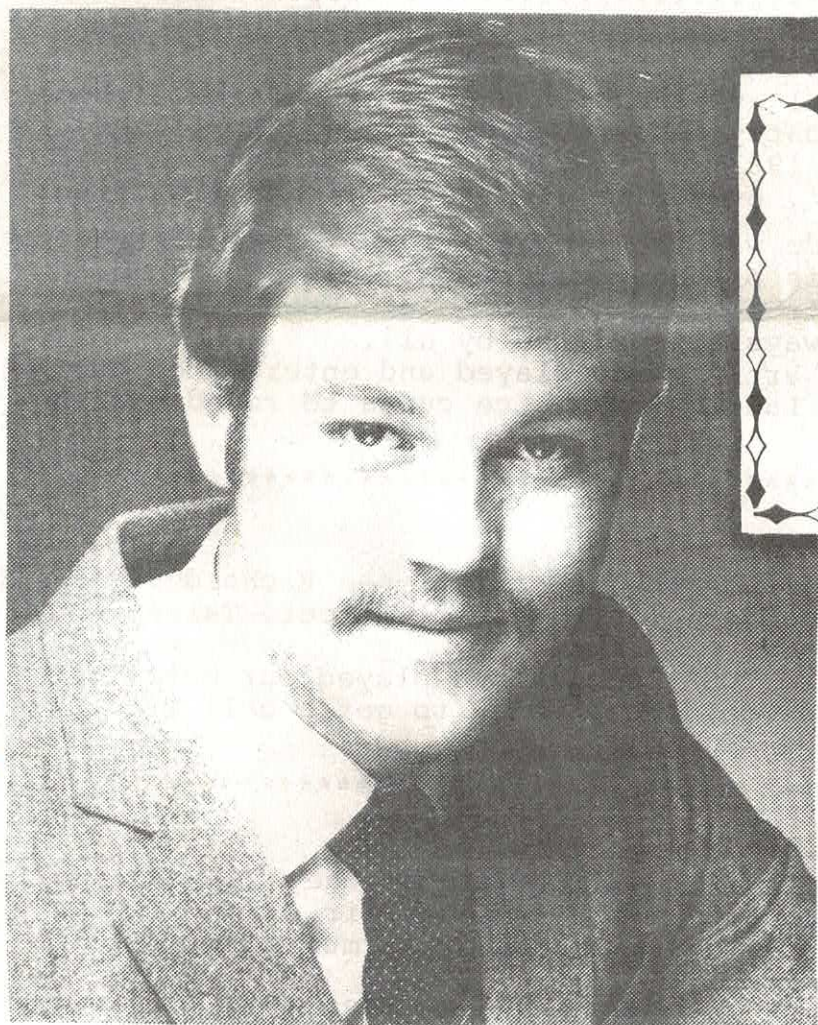


Volume 22. Issue 3 Price 40c. March 1982.

T.O.S.A. NEWS.

*The Official Publication of the Theatre Organ Society
of Australia, N.S.W. Division.
Address - Box A584 P.O. Sydney South, 2000
Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. N.B.H.1038*

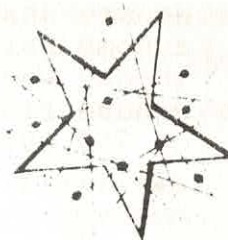
NEIL JENSEN



at the console of the
**mighty
Wurlitzer**
Theatre Pipe Organ

SUNDAY 20th
MARCH at 2p.m.
**Marrickville
Town Hall
Marrickville**

Admission Adults \$5
T.O.S.A. Members \$4
Concession \$2.50



2...

DIRECTORY TOSA (NSW DIVISION)

PATRON: IAN DAVIES

PRESIDENT: Alan Misdale (525 5554)

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Frank Ellis (649 7011) Doug Smith (750 0917)

SECRETARY: Ernie Vale (570 4933)

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mrs.Edna Smith (529 7379)

RESEARCH & ARCHIVES: Ian Cameron

PRACTICE CONVENOR: Jim Crombie (750 4294)

COMMITTEE: Mrs.Phil Wilson, Ron Wilson, Bill Schumacher,
Robert Gliddon, Neil Palmer, John Weismantel.

TOSA NEWS EDITING & PRINTING: Ron Wilson & Doug Smith.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A most cordial welcome is extended to the following new members for this month of 1983.

Len Cherlin, Mr. & Mrs. L. Bridgford, Mr.A.Lanes.

CLUB NIGHT, WEDNESDAY 26th January.

This was a most informal evening with a good attendance of some 52 members. The evening was mostly devoted to hearing our WurliTzer playing for the first time in 1983 and many members took advantage of the opportunity to 'have a go', even with all their friends listening!

An interesting interlude was the presentation of some theatre slides by Barry Tooker from his private collection, mainly of some interesting and historic theatres and organ consoles. Thanks to Barry for his efforts, which are always appreciated by all.

Many thanks to all the artists who played and entertained our members and especially to our Ladies for a nice cuppa to round off the evening.

RICHARD JAMES.

For any members travelling north, a call to see Richard James who is now working at Keyboard Specialists, Albert Street, Taree, would be most welcome. Ph. 065 52 4300.

Richard is well known to TOSA members and played our WurliTzer organ on several occasions and would be pleased to get a call from any of our members.

NOEL SMITH'S FAMILY ORGAN CLUB.

Yes! It's going again for '83 and is held on the FIRST Tuesday Night in each month, at the Terrace Room, Miranda Fair.

