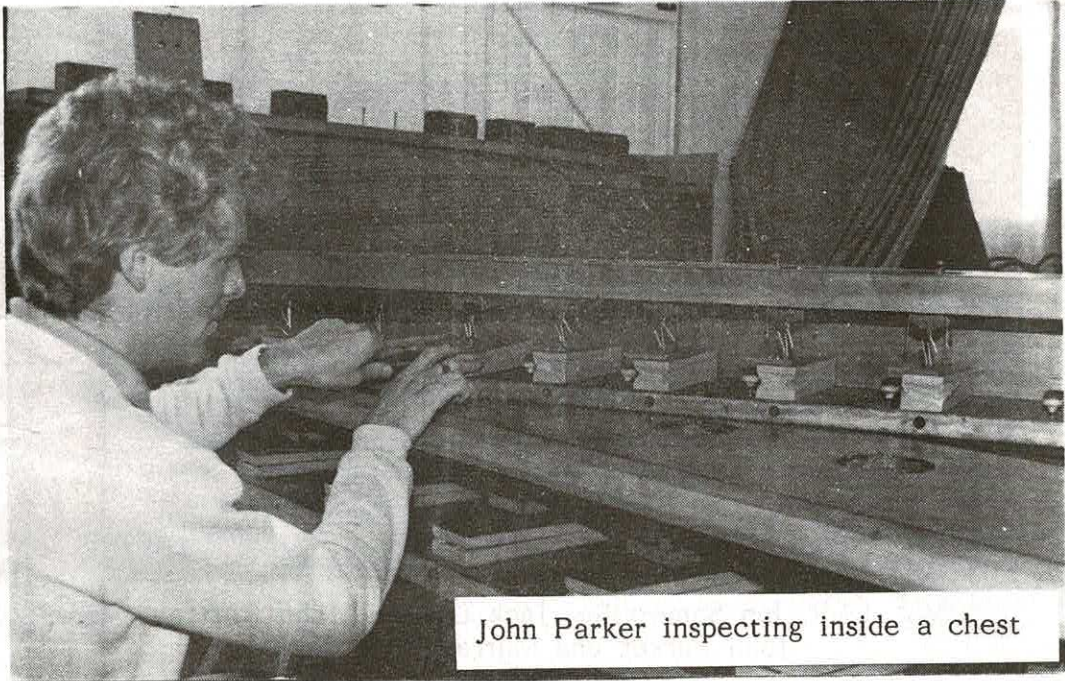
More news next month.

John W. Parker. Organ builder.

P.S.  
Since the time of writing, two off-note chests are now completed and work is now in progress on the solo shutter front and 8' flute off-note chests, with work soon to begin on the 16' diaphone off-note chests.



The Capitol console.



John Parker inspecting inside a chest



Doug Smith cleaning a top board



About to lift the blower on to the trailer.



L.-R. Ian Somerville, Jack Lawson, John Rattray  
John Parker and Murray Ries.



Murray Ries on left helping John Parker with a chest.

## NEW LIFE FOR THE ORPHEUM

### \$2 MILLION TO BE SPENT

Work has started on the \$2 million restoration of Cremorne's Orpheum Theatre, which was bought by former daytime television king Mike Walsh for a sum reported to be more than \$3 million.

Mike, darling of the housewife set, bought the theatre in December and plans to transform it into the "showplace of Sydney".

"The theatre will be unique in Sydney when it's finished," Mike said this week. "We're pouring \$1.4 million into the main auditorium alone and at least \$2 million for the whole job".

"We are going to have some very exciting programming, with several films running at the same time. It should be magnificent when it's finished."

The Orpheum is the ninth in the theatre chain acquired by Mike for his company, Hayden Productions, over the past few years.

John Love, project manager for Hayden Theatres, said the 52 year-old theatre, recognised as the best example of art deco theatre style in the State, had been classified by the National trust and would become the most glamorous place in Sydney.

"When the Orpheum opened in 1935, it was quite a showplace and was famous for its four-way lighting system in the ceiling which faded through the rainbow colors as the lights dimmed," he said.

