

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION

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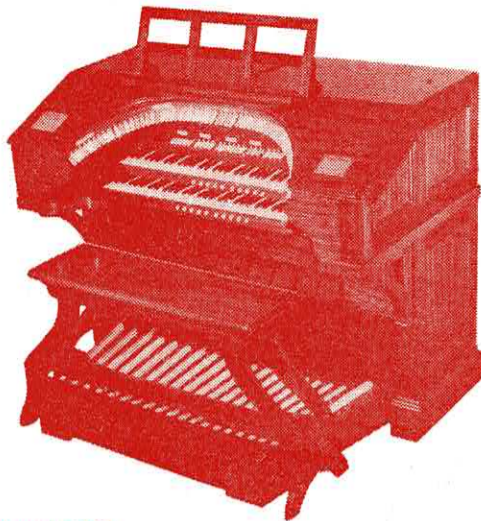
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WHAT'S ON DURING MARCH.

SATURDAY 7th MARCH. There will be an organ party at the home of our members, John and Marjorie Whitehouse at 10 Levy Street, Putney. All members who can play are invited to bring their music and "have a go". There will be a charge of \$1 per person in aid of the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund, and all those who would like to attend are asked to phone our hosts a few days beforehand, in order to ensure their reservations. Their phone number is 80-3142. For those who have not previously visited the Whitehouse residence, and who perhaps, may be using an older type street directory, Levy Street is a cul-de-sac off Frances Road. You'll spend a happy evening with the Whitehouse family, and help the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund to grow at the same time.

WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH AT 8pm. Parramatta Town Hall will be the venue for a concert by our honorary member ERIC SMITH on 18th March. ERIC will be playing the Yamaha E3 model which is the largest model of this make available. This will also be the FIRST full length concert for the Society members to feature this make of organ. The talents of ERIC SMITH PLUS the interest of a make of organ not previously heard in concert, will ensure a large audience. The concert is being presented by the Society in conjunction with the Parramatta Council and will be a FREE night to TOSA members and the general public, so invite as many friends along as you wish - it won't cost you a cent to play host to a party of your friends and neighbours. ERIC has chosen as his guest artist, the well known tenor Mr Laurie Beatty, who is a first class artist. So why not make up a party and take them along to hear ERIC on 18th March. ADMISSION IS FREE FOR THIS FIRST CLASS CONCERT AT THE PARRAMATTA TOWN HALL.

COMING EVENTS.

In April there will be an organ party in aid of the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund and an outstanding organ concert as part of the Marrickville Council's Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Celebrations. Full details of both these functions will be given in the April TOSA News.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded that the April meeting will be on Monday April 6th at 7.15pm and the May meeting on Monday 4th at 7.15pm.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE.

Those having material for publication in the April issue of TOSA News, are reminded that the closing date for such material will be Friday 20th March. Please ensure that your copy reaches the Editor in good time.

WILBUR

LOOKING BACK AT FEBRUARY.

Members of the Hammond Organ Society were guests of T.O.S.A. on February 11th, at the Wesley Center Auditorium for an evening of varied entertainment which included slides, four surprise organists, and a rather special film show. The programme got under way with a screening of slides made available by our members Colin Tringham and Robert Gliddon. Colin's slides which were taken during his American trip, were very capably, described by himself, and the audience had the benefit of a first class commentary to add interest to the picture appearing on the screen. Robert then took over the microphone to detail his own slide selection which mainly featured Australian theatre organs and organists. The Society thanks them both for their interesting slides and the worth while commentaries which enhanced them.

Hammond Organ Society member, Iris Begley then took her place at the Auditorium's Hammond organ, to present the first of four mini-concerts programmed for the evening. She played a selection of popular melodies which were well received by the audience. Iris was followed at the organ by TOSA member, Peter Groves, whom we have not had the opportunity to hear for some time. Following Peter's segment, also, very enjoyably in the popular vein, there was a brief interval.

After the break, the second artist from the Hammond Society was next to appear, and this was 14 years old Belinda Burton, a pupil of Iris Begley's. Belinda is also an Eisteddfod winner. She showed a great deal of promise and received warm applause from the audience. The final organist was TOSA member Vic Leon, who introduced a guest artist, English saxophonist, Mr Don Doughty to team with him in organ and saxophone duets. They teamed so well together that your Editor wondered just how long this had been going on, and why we had not had the opportunity to hear them before now. Altogether, it was a very informal and happy atmosphere and we sincerely thank our four surprise organists for their part in the entertainment.