A most enjoyable evening of Dinner and organ music is provided and Bookings can be made by ringing:

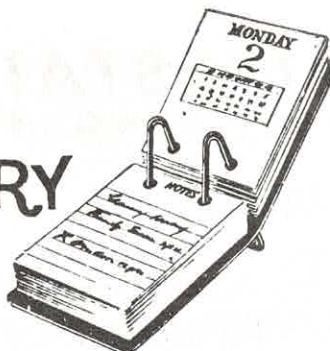
Joy Stainer....529 3390.

HOME PARTIES

We are anxious to hear from any member who desires to hold a Home Party at their residence. We will advise and assist in any way we can.

Please ring Mrs.Phil Wilson and discuss your requirements etc. on 759 6050.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



March

SUNDAY 6th at 2.30pm

HOME ORGAN PARTY at the Maennl's,
31 Tenth Avenue, Oyster Bay, 528 6383.
Gents:\$2, Ladies \$1.50 plus a plate for
afternoon tea.

There might just be a spot left!

MONDAY 7th at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE MEETING at St.Annes Church Hall
cr.Beresford & Homebush Roads,Strathfield.

SUNDAY 20th at 2pm

PAID CONCERT at Marrickville Town Hall
Featuring Interstate Guest Artist,
NEIL JENSEN

WEDNESDAY 23rd at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE MEETING (for April)
58 Rosebank Avenue, Kingsgrove.

April

FRIDAY 1st to 4th

NATIONAL CONVENTION IN ADELAIDE

SUNDAY 24th at 2pm

FREE CONCERT at Marrickville Town Hall
Featuring: VALDA LANG and DAVID PARSONS

WEDNESDAY 27th at 7.30pm

CLUB NIGHT at Marrickville Town Hall.

May

MONDAY 2nd at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE MEETING at St.Annes Church Hall.

SUNDAY 22nd at 2pm

PAID CONCERT at Marrickville Town Hall
Special Guest Artists:

TONY FENELON and JOHN ATWELL

(Tickets will be available as from
March 20th)

Stop Press

Lyn Larsen to play a farwell concert at the Dendy on the 6th of
March at 2.pm.

Lyn holds a special place in the memories of those TOSAVIC members
who were involved in those heady days when the ex-Capitol Wurlitzer
had been installed and opened at the Dendy in 1967, including, or
especially, Bert Ward. Lyn, as a gifted young organist of 23, was
the second overseas organist to play at the Dendy, coming here for
a six weeks season in January - February 1968.

INTERSTATE NEWS

CHANGE TO DENDY INSTALLATION.

The architects for the Dendy Cinema re-development have changed the basic plan for the re-installation of the society's Wurlitzer.

The new plan provides organ chambers being the screen, in much the same way as the existing installation. Originally it was planned to house the whole of the organ in a glass box elevated above the shopping plaza, with ducting leading to a wide grille in the left side wall of the cinema. Subsequently, after discussion with the re-location sub-committee, this somewhat naive concept was abandoned in favour of main and solo chambers on either side of the auditorium, only with the main and solo chambers reversed. This was to enable the more visually interesting solo chamber to be seen behind glass.

Now it is proposed to place the chambers behind the screen, as was suggested by TOSA Trustees after considering the original plaza proposal. It is suggested there should be a glass wall at the left hand end of the chamber facing into the shopping plaza. Architect Terry Edwards has said there will be workshop and blower space made available in the same general position as in the divided chamber arrangement. The new plan shows extensive use of curtains around the screen and side walls of the theatre, which will affect the acoustics, and will need to be considered in conjunction with the reduced volume of the new, smaller auditorium.

There are a number of matters still to be resolved. With regard to the organ, these include the placement of the console, the location of the 32 foot diaphones - massive pipes which occupy a lot of space - and the organ's piano - an upright instrument without a keyboard which is nothing much to look at. There is also the question of where to put TOSA'S real piano - at present a baby grand, but hopefully one day something more worthy of the artists expected to play it. And finally, will it be possible to present where the organist, pianist and other artists can be easily seen.

FAMOUS English theatre organist Reginal Porter Brown died on December 4 from cancer, aged 72. RPB, "the organist with three hands" as his publicity described him, toured Australia in 1972 and presented a very successful concert in Moorabbin Town Hall. He also made a record, playing the Sydney Town Hall, Marrickville TOSA Wurlitzer, St Columbs, West Ryde Christie and Thomas Palace 111 organs.

For those who are travelling south.

MARCH

- Sunday 6th 2 pm. Dendy Cinema, Brighton. Concert by SA organist MALCOLM ROSS, Peter Hurley and Anthony Kenny, with guest vocalist PHUONG DJUNG. Adults \$5, Members \$4, Students and pensioners \$2.
- Wednesday 16th 8 pm. Memorial Theatre, Ballarat. Concert by JOHN GILBERT at the Compton Organ, with associate artists.

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR SEAT FOR NEIL JENSEN? (Sunday 20th March 1983)

I hope you have! Neil Jensen is one of the most exciting artists in the younger generation, and we can really admire and boast about him.

I predict that Neil's concert will prove to be one of the most entertaining and satisfying presentations of our WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ this coming year. Neil is a proven favourite with audiences at all his concerts and his programmes are packed with variety and interest and always include new material. Let me pass on a few remarks printed about Neil Jensen after a recent concert at the 2/12 WurliTzer in Adelaide and I goute

"Neil Jensen's concert was one of the best we have had at Wyatt Hall for many years. Often we tend to overlook the talent of our Australian artists and idolise the overseas visitors. I am sure that in Neil, we have a young man who has matured into being a theatre organist of world class, upstaging many artists we have seen from overseas in recent years"

Dont fail to take the opportunity to hear this very promising young artist at the Marrickville WurliTzer, right now!

