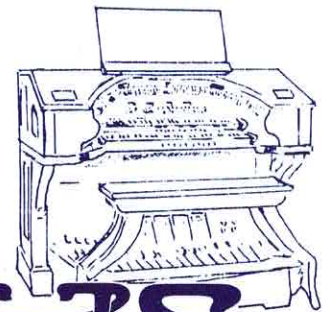


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October, 1976.



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

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				Phyllis Wilson	759 6050

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

## WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Sunday 10th October at 2.15p.m. A home organ party at the home of Ritchie Willis, 13 Rosemont Avenue, Mortdale. Our featured artist will be Peter Held, at the Thomas Lawrence Welk Theatre Organ. Admission will be \$1.50 and Peter will donate half the proceeds to the Capitol Wurlitzer Organ Restoration Fund. Ring Ritchie now, 57 3581 and reserve your seat, as seating is limited. Be early and avoid disappointment.

Saturday, 16th October, The Lyceum Theatre will be staging the Premiere performance of "That's Entertainment Part 2" and included on the programme will be a stage show and last but not least and best of all, ERIC SMITH at the Lyceum Organ. Anyone who has seen "That's Entertainment Part 1" will not hesitate we are sure to ring immediately and book a seat for the film was a great success and with the added attraction of Eric at the Premiere why not make a group booking but ring early because seats have been on sale now for a few weeks and it will be a night not to be missed.

Tuesday, 19th October at 8.00p.m. A meeting of members the purpose of which is to discuss: 'Where do the members think the Society should install the Capitol Organ after restoration?' This meeting is to be held in the Committee room at Marrickville Town Hall to give members an opportunity to put forward any thoughts they may have on the use of and possible location of the organ. The Executive and Committee feel it necessary to

gather ideas and comment from the members so that guidelines can be established in order to satisfy members requirements for the use of the organ as well as an economically viable installation.

The organ belongs to the members and this is your opportunity to place your thoughts before the executive and Committee. It is not proposed to make any decision as to placement at this meeting. All ideas will be noted so that they may be investigated. I ask all members to consider the need for accessibility to the organ for society functions in making their suggestions. If you would like to write out your ideas and hand them in at this meeting please do so. If you are unable to attend this meeting please write out your ideas and post them to Box A584, P.O. Sydney South, 2000 and mark the envelope 'Capitol Organ'.

25th October, Monday, 7.45p.m. A programme has been arranged by Cliff Bingham at the East Lindfield, Baptist Church, Wellington Road, East Lindfield, of an informal nature, featuring music in the lighter vein and all members are urged to come along and hear this unique pipe organ with Cliff at the console. Cliff intends during the evening to present other artists and an enjoyable entertainment is assured. We ask you to assist with the supper by bringing a plate and a donation of \$2.00 per person will be shared by the church and the Society.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th November, Tuesday, Marrickville Town Hall. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Much planning is taking place to make this year's Annual General Meeting a crowd pleaser and we urge every member's attendance on this important occasion. The use of our Wurlitzer Pipe Organ will be a feature of the evening and we are planning some surprise organists for your entertainment. For financial members of the Society there is attached on the front of this issue a letter asking for your attention to a Plebescite which is being conducted on a very important matter which has been brought up during the year on numerous occasions. As you will recall at past General Meetings it has been impossible to proceed with matters relating to the Society due to the lack of a quorum. The Committee and President after consultation with advisors have decided to conduct a Plebescite to ensure a majority decision in this matter and to this end we ask you and every member to fill in in the space provided on the Society letterhead, on the front of this issue your decision and return it to THE RETURNING OFFICER, P.O. BOX A584, P.O. SOUTH SYDNEY, 2000.

#### CHRISTMAS CABARET 19th NOVEMBER

ALL THE DETAILS REGARDING OUR GREAT CHRISTMAS CABARET ARE AVAILABLE ON PAGE 12 AND ON PAGE 16 IS THE FORM TO FILL IN TO ENSURE A PLACE AT ONE OF THE TABLES --- BOOK NOW AND DONT MISS OUT.

12th December, Sunday 2.30 p.m.

Opposite to this page is our advertising for the husband and wife organist and piano duo, Dennis and Heidi James from America, to be featured on the Wurlitzer Pipe organ at Marrickville Town Hall. You got a taste of this type of entertainment at the Regent Theatre last month (and wasn't it fantastic) (and how about the crowd 1,800 people!!) book early at our usual spot, P.O. Box 150, Epping, 2121 or at TOSA functions where the tickets will be on sale. NO PHONE ENQUIRIES - PUT IT ON PAPER PLEASE!!!

#### COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee meeting for October will take place on Monday 11th October due to the public holiday. All Committee Members please note....

