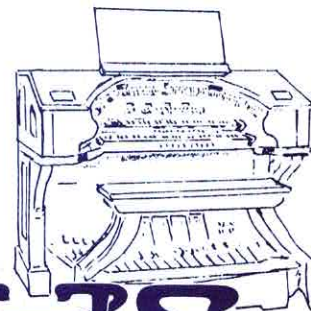


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EDITOR

John Atkinson, 46 Lily Street, Allawah, 2218.  
587 3374

# 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 FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

## SOCIAL DIRECTORY

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	Des Russell	42 4729	Marrickville Practice Arrangements:		
Secretary:	Steve McDonald	599 4436		Phyllis Wilson	759 6050

Please address all correspondence to Box A584 P.O. Sydney South, 2000

## WHAT'S ON IN JULY:

Tuesday 20th July, 7.30 p.m.

## QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

Come along to the Quarterly meeting featuring two organists, Mr. David Parsons and Mr. Bill Schumacher at the console of our 2/10 Wurlitzer in Marrickville Town Hall presented in a mini concert atmosphere with the contrast of a ballad style of playing to an all-round entertainment type format which will be presented by these two well known and well liked TOSA members.

This function is a special entertainment for members of the Society only and we must attract as many members as possible and you are all charged with the responsibility of bringing along your fellow club fraternity. It is proposed that the meeting preceeding the entertainment will be 45 minutes maximum during this time the Notices of Motion submitted and advertised in last months magazine will be considered.

It is the committee's intention to ratify these motions once and for all and to achieve our objective we NEED your support and ATTENDANCE - you must let us know exactly what you would like so that the majority decision can be incorporated in the re-drafting of the Society's by-laws, also at this meeting there will be opportunity to discuss other exciting new items and the opportunities to hear overseas organists and this (our entertainment) is after all one of the major functions of the Society.

Your presence at this meeting is definitely required, needed and requested and with the entertainment and the supper supplied by the ladies, this will be a memorable and enjoyable nights entertainment and as a bonus for members the whole evening is Free of Charge (as if you needed further inducement to attend!)-

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST a Technical night is proposed on the refurbishing of the Capitol organ date and other details will be announced next month.

SEPTEMBER It is hoped that a concert can be arranged featuring the American organist Lyn Larsen.

26th September

Cliff Bingham in a FREE SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT

OCTOBER Visit to East Lindfield Baptist Church

NOVEMBER  
Dennis and Heidi James from America  
TOSA Annual General Meeting

#### ORGAN RECITAL

We have news of a classical organ concert by Alan Moffat (Deputy Cathedral Organist) of the organ in St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney on 11th July at 3 p.m. The programme is entitled an "All French Recital" admission is free and programme notes will be provided.

On Sunday 1st August in Futter Hall in King's School, Parramatta a recital by Robert Smith an Australian Organist now resident of England.

Any members wishing to attend either of these functions will be made most welcome by the Organ Society of Sydney.

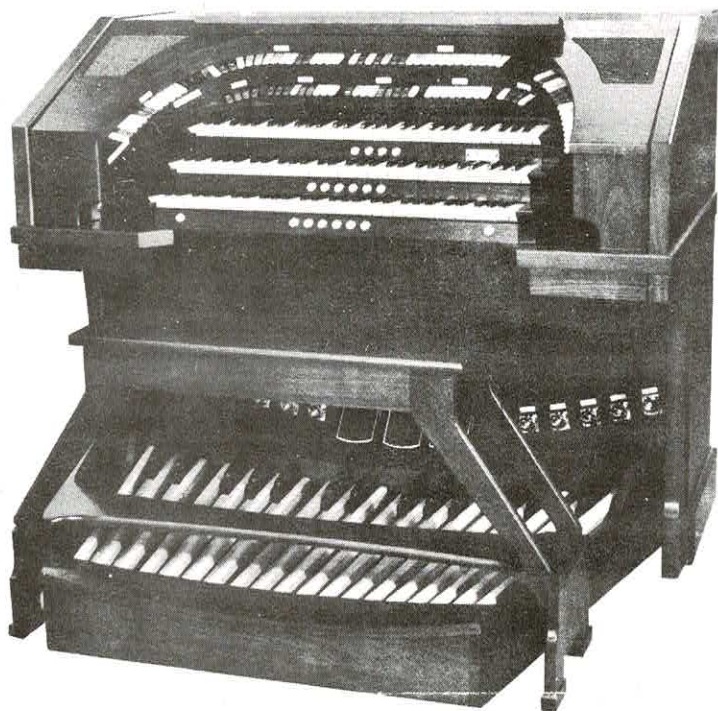
#### OBITUARY

We have had news through the month from our President of the passing recently of one of our members, Mr. Ray Hazzard and we wish to pass on our condolences to his family and friends.

