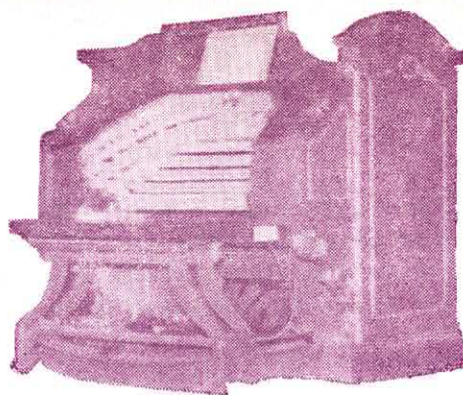


T.O.S.A. NEWS

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PATRON - REGINALD DIXON MBE.

EDITOR - FRANK ELLIS

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TOSA NEWS IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE DIVISIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, QUEENSLAND, STH. AUSTRALIA & WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

AUGUST - 1968
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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW SOUTH WALES IN AUGUST.

WEDNESDAY 7th AUGUST AT 8pm. Technical Lecture Presented By Electronic Organ Sub. Committee. The second lecture in the series will take place at R.H. Elvy's Showrooms, Clarence Street Sydney, on the above date. The lecture will be given by member George Hughes, and is titled, "A Demonstration Of The Differences Between Frequency Divider Organs And Independent Tone Generator Organs"

As the accomodation for this lecture is limited, those planning to go along are asked to telephone Vice-President Des Russell at 42-4729 and ensure that a seat is kept for them. Admission is free - just phone Des and make sure your name is included on the list of those to be accomodated. Due to the limited accomodation, this function is for members only. A fascinating night of electronic organ facts is assured for all.

SATURDAY 24th AUGUST AT 8pm.

ERIC SMITH "IN CONCERT".

There will be a concert by famous musician and leading Hammond organ teacher, ERIC SMITH at the Teachers Federation Hall Sussex Street Sydney (near Bathurst Street corner). This Concert, in the lovely Auditorium, is open to the public, and will be widely advertised. Invitations have been extended to the several Hammond Organ Chapters in NSW, to attend this prestige event. Tickets can be obtained NOW from the Secretary by writing to P.O. Box 108 Wentworthville, 2145, sending a stamped self addressed envelope for your reply. Tickets will also be on sale at the doors at \$2 each. Our members will be given a 50% reduction in the price (i.e. \$1 per ticket) by writing for their tickets in advance, or, alternatively, by producing their current membership cards at the doors. The 50% discount applies to members and their families only. Friends of members and the general public will pay \$2 each. The Concert is being held in aid of the P.E. Organ Fund, and ERIC SMITH is very generously donating his fee to the fund. The Society is most grateful to him for this wonderful gesture. KEEP THIS DATE FREE - ERIC SMITH IN CONCERT. TEACHER'S FEDERATION AUDITORIUM ON SATURDAY 24th AUGUST.....SEND NOW FOR YOUR TICKETS.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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Famous English theatre organist VIC HAMMETT has arrived in Australia for a season at the Victorian Division's WurliTzer in the Dendy Theatre Brighton, Melbourne. MR HAMMETT has indicated that he would like to give a Concert for the members of the NSW Division of TOSA. A very generous member of the NSW Division, who wishes to remain anonymous, has paid the travelling expences for MR HAMMETT to fly up from Melbourne to present the Concert for our members.

At the time of going to press, the actual date of the concert is not known, but a special notice will be posted out to all our members should this date come up before the next month's TOSA News comes out. The concert will feature MR HAMMETT at the console of a WurliTzer theatre pipe organ, and possibly, ALSO at an electronic organ. MR HAMMETT has given concerts in American theatres during the last month, and is ONE OF THE ONLY FOUR organists ever to have been given a STANDING OVATION at the famous Wiltern Theatre. This will be a most exciting event - ENGLAND'S VIC HAMMETT IN CONCERT FOR TOSA.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded that the next meeting is on Monday 5th August at 7.15pm. The September meeting will be on Monday 2nd September at 7.15pm.

COMING EVENTS.