"We are installing a complicated lighting system to give the same magnificent effects."

The stage was removed during decades of the theatre's redevelopment.

"If it hadn't been for the efforts of Ted Mack the whole thing would have disappeared by now," Mr. Love said.

"Mr. Mack and North Sydney Council made sure that the remaining auditorium was

maintained, so we are lucky that all the ceilings and walls and the dress circle are still intact and will look much the same as they did on the day it opened."

The theatre will show high quality films, it will have an American Century projector capable of showing 70mm and 35mm films, the only one of its kind in Australia.

Although the stage will not be big enough to hold major productions, concerts featuring well known artists and orchestras are also planned.

Mr. Love plans to install a Wurlitzer pipe organ which will play during intervals.

News source ...The Mosman Daily.



## N.S.W. STATE FINAL

Don't miss this opportunity to experience the top keyboard artists from N.S.W. competing for the honour of representing Australia at the International Final to be held in Tokyo.

Tickets available at all Yamaha Living Music Centres, your local Y.O.A. Chapter and from Yamaha Music Australia on 02-662 2222.

TOSA members can also purchase their tickets from Mrs. Phyl Wilson on 759 6050.

ADULTS \$4.00

CHILDREN \$2.00

SATURDAY, 4th JULY, at 7.30pm.

St. Joseph's College  
Br. Amelian Hall, Mark Street,  
Hunters Hill

## PIPES DOWN UNDER

Continued from last month.

It is difficult to say which city is most impressive - Sydney, Canberra or Melbourne.

TOSA Victoria Division Vice President Eric Wicks had arranged for some of their members to pick us up from our hotel on Saturday afternoon and drive us to the Village Theatre, Reservoir, where TOSAVIC's organ is installed. It has eight ranks of original Blackett & Howden pipe work, plus Wurlitzer wood Tibias, controlled from a two-manual Christie console.

Blackett & Howden was a small English organ builder subsequently absorbed by Hill, Norman and Beard, for whom it made Christie pipe work and assembled Christie organs for some years, as did several other English organ builders. The organ was originally installed in the Prince's Theatre, North Shields, Newcastle, England, and was shipped from there in 1970, minus the console.

The Christie console came from Sydney's Lyceum Theatre and is on a lift. The organ crew, David Cross, conducted chamber tours. TOSAVIC organists who played for us included Cross, Bruce Ardley, Carole Pinches and Gail Dibben. ATOS players included Bill Fearnley, Virginia Mitchell, Ed Mullins, Harold Schnaible, Bob Vaughn and Grant Wheeler. Afternoon tea was served.

After Sunday night dinner, we were transported to Moorabbin Town Hall, introduced as "our guests from the States," and given seats reserved for us.

The 4/22 Wurlitzer in the hall, now owned by the City of Moorabbin, was originally installed in the State Theatre, Melbourne, in 1929, with two consoles. The second console is now at TOSA South Australia Division's Capri Theatre in Adelaide. Gordon Hamilton bought the organ in 1963, removing it with TOSA assistance, and sold it to Moorabbin City Council in 1968. Lyn Larsen played the official opening concert in 1970.

Tony Fenelon and Ray Thornley rode the white and gold console up playing together. They played solos and duets with

Fenelon on a grand piano and Thornley on a Yamaha electronic organ for the most part. An outburst from the audience between numbers, with a definite Aussie accent, asked when we were going to hear the pipe organ. This was the feeling of the American visitors as well. The two artists were in top form, and their concert was the high point of the Australian visit. Tony Fenelon reminded us that "down here, you Yanks talk funny!"

Monday morning my long-time friend Dick Hope arranged for Bob Vaughn and me to visit the residence of Bill Glasson in Caulfield, while others in our tour group were sightseeing in Melbourne. I met Bill in 1977 and we visited the old Dendy Theatre in Brighton then.

