

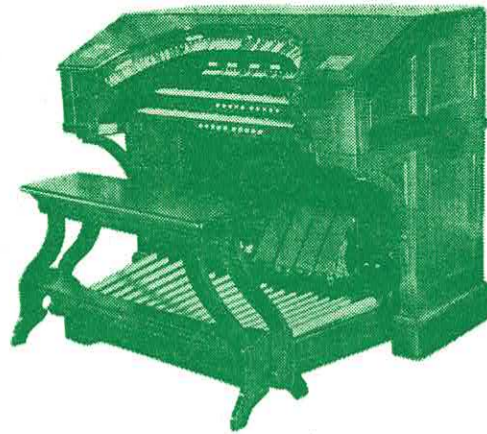
T.O.S.A. NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE DIVISIONS OF N.S.W., QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

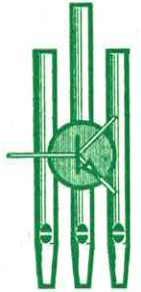
PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: FRANK ELLIS

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All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 108, Wentworthville, 2145, N.S.W., Australia

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WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH.

The Technical Committee announces that there will be another lecture in the present series on Saturday 3rd May at 8pm. It will be held at the home of our members, Mr & Mrs Arthur Spring, and, as announced last month, those planning to attend, should phone Vice-President Des Russell at 42-4729 a few days beforehand and make their reservations. The lecture will be given by member Eric Mirovitch, and his subject will be "Aspects of Tuning". Following the lecture, the latest version of Arthur Spring's electronic organ will be demonstrated for members.

WEDNESDAY 21st MAY AT 8pm AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

Our Honorary member ERIC SMITH will present his first Wurlitzer concert for the NSW Division of T.O.S.A. The guest artist will be the well known soprano, Rae Candy, making a return appearance for the Society. ERIC SMITH is an organist of wide experience, equally at home with popular or classical music. He is a prominent teacher of the organ, and has recently appeared in concert for the Victorian Division at the console of the Dendy Cinema Wurlitzer.

This will be a public concert, and will be advertised in the city press. The tickets will be on sale at Rees Wills Lowrey organ showroom at 412a George Street Sydney, Alex Britton Music Centre, 2 Crofts Ave., Hurstville and McFarland's of Marrickville. Admission will be \$1 per adult person with children half price. However, a special concession price of 75 cents will be available to TOSA members at the doors, on production of their current membership cards. Remember, the special concession price is available only at the doors of the hall, and not at the other ticket selling agencies. Children of our members will be admitted free as usual. The Society will again admit aged pensioners for half price on production of their entitlement. A member, his wife and two children, for example pay only \$1.50 as against \$3 for a family of the same size who are not members. This 50% concession makes membership of the Society well worth while, so why not join your friends, or at least urge them to become members.

FRIDAY 23rd MAY AT 8pm.

There will be a recital and inspection of the pipe organ in the St. John's Church of England, Princes Highway, Rockdale on Friday 23rd May at 8pm. This organ was rebuilt in 1967 by organ builder, Jim Eagles and our member Jim Waters who supervised the installation of the Society Wurlitzer organ in the Marrickville Town Hall. The recital will be given by RONALD MARSTON F.C.T.L. L(Mus)., who is organist of the church. There will be no charge for admission, and you may bring as many friends as you wish. The Society is indebted to member Eric Mirovitch for the arrangements for this visit and recital, and we extend our thanks to him.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

There will be a FREE concert on the Society Wurlitzer at Marrickville Town Hall in the month of June. The concert will feature a leading organist, and full details will be given in the next issue of TOSA News.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS. Members of the Committee are reminded that the May meeting will take place on Monday 5th May at 7.15pm and the June meeting will be on Monday 2nd June also at 7.15pm. Please make a note of these dates.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE TOSA NEWS.

All correspondents are reminded that copy for the June issue of TOSA News should reach the Editor by May 23rd, as the issue will be printed on May 26th. Items not received by that date will therefore be too late for publication.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.