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

# Dennis and Heidi James



In concert at Marrickville Town Hall,  
Sunday, 12th December 1976 at 2.30 p.m.  
ADMISSION: \$2.50 Adults  
\$1.50 Children & Pensioners.

American Theatre organist Dennis James has held positions at the Lansdowne Theatre, Brooklyn Theatre in Pennsylvania, Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia, Ohio Theatre in Columbus, to name a few — he has played extensively for silent film presentations in theatres and in Pizza Restaurants as well as on classical organs.

An unusual departure from the presentation used at Marrickville Town Hall will be the use during this concert of a concert grand piano played by Dennis's wife Heidi, who teaches piano and theory at the Indiana University. She is an excellent pianist described by reviewers as having 'a fine passionate flair and impressive technical fluency.'

Tickets to this exciting entertainment are available at the door on the day or by sending your cheque and a stamped self addressed envelope to:

P.O. Box 150,  
Epping. 2121.

Yamaha Grand Piano supplied by  
courtesy of Rose Music Pty. Ltd.,



## ROXY PARRAMATTA

As mentioned in the July issue, the 'Roxy' was being converted into three cinemas. The new complex opened on Thursday 26th August. What was once one is now three! The famous courtyard is now fringed with lawns and a new restaurant which replaces the old dry cleaning shop at the entrance. Cinema 3 is virtually the old theatre, except that a large red curtain hides the highly decorated organ chambers and proscenium.

### 21st Birthday Party

Member Ian Hanson celebrated his 21st Birthday with a party held at the home of Ritchie Willis, Mortdale on Saturday, 28th August. Guest organist was Wilbur Kentwell who travelled down from Brisbane for the function. 20 of Ian's Friends presented him with many presents and all enjoyed the playing of Wilbur Kentwell. Colour slides were also shown of Theatres in NSW and interstate, a subject very dear to Ian's heart.

### CAPITOL RESTORATION WORKING PARTY

The photographs opposite were taken at the working party held at Ernie Vale's on 14th August, which, as reported last month was a great success and similar afternoons of tuition and work are planned for the near future. Some of the members present are caught AT WORK opposite and they are, John Atkins, Tom Halloran, Peter Held, Phyllis Wilson, Ron Wilson, Robert Weismantel, John Weismantel, David Bruce, Betty Weismantel, Norm Weismantel, Steve McDonald, Ron Smith, Norm Pratten and Bill Satler.

### NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome to our ranks 2 new members this month and hope that they get a great deal of satisfaction from their membership to the Society, they are:-

Norman Forrester of Strathfield and Mr. Claude Carr of Panania.

Don't forget to make yourself known to other members and we hope you will be all 'a part of the family' very soon.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION 1977

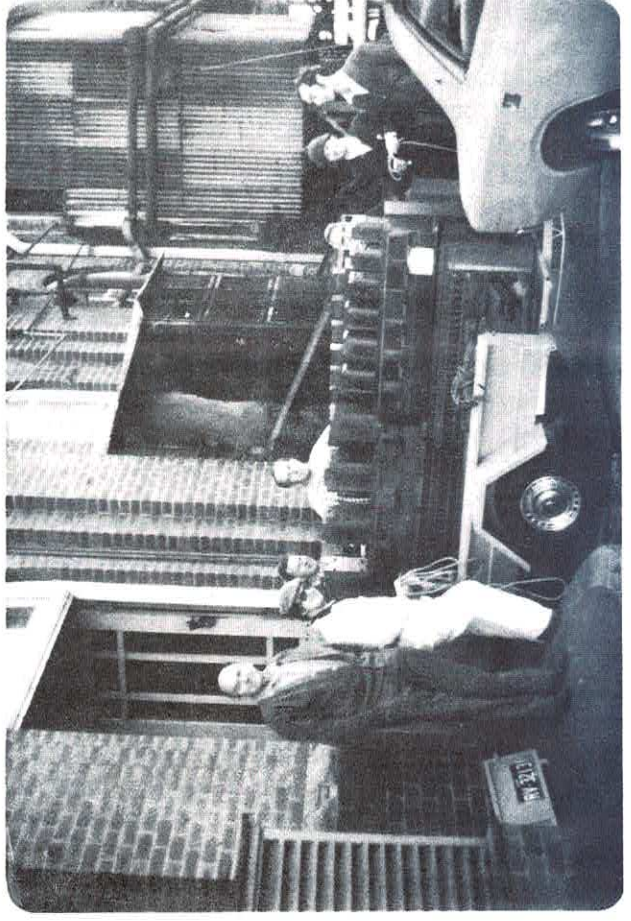
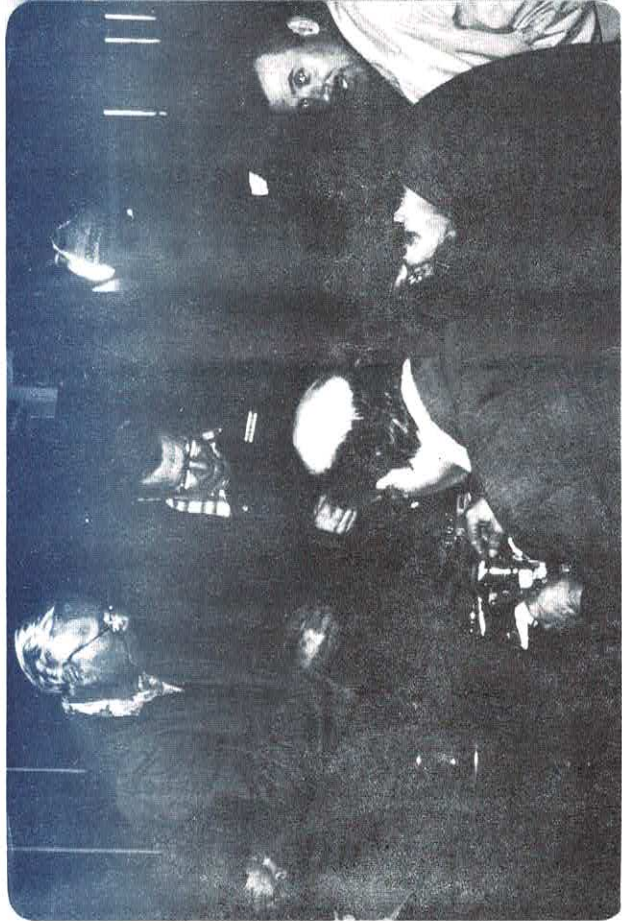
Here is a snippet lifted from the Queensland TIBIA....