In September, it is planned to hold a Wurlitzer Pipe Organ Concert, played by a leading theatre organist. The third lecture in the series of Technical lectures being presented by the Electronic organ Sub. Committee, will also be presented. Details of both of these functions will be given in the next issue of TOSA News.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.

A very happy and enjoyable evening was spent by about forty of our members at the residence of members George & Joyce Walker on Saturday 6th July on the occasion of their organ party in aid of of P.E. Organ Fund. A warm welcome awaited all who attended the function given by these very popular and friendly folk. First to appear at the console of the Kinsman organ was our hostess, Joyce Walker, who was followed by David Parsons, Mrs Arthur Spring, Ernie Erwin, Col Tringham, Peter Held, Heather Moen, and Len Badman in that order. The surprise of the evening was the appearance of Irish theatre organist PETER HELD who was attending his first organ party. Following his recent concert for the Society on the Clancy residence Wurlitzer organ, he was a very popular figure, and quickly demonstrated that he was as brilliant on the electronic instrument as he is on the pipe organ. His really fast work at the console literally had his listeners gasping at his technique, and he was given a warm reception. A most appetizing supper was served by Joyce and her daughters, who were well organised, so much so, in fact, that the food seemed to appear by magic. The raffle for an organ record which had been donated by our Host raised a further \$4.60 for the fund. The Society sincerely thanks the Walkers for another very pleasant and successful fund-raising evening.

The Technical lecture evening at our member Arthur Spring's residence on the 13th July was voted a great success, those present, spending an interesting evening that went on into the wee small hours of Sunday morning. A full report on this event will be found on a later page.

As this issue of TOSA News goes to press before the IAN DAVIES concert at the Bondi RSL Club will take place, a full report will be given in the next issue. The same situation also applies to the organ party at the home of our members Mr & Mrs Alf Luckey which is being held five days after IAN's concert.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

Another long list of new members is hereby given, and the Society sincerely extends a warm welcome to you all. We look forward to meeting you personally at the first meeting you attend. Do, please, make yourselves known to a member of the Committee, so that you may be introduced to your fellow members and made to feel welcome. Committee members can be identified by the badge they wear.

New members to the NSW Division are:- Maurice M. Dickens, Ronald Smith, Mr & Mrs G.T. Smith, Mrs Norma Kennedy-Dwyer, Mr A.J. Brangwin, Mrs M & Miss H. Booth all from Sydney, and from America we extend a special welcome to BILLY NALLE and Mr Stanley Garniss.

New members to the Queensland Division are:- Mr & Mrs T.F. Ellis, Mr N. McGregor, Mrs G. Robson, Mr J. Spall, Mr A.G. Midgeley.

New members to the New Western Australian Division are:- Miss Janice Moy, Mr F. Douglas Miller, Mr & Mrs Peter Fry, Mrs L. Cook, Mr & Mrs M.E. Baxall, Mr J.L. Thompson, Mr Ivan Bruce McLean.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ORGAN FUND.

The Society is delighted to acknowledge the following donations to the above fund, and to sincerely thank all those responsible for the assistance. The amount still owing on our own Wurlitzer Theatre Organ is rapidly coming down, and in the very near future, we shall be able to say that it is now paid for. Sincere thanks to the following members. John & Mrs Clancy \$50 - the proceeds of the recital at their home - Mr Ledwon Sen. USA, \$5 - the proceeds of a record sale which was donated by Mr Ledwon. Proceeds of organ party at the home of George and Joyce Walker - \$27 plus \$4.60 the proceeds of a record raffled at the party.

WORKING PARTY AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

The next working party on the PE organ will be on Saturday 10th August not Sat. 3rd as had been announced.

BIG TIME USA ORGANIST
JOINS T.O.S.A.

One of the great names of the USA theatre organ scene, BILLY NALLE has joined us this month, and to him, we extend a special welcome. BILLY NALLE has given concerts throughout America, and is acclaimed as one of the country's top console artists. TOSA hopes that we may, some day, welcome him here "in concert".

RECORD REVIEWS.

This month's release for members of Concert Recording's "Organ Of The Month" Club is a good one, and is recommended to you as an interesting addition to your record library.