The highlight of the show, was, of course, the color and sound film, "My Wife Said That's Enough" which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present. Produced by theatre organ enthusiasts across the Pacific, the film took a light-hearted look at the theatre organ hobby. Whilst it was a unique and splendid entertainment in itself, it very subtly got its message across, and revealed a host of fascinating facts concerning the theatre organ. Highlights of the film, were the scenes showing the organist at a four manual console playing the accompaniment to a silent film in an American cinema for an audience of fans. The organist, not named, but without doubt, GAYLORD CARTER, presented an image of total absorption in the film's action as he thrillingly brought to life, with a brilliant musical interpretation, what he saw depicted on the screen. His flawless technique in this most difficult art, aroused, in this reviewer at least, a healthy respect for all theatre organists, who, in those far off days, had to perform such feats of musical skill, several times each day.

To sum up the whole thing - a splendid evening's fun and games.

PETER HELD IN CONCERT AT MARRICKVILLE.

The first free Sunday afternoon concert for 1970, found our Honorary member PETER HELD at his brilliant best musically, and in high good humour when it came to dealing with a cipher or two. He indulged in some humorous hi-jinks on the keyboard which highly amused his audience and proved the sound common sense behind that well known saying, "If you can't beat 'em - join 'em". Join in he did with gusto, and in the process, completely reversed the saying for in "joining 'em, he then beat 'em". The result - a minus for the cipher and a big plus for PETER, not to mention the audience applause for his good humour.

PETER'S programme held immense variety - variety in the items selected, in the registrations used, and in the styles of playing that he adopted. Opening with his theme tune, The Minstrl Boy, his first item was a bracket of popular number which included, Hello Dolly, A Kind Of Hush and Havah Negilah, followed by a bracket of three South African numbers. For contrast then came Bugler's Holiday and then a bracket of three Latin-American numbers which included the exciting El Relicario. The next item was an undoubted highlight judging by the warmth of audience response which followed it, for it was beautifully played. The item was a Stephen Foster Fantasy, and the well loved and familiar tunes were given a new appeal and freshness in this presentation. PETER followed this item with a bracket of ballet music consisting of (continued on Page 10.)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members have joined the Society this month, and we are delighted to welcome them. It's our sincere wish that they will attend as many functions and concerts as they possibly can, and avail themselves fully of the facilities of TOSA. A big "hello" to the following:- Richard Bickhoff
Mr./Mrs. Eric & Dianne Pour - Miss Rita Patinson.

OBITUARY.

TOSA News is sad to record the sudden death in late January of our member, Mr R.C. Weelands of Epping. Mr Weelands had been a member since 1963 and was a frequent participant in our activities. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

RAILWAY COMMISSIONER NO ORGAN LOVER?

Have you observed that the metal flue pipe with its characteristic chuff installed for so many years on Sydney's electric trains has been replaced by a flared air-blown horn? The latter comes in a variety of tones ranging from a mellow "tooooot" to the most blatant "boop". One wonders what happened to the discarded flues - perhaps some organ enthusiast has added a rank of "trainus electrica" to his stop list!!

RECORD CLUB NEWS.

RECORD TITLE "GRANADA" ORGANIST - ROBINSON CLEAVER
RECORD NUMBER - CR-0036 CONCERT RECORDING COMPANY LABEL.

Concert Recording's release this month of ROBINSON CLEAVER at the famous 4/14 WurliTzer of the Granada Theatre, Tooting, London, is a welcome one indeed, bringing back, as it does, an organist who has long been a favorite of mine and of many thousands of other organ lovers. The record opens with his well known signature tune, after which we hear a few words spoken by ROBBIE himself, after which, as might be expected, the title tune "Granada".

Highlights of side 1 are "Skyscraper Fantasy" and a clever "Canadian Capers", and of side 2, "Spanish Gypsy Dance" and "Moonlight Serenade". Perhaps also, "Alligator Crawl" (shades of Fats Waller here) could be included among these. However, highlights are at best, merely an expression of what appeals to an individual, and for some "Walk In The Black Forest" would be a highlight. The playing is what one would expect from ROBINSON CLEAVER, and that is first class. Each item is arranged with full regard for the organ's splendid range of voices, as well as its very fast response. No one could deny the ideal accoustical environment of this installation which is splendidly live and vibrant. To sum up - good programme, top class artistry and a well worth while addition to your library of theatre organ sounds. Its available through your usual Concert Recording supplier, c/o Box 108, P.O. Wentworthville NSW.

MEMBERS PRACTISE SESSIONS AT MARRICKVILLE.

The March practise sessions will be as follows:-

- Group 1. Saturday 28th March.
- Group 2. Tuesday 24th March.

Members should attend punctually at the hour allotted to them. This will avoid any dead time and ensures that a smoothly running practise session can be enjoyed by those who follow on after you. Thank you for your co-operation.

ORGAN BROADCASTS AGAIN ON RADIO 2KY.

Tosa News Editor would like to remind all members that a 30 minute programme of organ music is broadcast over 2KY every Sunday morning at 11am. This is a peak listening time in Sydney and the programme is sponsored by Wadsworth Music Stores of Parramatta. Mr Wadsworth is a member of TOSA and has very kindly offered to give a plug in his session whenever we have a concert coming up. This is indeed a wonderful gesture of immense practical benefit to the Society for there is no doubt that a mention of an organ concert in the midst of a purely organ programme carries much more weight than a plug in the middle of a non organ programme. We are very grateful to Mr Wadsworth for this assistance.

