

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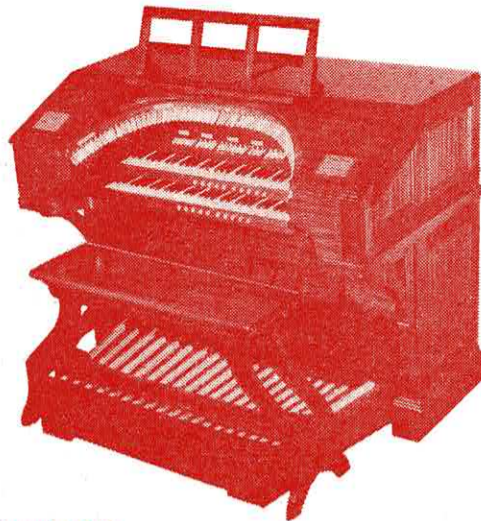
REGISTERED AT G.P.O., SYDNEY, FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A PERIODICAL.

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PRICE
40c



VOLUME 8 NUMBER 4.

1st APRIL 1970.

WHAT'S ON DURING APRIL.

SATURDAY 18th APRIL AT 8pm. There will be an organ party at the home of Lance and Mrs Wells, our members who live Neutral Bay way. The Wells have the large model Conn Theatre organ (horse shoe console) equipped with electronic pipes, and it is intended to make the evening a "player's night" in which all those who would like to have an opportunity to try out this large installation, will be given the chance. Don't forget to bring your music with you. There will be a charge of \$1 per person in aid of the Organ fund. All those planning to attend are asked to phone Lance or Mrs Wells a few days beforehand in order to ensure a reservation. Their phone number is 90-4612 and their address is 166 Kurraba Road, Neutral Bay. It would be appreciated if ladies would please bring a plate for supper.

THURSDAY 23rd APRIL AT 8pm.

WILBUR KENTWELL IN A WURLITZER SPECTACULAR AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

In presenting WILBUR KENTWELL, the Society is proud to join with the Marrickville Council in arranging this concert to be an official part of Marrickville's participation in the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Celebrations. One of the most exciting console personalities, WILBUR KENTWELL is without doubt, the most widely known organist in this country, as well as being the most recorded. He has arranged an outstanding programme which will have a number of surprises in store - a special surprise being arranged for the second half of the programme. This is a NOT TO BE MISSED EVENT. The concert will be very widely advertised in the press as well as on radio and television - in addition the concert will be given prominence as a Captain Cook Bi-Centenary function and it is anticipated that there will be a full house for the event. Members are therefore advised to be as early as possible on the night, in order to ensure getting a good seat. Tickets will be on sale at the Lowrey Organ showroom of REES WILLS PTY LTD., in George Street Sydney, and also at the doors. Admission will be \$1.50 per person - children and pensioners half price (75¢) Pensioners should produce their pension card when purchasing tickets.

WILBUR KENTWELL AT OUR WURLITZER - MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL - THURSDAY 23rd APRIL.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded that the following meetings are scheduled. Monday 6th April at 7.15pm - May 4th at 7.15pm - Monday 1st June at 7.15pm.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE.

Those having material for publication in the May issue of TOSA News, are reminded that the deadline will be Friday 24th April. Please ensure that your copy is in the hands of the Editor by that date.

STAR OF RADIO, T.V. AND RECORDS, WILBUR KENTWELL IS COMING TO MARRICKVILLE SOON.

COMING EVENTS.

The next organ party will be at the residence of our members Mr & Mrs Oscar Moen during the month of May. Full details will be given in May TOSA News.

LOOKING BACK AT MARCH.ERIC SMITH SCINTILLATES AT PARRAMATTA.

A scintillating performance by our Honorary member ERIC SMITH, at the large Yamaha electronic organ, made a memorable evening at the Parramatta Town Hall on 18th March. A large audience were treated to a programme which ran the gamut from Bizet and Lehar to Coates and Gershwin just to name a few of the composers whose works graced the console. To this reviewer, this was undoubtedly the best concert ERIC has played on an electronic organ - it came very close to topping his efforts on the theatre pipe organ, and that is saying something indeed.