#### TO LATE FOR ADVERTISING - TO SOON FOR REVIEW

I would like to comment and commend on our member, Herbert Wyatt stepping into the 'lion's den' at very short notice to do a concert on the 27th June in our Free Sunday Afternoon Series as substitution was necessary by the sudden withdrawal of the advertised organist which left the organising people at a complete loss to obtain a concert artist at such short notice. I feel we all owe a debt of gratitude to Herbert for stepping in to the breach and assisting with the concert. Though prior to the event I am sure it will be successful and I am also sure we have learned from our experience.

# we're Stunned!



Barely out from development, word of our new System 920 Digital Computer Theatre Organ is reverberating coast to coast.

Three manuals, Theatre stops, digital tone generation, capture combination action — plus a remarkable sound.

We're grateful and delighted — also, a little bit stunned — with the amount of interest in this new model. After all, this is no typical home organ, in either size or cost.

For complete information on the 920, or other computer theatre models, drop us a line. It's too early for a 920 recording, but include \$5.00 and we'll send a fine stereo album featuring Dwight Beacham at a smaller two manual theatre model. You'll be amazed.



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## CAPITOL ORGAN RESTORATION

At the time of writing further storage space has been arranged so that parts of the organ that have been restored as well as planks, trunking etc. may be moved to make way for work to be carried out on the console and chests. Several materials are being purchased for use in the restoration. A number of matters are under consideration regarding the method of restoration and will no doubt be influenced by the recent work carried out on the Marrickville installation as well as suggestions from Jonas Nordwall in line with successful recent installations in the USA.

It is considered desirable to use pearl glue in certain circumstances, e.g. glueing secondary motors into chests, and because it does not attract vermin. In this regard I would like to hear from any member who would like to donate a glue pot, suitable for use with pearl glue as their contribution towards the restoration programme.

In this regard please phone me on 798 6816. I hope to be able to hold a tutorial type work afternoon in the near future at which members are shown how to carry out various restoration work after which various parts of the organ can be farmed out to members to work on in their own time. In this way many hands can achieve much.

Regards, Ernie Vale.

## NEW MEMBERS

We have ten new members to welcome this month and as usual they come from many different areas as close as Mortdale and as far away as Cairns in Queensland we all look forward to seeing them at our functions and meetings and welcome them to membership of the Society.

Mrs. Judith Bailey, Mortdale; Mr. Paul Coles, Forbes;  
Mr. G. H. Davidson, Cowra; Mr. Edward P. Oakes, Toongabbie;  
Mr. Greg Markham, New Lambton; Mr. V. Reynolds, Balgowlah;  
Phyllis McDonald, Wentworth; Syd & Evelyn Abrahams, Lismore;  
Mrs. M. Chant, Cairns Queensland.