DAVID PARSONS IN TWO CONCERTS.

Our member DAVID PARSONS has advised TOSA News that he will be playing two organ concerts during the month of March. The first will be at St. Phillip's Church Hall, Shaftsbury Road, Eastwood on FRIDAY 6th MARCH AT 8pm. It will be a popular organ concert in which DAVID will be heard playing the Yamaha E3 model. There are two special guest artists appearing, John Brosnin and Jenny Linfield, both of the TV show "Showcase". The admission is \$1 each and the proceeds are for the St. Phillip's Football Club funds.

The second concert will be the following night, SATURDAY 7th MARCH at 8pm and this too, will be of popular organ music. It will be held in the auditorium of the Methodist Ladies College, Rowley Street, Burwood and will feature DAVID at the console of a Miller electronic organ. Guest artist will be contralto, Margaret Robertson. Proceeds are for the M.L.C. Organ Fund and the admission will be \$1 for adults. 20cents for children and students.

LOWREY TO PRESENT DENNIS AWE IN CONCERT.

Rees Wills Pty. Ltd., the Lowrey organ people in Sydney, have advised TOSA News, that the American organist, DENNIS AWE will be presented by them, in a concert at the Teachers Federation Auditorium, 300 Sussex Street Sydney, on MONDAY 9th MARCH AT 8pm. He will be featured at four different organs during the evening, including the Lowrey H25 full theatre model. DENNIS AWE is on a world tour for Lowrey and has an impressive background in music and shows. He was the Musical Director of the following shows whilst they were on tour:- "The King & I", "Carousel", "Call Me Madam", "Paint Your Wagon" and "The Sound Of Music". He has toured the United States giving concerts for Lowrey from New York to California. He has over 20 television Commercials to his musical credits, including the 1st Place Award as the Best Musical Commercial of 1969 at the Cannes Film Festival.

Admission to this special concert is by ticket only, and these are available at Rees Wills Organ showroom 412a George Street (cnr Strand Arcade) at only 50 cents each. The details once more are;

LOWREY'S DENNIS AWE IN CONCERT - TEACHERS FEDERATION - MONDAY 9th MARCH AT 8pm.
REES WILL PTY LTD., EXTEND A SPECIAL INVITATION TO TOSA MEMBERS ON THE FIRST OCCASION THAT THEY HAVE PRESENTED THEIR OFFICIAL DEMONSTRATOR IN SYDNEY.

THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP?

Most members are already aware that the Willoughby Council will shortly be installing the 2/10 Wurlitzer from the Arcadia Theatre, in their new Town Hall at Chatswood. The contract has been awarded to the well respected firm of S. T. Noad & Son, who will shortly commence operations.

An offer by the NSW Division of TOSA to assist with the installation, has been gratefully accepted by the Council and Mr Noad. The main part of the work to be performed by the Society, will consist of re-leathering motors etc. This will be done under supervision. Accordingly, the President would like to hear from members who would like to be a part of this important and historic Wurlitzer installation. It is proposed to spread the work so that no one will, at any time, be overloaded. Many hands make light work, and a goodly number of our members will thus have the opportunity to be associated with the installation of this very fine organ. Why not ring the President, Tom Halloran (523-5077) now and offer your help. He will be pleased to take your name down. The work is not at all hard, and in the congenial atmosphere of members working side by side in a small group, the importance of the project brings members together as nothing else can do. Don't leave it all to the other fellow - the more people involved, the less each will be called on to perform. Let's demonstrate our loyalty and support in this V.I.P. (Very important project)

TOSA NEWS INCORPORATING THE DIAPHONE.

This is the first issue of the combined publications as approved at the Annual General Meeting in January. We hope you like the new heading on page one. It boasts the new photograph of our Wurlitzer from a more imposing angle. The Diaphone Editor Rod Blackmore, will take charge of the pictorial side of things including the articles of a lasting nature, whilst I will continue to deal with the monthly news, events, reviews, gossip etc. Rod Blackmore

would be delighted to hear from any member who can write an article for use in future issues. Articles could be on theatre organs, electronic organ installations, theatres, organists - in fact anything of interest to our members. So how about writing an article yourself? You may have memories of a particular organ or theatre or perhaps of a favorite organist. You may even have some little known or historical fact about theatre or organ tucked away in that memory of yours - how about letting your mind roam back over the years and see what you can come up with. It would be of great interest to many members and perhaps become the main part of an article you could write for publication. If you can come up with anything, ring Rod Blackmore on 42-2421 and tell him.

WURLITZER ORGANS IN PRODUCTION AGAIN ?