"Already the committee of six have held three meetings and a high-interest programme has been arranged with an emphasis on people who love organs and sub-tropical entertainment.

We offer to all organ enthusiasts the opportunity to hear the finest instruments in our city and also the world-famous Gold Coast tourist attraction of Sea World, for a fun-filled afternoon and Convention Dinner in the most delightful setting imaginable.

This programme will be a MUST for all local as well as interstate and intra-state organ enthusiasts."

Sounds like we should be planning an easter at the Gold Coast for 1977 certainly seems like they have something really good cooked up for us.....



In this particular edition of 'Showcases of the Past' we deal with the interesting history of one of the smaller suburban Theatres, the 'Astra' Drummoyne.

December, 1902 was the year the first tram passed along the main thoroughfare of Drummoyne. Population of this area increased rapidly and some seven years later the first local cinema opened under the name of 'Drummoyne Amusement Palace'. This primitive galvanised iron establishment with it's dirt floor, hard seats and leaky roof was replaced in 1925 by a very large and solid theatre called the 'Kismet'.

The 'Kismet' was built in Lyons Road and was operated by a very large and powerful circuit of the Day, Szarka Brothers. Seating capacity was 2,157 persons and a 10 piece orchestra accompanied every silent film and stage act.

During the depression years the Szarka Brothers circuit was split up between Hoyts and Union Theatres, The 'Kismet' came under the banner of Union Theatres. Some years later the name was changed to the 'Drummoyne Odeon'. Being controlled by one of Australia's most powerful circuits the Odeon had access to just about every major distributor's product and to open up an independant business would be somewhat disasterous, but nevertheless four men did just that in 1938.

The four people in question are the Richards Brothers, Les Wilson and Reg Payne. The Richards Brothers were the main driving force behind the 'Astra' Theatre. Some two years previously they had opened their first theatre at Parramatta, also called the 'Astra'. Les Wilson was the brother of the projection firm of Cumming & Wilson and Reg Payne was a major shareholder of the Parramatta 'Astra' and also conducted his own theatre, the 'Regent' at Wentworthville.

After negotiations were finalised on the property the directors had the plans of the theatre drawn up by R. J. Magoffin of Bligh Street, Sydney and the building contractors were Cable & Brown of Undercliff. Work on the site commenced on the 25th of October, 1937, thus to enable the building to be opened by April the following year, speaks of good organisation in the offices of both builder and architect.

The site with which the architect had to contend was a rather awkward one, being 'L' shaped, the treatment adopted resulted in a theatre unique in many ways. The theatre was located in Victoria Road, just around the corner from the opposition. As can be seen in the photograph, the entrance foyer is at right angles to the auditorium itself. Access to the stalls area is gained from the main foyer by descending a few steps and to the circle by walking up a flight of steps, through a small lounge area and then into the theatre.