## DEADLINE

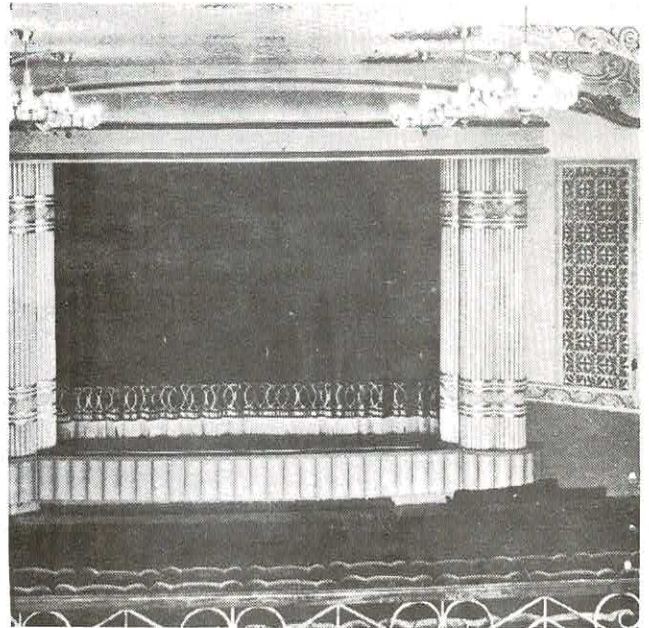
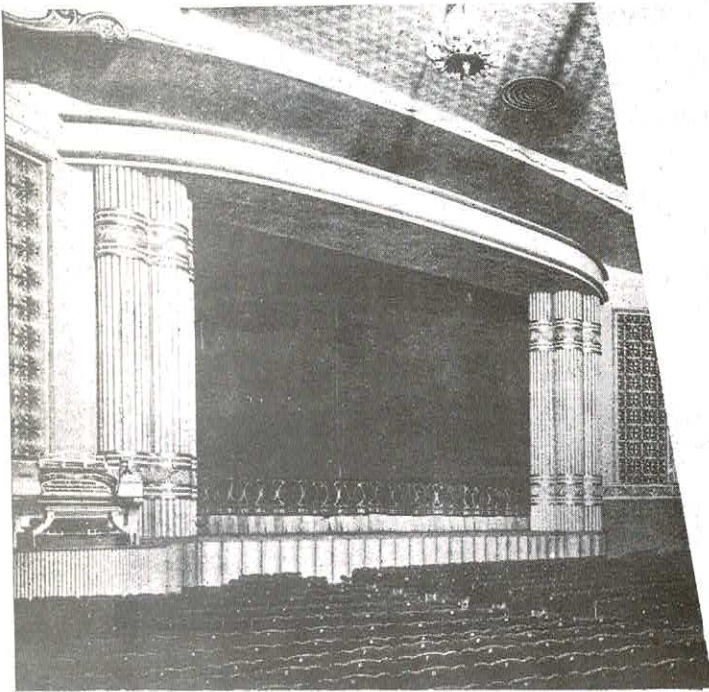
16th August is the deadline for copy for the August edition of TOSA News - any newsworthy article (especially if accompanied by photographs) will be very welcome and if you have any comments you would like to make that may be of assistance or interest to the Society put pen to paper and let us know as we look forward to hearing from you and it is through personal contact of this kind that the Committee and Executive are made aware of any shortcomings or if what they are endeavouring to do meets with your approval. TOSA News can act as a forum on these occasions as well as a source of information on various functions and interesting articles and photographs on Theatres and organs.



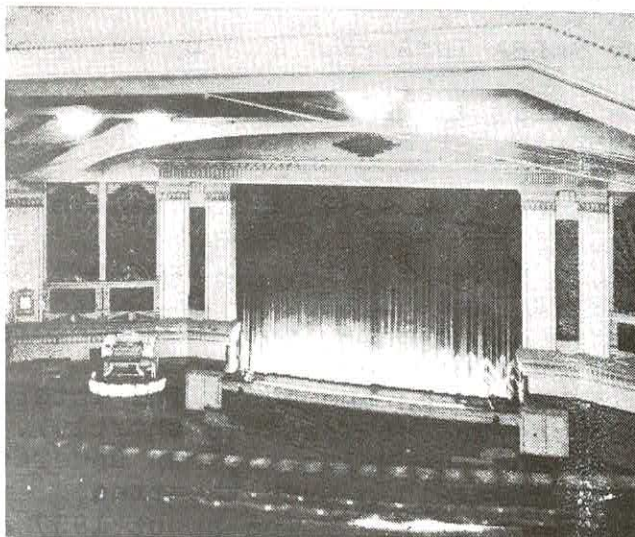
to Fridays and Saturdays for a few years before closure in January, 1967.

This familiar landmark in the district was then demolished and a block of units now occupy the site.