Write IMMEDIATELY for your seats to:-

The Ticket Secretary	ADULTS	\$5
127 Quarter Sessions Road,	MEMBERS	\$4
WESTLEIGH 2120	CONCESSION	\$2.50

(Please include stamped addressed envelope)

NORFOLK ISLAND LOOKS PROMISING IN SEPTEMBER.

Here are the main points of a letter we received for any of our members with the travel bug during September 1983.

Dear Sir, We have the Howick (NZ) Organ Club visiting us from 10th to 18th September this year. There will be some 30 members coming over, so it looks like our first mini-convention!

Apart from the beauty of the Island, we have in mind a dinner on the 10th then Wednesday 14th recorded music in the forenoon followed by a free-for-all (?) on the C3 Hammond during the afternoon and then a dance in the evening (to organ music of course!) A visit to the Father Willis organ in the Chapel and then perhaps a barbecue and the rest of the period will be devoted to holidaying.

It has occurred to us that perhaps some of your members may be contemplating visiting the Island about that time and if they would like to arrange their dates to co-incide with Howick's visit, they could join up with us during our functions. If any member does feel so inclined, perhaps he or she could drop me a line in due course.

Yours sincerely
Joan Irwin
Norfolk Island Concert Organ Society
c/- Post Office
Norfolk Island
South Pacific 2899.

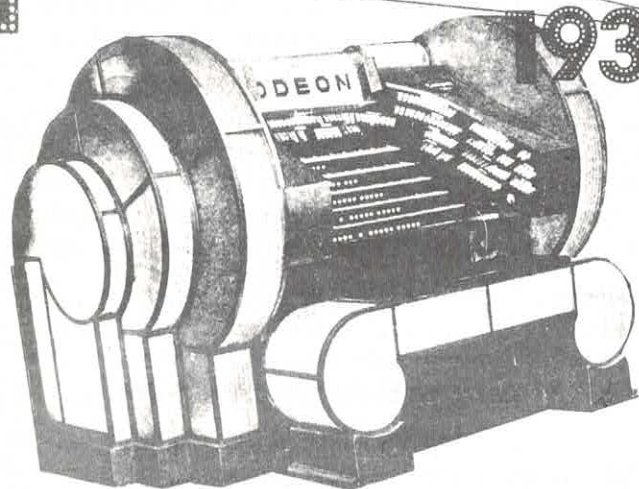
FOR SALE

THOMAS 'MONTICELLO' 372-2 Traditional Electronic Organ.
25 instrumental voices plus THOMAS electronic synthesizer
adding 12 preset voices. 25 note radial arc pedal board
plus automatic effects and presets. Padded stool.
As new condition. A bargain at \$4000.

Please ring Joy Henderson on 797 9531 AFTER 5.30pm.

THE GREAT BRITISH LIGHT SHOW

1932 * 1982



by Ian Dalglish

Without doubt there was one factor in the U.K. which distinguished the theatre organ scene from its USA counterpart. That was the average typical theatre organ presented a light show to accompany its music!

We British tend to take it all for granted of course. For millions of Britishers fondly recalling an evening at the pictures, reference is

feel the whole building vibrate and then the sensation of a massive console rising slowly—MAGIC!

It is possible that forever man has linked music and colour. They appear inseparable. Think of the great part colour lighting plays in the theatre and films and TV—yes, inseparable. In the 1920s consoles were sedate. They had panning, polished, dignified. And when in the late twenties the mini recital



CLEVER CHARACTER, FRANK MITCHELL, chief designer and draughtsman for John Compton Organ Company, was responsible for the glass surround idea. It sprang from his "Sunburst" wooden pillar console of 1931. He is seen here checking over a console he had designed 40 years earlier which is now owned by the Sheffield Theatre Organ Group. Mitchell still designs organs on a freelance basis.

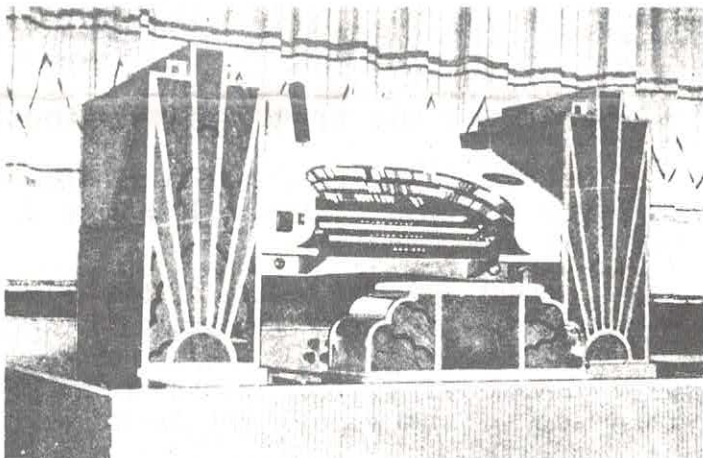
Nostalgia In Glass

made to the organ coming up and changing colours.