The installation of the Yamaha was expertly carried out, and ERIC extracted the very utmost from the instrument, utilising every voice, percussion, and novelty effect. He did not unduly emphasize the gimmicks which is to his credit. His guest artist, tenor, Laurie Beatty, was a splendid choice and his songs were very much appreciated by the audience. Highlights of his programme for me were the novelty number, "Kitten On The Keys" - "Caprice Viennois" by Kreisler - you know who's arrangement of "South" - "I Left My Heart In San Francisco" and his Extemporisation on "Lady Be Good". This is not to say that the rest of the programme was not as good - it was, very definitely, but those mentioned had that little something extra in the way of magic.

ERIC'S programme opened and closed with his theme, "Life Is Nothing Without Music" and with this statement I would agree completely for this kind of music takes life and makes it into something worthwhile.

ORGAN PARTY AT WHITEHOUSE RESIDENCE.

John and Marjorie Whitehouse were hosts to the Society for an organ party at their home on the 7th March. It was reported to TOSA News that all present had a very entertaining and enjoyable evening. A few of those who played were our Honorary member ERIC SMITH, PETER GROVES, LANCE WELLS John Castray and Heather Moen. During the evening ERIC and PETER combined in piano and organ duets which were most enjoyable. It was a happy and informal evening and the Society sincerely thanks the Whitehouses for their hospitality. An enjoyable supper was served and the sum of \$31 was added to the Organ fund.

DAVID PARSONS MORNING CONCERT AT STATE THEATER.

Saturday 21st March found an excellent roll up of early morn members at the Sydney State Theatre to hear DAVID PARSONS at the 4/21 WurliTzer. The concert was hurriedly transferred from the Capitol Theatre to the State when the Capitol's blower was taken "ill" a few days before the concert. As it has been some considerable time since we had a morning concert at the State, there was a full roll up of members for the unique occasion. Without going into the sad details, it is fairly well known that the State's 4/21 is not what it used to be, nevertheless, it was in good tune, didn't cipher even once, and what was "on" sounded pretty good - there was, however, quite a lot which was "off" ????. Nothing daunted, DAVID tackled the "beast" with enthusiasm to which the organ responded quite surprisingly, not once letting him down.

Opening with selections from the show "Oliver" DAVID played a very varied and likeable popular programme. Sensibly he refrained from performing anything which would have emphasised the organ's shortcomings thereby helping to show off the organ to best advantage, and in this, he was most successful. After the interval at 9.30am, DAVID played a request section made up of numbers written down by members during the intermission. As on previous occasions, the organ seemed to get better as the concert progressed, and this fact prompted DAVID to present "The Battle Hymn Of The Republic" which was such an outstanding item at a previous Marrickville concert, and this item proved his complete musicianship to the full. To have carried this off, as he did, bearing in mind the condition of the instrument, was quite a feather in his cap, and he well deserved the applause he received for this item. The Society is grateful to the Greater Union Management for making the State available to us and lighting up every one of the many hundreds of lamps in this huge motion picture palace. There is no more lavish setting for a WurliTzer organ in this country, than the Sydney State Theatre.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members have joined the Society this month and we would like to extend to them a very warm welcome indeed. If you have not already attended a function as yet, please make yourself known to a member of the Committee (they all wear badges for identification) the first time you do attend. It's their task to see that you meet people and are made to feel "at home" in the Society.

J.R. Long - A.G. Tranter - Dr J.W. Erkin - Howard Cusworth - Major Ben Bailey of the United States Air Force Our member Ian Gliddon (brother of Robert Gliddon) who has been resident in Canada for some time has now returned to Sydney to live and we welcome him back, not as a new member, he has been an overseas member for a long time - let's say he's a new-old member.

MEMBERS PRACTISE SESSIONS AT MARRICKVILLE.

Due to the heavy booking of the Town Hall in connection with Captain Cook Bicentenary Celebrations, the Society has not been able to set practise session dates for the month of April in time for this issue. All those members who have regular practise times will therefore be advised in due course of the new dates and times for April only.

CONCERT RECORDING'S "ORGAN OF THE MONTH" CLUB.