<u>TITLE OF RECORD</u>	"THE MIGHTY MORTON	NUMBER OF RECORD IS	CR-0024
<u>ORGANIST</u>	ROGER GARRETT		
<u>THE ORGAN</u>	4/22 ROBERT MORTON INSTALLED IN LOEW'S THEATRE COLUMBUS USA		
<u>THE PROGRAMME</u>	Westward Ho - South Pacific Medley - On The Trail - Donkey Serenade - Valencia - Jalousie - Medley of Popular Hits No 1 - Marcheslave - Medley of Popular Hits No 2.		

The largest theatre organ in the State of Ohio, is the four manual Robert Morton of 22 ranks, installed in Loew's Theatre Columbus. Played by ROGER GARRETT for this release by Concert Recording, the playing is uniformly good and leaves nothing to be desired. MR GARRETT has chosen a sure-fire programme of popular theatre organ melodies, which, during his ten years residency at this theatre, he must have featured many times. He presents them with an accomplished ease, born of familiarity. The Robert Morton organ has a sound which is unquestionably its own - even those not expert at recognizing an organ by sound alone, would be able to pick that this was definitely not a product of the WurliTzer factory.

For this recording, the microphones were suspended from the front of the balcony, so the sound comes out much as one would hear it in the theatre. Generally speaking, fairly full registrations were used, the organist seemingly having done his utmost to let us hear the instrument as it would be heard in a "live" performance, therefore one does not hear as many solo voices as perhaps some individuals would like to hear. Highlights of the record are "Jalousie" and the Traditional Medley of Popular Hits No 1. This latter one, has all the nostalgic appeal of organ interludes during Intermission times, and is most enjoyable as each song included in the Medley brings back its own particular memories of Interval times in our own Australian Theatres, as our own organists played these songs.

The Robert Morton organ has a devoted following in the USA, and is a fast, responsive instrument with a sound that is new, perhaps, to most Australian ears, due to the lack of this make of organ in Australia. The instrument, maintained by enthusiastic A.T.O.E. members, is obviously very well cared for. To sum up - a popular programme, nicely played by an experienced theatre organist - "Morton a la GARRETT".

As there is no Alternate release this month, your Editor suggests that this may be an opportune moment to mention Concert Recording's release of English theatre organist VIC HAMMETT which came out a little over a year ago. VIC HAMMETT arrived in Australia a few days ago for a season at the Dendy Cinema WurliTzer organ so those members of the "Organ Of The Month" Club who may have joined recently, can now catch up and have their own disc of this brilliant artist at the WurliTzer of the Buckingham Town Hall, instead of the usual Alternate disc. For the information of new members of TOSA, you may join Concert Recording's "Organ Of The Month" Club also. There is no joining fee, and you are under no compulsion to take each month's records unless you wish. The records will be posted out to country and interstate members. They are in full Stereo sound, featuring beautiful color covers of the organ and organist and are priced at \$4.95 only to members. If these records were available in the shops they would sell at around \$5.75.....so distance is no barrier to joining the club, members of the new Western Australian Division, or South Australia, Queensland or Victoria may all join by contacting our Secretary John Clancy.

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS.

The Society was shocked to learn that our member LANCE WELLS had suffered a heart attack on Sunday 7th July. We are very pleased to be able to inform our members that it is not as serious as at first thought however. LANCE is in Ward B.1. of the Royal North Shore Hospital at the time of writing this item, however, it is suggested that those who plan on visiting LANCE should first telephone Mrs Wells at home, to find out if he is still in hospital or not. He could be discharged by the time this issue comes off the press. GET WELL SOON LANCE AND BEST OF LUCK FROM TOSA NEWS. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU REAL SOON.

One of our recent new members, Ashley King celebrated his 21st birthday in true theatre organ style. Being possessed of a deep love of the sounds of the WurliTzer Pipe organ, he felt that no finer sound could be found to ensure the success of his coming of age party. He asked our Secretary John Clancy, if he could help him in any way. John said he would, then PETER HEID agreed to play and the whole thing was quickly and smoothly arranged. The result, a unique and memorable 21st birthday party. TOSA News Editor adds his congratulations Ashley, on his novel idea, as well as for the future.