DENIS PALMISTRA CONCERT - OUTSTANDING EVENT

Sunday 30th March will long be remembered as a highlight by the delighted and enthusiastic audience of TOSA members who packed the Clancy residence for the first concert for the Society, by MR DENIS PALMISTRA. One of the most brilliant theatre organists ever to appear in this country, his superb artistry literally had his audience gasping with delight, as he coaxed forth the Wurlitzer's most glorious voices delicately interwoven with thoroughly delightful and intriguing counter-melodies. His polished introductions excited the imagination for what was to follow, whilst many of his endings rose to a thrilling climax of straight organ grandeur, with the tremulants throbbing their way through the final chord. On other occasions, he reversed this idea, and a fully tremmed finale ended on a thrilling straight organ chord. His arrangement of each item displayed his great musicianship and feeling for the music being performed.

The instrument was at all times, fully under control, and the registrations chosen revealed his complete mastery over this very important and most difficult aspect of playing the theatre organ. DENIS PALMISTRA exploited the orchestral sounds of the organ expertly, and in so doing, demonstrated the full potential of the Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra when played by one able to arrange and orchestrate each item imaginatively. He infused a new appeal and freshness to each number he played and left no doubts in the minds of the audience, as to his exceptional ability.

During the concert, DENIS PALMISTRA played several of the numbers from his new L.P. recording which was released at the conclusion of the concert, and he was kept busy autographing records for a considerable time. The record was made on the Clancy Wurlitzer for the Concert Recording label. (The review of this record appeared in the April TOSA News).

DENIS' concert opened with a lilting bracket of Strauss Waltzes which immediately established a warm relationship between artist and audience. Then came a refreshingly different, "You Belong To My Heart" followed by four numbers heard on the record, these were, "C'est Magnifique", "Pagan Love Song", "I'm In Love With A Wonderful Guy" and the beautifully played "This Is My Song". Recently heard on the Hit Parades, "The Last Waltz" was a haunting addition to the programme, and was followed by the popular "Spanish Eyes". "My Heart Reminds Me", also heard on the record, was excitingly interpreted, and evoked warm applause. The next item was the highlight of the first half of the Concert. It was "Bells Across The Meadow", splendidly arranged and featuring an exciting orchestral improvisation towards the end - it received a rousing reception indeed. The final item before the interval was another Hit Parader, "Goodbye My Love", in which DENIS had his audience participate by clapping in time to the music. With the last three or four notes still to be played, he swung off the stool and walked away waving goodbye to his audience as they still continued to clap in time to the music that didn't finish. Amid laughs, the "clapping in time" turned to enthusiastic applause.

The second half opened with a bracket of three numbers, "I Don't Know Why", "It Had To Be You" and "It All Depends On You" after which the audience were treated to his hauntingly played, "Beyond The Reef", another highlight, which featured a lovely Vox Humana sound complimented by a contrasting rippling surf effect, the whole, creating a sound picture of tropical magic. A bracket of numbers depicting a Holiday In Rome followed, consisting of "Celito Linda", "Oh Sole Mio", "La Paloma", "Sorrento" and "Mama". From Rome we were taken on a Holiday In Hawaii which featured "Blue Hawaii", "Moon Of Manakoora", "Lovely Hula Hands" and a terrific "Bali Hai". This was another "show stopper" and brought the house down. Finally came a dazzling "Czardus" in which DENIS had the assistance of Kevin Clancy on the tambourine, and brought the concert to a thrilling finale. DENIS was a fascinating compere throughout his concert, and after your Editor had thanked him for such a memorable afternoon, he obliged with an encore bracket of "On The Sunny Side Of The Street", "Calcutta", "Love Is Blue" and the Maori song of farewell, "Now Is The Hour". There is little doubt that members will eagerly await his next concert for the Society, which will be on the Wurlitzer organ at the Marrickville Town Hall.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH (cont)

COLOR ORGAN DEMONSTRATION AT WADSWORTHS. An interesting and unusual evening was spent by about 50 or more members at the demonstration of the Color-organ at Wadsworth's Music Store at Parramatta on Friday 11th April. The device, over which Wadsworths hold the Australian patent, consists of a small black box about 18" x 10" x 6" which is connected up to the organ. On the wall was a huge, picture type frame some 8 or 10 feet long by 5 or 6 feet high, which enclosed a silver aluminium foil background which was unevenly formed into ridges, hills and valleys. Behind the frame at top and bottom were banks of colored electric globes. Six controls on the black box governed the intensity of the light - three each for the top and bottom banks, which each had three colors, red, blue and green.

