

# T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

**PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.**

**EDITOR: FRANK ELLIS**

REGISTERED AT G.P.O., SYDNEY, FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A PERIODICAL.

**SOCIETY DIRECTORY:**

(Category B)

General Correspondence to The Secretary, Mrs. P. DUNN, 1A Second Ave, Eastwood, 2122.

Financial Correspondence to The Treasurer, R. BLACKMORE, 21 Yethonga Ave, Lane Cove, 2066.

Editorial Correspondence to The Editor, F. ELLIS, 16 Delhi St, Lidcombe, 2141.



PRICE  
40c



VOLUME 8 NUMBER 10.

1st OCTOBER 1970.

## IMPORTANT CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT.

Due to the sudden and unexpected removal of the 2/7 Christie Theatre Pipe Organ from the Victory Theatre, Kogarah, there has been a change in the programme of the 1970 TOSA Convention. This organ was to have been featured in a concert by its owner, our member ALAN TRANTER, at 10am on Saturday 17th October.

This function has now been replaced by a concert featuring the 3/15 WurliTzer at the Sydney Capitol Theatre which will commence at 8am. PLEASE NOTE THE ALTERED TIME SLOT. There will be two organists for the Capitol concert, and they will be our members CLIFF BINGHAM and BILL SCHUMACHER.

The line-up for Saturday will now be - CLIFF BINGHAM and BILL SCHUMACHER in the morning concert --- DAVID PARSONS and ERIC SMITH in the afternoon concert and VIC HAMMETT at the concert to be held at Marrickville on the same night. It is planned to hold a "teach-in" session with VIC HAMMETT in the Vintage Bistro and this is timed to commence at 12.30pm. The "teach-in" will end in time for coffee to be served before the afternoon concert by DAVID and ERIC commences at 2.30pm. The complete Convention timetable is shown hereunder in the CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT.

## WHAT'S ON IN NSW THIS MONTH.

TUESDAY 6th OCTOBER AT 7.45pm SHARP. The Society presents the Waratah Festival's "ORGAN SPECTACULAR" at the Sydney Town Hall on this date. It is a F R E E concert to everybody - TOSA members and the general public alike. There will be six electronic organs on stage, they will be Conn, Thomas, Yamaha, Schober, Baldwin and Lowrey. Seven great organists will be appearing at the various consoles, namely, REUBERT HAYES, DAVID PARSONS, CLIFF BINGHAM, ERIC SMITH, RAY THORNLEY, VIC HAMMETT and PAT QUINN. The compere will be the ABC television personallity, JAMES DIBBLE, a member of TOSA. This will be an exciting night of fabulous music, and every member should do his utmost to take along a party of as many friends as he possibly can. Remember, this is a FREE night so you can play host to all your friends without it costing you a penny. LET'S FILL THE TOWN HALL TO CAPACITY. The time of this function has been changed to 7.45pm and not 8pm as previously announced. PLEASE NOTE THE ALTERED TIME.....7.45pm sharp.

## TOSA 1970 CONVENTION DETAILS.

Hereunder is the AMENDED programme and timetable for the Convention to take place on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th October.

FRIDAY 16th. STATE THEATRE SYDNEY - VIC HAMMETT AT THE 4/21 WURLITZER FOR TWENTY MINUTES DURING THE NORMAL EVENING FILM PERFORMANCE.

SATURDAY 17th 8am. CLIFF BINGHAM & BILL SCHUMACHER IN CONCERT AT THE CAPITOL THEATRE'S 3/15 WURLITZER

12.30pm VIC HAMMETT'S "TEACH-IN" AT CAHILL'S VINTAGE BISTRO

2.30pm AFTERNOON CONCERT BY DAVID PARSONS & ERIC SMITH ON A



BALDWIN ELECTRONIC ORGAN IN CAHILL'S VINTAGE BISTRO. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE CONVENTION DINNER TO BE SERVED AT 5.30pm FOLLOWING THE AFTERNOON CONCERT.

8pm THE GREAT ENGLISH THEATRE ORGANIST V I C H A M M E T T IN AN EXCITING CLIMAX TO THE 1970 CONVENTION. THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL AT THE SOCIETY WURLITZER ORGAN.

CONVENTION TICKETS WILL COST \$6 SINGLE \$11 DOUBLE CHILDREN OF MEMBERS \$3  
The \$3 charge for children of members is to cover the cost of the Convention dinner only - the functions are free for them. The Convention tickets does not include the visit to the State Theatre on the Friday night for which members should purchase their tickets from the normal theatre box office. Your friends may attend the Convention by purchasing the \$6 single or the \$11 double tickets, which may be ordered by members when ordering their own tickets. An Application form for this purpose was printed on the last page of the September TOSA News for this purpose. If you have not yet sent in your application form, please do it now so that the numbers will be known one week beforehand and arrangements for the catering can then be finalised.