AUGUST PROFILE THE WILBUR KENTWELL STORY

This month's PROFILE was jointly compiled from an interview carried out by Gordon H. Berry, Vice-President of TOSA's Queensland Division and TOSA News Editor's personal knowledge of WILBUR KENTWELL which extends over 25 years. Sincere thanks are extended to Gordon Berry for his ever ready help to TOSA News.

The life story of WILBUR KENTWELL is a fascinating one indeed, revealing as it does, that enterprise and hard work are the necessary ingredients if one is to climb the ladder of success. WILBUR KENTWELL has climbed that ladder to the top, and stayed there over many years. He was born at Castle Hill, an outer suburb of Sydney, about six miles or so from Parramatta. He started learning the organ at the age of eight years, and was playing the pipe organ for services in a Castle Hill church at the age of twelve years. Two years later, he heard LESLIE V. HARVEY play the WurliTzer organ of Sydney's Prince Edward Theatre Beautiful, and he lost no time in commencing to study the complex techniques of cinema organ playing.

It was not too long before he attained the standard necessary, and he was featured in duet work with well known DES TANNER at the Roxy Theatre Parramatta, where a three manual Christie theatre organ was installed. In 1937, he was appointed pianist-accompanist to Radio 2KA at Katoomba, in the heart of the famous Blue Mountains tourist mecca. In 1938, he was selected to be organist at the Savoy Theatre New Lambton, Newcastle, and signed a contract for six months with a further six month option. Such was his popularity in the city of Newcastle, that his contract was renewed several times, and he remained in residence for several years.

The Savoy Theatre, designed along ultra modern lines, was strikingly lit by tube lighting recessed into troughs in the ceiling and was a lovely theatre, which retained its intimate atmosphere, despite its largish size. The organ was a Hammond electronic one, equipped with an elaborate glass console, indirectly lit, and with full color changing effects. In addition, a full set of real chimes was installed on the right hand side of the proscenium about half way up, and was in full view of the audience, who could see them operate. The chimes were played from a set of white buttons located just below the music stand of the organ, and were a most effective asset as electronic organs at that time, did not possess the electronic chimes now standard on almost every make of electronic organ.

Newcastle citizens were extremely organ minded and were very appreciative of the "organ spectaculars" which WILBUR presented from time to time. In one such "spectacular", a recording of Sir Malcolm Sargent conducting the "William Tell Overture" was played through the theatre's sound system as WILBUR accompanied the orchestra on the organ. On stage, a forest setting with large trees made a most effective backdrop to the music, and in the finale, artificial rain came pouring down whilst lightning flashed during the storm sequence. This presentation so pleased the patrons, that it ran for several weeks.

WILBUR also featured at the theatre's grand piano for specialty presentations. This was located on a dais close to the organ console. Four or five mornings each week, WILBUR broadcast "live" from the theatre's organ at 8.15 am playing for fifteen minutes, and he also broadcast again from the theatre for a further fifteen minutes on the same number of evenings. This latter broadcast took place during the 6pm to 7pm time slot and usually found WILBUR playing the grand piano, although the organ was used on some occasions. This meant that WILBUR was "on air" ten times each week without taking into consideration the special feature broadcasts which he did from time to time.

During the War, WILBUR saw Military service and rose to be a Sargeant. He was connected with the production of visual training films screened to servicemen. In 1945, he returned to civilian life again, and settled in Sydney, where Radio 2CH signed him as staff organist and he played Hammond organ for the famous "Humphrey Bishop" shows, as well as appearing in numerous other productions. He had his own weekly thirty minute programme, sponsored by the Farren Price Watch Salon, and aptly titled, "Music Timed For A Lifetime" which ran for two or three years.

As well as his radio work WILBUR became resident organist at the Vogue Theatre at Double Bay, once again at the console of a Hammond organ which was located in a recessed organ loft high on the left side of the proscenium. WILBUR has many recollections of climbing the steep steps to the organ's lofty position from the darkened backstage. During this same period, he became organist and speciality pianist at the Trocadero Ballroom in Sydney. TOSA News Editor, Frank Ellis remembers a number of occasions when he drove WILBUR in his car from the Vogue Theatre to the Trocadero Ballroom, then back to the

(continued on page 9)



HEATHER MOEN also featured at her father's organ.



Soprano, PAULINE GATENHOFF, at the Clancy residence.