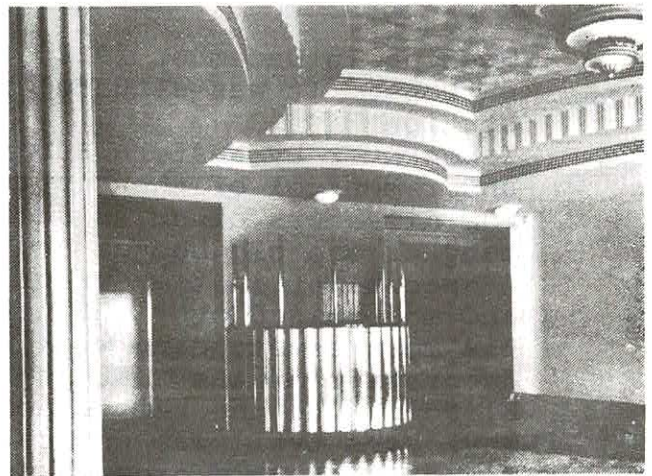
In the next 'Showcases of the Past' we will feature the Odeon Theatre at Campsie.



There have been no structural alterations, but the difference to the Melba's auditorium is astonishing. Fibrous plaster has been used in light-fittings, ceiling, proscenium—pillars and base, and on grilles. The tie-rods have been concealed by plaster scrollwork.



The old auditorium of the Hoyts Melba Theatre, Strathfield, Sydney, showing the old-style lighting, the unsightly tie-rods from roof to wall and the uninspiring proscenium, before the theatre was renovated with fibrous plaster.



The lobby of the Strathfield Melba was completely changed. Fibrous plaster on the ceilings replace an old stair bulkhead and, in the left foreground, a square pillar has been rounded by fluted plaster.

#### OVERSEAS DISCS SOON TO BE AVAILABLE

It is with pleasure that we announce that a new Hector Olivera disc, 'Columbus Discovers Hector', will shortly be available in Australia and you can be assured that this disc is well worth purchasing, a review will appear in a later issue.

Anyone wishing to assure themselves of a copy should contact John Atkinson (587 3374) or Robert Gliddon (869 2083).

The disc is so good that members are advised to order early to avoid disappointment.

#### NEWS FROM RECENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

As a preliminary announcement to the Committee's intentions to carry out more work on the Marrickville organ we would inform those members who have practice sessions at Marrickville that in the coming months your organ will be undergoing further restoration work during which time the regulators will be re-leathered. This will involve having the organ out of action for some time and in the coming months members wishing to practice at Marrickville would be advised to make certain that the organ is useable by contacting Phyllis Wilson on 759 6050 before proceeding to Marrickville.

#### MUSIC TEACHERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE

In the coming months and due to the tremendous response we hope to rerun a list of music teachers specialising in organ tuition. If you are, or know of someone who is capable of teaching music and would like to be included in this new list or if you were included previously and any of the information has changed or you would like to be listed again, please contact the Editor immediately preferably by letter giving all the relevant information.

It is also hoped in coming months to recommence our feature articles and pictorial essays on the British Theatre Organ scene beginning shortly with the Granada, Tooting, Theatre so anyone wishing to contribute in coming months please feel free.....

You may have noticed that we were rather crammed with information and I think we broke some record or other with a 26 page June issue, I hope you enjoyed it and we look forward to breaking this record in the future.

#### LANCASTRIAN THEATRE ORGAN DISCS

Disc collectors will be interested to know that there have been two further recordings released by the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust. They are, 'Ballroom Favourites' featuring Eric Barlow presenting your favourite tunes played in strict tempo for dancing or partytime, and 'From a Seat in the Stalls' which features the popular host of the BBC's radio programme 'The organist Entertains' and Robin Richmond plays on the disc light music in favour of ballads on the Manchester Gaumont Wurlitzer.

These are available in Australia shortly from the exclusive distributors John Atkinson (587 3374) and Robert Gliddon (869 2083)

COME TO MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL 20th JULY, 1976 - QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

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THE STATE MELBOURNE THEATRE - by Ian Hanson

In 1936, elaborate musical presentations at the 'State' Melbourne were performed by Bert Howell's Orchestra and Arnold Coleman piloted the Wurlitzer console.

In the photograph opposite you can see the two consoles of the 'Mighty Wurlitzer', three grand pianos (the white piano was connected to the Wurlitzer) and the rest of Bert Howells orchestra together with the beautiful setting of the 'State' Theatre, Melbourne.