An unconfirmed report to TOSA News says that the Wurlitzer Company is building a theatre pipe organ for the Ricta or Richter, Center in Madison Square, New York. No details of the size or specification of the instrument was given. If this report is indeed true, and it comes from a very reliable source indeed, then this will be the first theatre pipe organ built by the Company since the early 1940's. As they said in "My Fair Lady", "Wouldn't It Be Luvly"??

BRISBANE LOSES ITS CLAIM TO FAME.

BILLY NALLIE'S FESTIVAL OF ARTS T.O. CONCERT - A WORLD FIRST.

A special news release from Arthur Zinberg of New York to TOSA News last December claimed that BILLY NALLIE'S concert on a theatre pipe organ during the Canton Festival of Arts, was a National "first" and very possibly an "International" first as well. The concert took place on October 14th 1969 to a packed house of over 2,000 with standing room only. Your Editor, in the December TOSA News, made the claim on behalf of the Queensland Division of T.O.S.A. that the honor might belong to Brisbane as they had presented an organ spectacular on September 30th, just two weeks earlier, as part of that city's Warana Festival. The Brisbane concert featured six electronic organs in a programme of theatre type music and took place in the City Hall.

BILLY NALLIE'S concert was presented in a theatre on a theatre pipe organ. There is another very important difference however - and that is in the two Festivals themselves, which are of very differing styles. This is best explained in BILLY'S own words taken from a letter to TOSA News recently. Quote. "The festival in which I was engaged to play was one devoted to all the major performing arts of the Canton/Akron/Cleveland area. It included participation by the civic opera, civic ballet, the Canton symphony orchestra, and several choral groups and covered the span of a month, the month of October. My guess is that not all this detailed information was given since it was clear at our end that this arts festival was one of the performing arts primarily though in addition it did include some exhibitions of pictorial and sculptural art. I would add that my Australian keyboard buddies in your festival outnumbered me six to one, and so in their area, invested six times more entertainment organ than I! Finally, it well may be that there was enough difference in the one occasion as contrasted with the other to enable us all to say that within two weeks there were two International theatre organ firsts. If it is possible for you to get a happy "hi" to those six organ confreres without undue inconvenience, I'll be most grateful. It was great fun to read of their occasion!"

BILLY NALLIE'S letter clears things up admirably. The Canton Festival was one concerned only with the performing arts whilst the Brisbane Warana Festival is of a more general nature, involving some of the performing arts, a procession, and probably a beauty queen competition, fancy dress balls and other social trivia. It would probably be better described as a "week of carnival" rather than a festival of the arts.

BILLY NALLIE, one of America's top rated organists, is a member of the NSW Division of TOSA. He is scheduled to play one of the concerts during this year's A.T.O.S. New York Convention. He will appear at the 4/26 Wurlitzer of the Brooklyn downtown center of Long Island University (until several years ago the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre). In his letter Billy says the organ is at present being rebuilt and is the organ above all others in the metropolitan area he has wanted to play in concert for several years. It enjoys easily the finest accoustical setting of any, no exceptions. Perhaps one day in the not too far distant future the NSW Division may have the pleasure of a BILLY NALLIE concert at the Marrickville Town Hall. Who knows?

The Diaphone

SECTION

EDITOR : ROD BLACKMORE

AMERICAN 10th ANNUAL 'HOME ORGAN FESTIVAL' REVEALS TRENDS VEERING FROM THEATRE ORGAN EMULATION

*Inroads by "Combo" Organ and "Regression" noted in
Some New Models.*

For several years this writer has been providing TOSA readers with an account of her findings at the annual Home Organ Festival held at Hoberg's Resort in the pines of northern California. The Festival is the best place in the world to find out what's new in the electronic organ field. The participating manufacturers and dealers often hold back their new products in order to introduce them at the Festival, so important a mecca for the electronic organ industry has it become.

It also seems that each year the Festival is better than last year's. That is due, largely to the work of the Pacific Council for Organ Clubs' permanent festival co-chairmen, Kay Chenoweth and Dewey Cagle. Their continuing managerial appointment (a most wise move on the part of PCOC) have allowed them to profit by the experience of former years; in effect, "grow" in their jobs. And the results show it. It was no illusion; the 1969 Festival (September 16th - 21st) was better than its predecessors in many ways, for example concert scheduling which allowed for more leisure time to visit the organ showrooms, attend some of the many parties, swim, play tennis and examine the new model organs.

This year the instruments presented in concert were built by Yamaha, Rodgers, Wurlitzer, Conn, Allen, Baldwin and Thomas. Of the major builders in the USA, Hammond Gulbransen and Kimball did not participate this year.