DAVID PARSONS exploited the splendid Conn installation at St. John's Church, Penshurst. (May)



Cathedral organist, MICHAEL HEMENS (left) discusses programme in informal mood with member STEWART McKERN at St. Andrew's Sydney. (April)



JACK MALMESTEN at the Thomas evening, poses with Celeste Clancy. (April)



TOSA members enjoy tea during breaking in PETER HELD recital. (June)



BILL SCHUMACHER, LANCE WELLS & DAVID PARSONS - 3 of the recitalists at the 4-star "jam session", Capitol Theatre (May). CLIFF BINGHAM also starred, but unfortunately escaped the photographer.



PETER HELD, genial recitalist at the Clancy Wurlitzer. (June)



REUBERT HAYES & DON KINGSTON at Conn evening. (March)



LEN BADMAN demonstrates OSCAR MOEN's kit-built "Schober" Recital organ. (May)

"ORGANISTS AT HOME"



Broken Hill artist PRO HART (it's hot in Summer) has installed a C3 Hammond in his gallery.



Mr. and Mrs. DAVID PITTS of Merewether with their Hammond spinet.

AUGUST PROFILE THE WILBUR KENTWELL STORY

Vogue Theatre, and finally back to the Trocadero Ballroom again. This was necessary so that he could do his solo presentation at the theatre around 8.10pm, dash to the Ballroom to play for dancing during the orchestra's fifteen minute break, return to the theatre to play the intermission music, and be back at the Ballroom in time for the orchestra's next break around 9.45 or 10pm.

In 1949 WILBUR was appointed Musical Director to Macquarie Broadcasting Service of 2GB and associated network stations. He was closely associated with the great Jack Davey Shows, which were probably the most listened to programmes ever broadcast on Australian Radio. He was a personal friend of Jack's, and when the Davey shows originated from cities other than Sydney, which was quite often, WILBUR was there on hand at the keyboard to provide the musical part of each show. During the time he was Musical Director at Radio 2GB, he was associated with, and played for, many of the "big" stars who came to Australia including such names as Ann Ziegler & Webster Booth, George Formby, Wee Georgie Wood, Allan Jones, Joe E. Brown, Nat King Cole, Johnny Ray, Bob Hope, Donald Peers and many others. He also played for many famous Australian stars such as Gladys Moncrief, John Fullard and Stella Wilson.

In August 1959, the opening of QTQ Channel 9 Brisbane, coincided with the Royal National Show Week, and Queensland citizens got their first glimpse of the wonders of television. WILBUR was appointed Director of Music at the Channel, and under his capable guidance, many noteworthy productions came to light. It has been said, that he was one of the few who did not get a blast from newspaper critics during those early days of T.V. in Queensland. In 1967 WILBUR was invited to become Musical Director at TVQ Channel 0, and is currently in residence there. He presents a regular show entitled, "Musically Yours" in which he plays request numbers for viewers and also features a guest artist. For his Channel 0 appearances, he is seen at the console of his own Conn 640 electronic theatre organ. He also plays for five pre-school shows called "The Wonder Shop" and a one hour talent seeking show called "New Faces". He is also featured in a 2½ hour Children's show televised "live" every Saturday morning. He also appears nightly at the Regal Motel in Brisbane, thus rounding off his busy day.

WILBUR KENTWELL was the first Australian organist to make a Long Play Microgroove record in 1950, and he was also the first organist to make a multiple track recording in Australia. On that occasion he was heard playing organ, piano and celeste simultaneously. It is also claimed, that he was the first Australian organist to be recorded in the Stereo process. Together with the late Flo Paton, one of Sydney's best loved and most popular pianists in the 1940's, he was responsible for many wonderful organ and piano duets on radio and on 78 RPM records. He was the first to use the Bourne Electronic organ on an L.P. record. This album, entitled, "Strolling Down Broadway", was an outstanding success. The organ was manufactured by a Newcastle firm trading as Bourne Organs Newcastle, and your Editor had the pleasure of accompanying WILBUR to Newcastle one weekend sometime in 1955, when he went to try out the Bourne organ and decide whether it was to be used for the "Strolling Down Broadway" recording. A tape recording made during that memorable weekend is still in my possession and is a valued souvenir indeed.