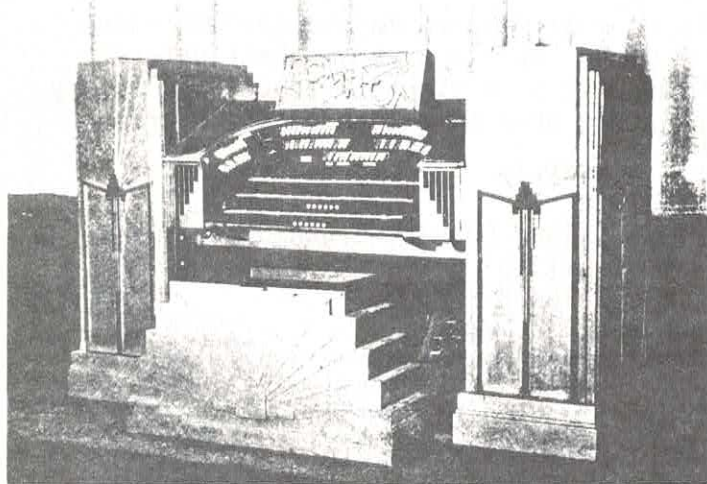
The glamorous world of the films began the second you stepped into the foyer with its deep pile carpets, smartly uniformed staff, those portraits of the stars, potted palms, Chromium staircases, chandeliers, air conditioned auditoriums, miles of concealed lighting, elaborately dressed stages, and for us the thrilling sound of the organ. One could

demand the console should be raised into view it was then apparent that something indeed was lacking in presentations.

Side pillars, white, cream and gold and silver paint jobs became the order of the day. Britain's most successful theatre organ builder led by a genius John Compton, had a clever young designer and chief draughtsman by the name of Frank Mitchell. On the 13th of



THIS "SUNRISE" is still in its original home, the Plaza Cinema, Stockport, Cheshire. It is a 3/11 Compton and the surround was designed by Frank Mitchell and built by Prides.



FRANK MITCHELL'S "SUNBURST" Compton console was what lead directly to the designer creating an illuminated glass surround. Built from 1931 to 1939, these "Sunbursts" were better known in the factory as "the coffin ends".

April 1931 a modest 3/6 Compton at the splendid Savoy East Action, London became a sensation when its console hove into view. It was a new style keydesk, designed by Young Mitchell. Stylized with the name "Sunburst," it was to become highly successful. The large side pillars of wood quickly became known at the Compton factory as "Coffin Ends"!

Mr. Mitchell recalled for me that he was always being asked to design new styles of music racks, seats and consoles and church cases. It was quite a problem for the booming business. One day he hit upon the idea of combining lighting with the console case. Up to then consoles were floodlit by spotlights

with operators moving a device which housed pieces of gelatine colour strips to change hues. His idea was excellent except it would be impossible for Comptons to manufacture this large glazed "Coffin Ends" console, J. J. Broad, the chairman, and directors thought.

Mr. Broad, Sr., had taken out the patent for the illuminated console but decided that they should bring in a firm of experts in theatrical light fittings, the celebrated firm of F. H. Pride & Company of Clapham, London. They were leaders in manufacture of chandeliers, dimmer boards and a host of electrical items for cinemas.

And so it was on September 13th, 1932 the astonished public



Charles Theobalds

and trade witness Jack Courtney play his solo on *The World's First Luminous Organ* as it was billed at the Capitol Cinema in Forest Hill, London.

A new three-manual console had been installed in place of the previous two decker that was part of the original organ in 1929. The console was sited on the left side of the pit, something rare as we know the vast majority were to be placed in central pit area by far the most effective location.

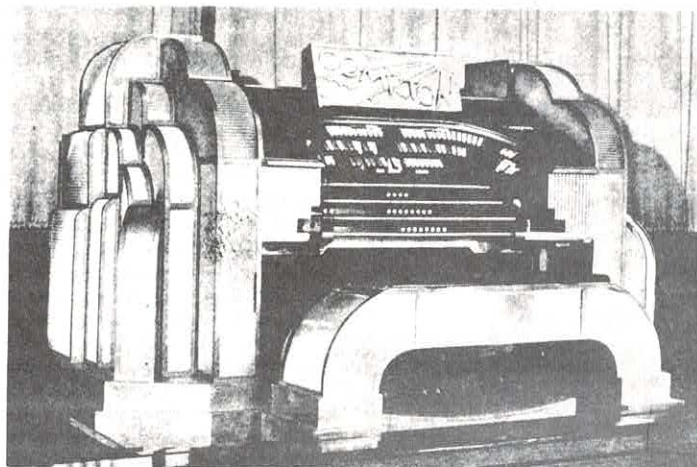
Not only did the public enjoy the event immensely, but the industry could see a revolution taking place in presentation. On the 7th of October the Plaza Stockport 11-rank Compton rose it triumph—the first purpose-built organ with the new *Luminous Console*, and the next night the Princess, Dagenham, Essex, Compton rose amidst great applause and excitement. It topped the show!

Prides geared themselves up, for Comptons had a hit to add to their undoubted success. The Plaza Southampton Compton launched on the 11th of October was equipped with the new wonder luminous organ, and the year ended on December 8th at the Morden Kinema.