Glasson has in his home a little gem of a Wurlitzer for which he imported the various components from England. The console is from the New Cross Kinema in London, the seven-rank organ is from the Trocette Cinema in Bermondsey, the relays from the Bristol Regent Theatre, and he has the 61-note Brass Saxophone from the Gaumont Cinema in Waterford.

We also visited the new twin Village Cinemas at Brighton, on the site of the old Dendy. The 3/15 Wurlitzer is installed behind the screen in two chambers, and is winded. The console has been refinished and a new music rack built with matching mahogany veneers. A solid state relay is being added. The glistening mahogany console will slide out from a niche on the right side of the screen, a la Radio City Music Hall, when completed.

TOSAVIC purchased the 3/15 Style 260 from the Capitol Theatre in Melbourne in 1963. It was originally installed in 1924 and used until 1958. TOSAVIC installed it in the original Dendy Theatre, Brighton, in 1966 through the kindness of the late Mr. Bert Ward. It played for 18 years, opening with TOSAVIC Patron George Blackmore in April 1967, until the theatre's demolition in 1984.

When the final decision was made to redevelop the Dendy and surrounding sites as a shopping, theatre and residential complex, the Ward family insisted the Wurlitzer should go back into the new

cinema. The tour group departed by private coach Monday afternoon for a 10 mile drive to Phillip Island, spotting several koalas in the trees en route. The nature reserve provides a home for the shy koalas, and rookeries for the mutton bird, native pelicans and gulls.

After a delicious lobster dinner at the Jetty Restaurant, Cowes, we went to the shore where, at dusk, hundreds of penguins come out of the sea and wade ashore. These lovable birds comically make their way across the sand to their burrows in the dunes in what has come to be known as the "Fairy Penguin Parade". On the return to our hotel we passed the State Theatre in Melbourne, still operating sans organ.

Early Tuesday morning our bus driver picked us up for the trip to the airport for our flight to Christchurch, New Zealand. As we bade farewell to Australia with memories of koalas, kangaroos, wallabies and emus, and our many new friends, were mindful of the unfailing courtesy and hospitality of the Australian people, from the shopkeepers to the hotel people, and especially from the theatre organ friends who hosted us and saw to it that we were made welcome.

On the last morning in Australia, we had yet another example of the special treatment we received all along the way. Our bus driver was from Utrecht, Holland. He had not much contact with theatre organs before driving our little group, but after attending some of the concerts and hearing tapes of more concerts, he told us about his love of the old street organs of Utrecht, and how he enjoyed playing records of their music at home. On the way to the airport, we suddenly were aware of delightful music coming from his tape deck. He explained that he had gotten up at 6.00am. that morning and had copied one of his favorite recordings on tape, so that we could hear it. He sang the words in Dutch for us, and then thanked us for a wonderful time! It was one of those unforgettable things that happens along the way of which memories are made.

And so we were off to New Zealand, about a four-hour flight from Melbourne,

arriving in Christchurch on the South Island. New Zealand and Australia have many things in common, having been settled mostly by Europeans at about the same time, but while Australia is a vast country with many contrasts, New Zealand is a lush agricultural country with, it seemed, millions of sheep, and some of the most breath-taking scenery in the world.

We had a brief tour of Christchurch on Wednesday, and then went on to Dunedin, a delightful city with beautiful churches, gardens and flowers everywhere. Even though the season there corresponded to our late August - early September, the gardens were still beautiful. The drive to Dunedin through the Canterbury Plains was a relaxing trip, after all our busy sightseeing in Australia.

There weren't any theatre organs on the South Island, but in Dunedin on Thursday we visited the Anglican Cathedral and the Town Hall, where a few of us tried out the classical organs.

Thursday was spent traveling by private coach across the Tairie Plains and through the townships of Balclutha and Gore, arriving at our hotel in Te Anau in time for dinner.

On Friday morning we set out through the spectacular mountain scenic valleys of Eglinton and Hollyford, through the Homer Tunnel, and down the majestic Gledau Gorge to Milford Sound. The highlight of our visit to the Sound was a luncheon cruise through the waterway of the fjord, where we saw the cascading Bowen and Stirling Falls, the sparkling glacier of Mount Pembroke and Mitre Park.