Total cost on construction was \$38,000. There were 797 seats in the Ultra Modern auditorium.

In accordance with the desire of the directors to provide the very best in entertainment at the 'Astra' a theatre pipe organ was installed. Much publicity centred around the organ, as it had been advertised as a large 3 manual 'Wurlitzer' however as it turned out the cost of having one brought out was far in excess fo the budget. Still not detered the directors then decided to have one made locally. Mr. Bert Ferrie of the organ retailing firm of G.H. Martin and co. was commissioned to build the pipe organ for the 'Astra' Theatre.

Air conditioning was advertised also, but this proved to be too expensive and in its place were installed gas heaters and a large ventilating fan under the stage. Meanwhile in the projection room Mr. Les Wilson, David Craven and his son brought everything to completion. There were 2 Cummings & Wilson projectors installed and sound equipment by R.C.A.

THE ASTRA IS SCIENTIFICALLY HEATED FOR YOUR COMPLETE COMFORT.

Special Matinee every Wednesday at 1.30 p.m.

The screen's loveliest lady  
in the screen's greatest comedy!



Captivating  
**Irene Dunne**  
in  
**"Theodora Goes Wild"**

With Melvyn Douglas and a  
five star cast.

**SAT. ★ FOR ONE WEEK**

Associate Feature —

**HUMPHREY BOGART**

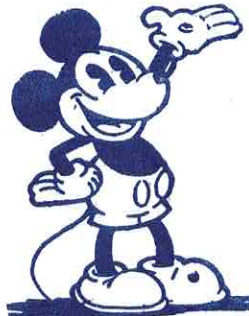
in

**"SWING YOUR LADY"**

Plus — Mickey's Polo Team



Phone Drum. 9 for Reserves.



**MICKEY MOUSE**

**MICKEY SAYS:**

Hey! Fellars! Here I  
am. Back again in  
another three cartoons.

SAT. MATINEE 1.30.

Mickey's Polo Team  
Mickey's Band  
Concert

Mickey's Garden  
All of these, in addition to  
IRENE DUNNE in

**"THEODORA  
GOES WILD"**

and Humphrey Bogart in  
**"SWING YOUR  
LADY"**

Don't forget to come along early and see the "Astra" Electric Monoplane to be won by some lucky BOY or GIRL who attends the Matinees to see "The Mysterious Pilot"—commencing Saturday, July 9, at 1.30 p.m.

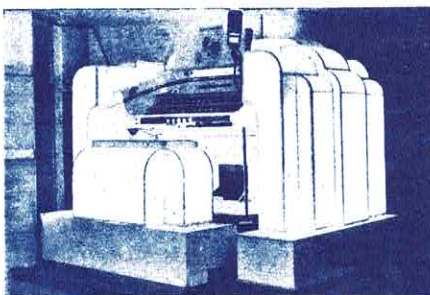
NOTE.—NEW STARTING TIME, NIGHTLY AT 7.30, WITH MICKEY MOUSE, CARTOONS, ETC., ALL THE WEEK

**PENN HUGHES**

BRILLIANT SINGING ORGANIST AT THE CONSOLE OF THE MIGHTY ASTRA ORGAN AT ALL SESSIONS, SINGING YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS, AND PLAYING YOUR FAVOURITE TUNES. COME EARLY SATURDAY AND JOIN IN THE COMMUNITY SINGING.

*Another Example of Beauty and Distinction  
In Ornamental Glass*

★  
Installed three months ago, this lovely glass console at the Astra Theatre, Drummoyne, compels the admiration of thousands weekly.



Organ Console of the Astra Theatre, Drummoyne.

★  
The delicate opal glass of a Console built by Gissing, set off with the aid of multi-coloured light, will add to the charm of any theatre.

★  
Built and installed by

**F. W. GISSING, Pty. Ltd.** . . . . . **Glass Merchants**

197 Wilson Street, Newtown, Sydney. Telephones L2855-6-7

The official opening was held on Friday, 8th April, 1938, the ceremony being conducted by Alderman Henley, Mayor of Drummoyne, in the presence of a crowded house and amid much enthusiasm on the part of the local residents. Humphrey Bogart in 'Tall Timbers' was the first opening attraction, supported by United Artists 'Dead End'.

Following this outstanding double feature came Barbara Stanwyck and John Boles in 'Stella Dallas', 'Perfect Specimen', 'The Aweful Truth' with Irene Dunne and Cary Grant, and so on.

Programmes changed every Saturday with an occasional change on Wednesday. Originally the 'Astra' had access to only three film services, United Artists, Warner Bros. and Columbia.