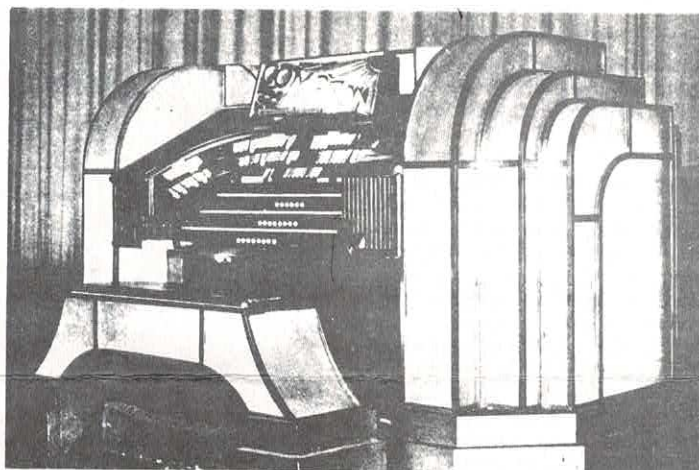
Frank Mitchell and his directors at Compton felt that such a daunting task as designing these massive surrounds was costly and time consuming, and that the chief designer and technical head of F. H. Pride was a young man far better suited to such a job. His name was Charles Theobalds. He had already designed a great many of the finest theatre light fittings and equipment for the leading circuits.

On May 1, 1933, the Compton of the Playhouse Cinema in Windsor rose with a most splendid curved affair called *The Cascade*. Large sheets of curved bent glass cascaded in each direction. Very sleek, and well in the art deco style of the golden era. It was a style to prove popular for some years. Mr. Theobalds had designed a winner, but was not resting, obviously.

On July 31, 1933 the important



COMPTON'S 'CASCADE' design resembled closely their "Rainbow" surround. It was a Charles Theobald creation, the second style put out by the organ firm. This console was the 3/6 of the Odeon, Weston-Super-Mare in Somerset.



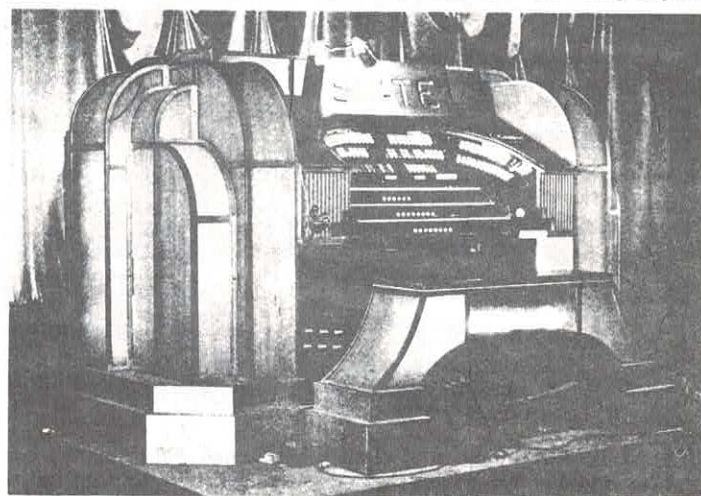
SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT, this Charles Theobald creation was applied to the 3/6 Compton of the ABC Cinema, Westover, Bourne-mouth. It became known at the ABC Style, and was built by Pride.

ABC Regal Cinema Torquay opened and its splendid 3/11 Compton rose to reveal a most elegant console featuring triple curved side pillars, plus a panel on the top connecting the sides. Etched engraved designs completed yet another design from Charles Theobalds. By now it was clear that apart from the glass makers, another facet had crept in—the art of glass bending.

By now virtually every Compton was being sold with the illuminated surround and the two major circuits, ABC and Gaumont-British had selected a Theobalds design to grace their future cinemas. The Regal Torquay becoming the ABC style, and Gaumont-British followed with yet another design to become again highly popular. This one, a variation on the ABC type, was first seen at the Embassy Cinema in Chadwell Heath, Essex on May 17, 1934.

These four styles were to become the most familiar of all designs and were turned out in vast number at the Clapham factory as the major circuits went all-illuminated console crazy.

Was there room for special "one off designs"? Most certainly agreed Mr. Theobalds. And by now architects were wanting a piece of the action and some were found slaving over complete consoles whilst oth-



HIGHLY POPULAR, the design by Charles Theobalds for Prides which is called the "Rainbow" is seen on the 3/6 Compton of the State Cinema, Grays, Essex. A large number of this design were built for Gaumont-British Cinema chain.

ers acted as consultants, recalls Charles. For his specials he would dream up an elaborate affair with a special lighting effect stop.

Such was an order for Oscar Deutsch's Odeon Worthing. The name Odeon being etched into the glasswork and equipped with an effect called "Flame". Revolving mirrored drums in each side pillar illuminated with red light made for a stunning effect, switching to a special white light made a rain or snow fall effect.

Odeon were so pleased that it was said this new effect was to be reserved only for their organs. Like many features of the fickle movie game, it wasn't of course. Margate's beautiful Dreamland Cinema had a huge surround for its four manual special and included the Flame stop, and the identical console turned up a couple of years later at the Ritz Birkenhead.

Did ABC have exclusive rights to their elegant console? Well, they may have thought they did, but we find Union certainly liked the style and also a huge special was built for the Astoria Southend.

Of the many specials perhaps the two most outstanding from Prides were the Theatre Royal Dublin, with hints of the orient for this excellent 4/16 Compton, and the incredible Plaza Worthing. Here not only was the surround quite different from any other type, but the horse-shoe itself was completely covered and to round off the bench was incorporated into the console. The organist had to clamber over this mountain of glasswork.

It presented an incredible sight, one which I shall never forget personally.

Strange that such a conservative resort as Worthing should have two of the most unusual designs ever. Independent or small chains were the largest purchasers of the special consoles like the Havana Romford where the standard model 3/6 & Melotone had eye filling appeal.



ODEON LIKED THEIR NAME engraved on consoles and Charles Theobalds obliged with this etched glass creation, not especially handsome, on the Odeon, Worthing, Sussex. Henry Wingfield is shown on the bench. Compton eventually bought the organ back for parts.