After the lunch cruise, we passed through the township of Kingston, where several railroad buffs in the group inspected the narrow gauge railroad and engine. Our coach had a sign "Pipes Down Under" in the front window and many "Kiwis" thought that we were bagpipers, so upon our arrival in Queenstown, Bob Vaughn made another sign reading "Organ not Bag" and taped it on the window.

Queenstown is a resort town in a magnificent setting along a lovely lake, with

the mountains of the Remarkable Range all around. On Saturday, our group went sightseeing around the town and visited Deer Park Heights, where we had fun feeding the many deer and goats that roam freely.

In the afternoon, we had one of the most exciting experiences on the South Island, a jet boat ride on the Shotover River. A power boat skims along the surface of the river, coming within a hairsbreadth of the canyon walls. We got soaked during the high speed ride, especially when the boat spun.

That evening we ascended Bob's Peak by gondola cableway to the Skyline Chalet, located 1500 feet above Queenstown, for dinner. A spectacular panoramic view of the Remarkable Range and Lake Wakatipu added to our dining pleasure. Reservations cards placed on our tables read "Pipes Down Under." Hoot mon!

Sunday morning we were off to Mount Cook, in the spectacular southern alps. We traveled via the Kawarau Gorge, Lindis Pass and the Mackenzie Plains, along the shores of scenic Lake Pukaki to Mount Cook National Park, well known for its alpine scenery. Mount Cook is the highest peak at 12,349 feet, and dominates the scene.

We had anticipated an afternoon float plane ride up through the mountains to a glacier, but the weather didn't cooperate. The flight was rescheduled for Monday morning, but again the weather forced a cancellation. We returned to Lake Tekapo through Burke's Pass to Christchurch for our flight to Wellington on the North Island.

That night we were guests of the Wellington Electronic Organ Society at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Whyte. President Jim Houston welcomed us. The Whytes have a Lowrey organ and a Welmar piano in their living room.

Society Treasurer George Gibson led off the cameos, followed by Bob Vaughn and Harold Schnaible. Bill Fearnley then played the piano for us. Bill spent 32 years at the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, playing in the din-

ing room. Back to the Lowrey were Mrs. Phyl Cree, Ed Mullins, Grant Wheeler and Emile Van Ryswyk. Mrs. Val Gibson played the piano in a duet with husband George, followed by Harold Schnaible at the organ. Other performers at the piano were Phyl Cree and Ann Richardson in duets with May Bushby and Gordon Whyte, respectively. They concluded with a Maori tune, "Hine E Hine", with Whyte at the piano and Gloria Bushby at the organ.

Kiwi hospitality tried to outdo the Aussies. A supper was served and many received a night tour of Wellington from various drivers who chauffeured us back to the hotel.

On Tuesday, March 11, after a day spent touring Wellington, a lovely city on a large bay, we traveled by coach to Paraparaumu for a tour of the Southward Car Museum, Theatre, Conference Centre and Restaurant. We were greeted by Sir Leonard Southward, recently knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, and his charming wife, Lady Vera. We were offered wine and then were free to wander around the museum, which was closed to the public for the evening, but open to our group and the local theatre organ group.

The Southward Museum is a remarkable collection of vintage and classic automobiles, lovingly restored to mint condition. There are also other interesting items on display, including vintage aircraft and boats. Sir Leonard delighted in showing off the collection, even starting up a few of the cars. We were then conducted into a dining room for a buffet dinner, followed by a concert in the auditorium, a most interesting place. The floor of the auditorium is mounted on large lifts which can make it level for dancing and dinner parties or tilt it to accommodate chairs for concerts and other activities. When Sir Leonard learned from Bob Heinzen that he active in community theatre, he insisted on giving a guided tour of the backstage facilities and dressing rooms, of which he is justly proud.

In the auditorium there is a 3/17 Style 260 Wurlitzer, Opus 2075, installed on a lift. The organ is exactly as it was when installed in the Civic Theatre in Auckland.

(to be concluded next month).