If there was one marked trend it was in the new, or different, direction noticeable in some of the late models. Until this year the ideal of all the builders listed in the paragraph above (with the exception of Hammond) was the venerable theatre pipe organ, in both physical appearance of consoles, and in tonalties, so far as home or entertainment instruments were concerned. On the basis of instruments demonstrated, the theatre organ is still the model for entertainment organs built by Rodgers, Thomas, Conn and Wurlitzer. But the others offered concerts played on instruments which have veered sharply from the theatre organ direction. Of course, one can not judge the Yamaha too harshly; it originates in a country where the theatre organ, as such, is not generally known. Organs were not used in Japanese cinemas during the silent film era. It is hoped that the builders of the Yamaha will soon discover the theatre pipe organ and then allow nature to take its course. Japan is capable of fine work in the electronics field.

The Yamaha demonstrated showed unmistakable influence of the so-called "combo" organ, that "hard rock" one-manual stand-up instrument which is voiced to compete with the "fuzz-tone" of wild dog guitars, at a couple of hundred watts audio power. In such an instrument, fine tone or a variety of voices is secondary to penetrating ability. Thus, the fine points get short shrift. This is not to say the Yamaha demonstrated was no more than a "rock" organ. It's far more than that, with its two manuals, large pedalboard and two-volume (or more) stop switches. But, from what was heard at the Festival, it is lacking in sweetness. No "Tibia" sound was apparent and it was at its best when used as a vehicle for modern "teen" music, and space age sound effects. We believe that Yamaha can and will do better when it gets the "feel" of the US market.

In addition to the "combo" organ influence there was also what seemed like regression - a return to models tonally reminiscent of the type A or B Hammond long used in the club, bar and restaurant entertainment field. Both Baldwin and Allen offered concerts played on new model instruments designed specifically for entertainers, neither of which showed much relationship with the fine theatre organs both firms have built in the past. Both are loaded with "conveniences" which may prove attractive to club organists: lots of percussions (such as piano), a host of noisemakers and the means of making fast combination changes. But when one gets down to basics, the Allen "Carousel" is a "flute organ," very similar to the lower-priced horseshoe models Allen had on the market a few years back. Try the "String" stopkey and the sound is flute with mutations, not unlike the effect when one tries the drawbar settings suggested for use on a monochrome Hammond for "string" sounds.

This discovery immediately marks the Carousel as a limited organ. Allen builds a theatre instrument with excellent celested strings and the best electronic trumpet of all. Yet, all of Allen's concerts were played on the Carousel.

The Baldwin "Pro" has more to recommend it. While it makes no attempt to present a "Tibia and Vox" tonality, it has a presentable "hard" flute, realistic strings and even some interesting reeds. Baldwin's expert voicer, Earl Burns, managed to adjust one reed for an approximation of the Wurlitzer "style D" pipe organ trumpet, but that was the nearest the Pro came to being theatrical.

While both of these instruments, the Carousel and the Pro, have a lot of the appeal of the model B-3 Hammond, that comfortable favorite of club organists, they are not as limited as the venerable Hammond. They may find acceptance among some night club circuit professionals but they are small comfort to those who believe the theatre organ should be the ideal. There is too much emphasis on stridency in both. And night club performers in the USA are turning more and more to the more elaborate theatre models, which makes us wonder whether this diversion was justified.

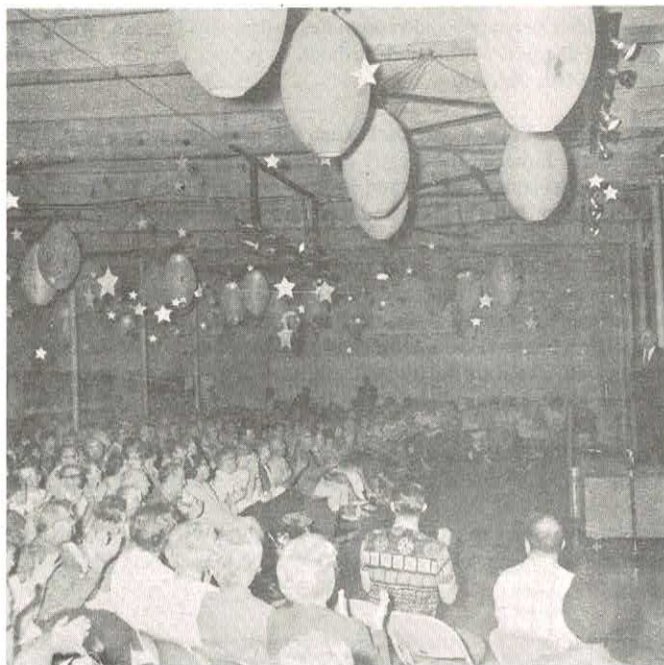
On the plus side, Conn featured its new 3-manual theatre instrument. The musical possibilities with a third manual loaded with brass and reeds are greatly expanded for any organist fortunate enough to play the "model 650", but for an organist of the caliber of Don Baker that expansion is multiplied many times. Don, long a favorite at the Festival, made the most of the possibilities provided by the 3rd manual, but no one else could hope to do it like Don. His concerts were thrillers, to say the least. Don was aided and abetted by Bud Iverson and Don Kingston. The latter is well known to Australian audiences as a Conn-certizer.