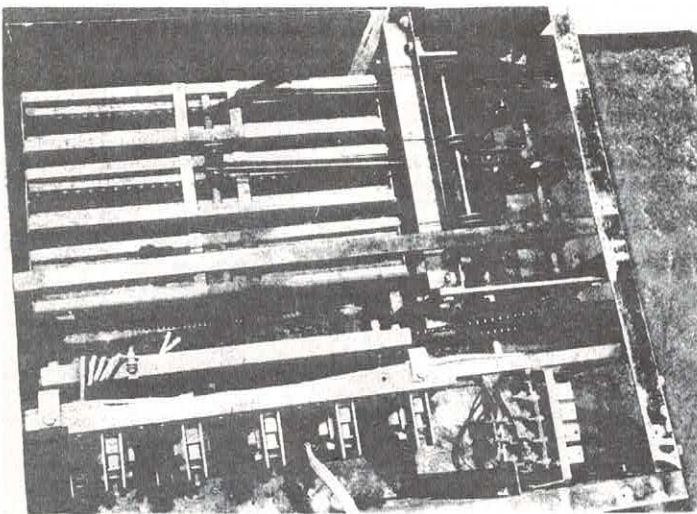
When Deutsch did feel he should install an organ, he certainly didn't stint on the console. Originally he settled for the Cascade style, but then switched to one-off designs at Worthing, Swiss Cottage, a chromium framed affair and Bolton Odeon for another special chromium job with a way out design and, without doubt, the most famous illuminated console in the world—the beautiful Odeon Leicester Square keydesk designed by Theobalds in conjunction with Andrew Mather, one of the architects of our most prestigious cinema.

Its design reflected the splay walls of the auditorium. Recently the organ has undergone a further refurbishing and happily the famous "Hot Seat" has been overhauled and re-installed.

Technically speaking, what was

the secret of this light show? This lay in what was in effect a mechanically operated stage switchboard complete with dimmers. It was a mechanical device housed in a wire cage and sited backstage, in the blower room, relay room, under stage, almost anywhere. Its electric motor moved arms for each primary colour—red, blue, and green—and raised, lowered or held in check the lamps of these shades.

Cleverly it had been worked out these colours could be mixed as like an artist's palette. Colours could be switched on immediately at the command of the organist via stop tabs coloured appropriately, in the case of Compton organs, who elected to do it properly, or thumb pistons in the case of Wurlitzers. Some other makers used switches. Micklewrights of Alperton, London made the first Colour Change



COLOR BRAIN—Control of console and bench color illumination was contained in this dimmer unit designed by Prides. Looking down into the unit, pull rods, top center, work sliding contacts of three primary colours for dimming. Top right is slow motion gear. Lower portion are color selector units. For its day, the unit was clever compact version of a stage switchboard. Today's micro-chip technology would reduce this unit to matchbox proportions.

Dimmer units for Pride, but a more compact and improved model was designed by Theobalds. It came into use around 1935.

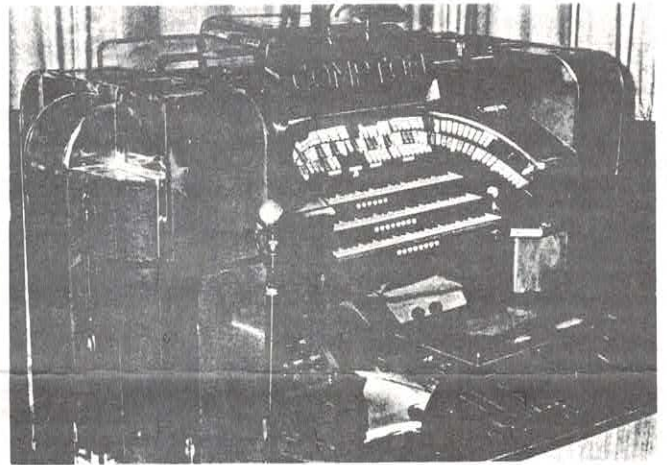
The stop tabs controlling the surround in the vast majority of cases read "Lights Off, Automatic, Red, Blue, Green, Amber (which is Red and Green), Orange (full Red and Green 1/2), Sky Blue (full Blue and Green 1/2), Turquoise (full Blue and full Green), and Mauve (full Blue and Red 1/2)". This will give you an idea just how clever it was.

On the Wurlitzer they used the term "Cycle" instead of "Automatic". This of course meant by pressing it the lights changed and faded from one shade into another.

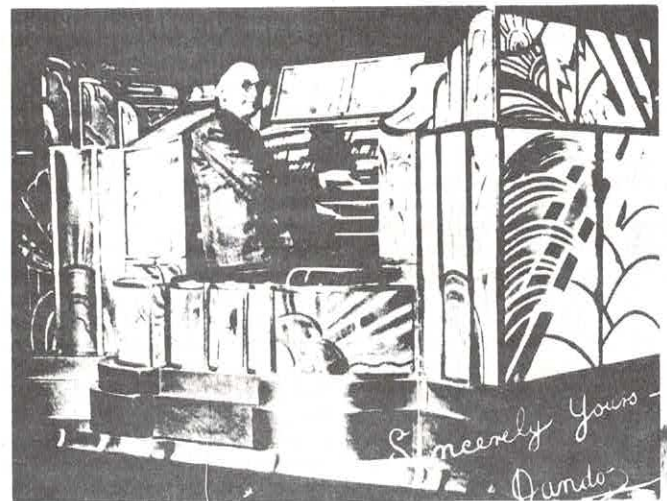
Cheaper manufacturers attempted to list more shades but invariably the trade papers found fault with the systems.