The device is extremely flexible, and can be attached to organ, piano, guitar, radio or gram, and is even capable of operating from a vocal item. The colors, in varying intensities, created fascinating patterns on the hills and valleys of the aluminium foil background - the silver foil, of course, acting as a fine reflective agency. Mr Wadsworth gave the first demonstration of the color organ, after which it was then available for any member to try out. Among those seen experimenting with color were, Mrs Ward, John Clancy, John Castray, John Wall, Joyce Walker, Lance Wells and Bill Sattler. Our Honorary member, PETER HELD was the star of the evening however, and he was brought back to the organ many times by request. He achieved a co-ordination of sound and color which demonstrated very ably, the unlimited potential of this "symphony of color". Fast playing brought forth dazzling sun-bursts of color, but in slower numbers, a different technique was required on the swell pedal to achieve best results. PETER'S wide theatre organ experience enabled him to do full justice to the music he played, and the Society sincerely thanks him for the generous gift of his talents.

The organ used for the demonstration was the latest two manual National De luxe organ, which had been specially flown in for the evening, and it sounded very well indeed. The price of the color attachment was given as \$350, and the Society thanks Mr Wadsworth for the opportunity given to the Society for this preview. In the absence on holiday of the President, Tom Halloran, the show was compered by your Editor. The ladies Committee led by Joyce Walker served a very welcome tea and biscuits which all present appreciated. Summing up - a very interesting evening indeed.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

A warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined TOSA. We hope that you will derive the utmost in pleasure and musical enjoyment as you listen to the sounds of the "King Of Instruments", and that you will find new friends and interests in the Society.

NSW Division members:-

J.S. Rowston of Sydney - Mr & Mrs R. Moody of Sydney - Miss N. Reynolds of Sydney - Lawrence Cook of Cardiff and Mr L.B. Southward of New Zealand. (Mr Southward is the new owner of the Civic Theatre Auckland's Wurlitzer which he is installing in a car museum. He intends to add a player unit to the organ. He recently called on the Secretary and played over a tape of the final recital in the Civic featuring ANN HOLMES and also showed photos of the removal.

West. Australian Division:- Rae Cowin - Harold V. Tobin - Herbert H. Shephard - Stanley C.J. Jeffery - Mr & Mrs W.H. Loneragon

PIPE ORGAN PURCHASE FUND.

From our member Mrs Leedom of USA \$7.20 the proceeds of a record raffled at the Color-organ night last week. From the sale of two records donated by Mr Ledwon Sen of USA the sum of \$10. The Society sincerely thanks both overseas members for this valuable lift to our Pipe Organ Fund.

ORGAN PRACTISE SESSIONS AT MARRICKVILLE.

The first members practise session on our Wurlitzer has been arranged for Saturday 26th April. This session is completely booked out, and each member who applied for practise times, has been notified of the time slot allotted to him or her. Those who have not yet applied for practise times may still make application in writing to the Secretary in order that a second Saturday each month can be set aside for this purpose, if there are sufficient members applying. The Committee have set a charge of 40 cents per half hour for practise times, with a maximum of one hour per person. Members practise sessions will now be on a regular basis each month.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS. (Reported by Neville Seymour)

The appearances of DON KINGSTON and WILBUR KENTWELL at both the Gold Coast and Brisbane were much enjoyed and appreciated by members, the Riverside Ballroom being packed to capacity. DON KINGSTON appeared at the console of a three manual Conn and really delighted the audience. Mrs Whitehouse, a very good pianist who has recently turned to organ lessons surprised many of the local organists by playing DON KINGSTON'S own Chicken Reel Polka, which many have tried with varying degrees of success. DON and WILBUR teamed up in some really splendid duets and a tape was made by Bert Dakin of the occasion. It is hoped that many members will be able to secure a copy of the tape. The monthly meeting held at the residence of Mr Richarde of Southport, who has a Baldwin Theatre organ was a very enjoyable evening indeed. Our usual system applied on this occasion - that is, each playing members name is put into a hat and as their name is drawn from the hat, they take their place at the organ and present their items. Its a friendly system which works well.