The 'State' opened in 1928 and boasted 4,000 seats, a 30 piece orchestra and 2 organs (actually it was 2 consoles connected to the one organ). In the late forties orchestral presentations gave way to the organ, which was also phased out some ten years later, in 1963 the gigantic organ was sold to Gordon Hamilton who later re-sold it to Moorabbin Council, where it now plays on in the new Town Hall. In 1963 also the theatre was closed down and divided. The Rapallo Cinema occupies the old Dress Circle area, while the Stalls became the Forum Cinema, but despite this both theatres still retain a very atmospheric decor.

CHRISTIE UNIT ORGANS FOR SYDNEY THEATRES

Ack: "Everyones" August 8, 1928

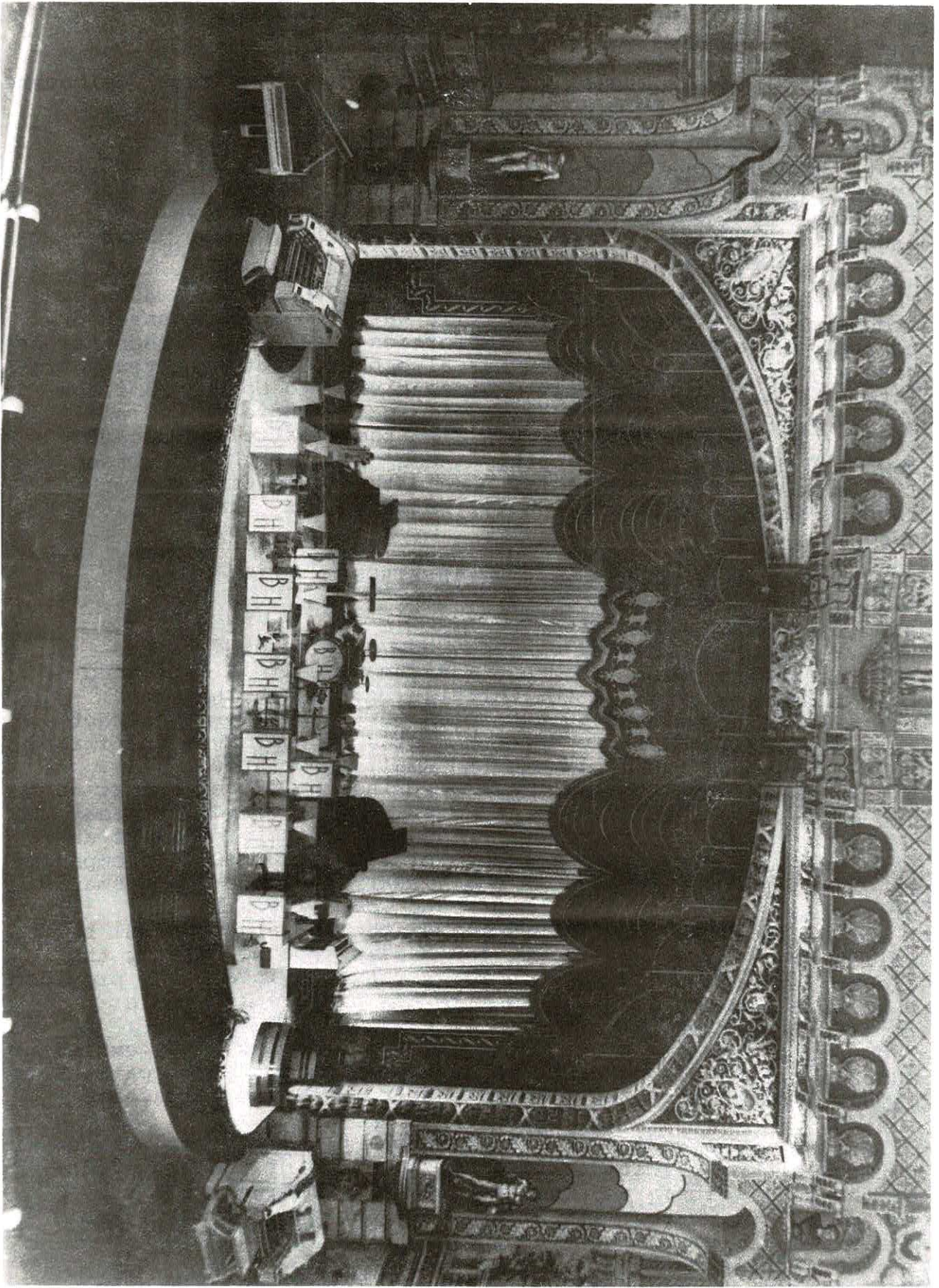
submitted by Charles Cohen

When playing to a comedy subject, how many notes does the cinema organist exact from his instrument. It is estimated by the manufacturers of the Christie Unit organ that the operator utilises over 60,000 notes per hour. To counteract this strain the Christie Unit is tested to over 600 repetitions per minute which is a claim of no small importance. Visitors to Australia have been surprised to discover that so few organs are installed in cinemas. It is pointed out that the installation of a modern unit orchestra organ is nowadays an absolute necessity, not a mere luxury, both for solo accompaniment to the pictures, and also as a necessary addition to the small orchestra containing usually a piano and a few strings. A unit organ in a theatre becomes at once a very powerful box office draw, especially if of the modern type possessing the clever effects and traps with which they are invariably provided thus enabling the organist to make the picture live to a remarkable degree.

The days of the small orchestra are numbered and if an exhibitor adheres to the old order he is only driving potential patrons to rival theatres equipped with more up-to-date and attractive music.

Of course it is recognised that expense has to be considered, but the organ builder has come to the rescue of the proprietor of the small kinema and has designed a unit organ at a very low price but which will, nevertheless enable him to give his patrons music practically as good as that provided at his richer rival's theatre.

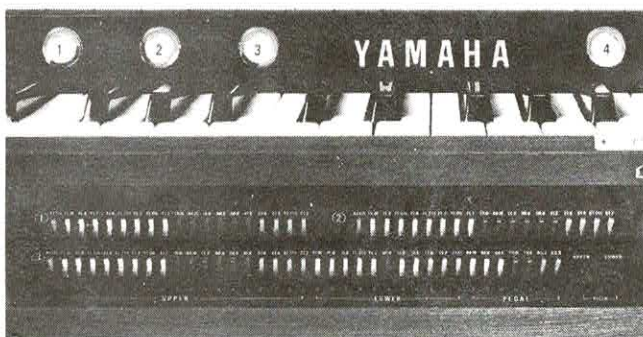
The manufacturers of the Christie Unit Organ specialise in organs for small theatres as well as the large.