WILBUR is a most active and popular member of the Queensland Division of TOSA, giving frequent recitals for them, always to a capacity crowd. Possibly the most recorded organist in Australia, he is a polished performer on both organ and piano, with a flair for producing musical arrangements which please and delight his many fans. He is friendly, natural, and easy to get along with. This then is WILBUR KENTWELL - our PROFILE FOR AUGUST.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS. (Reported by President Bob Smith)

The June meeting of the Queensland Division, was held on Friday 28th at the residence of President Bob and Mrs Smith. There was a very large attendance of members and their friends, and a delegation from the newly formed Gold Coast Chapter of TOSA were specially welcomed. As announced, there were two surprises in store, firstly an inspection of the Remand Section of Brisbane Prison, reputed to rank among the best in the world, according to overseas visitors. The modern design of Prison building, gave those privileged to view it, a glimpse of what is being done for inmates in this State.

After the inspection, the visitors returned to the residence, where the second surprise was a Leslie Tone Cabinet attached to the Conn Serenade. The offer of the Leslie was made by Arthur Roberts, Organ Manager for Paling's, who kindly loaned it for the occasion. The result of this demonstration ????? as you can guess, the Smiths bought it and it is now permanently attached to the organ.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS (cont. from Page 9)

As mentioned last month, Whitehouse Bros., "The Organ Centre" had rebuilt a large Carousell organ for me Les. Short, and this was inspected and heard by members in May. Certain further work, has been performed by the firm, and the organ now sounds better than ever. Arrangements have been made to tape and photograph this instrument, so TOSA will have a permanent record of it. The venue of the meeting for July has not been confirmed on going to press.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS.

It is reported that the Wurlitzer organ formerly in Adelaide's Regent Theatre is now fully installed in its new home in the College, where it is in daily use. However, it is understood, that no inspections of the organ are permitted.

During July three functions were presented for the members. The first, took place at St James Parish Hall and featured three organs no less. There were also concerts at the Strathalbyn Theatre, and the Ascot Theatre which both have electronic organs. On Sunday 4th August at 8pm, there will be an organ concert at the St James Parish Hall, and on Sunday 25th August at 3pm an organ concert at the Wonderland Ballroom in Victoria Terrace Hawthorne. On the holiday weekend in October, a visit is planned to the Port Pirie Organ Club, and this should prove a very enjoyable weekend indeed.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS. (Reported by Ray Clements)

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT.....With feelings of pride, we announce that T.O.S.A. has travelled 3,000 miles across this great continent of ours, and by the time this issue of TOSA News is in your hands, the NEW WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION OF TOSA will be in operation. Our Society now spans five States, and links together a brotherhood of theatre organ lovers across the nation. Congratulations and welcome to all those in W.A. At the beginning of the year, in anticipation of the formation of this Division, TOSA News sent to Ray Clements, a schedule of the deadlines for the printing of each month's TOSA News for the full year. Great was your Editor's joy on receiving this first news bulletin from the new Division bang on schedule. The new W.A. Division looks like being a most efficient body of people, if this is to be the standard from now on. And so on to the first News Bulletin from the West, as reported by Ray Clements.

During July, there were two events arranged for Perth members. On July 4th, members were entertained at the residence of Mr Ray Clements. Ray has a Thomas Theatre Organ so there was plenty of the "big sound". Our host started the evening with some David Coleman arrangements, and selections from "Snow White". Ray was followed at the console by Ian McLean, who was in good form and played some of his Showcase Specials. Others taking their turn at the console were, Max Bell, Mrs Boxall and Mrs Cook.

On July 15th, Mrs Boxall was our host, and a large gathering of members and friends turned up to enjoy the evening's entertainment. Mrs Boxall has a Lowrey Holiday organ, and Ray also brought along his Thomas. During the evening, our new member Mr Thompson played a couple of duets with a visiting organist. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by one and all. The next meeting will be on Tuesday August 6th, at the residence of Max Bell, 48 Alexander Road, Dalkeith at 8pm, and members are requested to be on time, as it is desired to appoint a Committee, and get the West Australian Division officially organised.