The very excellence of the Conn might have put Thomas in the shadow, had it not been for a most fortunate event which counteracted an unfortunate situation. Thomas was developing a new three-manual spinet, the "Trianon" and hoped to introduce it during the Festival. But it wasn't ready in time. That meant that Thomas participation would have to be content with instruments heard at previous Festivals. Not a very happy situation, with that radically different new spinet almost ready (it was introduced three weeks after the Festival closed).

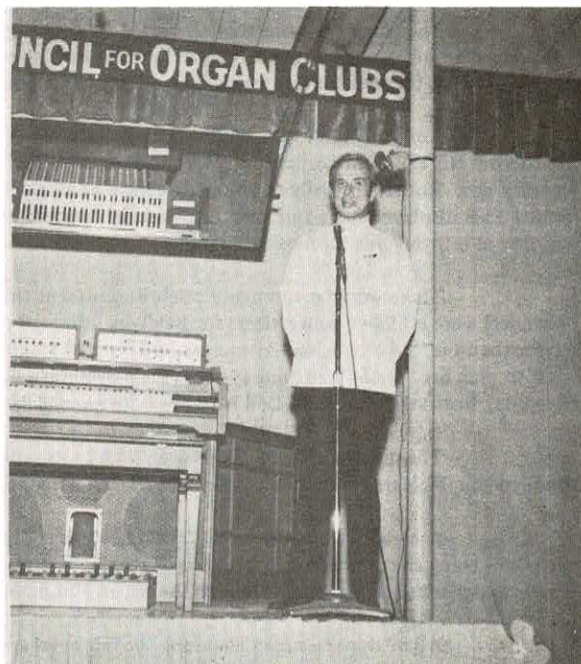
If Thomas hoped for a miracle, the wish was somehow granted - in the person of Tony Fenelon. The arrival of Tony from Australia changed the whole colour of the Thomas participation. The Fenelon musicianship and charm drew attention completely away from the lack of a new product. He made existing models sound great, kept audiences in the palm of his hand with expert MCing spiked with ready wit, kidded his audience ("Where did you all get those accents? I came from Australia where they speak English!"), kidded himself, acted as a goodwill ambassador and public relations expert for Australia, and even managed to find time to become interested in a girl organist. If ever an organist "took the Festival by storm," that organist is Tony Fenelon. Both men and women liked him immensely, and it is not strange that he had a number of offers of "adoption" by matronly women with strong mother instincts. Next time, we predict Thomas will have to bid high for Tony's services. He can write his own ticket from here on in.

Homorgfest '69.

PHOTOGRAPHS by JESSE MILLER and STU GREEN.



THE AUDITORIUM – All of the concerts were played in this 750 - seat hall. It was usually filled to capacity for each performance.



YAMAHA MOD – Dave Kelsey's pitch was to the younger fans with his 'Mod sounds' and 'outer space' effects. Note the effect generators atop the console.



CONN-MAN KINGSTON – Long a Festival favourite, Don Kingston's pleasing stylings were even more colourful on the new 3-manual.



GUY WITH A GRIN – Personable organist Bud Iverson distinguished himself also as a pianist, performing the colourful piano part for Richard Purvis' "Sierra Suite."



PERPETUAL FAVOURITE – Beloved Don Baker has thrilled Festival audiences for many years with his distinctive stylings. He was even more devastating in 1969 on the new Conn 3-manual style 650.



TONY IN THE SPOTLIGHT – The Fenelon musicianship and personality added much lustre to the Festival.

"DIAPHONE" SECTION.

The Wurlitzer name was supported by one Festival newcomer, Glenn Derringer, and veteran Festivaleer Gus Pearson. Wurlitzer introduced an instrument of concert capabilities but which sounded very much like past Wurlitzer electronics. It proved a worthy instrument for the skills of the two concert artists, and a foil for the devastating humour of Gus Pearson.

Rodgers didn't have anything new to show but that firm was on the right track way back when other builders were just starting to discover the excellent heritage in entertainment organs left for all to use by the father of the theatre organ, Robert Hope-Jones, a half century ago. Rodgers is easily the most theatrical of all electronics, especially in its console design and stopkey arrangement. The 3-manual model 33-E displayed has a fine theatrical tone in many of its voices and the skills of Bill Thomson and Ray Frazier complemented one another in bringing out the musical possibilities of the instrument.

There were far too many celebrities present this year to list them all, so we'll treat them briefly. Gordon Tucker and Larry Vannucci were effective concertizers for Baldwin, although they would have been less restricted playing Baldwin's model HT-2 (Theatre) rather than the "Pro." Mildred Alexander, now free of Hammond's monopoly on her services, was on hand with members of her teaching staff to plug her "MAM" teaching system (she played on a Conn), and Helen Dell, a concert staffer last year, was back as rep for Malar Records. Both Alexander and Dell have plans for some Australian concerts in 1970, and they'll be worth the price and effort to hear them.