Regret was expressed that member Mr Arthur, who has had loss of vision in one eye, has had to cancel the meeting set down for his residence. It has now been transferred to the home of Mr Stan Haigh, Brighton Street, Labrador. The Brisbane meeting was held at the home of Nev. Seymour who has a Hammond. Treasurer John Spall loaned a Thomas Theatre organ, on which he gave a demonstration of the voices and rhythm effects. The highlight of the evening was the appearance of that master of the organ, LES RICHMOND who played in his usual impeccable style. After long applause, he obliged with an encore bracket. The April meeting will be held in St. John's Cathedral with members being the guests of Robert Bowgen, the organist. The April Workshop Meeting held at Nev Seymour's place was addressed by Don Clark who explained the Hammond system in relation to the frequency division system. He had a large C.R.O. and many gadgets to demonstrate and explain the system of halving the Master Oscillators as used in some other types of electronic organs. This was very interesting, and it is hoped that more members will attend and take an interest in the Workshop Meetings.

WEST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS (Reported by Ray Clements.)

On 25th March Secretary Ray Clements flat was bulging at the seams as over 20 members plus wives and friends, gathered for a meeting featuring the Thomas Theatre organ. After a few words of welcome from President Jim Thompson, host Ray Clements opened the programme and was followed by John Fuhrman. It was very nice to see Lyn Cook get up and have a go - others playing were, Max Bell, Ross Surman, John Lerner, Dot Arndt, Margaret Mountier and visitor Colin Lovelady. The sum of \$5.35 was raised toward the pipe organ Fund from the proceeds of a record raffle.

The April meeting was held at the home of member Dot Arndt, and there was a good roll up of 28 persons. The sum of \$7.60 was raised from a raffle and paid into the organ fund. Several new members were present and it is hoped that they enjoyed themselves. During the evening there were one or two piano and organ duets and members seemed to appreciate these very much. W.A. Division thanks Dot for a wonderful evening.

The events for the month of May are:-

THURSDAY 8th MAY - Meeting at Ross Surman's 62 Tyrell St. Nedlands at 8pm sharp.

THURSDAY 29th MAY - Your Society is proud to present TONY FENELON in concert at the Metro Theatre Wurlitzer Organ. The concert will commence at 7.15pm after which members will remain seated to see the film, "The Shoes Of The Fisherman". TONY FENELON will play again during the intermission.

FRIDAY 30th MAY - Meeting at John Fuhrman's residence. This has been timed to co-incide with TONY FENELON'S visit, so that members will have a chance to meet him, and also so that TONY can see the enthusiasm in West Aust.

LOCAL NEWS.

This item concerning a NSW member is reprinted from the W.A. Division's Newsletter, "CIPHER". "A recent visitor was Ian Somerville of the NSW Division. Ian who works for Westinghouse Brake Company was in Perth for three days checking braking systems on trains being used in the north west. During his brief visit, several members entertained him. Much interesting information was gleaned from our guest on activities of TOSA in the East. Ian informed the gathering that he has just purchased a 2/12 Norman & Beard (built 1903) from St George's Church of England Hurstville and produced some spectacular photos of the original installation in the church. To house the instrument in his own home Ian is erecting a building which he laughingly terms his "organarium" in the back yard. A major job will be fabricating a new console, since the old one was attached to the casework.

We welcome the "first directly despatched" news bulletin from the South Australian Division which arrived two or three hours ago. It was Airmailed in a large envelope impressively marked "URGENT: PRESS MATERIAL". Whether this had any bearing on its arrival time is not known, but the inescapable fact remains, that it arrived with a couple of hours to spare, and your Editor is very grateful for its arrival.