The Convention tickets (in the form of a lapel badge) will be handed out to members in the upstairs foyer of the Capitol Theatre on the 17th. In order that the Treasurer may have names written on to each ticket in advance, you are asked to name each person for whom tickets are required, on the application form.

Your Editor looks forward to seeing EVERY member at the Convention this year.

THE 1970 CONVENTION   +++ FIVE GREAT ORGANISTS   +++ THREE GREAT WURLITZERS  
+++ BALDWIN ELECTRONIC ORGAN   +++  
+++++CONVENTION DINNER+++++ORGAN "TEACH-IN"+++++  
AMPIE TIME TO MEET OTHER MEMBERS & VISITORS IN  
A SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY THIS MEMORABLE OCCASION   +++ TOSA'S 1970 CONVENTION

LUNCH-TIME ORGAN CONCERTS FOR WARATAH FESTIVAL.

At the request of the Waratah Planning Committee, the Society has arranged for organs to be placed in the Martin Place Plaza and Hyde Park for three one-hour long organ concerts, as part of the Waratah Festival. On Tuesday 6th October, there will be a Hammond organ with CECIL CRANFIELD in the Martin Place Plaza during the lunch hour, whilst CLIFF BINGHAM will be heard at the Thomas in Hyde Park on Wednesday 7th, also during the lunch hour. On Thursday 8th PAT QUINN will be heard at the Lowrey in a lunch time concert in the Martin Place Plaza. This year's Waratah Festival is really placing the emphasis on organ music for the first time ever, and the Planning Committee are to be commended for being so organ-minded. We should achieve considerable publicity through our participation in the Festival, and add to the Society's image in no uncertain manner.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The Committee meeting for October will be held on Monday 5th at 7.15pm and the November meeting will be on Monday 2nd also at 7.15pm.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER.

Friday 23rd of October will be the closing date for material to be included in the November issue of TOSA News. Please see that items for publication reach the Editor by this date.

COMING EVENTS.

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER AT 2.30pm. There will be another of the very popular FREE Sunday afternoon concerts on our Wurlitzer at Marrickville Town Hall. Please keep this date in mind as no further reminder can be given due to the concert being on the 1st of the month before you would receive the November TOSA News.

FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER AT 8pm. A concert to mark the second birthday of our own Wurlitzer's installation in the Marrickville Town Hall will be played by the young Melbourne theatre organist, TONY FENELON recently returned from concerts in the United States. This will be TONY'S first concert on the Society Wurlitzer.  
TONY FENELON IN A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CONCERT AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL ON NOVEMBER 20th



LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.ENJOYABLE IAN DAVIES CONCERT.

"What a difference a day makes - twenty four little hours", ran the words of a popular song of yesteryear, and if, as the song says, a mere twenty four hours can make a difference, then imagine what a difference two years can make. The song was of course, referring to the difference twenty four hours can make to a young man when he falls in love, but the two years I refer to concerns the difference IAN DAVIES found in the Society WurliTzer since he played the opening concert almost two years ago.

He found a remarkable difference in every department of the instrument - in tonal qualities, in response, in reliability and in its versatility. He found the benefit of combination pistons which operate perfectly, a refinement sadly lacking on the organ's opening night. IAN was able to approach the concert confident in the knowledge that he could ignore the mechanics of the organ and concentrate only on his playing assured that the instrument would more than equal whatever demands he made on it. Thus, a very relaxed IAN DAVIES set out to enjoy himself as he played, and in these circumstances, "a happy" organist produced "happy" music.

IAN DAVIES style is unmistakably his own - it is traditional theatre organ style with a dash of his own personallity infused, it is as he played it in several of the leading theatres in Melbourne over a period of years. Its basic ingredient is honesty and an unswerving allegiance to tradition with few concessions to the modern idiom in the use of the instrument. When he does depart from this policy, it is only to include an item or two of straight organ playing in order to show the untremmed majesty of the WurliTzer when used as a grand organ. On such occasions, he can be depended upon to display a dazzling pedal technique, for he is no 'mean pedaller' when the occasion requires it.