The much-maligned "Pointer System" was represented by organist Bill McMains, whose ready wit was as effective as his music. Bud Iverson, McMains, Fenelon, Frazier and Alexander conducted workshop classes in various aspects of organ music; all were well attended.

A highlight was the presentation of concert organist Richard Purvis playing the Conn 3-manual with Bud Iverson at the piano, the event being the premiere performance of Purvis' "Sierra Suite." The music is a loving "Grofé" description of various aspects and areas Purvis experienced during a trip through the Sierra Mountains.

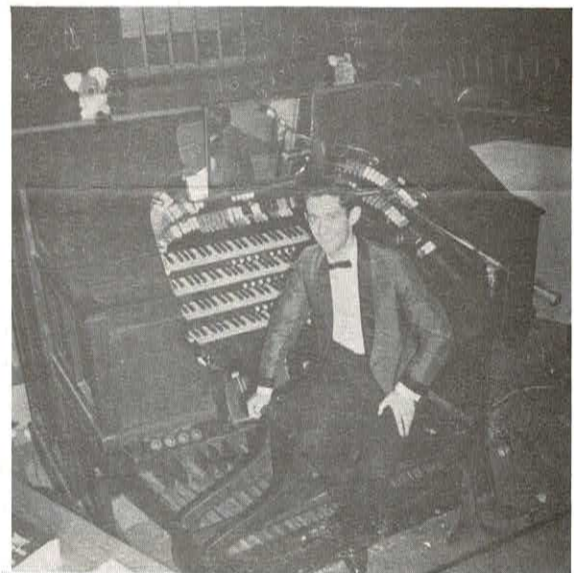
All of this was enjoyed among the tall pines and early autumn weather of a northern California mountain woodland, with its warm, sunny days and cool nights. The fresh air was a novelty to lungs normally saturated with the polluted air of American cities. Besides being a fine festival of music, it was an absorbing vacation. We close with a fervent hope that the Home Organ Festival, at ten years of age, will enjoy continued success for many, many years to come.

- Peg Nielsen, Hollywood

Peg Nielsen is an Associate Editor on the staff of ATOS' 'Theatre Organ' magazine.



TALENT TRIUMVIRATE - Organist Bill Thomson (for Rodgers Organs), beautiful Carol Jones (Bill's pupil) and Australia's 'goodwill ambassador' Tony Fenelon (for Thomas organs) made a handsome trio at the Festival. Tony and Carol got on famously. She is now the US distributor for Tony's records.



TONY ON PIPES - Tony Fenelon and his tour manager Dean Mitchell left the Festival early on closing day and made the 100-mile journey to Sacramento where Tony did a one-night stand at the magnificent 15-rank Robert Morton pipe organ in the Carl Greer Inn restaurant.



ELLIS & ELLIS - Frank Ellis (left), editor of "TOSA News" with Tom Ellis, editor of Queensland Division's "Tibia" in foyer of Capitol Theatre, Sydney during Tom's January visit to New South Wales.



ELLIS ALONE - Tom Ellis gets the feel of the 3-decker Capitol Wurlitzer.

- (T.O.S.A. New South Wales photos.)

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS (from Tibia)

The Queensland Division announce a concert by the visiting American organist, DON KINGSTON at the Rialto Theatre, West End, on Tuesday 7th April. DON is the Conn organ concert-demonstrator who is usually to be found touring round the world concertising for the Company. Proceeds of this concert go to the Queensland Division's theatre pipe organ fund, which will benefit substantially.

Around 500 people attended the Organ Festival staged by the Gold Coast Chapter of TOSA at the Pacific Hotel Southport on 2nd February last. Seven organs were featured and the organists heard were, CLIFF BINGHAM, CECIL CRANFIELD, BARRY BAILEY, SUE WHITEHOUSE, PETER JOHNSTONE, CLAUDE CARNELL, ARTHUR MIDGLEY, and STEPHEN NISBETT.

The Queensland Division are to have a screening of the sound and color film, "My Wife Said That's Enough" during April. This film was thoroughly enjoyed by all the NSW audience when screened in Sydney on February 11th.

Tibia journal carried excellent reviews of both PETER HELD and ERIC SMITH'S concerts, which were presented only a couple of days apart. The only word of criticism, if one could call it that, perhaps I should have said word of regret, was that these two NSW Honorary members, should have been in Brisbane at the same time necessitating two concerts with in two days which was rather unfortunate but unavoidable.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS (From Vox)

The February issue of Vox carries an editorial on the proposed demolition of the Melbourne Regent Theatre. Did I say Editorial? - perhaps it would be more correct to describe it as a plea for all members of the Victorian Division to stir themselves and their friends to raise their voices loudly and often in the right quarters to try and prevent the wanton and unnecessary destruction of this magnificent theatre, and its unique Plaza Theatre beneath it.

The Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Division will be held on Sunday 15th March at 8pm in the Hughesdale Community Centre. With the exception of Treasurer Bruce Ardley, all other officials of the Division are standing for re-election.

WANTED URGENTLY.

Information leading to the availability of a Wurlitzer piano designed for connection to a Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ. Telephone 42-2421 if you can help with any information.

RECORD SALE.

The record sale advertised in last month's TOSA News is proving of great interest to record-collecting members of the Society. Treasurer Rod Blackmore has received a great number of callers via the blower, and so far the Pipe organ Purchase Fund has benefitted to the extent of \$32 and the Electronic Organ Fund \$6. Proceeds of the record sale go to these two funds. If you would like to grab yourself a record bargain and help the funds at the same time, then give Rod a phone call at 42.2421

WANTED TO BUY.

Member G.L. Newell wants to buy a pipe organ and organ pipes for inclusion in his own instrument. He is also interested in any component parts. If you have anything to offer contact member G. L. Newell, 18 Dudley Street, Punchbowl, or telephone him at 750-0362.

**WILBUR KENTWELL IS
COMING TO MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL
SOON. WILBUR AT THE WURLITZER...**

PETER HELD CONCERT (Cont. from page 2)

the Finale to the Dance Of The Hours and Grande Waltz Brilliant. Then it was on to The Merrymakers Dance and Estudiantina. The accent was then turned on to a novelty theme with the well known Teddy Bear's Picnic which was presented in two parts - the usual traditional version followed by PETER'S own Swingin' Teddy Bear's Picnic. This was another very popular item in his programme. A very smooth and polished Fiddle-Faddle followed, and this was made to measure for the organist's lightning fast fingers.

After interval PETER opened with three sentimental songs, Till, When I Grow Too Old To Dream and Red Roses For A Blue Lady. Then came three brackets of items displaying unusual thought in the linking together of music. The first bracket consisted of Bim Bam Bom and Barcarolle - the second, Flight Of The Bumble Bee and South Rampart Street Parade, and the third, La Danza and selections from the musical comedy, The Vagabond King. The National Anthems of three countries followed and these were most enjoyable. Two more brackets each of two items came next and these were The Spanish Gypsy Dance and selections from the film Bandwagon, followed by I Left My Heart In San Francisco and selections from The Student Prince. The final offering was the Zampa Overture. For me, the highlights of the second half of the programme were The Vagabond King selections, Bandwagon selections and I Left My Heart In San Francisco. It was a splendid concert and launched our 1970 series of events in fine style. One very funny touch - PETER looking at his watch to see how he was going for time slap bang in the middle of a very fast part of The Swingin' Teddy Bear's Picnic. A group of people near me were very amazed as well as amused...

HOLIDAYS, HOLIDAYS & MORE HOLIDAYS.

In case the above heading puzzles you let me explain. By the time you receive this issue of TOSA News I will be on three months holidays - yep, that's right, three months. The first three weeks will find me far from my usually busy telephone, not to mention my typewriter. Phew!! what a relief. So if you were planning to ring me with some news, gossip, or just to chew the fat for a while, please forget it for a few weeks until I return - if I do return?

SOUTH COAST RADIO PLUGS TOSA.

Member Ritchie Willis, visiting Bega on the South Coast to deliver some items of historical bric-a-brac for the Bega Museum must have been heard spreading the "gospel according to Wurlitzer" by somebody in the town (perhaps it was the local rubbity dub - that's a pub to the uninitiated) for believe it or not, the local radio station, 2BE, in their local news session, made mention of the fact that Ritchie and some friends were aiding and abetting the local museum and went on to say something of their involvement with the Theatre Organ Society of Australia. Nice work Ritchie, publicity is the life blood of the Society, now see how you go with the A.B.C. '.....

LODGINGS REQUIRED BY ORGAN & OWNER.

A new member of the Society who lives in a flat is the owner of a Thomas organ, Lawrence Welk model too. If you've never tried playing one of these in a flat, then you don't know the half of it. To make a long story short, he is looking for board and lodgings for himself and friend Thomas Lawrence Welk. If you would like to have two boarders (one doesn't eat nuthin!) then drop a line to Mr Alan Gwynn, 178 Old Kent Road, Greenacre and let him know. Think how you'll impress your neighbours when Alan and his friend arrive.

Well that's it for March - see you in April
ORGANICALLY YOURS

Frank Ellis

STOP PRESS - IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

An additional function has been arranged for March. Member DAVID PARSONS will be featured at the magnificent 3/15 Capitol Theatre Wurlitzer at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning, 21st March. This is a not-to-be-missed recital, the first at the Capitol Theatre this year. Admission will be free but restricted to members only.