Concert Recording's Australian representative has advised TOSA News that no release will be made this month. Members of the club will be advised of the next release when it is available.

TONY FENELON RECORDS AVAILABLE AGAIN.

Winton Music Centre's Cliff Bingham, has advised us that they have stocks of all four of the TONY FENELON records available again. This includes his latest record "More" recorded on the Melbourne Regent Theatre's organ prior to its removal from the theatre.

DENNIS AWE CAPTURES SYDNEY AUDIENCE.

Rees Wills Pty. Ltd., Sydney distributors of the range of Lowrey organs must be feeling very gratified at the success of the concert presented by their American Company's travelling organist-demonstrator, MR DENNIS AWE. This was the first occasion that Lowrey have presented an official organist in a concert in this country, and following this auspicious debut, it is safe to say that it will not be the last.

DENNIS AWE, not previously known in this part of the world, left a lasting impression of a fine organist with an engaging personality, a flair for showmanship and a very thorough and comprehensive product knowledge which he imparted to his audience without resorting to the "hard-sell" techniques.

During his concert he used three organs on stage including the H11 and the new instrument with the inbuilt tape recorder. Many in the audience, who may have perhaps regarded the inbuilt tape recorder as a mere gimmick before his demonstration, would have had second thoughts about it after DENNIS demonstrated the very real practical advantages of this accessory, especially in regard to organ playing lessons. There was a very good roll up of TOSA members as well as the large number of Lowrey customers and all were in agreement that DENNIS AWE is a brilliant and talented organist who will be very welcome to return to Sydney.

"200 YEARS OF MUSIC"

Our member DAVID PARSONS will be heard in a special concert titled "200 Years of Music" at the St. John's Church of England Hall, 87 Oaks Avenue, Dee Why, on May 1st. The concert is being presented in honor of the Captain Cook Bicentenary Celebrations, and will have as guest artists, soloists, Ian Wharton, Jack Skeers and Mrs Joy Peterick. The organ to be played by DAVID will be a two manual Pogson installed in the last year or so. Admission is FREE and further information can be obtained from Mrs G. Skeers - phone 98-8694.

SILENT FILM NIGHT.

Saturday April 11th at 8pm. On this night our member CLIFF BINGHAM will be at the console of a Thomas organ to play accompaniment to some silent films.

SILENT FILM NIGHT (Cont)

The location is the Collaroy Plateau Baptist Church Hall in Stella Street. This function is on a Saturday night, which is traditionally "flicks" night in Australia so go along and have some fun at a silent "flicks" night with organ accompaniment by CLIFF at the Thomas.

LOCAL NEWS.

During the first two weeks of March, your Editor was holidaying in Melbourne as well as catching up with the organ world down there. I had the privilege of seeing and hearing the 4/21 Wurlitzer in the Moorabbin Town Hall which is really one heck of a lot of organ. Beautifully installed by our sister Division for the Moorabbin Council, this will make a splendid recording organ quite apart from its wonderful theatre sound as will be heard in concerts. It sounds pretty much as I remember hearing it in the State Theatre Melbourne. The console has been redecorated in traditional Wurlitzer style and looks just as though it came from the factory only yesterday rather than 40 years ago.

I also attended the Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers of the Victorian Division held on Sunday 15th March. A list of the Officers elected to office appears in the Victorian Division's News section elsewhere in this issue. I was introduced to the meeting by the new President, and very warmly welcomed to their meeting. I was invited to say a few words to them, and fully appreciated their courtesy extended to me. On behalf of the NSW Division I extended our congratulations to the new office bearers and wished them all the best in the tasks that lie ahead of them. The new President made a point of asking that I convey the best wishes of the Victorian Division to all NSW members through the pages of TOSA News. I do this with great pleasure.

It was great to meet up with many of the members whom I have met from time to time and I particularly appreciated the kindness of Henry Stollery who made sure that I met as many members as possible, and ended up driving me back to my hotel at the end of the evening. Thank you Henry. You are a gentleman Sir.

Also met TONY FENELON one evening for a chat and later met His wife Kaye. In case you didn't know TONY and Kaye were married on 27th February. TOSA News extends to the happy couple, the best wishes of the NSW Division for their future happiness which should be a highly "organised" one, and may your Tibias never ever have a cipher - if you know what I mean. All the very best to you.