In the last year particularly, the growth of TOSA throughout Australia has been nothing short of phenomenal, and even though the various Divisions are now all publishing their own Newsletters, the displaying of Interstate news in this journal gives us all a clearer overall picture of the Society as a whole, rather than as a purely local view, which we tend to take when we are occupied solely with our own affairs. For this reason, TOSA NEWS welcomes "news from around our nation".

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS (Reported by F.C. Searle)

Our first concert for this year was kindly arranged by Savery-Cawthornes and was held at Rothman's Theatrette at Wayville Showgrounds in February. The very talented English blind organist AL TREBBLE put a small Lowrey spinette through its paces, and later KEVIN WHEELER joined him in a duet on a small Lowrey Theatre model coupled to a large Leslie extension speaker box and a rhythm ace machine. Kevin played strictly melody using mostly Tibias, whilst Al showed his versatility and originality by "filling in" with orchestral voices. Al has the fastest moving pedal foot I have ever seen or heard and would give a good string bass player a run for his money. A voluntary collection and record raffle raised almost \$90 for our pipe organ fund and the attendance was around the 200 mark.

The second concert was promoted by the local Conn distributors (L. Rover & Co) and held on Friday March 14th in the Freemasons Hall, North Terrace Adelaide. The artists were DON KINGSTON and WILBUR KENTWELL, who sounded really grand both as a duet and performing solo. The acoustics of the hall were good, and this coupled with the sound produced from combination of the Conn Theatre organ model 642 and a set of Bass and Treble electronic pipes, came very close to the 'real' thing. Approx 250 people attended the concert and Wilbur kindly donated part of his fee to our Pipe Organ Fund.

On Easter Sunday afternoon, we had the 'real thing' and were treated to a concert held at St Peter's College, where of course our ex-Regent Wurlitzer was put through its paces by four organists - KNIGHT BARNETT, BRIAN RICHARDSON, IAN DAVIES, and PENN HUGHES. A varied and interesting programme was presented at the organ and some excellent singing by the Hindmarsh schoolgirls choir, and solos by Marjorie Forsaith made the afternoon a memorable one indeed. Approximately 200 attended, and a voluntary collection raised almost \$100 for our pipe organ fund.

Our next function is to be held at Rothman's Theatrette again, on Anzac Day and the following Saturday evening will be a joint TOSA and Thomas organ promotion featuring both KNIGHT BARNETT and TONY FENELON. This promises to be a musical treat.

ORGANS AT SYDNEY'S ROYAL EASTER SHOW.

Wandering around the Show on Easter Friday, your Editor heard the sound of an organ being very nicely played. In two minutes flat I tracked the sound to Alex Britton's Music stand, and was warmly welcomed by the beaming maestro himself. Judging by the already mentioned beaming face, business must have been good. Alex was showing the Yamaha E3 model, amongst others, and each time the organ started to play the crowds completely blocked the aisles. After spending half an hour or so with Alex, I wandered on and eventually came to R.H. Elvy's stand where our Honorary member Reubert Hayes was presiding over the Conn range of organs. Elvy's were showing the Conn Electronic Pipes, and here again, playing of any organ on the stand caused crowds to gather like magic. Nice to see so much interest by the public.

MORE LOCAL NEWS.

It was reported to TOSA News, that our member Bill Slattery has had a spell in the Randwick Hospital, however it is understood that he will be out and about again by the time this goes to press. Don't know what the trouble has been, but TOSA members would join me, I'm sure, in wishing him a speedy return to health.

It also makes us very sad to report that our Honorary member MANNIE AARONS has had a bout in hospital due to a car accident. This was reported to TOSA News recently. So far, no further details have come to hand although we did hear that amongst his injuries was a broken arm. A check with the Hospital today reveals that he is no longer an inmate, but no further information could be obtained. All members will wish MANNIE a speedy recovery.