Musical interludes were originally handled by Mr. Penn Hughes who had been engaged at the 'Astra' Parramatta for some months previously. The 'Astra' Concert Organ (as it was officially known) was a 3 manual instrument with 8 ranks of pipes installed in 2 chambers high up on both sides of the proscenium.

Mr. Norm Craven who worked at the theatre in it's early stages recalls that the 'Astra' organ console became very hot, especially the seat. The console was built by F.W. Gissing and could change into three different colours. Of the three manuals only the top 2 were ever wired up and only five of the eight ranks were ever connected and there were never any percussions. Mr. Craven also informs us that most organists usually obtained a good effect from the tibia rank, but that was about all.

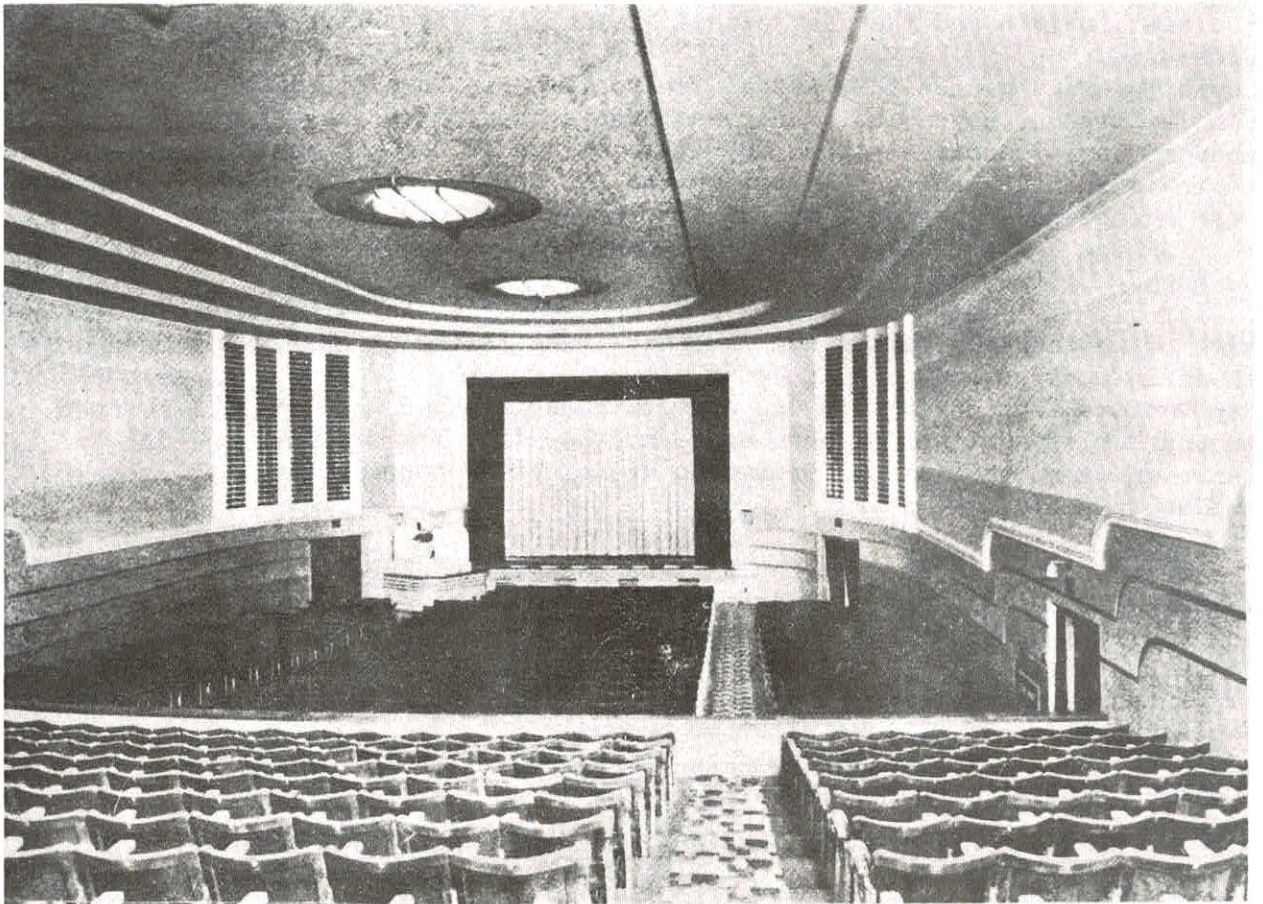
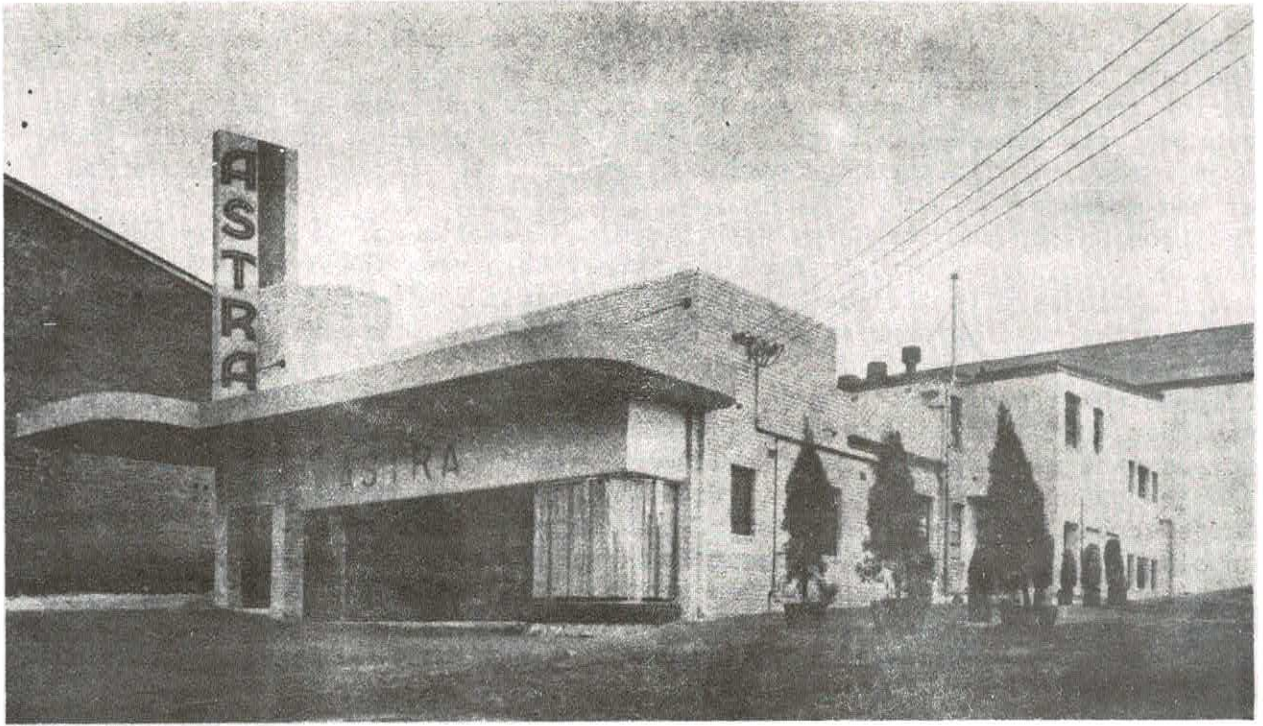
In January, 1939 Penn Hughes left the 'Astra' and took up a new engagement at the 'Regent' Adelaide. Direct from a highly successful season on the 3/15 Wurlitzer in Hoyts Regent Theatre Adelaide came brilliant entertaining organist, Aubrey Whelan. For nearly 1 year Aubrey Whelan entertained from the organ.