Also spent a very happy evening with Mr & Mrs Julian Arnold (evening? - it went on until about 1am or later.) It was very pleasant indeed and it all went too quickly. Thank you both for your hospitality and friendship - it was great. Julian being Editor of the Victorian Division's journal "Vox", he and I had many common interest topics to discuss, which we did although we still found time to hear some interesting tapes.

There are others, too, whom I would like to thank but there were so many things happening that I just can't remember all names, so to all Victorian Division members I extend my grateful thanks for one of the most enjoyable visits to Melbourne.

ORGAN FOR HIRE.

Member Geoff Rowston advises us that he now has an organ available for hire if anyone is in need of such an instrument. The organ is a Farfisa Compact Duo model portable electronic organ. It has two manuals and a 13 note pedal base. It fits into a neat case and weighs only 88lbs. Complete with external power supply - 25 watt amplifier and speakers - vibrato etc. For full information telephone Geoff Rowston at 69-1758 or contact him at Home Talkie Co. located at 561 Elizabeth Street Sydney.

Geoff also advises that he has tapes of recent TOSA concerts available to members and those who wish to have a copy should contact him to find out which concerts are available.

MAKE UP A PARTY OF YOUR RELATIVES, FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS AND WORKMATES AND TAKE THEM ALONG TO THE MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 23rd APRIL TO HEAR THE ONE AND ONLY

W I L B U R K E N T W E L L

AT OUR WURLITZER ORGAN.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS (From Vox)

REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The well attended meeting was opened by the President and the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed. The Balance sheet was presented by the Treasurer and accepted by the meeting. The President then gave a full and detailed report on the activities of the Society over the past year.

The election of office bearers for the current year resulted in the following appointments :

President - Mr Alistair Pritchard	Vice-President - Mr Roy Preston
Secretary - Mrs Wendy Broadbent	Treasurer - Mr Greg Alabaster
Committee men - J. Arnold ; A Boothroyd : D. Cross : L. Jackman :	
D. Johnston : B. Layton : J. McLennan : V. Morley	

The NSW Division, through the pages of TOSA News, extends to all those elected the congratulations and best wishes of all NSW members.

Also reported in "Vox" which quoted C.O.S. Newsletter from England.

"We learn that the BBC which has already been trying to purchase a theatre organ, has purchased the 3/13 WurliTzer from the Empress Ballroom, Blackpool. This is now BBC theatre organ number three ! We therefore assume that the BBC no longer feels that the theatre organ is dead or dying, and we hope that the ABC might also soon discover this, especially with the forthcoming opening of the Moorabbin 4/21. Congratulations to the BBC.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS (From Tibia)

The following exciting news is reported in the March edition of Tibia.

"All our members will no doubt be pleased to hear that, subject to finalization of negotiations with the Granada Circuit in London, the Queensland Division have become the owners of their very own theatre pipe organ. Thanks to the magnificent efforts of the Pipe Organ Sub-Committee, in general and of Bill Dickinson and Don Clark in particular, the organ components should be on their way to Australia within a matter of weeks.

We understand we owe a lot to a London member of the English Theatre Organ Society namely Mr John Bartlett who is a regular correspondent with Bill Dickinson. It was Mr Bartlett who enquired on our behalf and located the pipe organ in the "Granada" Cinema Maidstone Kent. Mr Bartlett has very kindly undertaken to supervise the removal and packing of the organ."

We of the NSW Division extend our heartiest congratulations to all in Queensland Division on their acquisition - we look forward to the wonderful day when it will make its debut on the Australian Theatre Organ scene.