NEWCASTLE HAMMOND ORGAN CONVENTION.

The Newcastle Hammond Organ Society are holding a two day Convention on the weekend of 3rd and 4th of May as already announced in previous issues of TOSA News. Your Editor has received the April Newsletter from them and the details of WILBUR KENTWELL'S appearance is now known to us. He will appear at the Hunter Theatre on Saturday 3rd May at 8pm in Concert. Those TOSA members who wish to attend should write or phone Mr Keith Joice, 6 Errington Ave, New Lambton 2305 - telephone 57-2515 for their reservations. WILBUR is soon to make two Stereo records for R.C.A. label.

THE SYDNEY ORGAN SOCIETY CONVENTION.

The 1969 Convention of the Sydney Organ Society will be held from 10th to the 17th of May and will consist of 25 sessions held during that week. The celebrity artist will be famous European organist PETER PLANYAVSKI who won the International Organ Playing contest last year. He is also a well known organ builder, and as well as playing during the Convention, he will also give Technical lectures on pipe organ construction, voicing of pipes etc. Tickets covering the full Convention and including a dinner to the visiting celebrity will be \$12 each or \$1 per individual session. A cordial invitation has been extended to TOSA members and those who would enjoy a week with the classical organs and lectures, are asked to phone 635-7026 for further information and reservations.

VICTORIAN MEMBERS PRAISE PALMISTRA CONCERT.

Two members of the Victorian Division, Mr & Mrs Collom, who have been holidaying in Sydney were present at the DENIS PALMISTRA concert at the Clancy residence on March 30th. Before leaving Sydney, they contacted your Editor on several occasions and were loud in their praises of DENIS. Mr Collom, who has travelled widely overseas, and heard many theatre organists, regarded him as being one of the most enjoyable artists on the theatre organ, that he has ever heard. Which is a very nice compliment indeed. They also desired to thank NSW for its hospitality. Thank you both for your kind remarks - we hope to welcome you again soon. They took back with them a copy of the DENIS PALMISTRA LP record, and we hope they are enjoying it to the full as it brings back memories of a wonderful afternoon in Sydney.

SPECIFICATION OF ORGAN - ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ROCKDALE.

<u>PEDAL</u>	<u>GREAT</u>	<u>SWELL</u>	
16 ^o Bourdon	16 Bourdon	8 Diapason	2 Tremulants
8 ^o Diapason	8 Diapason	8 Flute	
8 ^o Flute	8 Gedact	8 Gamba	Couplers
4 ^o Octave	8 Dulciana	4 Principal	Sw to Gt
8 Trumpet	4 ^o Octave	4 Flute	Sw Oct to Gt
	4 Flute	2 2/3 Twelfth	Gt to Ped 8
	2 Fifteenth	2 Piccolo	Sw to Ped 8
	8 Trumpet	19/22 Mixture	Sw to Ped 4
		8 Oboe	
		8 Trumpet	
			<u>Accessories</u>
			3 pistons (Gt)
			3 " (Sw)
			3 Toe pistons
<u>AGO console</u>			
61 note manuals		Gt to Ped (revers)	
32 note pedal board		Sw to Ped (revers)	

PRESIDENT TOM HALLORAN VISITS VICTORIAN DIVISION.

During a recent trip to Tasmania, NSW President, Tom Halloran spent several days in Melbourne visiting the Victorian Division of TOSA. He was there from April 10th to the 14th and enjoyed hospitality from Victorian Division President Max Kuhn as well as Julian Arnold, Bill Glasson and Roy Preston. Tom paid a visit to the Dendy Cinema to see and hear the WurliTzer. Not having visited this installation previously, he was very impressed with what he saw and heard. He also spent most of one day at the Moorabbin Town Hall inspecting the four manual WurliTzer ex the Melbourne State Theatre, which is being installed there by the Victorian Division for the Moorabbin Council. Mr Halloran had no hesitation in saying that this promises to be a very fine installation indeed, and one which should have a very big and impressive sound.

That's all for now folks,
Until the next issue,
ORGANICALLY YOURS - THE EDITOR.