On Saturday, April 8th 1939 the 'Astra' celebrated it's 1st Birthday and for the occasion the directors decided to celebrate with a 7 part programme on stage and screen. For the Stage Presentation Mr. Danny Malone celebrated Irish Tenor, who had just completed a highly successful season at the 'Prince Edward' was engaged. The second act was 'The Little Big Four' who were comedy harmonists with their act entitled 'Songs in Harmony' then came world famous Polish Vocalist and composer Francois Stempinski, Act 4 introduced comedienne Shirley Dawson and Act 5 was the Lorraine Ballet. As well as this dynamic line-up came Aubrey Whelan at the Astra's Concert Organ and the main feature 'Call of the Wild' with Clark Gable, Loretta Young and Reginald Owen.

For nearly a decade the 'Astra' celebrated its birthday in similar fashion. Other personalities who were associated with the 'Astra' included 'Lucifo' (The wonder Juggler), Reckless Reggie and Cecil Scott (Famous Radio personalities of the day) 'The Musical Macs, Walton & Dorraine (Sensational Balancing Act) Fay Newton (Instrumental Mimic) Hebba Sorenson (Female Baritone) and many others. The 1940's opened with the film 'The Man in the Iron Mask' and the return of Penn Hughes at the console. A number of other organists appeared which included the top organists of Western Suburbs Cinemas, Ray Chaffer and a season by Charles Tuckwell. Because of the unpopular nature of the organ long periods of silence and short appearances were the order, but nevertheless it was still a popular drawcard for accompanying the community sing-song.