AN APOLOGY. When I made the claim on behalf of the Queensland Division that the first theatre organ concert as part of a Festival of the Arts was presented by the Queensland Division just two weeks before the Canton Festival of the Arts played by BILLY MALLE in America, I genuinely believed that Queensland had indeed achieved a "world First". However, I'm sorry to say to my friends in Queensland, that we just couldn't make the claim stick. As reported in last month's TOSA News, BILLY MALLE'S letter explained that his Festival was purely an Arts one, whilst the Brisbane Festival was of a general carnival type. At least I tried to put Brisbane into a "world first" category which would have been very nice if we could have pulled it off. Anyway it was all good clean fun.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS (From Cipher)

The March edition of Cipher carried a full report on the February visit of their Patron, TONY FENELON who appeared in two concerts, the first at Bunbury, 100 miles from Perth, and the second one in the Metro Theatre Perth. As well he appeared at the Dianella Shopping Plaza.

During March, the West Australian Division had quite a busy month. In addition to the visit of TONY FENELON, they also had concerts by DENNIS AWE and DON KINGSTON. Another enjoyable feature was the screening of the organ film "My Wife Said That's Enough" which was first shown to NSW audiences during February.

W.A. Division's Annual General Meeting in February re-elected all officers and the Committee for another term.

OVERSEAS TOURS FOR ORGAN LOVERS.

With this issue of TOSA News, you will receive a brochure together with a letter from our member CECIL CRANFIELD, organ manager for Palings, the Hammond organ distributors. The Hammond Organ Society has arranged two overseas tours, one of 23 days to the U.S.A. and the other of 60 days is an around the world one.

The tours are available to anyone at all - you don't have to be a member of the Hammond Organ Society to join in - in fact you don't even have to be an organ lover, although the tours have been aimed at attracting those who love organ music.

At many of the stop-over cities, visits have been arranged to local Hammond Organ Chapters for entertainments and the chance to meet other organ lovers, as well, there will be visits to organ installations both pipe and electronic. An inspection of the Hammond organ factory will be arranged, and the opportunity to meet and hear some world famous organists will be given. Those who do not wish to attend any or all of the organ activities in any place, are free to make their own arrangements. In addition to the many organ activities planned, there has been ample free time allowed for shopping, sightseeing etc. There will also be many conducted sight seeing tours by coach.

Both tours (Tour A - USA only) (Tour B - Round World) will leave Sydney on Saturday 27th June at 6pm and will travel together through the USA until reaching Washington on 13th July. In Washington they part company, Tour A continuing on through the USA before returning to Australia. Tour B will travel from Washington to New York and thence on to London.

The price of both tours is considerably less than would normally apply for such tours, and the organ lover has the added bonus of having his hobby catered for at many of his ports of call. It represents wonderful value for money for any tourist, but for TOSA and Hammond Society members this could be best described as the first "really organized" world tour with organ stopovers all along the way.

INTERSTATE TOSA EDITORS PLEASE NOTE : If you have not been contacted by your own local Hammond people, and you would like a brochure for any of your readers interested in these tours, please write immediately to MR CECIL CRANFIELD, ORGAN MANAGER, W.H. PALING PTY. LTD., 338 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY 2000.

The tour starts in June so early application will be necessary

ORGANIST BILL WORRALL RECORDS SIX ORGANS.

Famous American organist BILL WORRALL recently waxed an unusual disc for the Concert Recording Coy. label. Unusual because on the one disc, BILL features no less than six leading makes of electronic organ. I recently received an autographed copy of BILL'S record which is titled "City Of Long Beach". It is a splendid disc in which fine musicianship is complimented by interesting and novel arrangements. Unfortunately, the record is not yet available in Australia, but when it is released TOSA News will run a review.

A recent letter from BILL WORRALL to your Editor, reveals that there are not less than twenty five restaurants, lounges, bars etc around the city of Long Beach where electronic organs are featured. This information I found in a magazine of the Orange County Professional Organists Guild which BILL included with his letter. The magazine listed more than twenty five organists and where they were playing. It certainly makes one envious to learn of the wealth of organ entertainment available to the public in the USA.

Well, that's all for this issue,

Until next month,

Organically yours,

THE EDITOR.

T.O.S.A.
PROUDLY
PRESENTS

AUSTRALIA'S OWN
WILBUR KENTWELL AT THE
MIGHTY WURLITZER ORGAN - THURS 23 APRIL
DONT MISS THIS ONE! TICKETS \$1.50
CHILDREN HALF PRICE
A CAPTAIN COOK BI-CENTENARY FEATURE CONCERT