—Continued Next Month

News source, October - November issue of "The Console" Magazine.



TIGHT AND TRIM this 3/9 Compton in the Odeon, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W. Special design for Odeon with silver woodwork and chromium plated steelwork. The bench stayed cool—it wasn't packed with light bulbs to fry the tender bottoms of organists who had to sit on it for any length of time.



ALL ABOARD FOR SPACE FLIGHT—Tommy Dando at the console of this incredible creation by Pride which was done in conjunction with the architect. Even the horseshoe was illuminated, making servicing tricky, and the design around the bench forced the organist to climb over it to play. A Howard seat eventually replaced the glassed-in area. A Compton 3/10, the organ was installed in Lou Morris' Plaza Cinema at Worthing, Sussex. It is now in Australia, minus the glass frippery.

TOSA CAVALCADE

Continued

...9

SEP.	<u>Two Day Convention</u> Marrickville Town Hall Capitol Theatre	Charles Tuckwell Ian Davies & Eric Smith	Full Concert Joint "
	Anzac Auditorium, City Odeon Theatre, Campsie	Peter Held Reubert Hayes	Full " Full "
OCT.	Marrickville Town Hall	David Parsons	Full "
NOV.	Marrickville Town Hall (First Birthday Concert)	Denis Palmistra	Full "
DEC.	Bondi Junction RSL. Ian Davies - Peter Held - Eric Smith - Bill Schumacher		Xmas Party. Schumacher
<u>1970.</u>			
JAN.	Marrickville Town Hall - AGM.	Bill Schumacher	Part "
FEB.	Marrickville Town Hall	Peter Held	Full "
MAR.	Parramatta Town Hall State Theatre	Eric Smith David Parsons	Full " Full "
APR.	Marrickville Town Hall - Special Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Concert played by	Wilbur Kentwell	Full "
MAY.	Marrickville Town Hall	Alan Tranter	Full "
JUL.	Capitol Theatre	Bill Schumacher	Full "
AUG.	RSL Club, Bondi Junction	Pat Quinn	Full "
SEP.	Marrickville Town Hall	Ian Davies	Full "
OCT.	Sydney Town Hall - Six Organ Spectacular with Reubert Hayes - David Parsons - Cliff Bingham - Eric Smith Ray Thornley - Vic Hammett - Pat Quinn		
	<u>One Day Convention</u> Capitol Theatre	Bill Schumacher & Cliff Bingham	Joint Concert
	Cahills City Bistro	David Parsons & Eric Smith	Joint "
	Marrickville Town Hall	Vic Hammett	Full "
NOV.	Marrickville (2nd Birthday)	Tony Fenelon	Full "
<u>1971.</u>			
MAR.	Capitol Theatre St. Columb's Church, W. Ryde	Peter Groves Alan Tranter	Full " Full "
APR.	Marrickville Town Hall	David Parsons	Full "
MAY.	Marrickville Town Hall	Lance Wells	Full "
JUN.	Capitol Theatre - Three Star Jam Session with Rod Blackmore - Herb. Wyatt - Bill Schumacher		
JUL.	State Theatre (Film Premiere) Marrickville Town Hall	Ian Davies Andrew Fenner	1 Hour Full Concert
AUG.	Marrickville Town Hall	Eric Smith	Full "
SEP.	Marrickville Town Hall	David Parsons & guest organist David Pitts	
	<u>Two Day Convention</u> Capitol Theatre	Ian Davies	Full Concert
	Lyceum Theatre (Christie)	Eric Smtih	Full "
	Marrickville Town Hall	David Johnston	Full "

10...

1971. (Cont.)

- OCT. Sydney Town Hall - Organ Spectacular with Peter Held - Ian Davies - Cliff Bingham - Eric Smith - Pat Quinn.
- NOV. Victory Theatre, Kogarah. Reubert Hayes.
(Electronic Organ.)

1972.

- FEB. Marrickville Town Hall Peter Held Full Concert
Capitol Theatre - Historic Final Concert before removal of the Wurlitzer bought by TOSA. Ten organists appeared at concert. They were:- Cliff Bingham - Lance Wells - Denis Palmistra - David Parsons - Bill Schumacher - Ray Thornley - Alan Tranter - Eric Smith - Peter Held and Ian Davies.
- MAR. Burning Log Restaurant, Dural Joh Congert Full Concert
- APR. Marrickville Town Hall Cecil Cranfield Full "
- MAY. Chatswood Town Hall Wilbur Kentwell Full "
- JUL. Sydney Town Hall Reginald Porter-Brown
Chatswood Town Hall Reginald Porter-Brown
Marrickville Town Hall Reginald Porter-Brown
- AUG. Chatswood Town Hall Don Baker Demo
- SEP. Marrickville Town Hall David Pitts Full Concert
St. Columb's Church, W.Ryde David Parsons Full Concert
- OCT. Mecca Theatre, Kogarah Gaylord Carter Silent Film
(formerly The Victory)
- NOV. State Theatre, Sydney David Parsons Full Concert
Marrickville Town Hall Cliff Bingham Full "

1973.