Some may prefer the modern style of playing with everything but the kitchen sink thrown in for good measure, but the traditional style is just fine by me, and, judging by their response, the audience thought the same way. His programme was brimfull of everyone's favorite numbers, and even when he featured a bracket of today's 'pop' songs, his arrangement of these allowed us to see that they did, in fact, have a melody to them, a fact which had so far escaped me whenever I have heard these same songs played on records by various long-haired youths armed with electronic noise making devices more suitable for the creation of space-age blast off sound effects than to the creation of music.

The guest artists were the Bondi Junction-Waverley R.S.L. Club's male choir, who presented, in their two appearances, a wide variety of numbers ranging from, The Sound Of Music selections to a swinging "Delilah". As with IAN, they very obviously enjoyed their work, and this enjoyment was communicated to the audience by way of a happy and pleasingly exuberant performance. All in all, it was an enjoyable evening of popular organ music and singing which pleased everybody.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

Its "hallo and welcome" to the following new members who have joined the Society this month and we sincerely hope that you will all attend as many functions as you possibly can, and in so doing, meet many new friends and enjoy yourself to the full. This is the way to derive the greatest enjoyment from your membership - to participate fully, and by that I don't mean you have to be a player - far from it, just come along, be one of the gang and enjoy the hobby of theatre organ.

Miss Susan Broughton (East Lindfield) William Marshall (Cremorne)  
Darrell Mayes (Blaxland) Douglas Frame (Westmead) and a welcome back to Mr & Mrs Bob King of Waverley who have rejoined us, and may I say to Mr & Mrs King that it's even better the second time around.

FOR SALE.

Rhythm Ace - Model FR-3 Has 8 rhythm buttons and 10 variations. For details phone our member Lin Badman - phone number 80-2927. (Mr Badman has recently become the owner of a Yamaha E3 model, and says he hopes to arrange an organ party soon to let members try it out. Thanks very much for your kind offer Lin, we will look forward to this. Ed.)

FOR SALE.

WurliTzer Spinet electronic organ. Model 4100. 13 note pedal board. Has two manuals, with ten voices on the upper and five on the lower. Four couplers. Spectratone. Good condition. Price \$900. Phone Ken Dolling at 41-5784.



WHAT'S ON INTERSTATE THIS MONTH.

The following events are scheduled in the various interstate Divisions of TOSA, during this month. Members who may be travelling or holidaying interstate are very welcome to attend these functions.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

- Sunday October 4th. Metro Theatre, Perth - Organ Spectacular featuring the Metro Wurlitzer plus six electronic organs.
- Tuesday October 13th. Organ party at home located at 12 Gundill Street, Booragoon.
- Thursday October 22nd. Regal Theatre, Subiaco - Japanese organist JIMMY OKI.

VICTORIA.

- Thursday October 1st. Camberwell Civic Centre Baldwin Spectacular featuring VIC HAMMETT, LEON FIRESTONE, DAVID JOHNSTONE
- Sunday October 4th. Savoy Motel, Brighton, a musical afternoon - Hammond & Yamaha organs.
- Sunday October 11th. Dendy Theatre, Brighton. VIC HAMMETT at the Wurlitzer
- Sunday October 18th. Musical evening in the canteen of Kimberley Plastics Pty. Ltd., 58 Alex Avenue, Moorabbin.
- October 16-17-18th. Dallas Brooks Hall - Japanese organist KOICHI OKI

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Details of the South Australian Division's functions for October not known at the time of this issue going to press. Contact Sth. Aust. Secretary for details.

QUEENSLAND.

No details have arrived from Queensland as yet. This is no doubt due to the fact that Queensland's Editor has been hospitalized, thus delaying the arrival of their "Tibia" Newsletter.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION'S EDITOR SUFFERS HEART ATTACK.

We are very sorry to report that Mr Tom Ellis, the Editor of the Queensland Division's monthly journal, "Tibia" suffered a heart attack recently and has since been hospitalised. Several weeks ago, Tom wrote to TOSA News telling us that he and Mrs Ellis would be with us for our Convention on October 16th and 17th. The day after posting that letter to us, he had a severe heart attack and was rushed to hospital. However, Tom has written to your Editor once again, this time from the hospital. He reports that he is feeling much better, thanks to the splendid efforts of the doctors and nurses, and he was to have been allowed up for the first time, the following day. If all goes well, he should be home about now, and knowing Tom's determination, your Editor thinks he could even still be in Sydney at Convention time. The good wishes of all NSW members are extended to you Tom and we hope you are soon giving loads of cheek again to all your many friends. Just take it easy and get well soon.

ANOTHER WURLITZER PLAYING SOON.