In 1948 the Richards Bros. sold the 'Astra' to Snider & Dean, who were a well known theatre circuit operating mainly in the country areas of NSW but had interests in a number of Sydney suburban shows which included all three Gladesville Theatres, the 'Ascot' and 'Marina' at Mascot. Balgowlah Theatre,





'Century' and 'New Manly' at Manly. At one time Snider and Dean operated the 'Mayfair' Castlereagh Street and the 'Civic' Haymarket. During the Snider & Dean ownership no organists were engaged and in 1949 the hybrid instrument was removed. The fate of this organ is not actually known except that the Tibia rank, originally of Wurlitzer make is in circulation at the moment.

Mr. Leon Snider was not happy with financial results of the circuit so it was decided to dispense with four of the Sydney Theatres, these were 'Drummoyne Astra', Gladesville 'Palace', Manly 'New Manly' and 'Century', the latter was sold to the then enterprising MGM circuit while the other three were purchased by Hoyts Theatres in 1951.

After a short period of closure the 'Astra' re-opened in mid 1951. The name was changed to 'Hoyts Drummoyne Theatre'. Projection equipment was updated, foyers were re-carpeted, re-mode-led and a new milk bar was installed. Hoyts also re painted the auditorium. With Cinemascope arriving in 1954 a new large screen was placed in front of the old proscenium coupled together with an elaborate 4 track stereo, magnetic re-producing system. The first cinemascope feature shown was 'Beneath the 12 mile Reef'. The 'Astra' enjoyed very good houses even after television was first introudced. In 1961 the 'Astra' screening policy was cut back to 3 nights a week with a matinee on Saturdays.

Despite the fact that the 'Astra' was earning it's keep it was still decided to close the house and instead continue to operate the 'Palace' at Gladesville a much larger and older theatre nearby.

With the 'Astra' closing in 1963, it was the end of one of the most interesting suburban theatres in Sydney. Former patrons decided not to make the trip to Gladesville and with the end result forcing the closure of the Gladesville 'Palace' in 1966 and the last cinema in the area where five theatres once prospered.

Hoyts Theatres handed the 'Astra' theatre over in complete condition to the Police Citizens Boys Club. What was once a theatre became a gymnasium come indoor tennis court! Around 1967 it became under the ownership of a local business identity and was leased to the RSL club before their new premises were opened down the road, on the site of Drummoyne's first theatre. During this period a floor was placed from the Bio-box to about a third the way down the theatre.

Of late it has been operating as a second hand flea market, however at the time of writing the tables had reversed. The 'Astra' property has been sold to an interested body and is being restored to it's former status as a cinema. Renovations are costing \$50,000 and it is anticipated that it will re-open around Christmas time 38 years and 8 months after its original opening and there we leave the 'Astra' Drummoyne's exclusive, popular, Intimate theatre and showplace of the stars.

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The next article in this series will be the 'CIVIC' THEATRE, AUBURN. Any member who can help out with additional Photographs and/or information will be greatly appreciated by the authors and readers alike. This also applies to future articles.

If you do have something, lodge it with the Editor of this magazine. All photographs loaned will be returned promptly.

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DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED .....BOOK EARLY FOR

DENNIS & HEIDI JAMES, MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL, 12th December, 76

FOR DETAILS ....SEE PAGE THREE THIS ISSUE

## THE 'ORGAN GRINDER'S' PIPE ORGAN

During the 1976 Convention Registration night one of the films featured was concerning the 'Organ Grinder' Pizza Restaurant at which Jonas features regularly. We have now a very excellent description of the organ which is such an outstanding feature of the restaurant and which was covered exceptionally well visually during the film. This description was written by the owner of the organ who is also a part owner of the 'Organ Grinder' Restaurant, Mr. Dennis Hedberg.

The pipe organ in the Organ Grinder is the realization of a dream of Dennis Hedberg, a former engineer with the Rodgers Organ Company and one of the owners of the Organ Grinder, to build one of the largest and finest examples of a great Theatre Pipe Organ.

The tonal design parameters for the organ are based on the two favorite instruments of Mr. Hedberg, the San Francisco Fox 4 manual, 36 rank Wurlitzer and George Wright's 3 manual, 30 rank Wurlitzer prior to its destruction by fire. The long process of obtaining the necessary components from which to build this organ began 14 years ago. The first items purchased were the 32' Diaphones from the now demolished Liberty Theatre, Portland. The last and most important component was the 3 manual 13 rank Wurlitzer originally installed in Portland's Oreintal Theatre. This instrument had been restored and maintained by Mr. Hedberg as a labor of love for many years. It is the Oriental instrument that serves as the nucleus for the Organ Grinder's pipe organ. With the exception of the blower and relay, the entire Oriental organ is in service at the Organ Grinder.