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*Massive full 61-key range on both manuals and 25-key radial arc heel-and-toe pedalboard, plus exclusive three-octave portamento manual—complemented by the unique Yamaha Tone Lever system. Each lever moves from off to full for infinite-variable continuous control; but each lever has three easy-to-feel click-stops for mathematical assurance when beginners learn and reset favorite combinations. The world-famous Electone tonal beauty is doubled in the E-5AR, thanks to two separate tone generators, and the resulting versatility is complemented by an extra-generous selection of continuously-adjustable effect levers, controls and preset tone levers.*

  
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Effects embodied in the Christie Unit Organ include; Thunder, sand block, cymbals, chimes, horse's hoofs, bird whistle, klaxon horn, siren, fire alarm, crowd cheering, wind howl, aeroplane, cannon effect, castanets, jingles, triangle, tubaphone, police whistle, chinese gong, punch on the nose, auto horn, sleigh bells, telephone bell, boat whistle, train whistle, slap in the face, rain, pistol shot, bang drums, wood block and an applauding audience.

If a new cinema is being built and a Christie organ is to be installed the type, size and arrangement and location of the instrument is discussed in consultation with the architect. When one is proposed to be fitted in an existing theatre an expert is sent to study all the conditions governing the installation, which may necessitate some deviations from the normal in order to get the best results.

A Christie Unit Organ will be installed in the Lyceum Theatre Sydney, in such a way that it can be used as a theatre organ and for services on Sunday, while another will go into the Victory Theatre, Kogarah.

#### AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL THEATRE ORGAN CONVENTION 1977

It has now been confirmed that Queensland will be the host state for the Australian National Theatre Organ Convention in 1977. This will give us all a chance to hear their new pipe organ installation and soak up some sun at the same time!! Start planning now to spend Easter 1977 in Queensland for our Sixth National Convention remember all the great times and wonderful fellowship of Easter 1976 and you will make your booking today. Congratulations to Queensland for hosting the Convention and we wish them great success for what could probably be appropriately called 'The Sunshine Sixth'.

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SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY

20TH JULY - 7.30PM

AND HAVE FUN AT THE SAME TIME

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING - MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.....

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