It is reported by the South Australian Division, in their August journal, that they expect to have their own Wurlitzer organ playing soon. The instrument is the two manual organ formerly in the Plaza Theatre Melbourne and is currently being installed in the Pulteney Grammar School auditorium. It is announced that the organ will definitely be playing in time for the School's Jubilee celebrations to be held in early November. This is good news indeed, and the NSW Division offers congratulations and best wishes for an exciting opening.

ARNOLD COLEMAN PLAYS MOORABBIN WURLITZER.

Vox Magazine reports that the ARNOLD COLEMAN concert at the Moorabbin Town Hall Wurlitzer, on Sunday afternoon, August 30th was an event not to be missed. ARNOLD of course was appearing at the organ which he first introduced to Melbourne cinema audiences at the State Theatre one morning 41 years ago when he was billed as, "associate organist" to American FRANK LANTERMAN. LANTERMAN didn't stay long, but ARNOLD COLEMAN was there for twelve years. Eric Wicks reported that the audience loved hearing ARNOLD recreate the Wurlitzer organ interludes as he had presented them in the 1930's. It must have been a nostalgic re-union for ARNOLD.



RECORD NEWS.

At long last, there is a release from Concert Recording (Aust)., and whilst this month's release does not qualify in any way, as a theatre organ recording, it does at least, indicate that Concert's "Organ Of The Month Club" may, perhaps, be about to return to a period of more regular releases. Whilst this may be very heartening news, it will do little or nothing to satisfy the appetites of lovers of the theatre organ who are most envious of Club members in America and England who have enjoyed many fine releases in the past eighteen months or so.

For the classical organ lover, this month's release of the organ in the Knox Grammar School Chapel by SERGIO DE PIERI will prove to be a welcome addition to their record collections.

<u>RECORD TITLE</u>	"THE FIVE VIVALDI-BACH CONCERTOS"
<u>ORGANIST</u>	SERGIO DE PIERI
<u>ORGAN</u>	SHARP ORGAN OF KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL CHAPEL AT WAHROONGA
<u>RECORD NUMBER</u>	CR 0040

Volume One in the "Masters of the Classic Organ" series presents SERGIO DE PIERI playing the five Vivaldi Concertos as arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach. The artistry of this brilliant organist is beyond question, and this performance can only add to his reputation. The Sharp organ is a splendid example of this type of instrument. It is well voiced and very responsive. The quality of the sound recording on this disc leaves nothing to be desired.

REGINALD FOORT - AUSTRALIAN TOUR ??

It has been reported that REGINALD FOORT will tour Australia next year. Now resident in the United States, where he has given a great number of concerts, he is remembered as one of the top English theatre organists in the organ's hey-day. Few would not have heard of REGINALD FOORT and his giant BBC Moller organ, or of his many records, both on the older 78rpm discs and the more recent microgroove records. A brilliant and well-loved performer, he would be assured of a very warm welcome to Australia, if this report bears fruit.

GEORGE WRIGHT'S WURLITZER DESTROYED.

It is reported from America, that the 3/27 Wurlitzer owned by GEORGE WRIGHT and installed in his studio, has been destroyed by fire. It is not known how the fire started. Only the console and some unenclosed percussion units escaped damage. GEORGE had used this instrument to make many LP records and had personally hand picked much of the pipe work over many years, in order to bring this instrument to the high standard he required. TOSA News commiserates with GEORGE on the loss of this fine instrument.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

Our member Ian Griggs, deep in research for the souvenir book to be issued in time for the opening of the Arcadia Wurlitzer in its new Chatswood \$1,000,000 Town Hall setting is still trying to find several important photographs. He feels that perhaps somebody may have photos amongst their collections which he could borrow and copy. How about looking through all your old albums including the dusty ones up in the attic, in case you can help him out. He requires the following in order to complete the history of the Arcadia's Wurlitzer. CHARLES TUCKWELL - IDWAL JENKINS - EDDIE HORTON - STAN CUMMINS - PAUL CULIEN. The photos he requires must show these organists AT THE ARCADIA WURLITZER and not just at the console of any other organ. The original theatre was demolished in 1921 and was replaced with the present Arcadia theatre building. In 1936 the building's exterior was remodelled to its present style. Ian has pictures of the original theatre, and as it is today, but he requires a picture of the theatre's exterior as it was between 1921 and 1936. How about it members?? Can anyone produce any of the above photos to assist Ian with this historic record of the Arcadia?

NEWCASTLE & YAMAHA'S ORGAN CONTEST.