The organ is installed in 3 rooms, or chambers as they are rightly called, according to musical use. The angled walls and ceilings make the chambers act accoustically like horns to project the sound into the dining area with much clarity.

The generous use of glass in the chamber design affords maximum visual impact. Most of the glass is ordinary plate glass but the panes along the promenade are of a special 3 laminate design engineered for safety and greater sound isolation. As much of the glass shows off the organ it also makes maintaining a constant temperature (necessary for tuning stability) quite difficult. 20 tons of refrigeration are employed to keep the chambers and blower room from over heating.

The basic energy source of a pipe organ is wind. For the Organ Grinder instrument wind is generated by a 3 stage turbine blower powered by 60 hp electric motor. The rotors spin at 1,750 rpm and develop over 4,000 cubic feet per minute at static pressures of 25 and 48 inches of water displacement.

Wind from the blower is passed through static regulators (located in the blower room) and then into the chambers via underground air lines to the chest regulators. The chest regulators are those devices which seem to bounce continually. Actually, the regulators are trying to uphold a constant wind pressure at all times because the pipes will change pitch, loudness, and timbre if the pressure varies, but other devices called tremulants periodically release bursts of wind. Due to the physical characteristics of the system, the regulators over compensate for the tremulant's escaping air resulting in the observed bouncing action of the regulators and the final result of a rhythmical variance in the wind supply to the pipes producing the audible tremolo and vibrato in the speech of the pipes. The quality of the theatre organ's tremulants is of utmost importance to the final sound. The Organ Grinder pipe organ has 12 tremulants.

Traditionally, wind would be carried from the regulators to the pipe chests in metal air ducts. In this installation, we have taken the novel approach of using PVC plastic pipe and fittings. The white air lines running throughout the organ have several advantages over metal air lines. Some are; ease of assembly, low internal friction, and high rigidity.

The pipe chests are the large, wooden boxes upon which the pipes are situated and contain valves which allow air to pass into the pipes. For every pipe there are two leather pneumatic bellows and one electromagnet and miscellaneous valves. The electromagnets initiate the chest action on command from the console and relays while the pneumatic components supply the necessary force required to open and close valves. Thus, this organ is said to have an electro-pneumatic action.

The electrical wiring in a highly unified theatre organ is staggering. Every circuit is repeated for each of the 61 keys on each manual or keyboard! Knowing the finished instrument would be nearly four times larger than the Oriental instrument, it became apparent the Wurlitzer electro-pneumatic relays could not be made to perform satisfactorily. A unique alternative was therefore decided upon.

With the generous help and co-operation from friends at the Rodgers Organ Co. a totally solid state electronic relay and power supply was built. This system uses a complex diode matrix to decide which pipe is to be played when a given key and a given stop are depressed. The complete electronic system utilizes about 26,000 diodes, 3,000 discrete transistors, thousands of other tiny components, and the equivalent of 33,000 discrete transistors in 4 integrated circuits.

Controlling the entire instrument is the console. Since the Organ Grinder pipe organ is about 4 times larger than the original Oriental instrument, it was necessary to completely re-layout the console in order to properly control the added ranks and percussions. The new console design is very carefully worked out because it is obviously not possible to enlarge all features of the console by a factor of 4 as is the remainder of the organ. There are about 70 additional stops and 30 additional controls now on the console. The pneumatic combination action system for each of the new stops was built to match existing units. The console now has 192 stops plus dozens of special controls.

All other parts of the pipe organ lead up to the successful performance of the premier components...the pipes. Every set of pipes in the Organ Grinder pipe organ is hand picked for physical quality and most important, tone. One voice in the organ does not have pipes. It is electronic.

The 32' Contra Bourdon is a soft, mellow voice and is one which can be produced with sophisticated electronics so convincingly that it cannot be distinguished from pipes. This voice playing in harmony with the 33 other true pipe ranks and the various percussions makes up the tonal resources of the Organ Grinder's pipe organ.

When a pipe or percussion plays it speaks at its maximum loudness. Three of the four large, black pedals which the organist usually depresses with his right foot open and close the shutters at the top of each chamber allowing more or less sound to be released into the dining area. The centre chamber is where the loudest pipes are located, the sound level is beyond the threshold of pain.

The work of tuning, voicing, regulating, and balancing is still in process and will continue for many months in the quest of achieving the finest theatre pipe organ sound in the country.

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SECURE YOUR BOOKING NOW

12th DECEMBER, 1976 - 2.30 p.m.

DENNIS AND HEIDI JAMES IN CONCERT  
AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

FOR DETAILS OF TICKET SALES SEE PAGES 2 & 3 AND MAKE SURE OF YOUR SEAT TO-DAY