- FEB. Marrickville Town Hall Bill Schumacher Full "
Marrickville Town Hall Joh Congert Full "
- MAR. Chatswood Town Hall Cliff Bingham & Heather Moen Joint "
- APR. Two Day Convention
State Theatre Cliff Bingham & Bill Schumacher Joint "
RSL. Bondi Junction Ian Davies Full "
Marrickville Town Hall Tony Fenelon Full "
Lyceum Theatre Eric Smith & Ray Thornley Joint "
Chatswood Town Hall Wilbur Kentwell Full "
- MAY. Marrickville Town Hall Ray Thornley Full "
- JUL. Marrickville Town Hall Vic Hammett Full "
- AUG. Marrickville Town Hall John Atwell Full "
Chatswood Town Hall Vic Hammett Full "
- SEP. Marrickville Town Hall Tony Fenelon Full "
Strathfield Church Hall David Parsons Full "
(Wal Cook Benefit Concert)
- Organ Spectacular - Sydney Town Hall. Featuring:-
Len Thomas - Ray Thornley - Ian Davies - Cliff Bingham - Peter Held - Peter Dey
- Chatswood Town Hall Cliff Bingham Full "

To be continued



PORTLAND BUFFS AID THEATRE IN WURLITZER PROJECT.

Installation of a large Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ in the Portland (Oregon) Paramount Theatre, which is being refurbished as the Performing Arts Centre of the City, is being backed by Portland Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Spearheaded by Dennis Hedberg and Joe Gray, the Chapter is seeking support from leading performing arts centre and civic auditorium executives who have been involved in theatre organ installations and have come to appreciate what the addition of such an instrument does for a community involved project.

The Portland project goes beyond merely donation of the large theatre pipe organ. Funds for its installation are also included in the offer. The organ in question is an excellent Wurlitzer, one of the most famous built by the North Tonawanda firm, and much larger than the original four-manual 20 rank Publix No. 1 model that was installed in the house. An organ of this magnitude would establish Portland on par with other cities which have accepted donations of theatrically styled instruments.

HOTEL ORGAN BEING RESTORED.

For decades, Manhattan's Barbizon Hotel was a mecca for young women from all over, who lived there while they tried for the one big break that would get them a place of their own. The hotel, at 140 East 63rd. St., is being totally restored. Working next to electricians, carpenters, plasterers, etc., is Rev. Steven Empson who is busy restoring the Barbizon's Welte pipe organ which was installed when the place was built in 1927.

It was erected in the recital room and is where, before their careers got off the ground, such residents as Lauren Bacall, Gene Tierney and Liz Minelli gathered after dinner to listen to music. The organ was used until about 1947 and then abandoned.

When reopened, the hotel will accomodate anyone who wishes to stay there. The new owner has asked Empson to become resident organist; the new owner is planning a series of organ concerts.

NOR-CAL HAS FIVE AREA THEATRES WITH ORGANS.

Once upon a time San Francisco was an area abounding in theatre pipe organs, especially the downtown theatres where there were large instruments - - the Fox, Orpheum, Paramount, to name several - - until demolition of the palaces and sale of the instruments left but one two-manual six-rank Robert-Morton in the Marina (now Cinema 21) Theatre.

Then, one by one, starting with the Avenue Theatre and its three-manual Wurlitzer, theatres started blossoming out with organs again until today there are five in the area that can boast of having them Cinema 21 has its Morton, the Avenue, Castro, Oakland Paramount, Vallejo Empress are Wurlitzer-ized, and a sixth will have a mostly Wurlitzer when the Grand Lake organ is completed and sounds off.

Northern California Chapter ATOS celebrated its first in-theatre programme in quite some time with a concert featuring Larry Vannucci at the console of the Empress Theatre Wurlitzer in Vallejo during October.

Rated one of the finest in-theatre organ installations in the U.S. the Wurlitzer in the Castro Theatre, which is now up to 13 ranks and still growing, is heard nightly. Fridays nights the Avenue Theatre presents its Wurlitzer in solo spots and for silent film accompaniment.

OVERSEAS NEWS.....Cont.WRIGHT PRESENTS SEMINAR IN SAN DIEGO.

On Sunday, November 21st., George Wright presented a two and a half hour entertaining lecture and fascinating demonstration of popular organ playing techniques at the California Theatre in San Diego. Using the theatre Wurlitzer and a Conn 653 on stage, he demonstrated both for the benefit of those attending the seminar. An on-stage reception with wine and cheese followed the session. Registration price for the seminar was \$35.00 per person.

HECTOR OLIVER TAKES BRIDE; MARRIAGE IN BOSTON CATHEDRAL.

Theatre Organ's wedding of the year took place in one of Boston's largest churches, Trinity Cathedral on September 12, when internationally famed Hector Oliver and Allison became man and wife in a beautiful ceremony. A friend of the bride and groom played the 130-plus rank Skinner organ and did quite well. There were many of the couple's friends from Pittsburgh Area Theatre Organ Society in attendance.

----- News source, October issue "The Console" Magazine.

News Brief

The Phantom of Marrickville Town Hall has struck again, Last time we reported he'd made off with about 40 chairs without trace. Last week an inventory showed he'd collected another 74 after council administration took action to halt the flow before the Phantom got the hall's world famous pipe organ, too!

..... News source February issue of "The Glebe"

TOSATOUR '83

Members who expressed their intention to join TOSATOUR '83 to the West Coast of U.S.A. departing Sydney on 6th June, are advised that the time has now come for you to make a firm decision. Your deposit of \$150.00 should be with Westpac Travel, Macquarie Centre, North Ryde not later than 31st. March. Any person wishing to have more details of the itinerary and costs should contact Andrew Chapman of Westpac on telephone number 887-3144 without delay.