Keith Joice, Secretary of the Newcastle Hammond Organ Society reports that the first places in the Yamaha Organ Playing Contest, in EACH section, were filled by members of the Newcastle Hammond Society. Two of their successful members are also members of the NSW Division of TOSA. (We are happy to extend TOSA congratulations to them all. Ed) In the junior section, Roslyn Pavey, whose mother June, is the Editor of the Hammond Society Newsletter, won her heat. In the Intermediate section, Yvonne Evans was placed first, closely followed by Roslyn's



brother, Colyn in second place. The senior section again this year was won by their President, David Pitts who was placed third in the State finals in Sydney last year. The most exciting part is that Roslyn Pavey aged 8, has been asked by Yamaha and Rose Music, to play at the State finals in Sydney and the Commonwealth finals in Melbourne, as a guest organist and not as a competitor. They ultimately hope to fly Roslyn to Japan to compete in the world finals in that country, which is pretty astounding for an eight year old.

#### NEWCASTLE HAMMOND - FOURTH BIRTHDAY CONCERT.

The Newcastle Chapter will hold its Fourth Annual Concert at Newcastle's newest theatre, the Kensington, at 1.30pm on Sunday 1st November. This concert has been specially programmed for a Sunday afternoon in order to make it easier for Sydney members of TOSA to attend, and to that end, even the commencing time of 1.30pm has been arranged to enable visitors to arrive back in Sydney at a convenient hour. Their previous Birthday concerts have been of an exceptionally high standard, and this will be maintained. Seating in the theatre is limited to 480 only and the plan is now open at the theatre and at David Jones in Newcastle, so if you plan to attend this function, your Editor says you'd better get busy now and make a reservation. Sunday 1st November, KENSINGTON THEATRE, NEWCASTLE for this FOURTH ANNUAL CONCERT BY THE NEWCASTLE CHAPTER OF THE HAMMOND ORGAN SOCIETY.

#### OUR PATRON SETS US RIGHT.

NSW Division's Patron, REGINALD DIXON has written to us after reading a report in the June TOSA News relative to the BBC London, buying several theatre organs, one of which, it had been reported to us, was the famous Blackpool Tower Wurlitzer. His long and interesting letter gives the facts, and also makes it clear how TOSA News' informant made his error. The organ purchased by the BBC was the one from the Empress Ballroom which was partly the original instrument which was installed in the Tower in 1928. This was enlarged and transferred in 1934 - 5 from the Tower to the Empress Ballroom where it was broadcast and recorded on by HORACE FINCH. The Wurlitzer now in the Tower Ballroom was installed at that time also. The rebuilding of the Empress Ballroom organ is now almost finished. It is being installed in the Playhouse at Manchester reports REG. He also hopes to renew his acquaintance with this Wurlitzer, which he describes as "an old friend".

REGINALD DIXON was also very pleased with the full page story with picture in the June edition of TOSA News, on the occasion of his retirement from the Tower organ. He expressed very sincere thanks for our interest.

Your Editor is grateful to REG for the opportunity of getting direct information from him - there is no one more qualified to give the facts on these particular organs than our Patron.

#### QUEENSLAND DIVISION VISITOR.

Your Editor was very pleased to receive a visit from David Sacre, a member of the Queensland Division of TOSA. David, on holiday, was returning to Brisbane after a visit to Adelaide. A young and enthusiastic member of the Society, he was able to give me the latest news of doings in the North, and proved to be a friendly likeable bloke interested in organ doings of all kinds. He delivered a parcel of the Queensland Division's LP record of the "Warana Organ Spectacular" which I gave prominent mention to in last month's TOSA News. NSW members who would like to have a copy of this record can obtain it from me direct for \$2.99. This will save members the trouble of sending money to Brisbane as well as the postage costs which would have been involved. As mentioned last month, this record is one well worth having as a memento of last year's Warana Festival Organ Spectacular and, in addition to the five electronic organs, the famous Brisbane City Hall organ played by ROBERT BOUGHEN is heard on the record. Contact The Editor for your copy. A limited number only have been supplied to me.

#### STATE FINALS OF YAMAHA CONTEST.

On Saturday 3rd October at the Conservatorium, the Semi-finals of the Yamaha Organ Playing Contest will be held during the afternoon. Admission to this is FREE. At 8pm on the same day, also in the same building, the State finals will be held. The six finalists selected during the afternoon will appear on stage in the quest to find the best organist to contest the Commonwealth Finals to be held in Melbourne. The eventual winner will be flown to Japan to compete in the world Finals. During the State Finals at the Conservatorium on October 3rd our Honorary member ERIC SMITH will be heard and also the eight year old Newcastle organist Roslyn Pavey mentioned elsewhere in this issue, will appear as a guest. Admission to the night session will be \$1 each.