OVERSEAS NEWS. (Air mailed from Bill Johnson - President of Concert Recordings)

Bill reports that the five day Convention was a huge success. It was held on July 12th through to the 16th and was well attended. Among the big names appearing at the show this year were, GEORGE WRIGHT, ROSA RIO, ANN LEAF, and EDDIE DUNSTEDTER. Conventioneers apparently had the privilege of visiting the GEORGE WRIGHT studio and hearing his famous and mighty Wurlitzer. Among the activities of the Convention were a number of visits to some home installations, and among those visited were those of Dick Simonton, Harvey Heck, the Paramount Rink, Tubes Inc. and the Whitney Recording Studios. This report from Bill Johnson was only brief in order that we could receive it only about three days after the event took place. Further details will be given when they come to hand.

STORE WHICH SELLS ONLY ORGAN RECORDS.

Winton Music Store in Carrington Street Sydney, where our member Cliff Bingham happily sells the range of Thomas organs, is also selling LP records, however, lest you think that the store is now full of shelves full of all types of recordings, let me hasten to set you right. They ONLY SELL ORGAN recordings. Jolly good show Cliff - you have a terrific idea there. Probably Sydney's first and only specialist record store. Cliff has a good range of organ discs, including some which haven't been seen in the shops.

RESPONSE TO APPEAL.

In the June issue of TOSA News, we appealed for an inexpensive organ on behalf of a member in Tasmania, who wanted it for a friend who had suffered a heart attack. Unfortunately, we understand, the gentleman has passed away. We have received an offer from our member, Bruce Myers of an electronic organ for \$400, but now that the instrument is not needed in Tasmania, we thought that it may interest some other member. This one is very suitable for the person who likes to dabble and tinker with things. If interested, ring Bruce Myers at 26-3744 and mention TOSA News.

FOR SALE.

Our Secretary still has a few copies of the booklets on the life of "the poet of the organ", JESSE CRAWFORD. These can be bought for \$2 each in aid of the P.E. Organ Fund. He also has original Souvenir programmes of the opening of member Eddie Aiken's Wurlitzer Organ in the Tokoroa High School in New Zealand. Eddie has donated these to assist the Organ Fund. If you would like to have one of these historic souvenir programmes, they are only 50 cents each. Contact the Secretary for either of these two offers.

FACTS & FIGURES DEPARTMENT.

Member Arthur Spring has supplied TOSA News with some very interesting facts, which we hasten to publish for members information. From the Commonwealth Statistician's Office, the figures cover the nine month period ending March 1968, relating to electronic organs imported into Australia during that period.

From U.S.A.	730	organs imported	Import value	\$433,409
From Japan	1,363	" "	" "	\$276,868
From U.K.	20	" "	" "	\$ 28,224
From Italy	1,097	" "	" "	\$ 99,628
From Germany	2	" "	" "	\$ 851
From the Netherlands	57	" "	" "	\$ 23,253
Total No. Units = 3,269			Total import value =	\$862,233

These figures being for nine months only, would seem to indicate that the yearly import value of electronic organs is running around \$1,000,000 This is an increase of 50% on the previous year, which in turn, was up 43% on the year before that. As Arthur so aptly puts it, "What a growth rate ???"

Whilst on the subject of facts and figures, it may be appropriate to quote the following information the Magazine "Electronics" of October 30th 1967 which states:-

HITTING HIGH IC

The giant organ at New York's Radio City Music Hall is famous for its size. Last week, the maker of that organ - Wurlitzer - introduced a model it hopes will be famous for its compact size. What Wurlitzer has done is produce the first commercial electronic organ using monolithic integrated circuits. While there is an IC designed specifically for the electronic organ industry - Motorola's MC-1124P, a four flip flop frequency divider, (Electronics, July 24th Page 196) Wurlitzer's 24 pound organ employs 36 standard dual flip flops - Motorola's MC-790L - as frequency generators. Each IC replaces 24 transistors and 32 resistors reducing the size of the instrument to 4x14x36 inches while maintaining its seven octave keyboard. Price is \$695, less amplifier.

Now that Wurlitzer has paved the way, other producers can be expected to follow soon. With the organ industry gobbling up transistors at a rate that reached a peak of 26.8 million transistors last year, every major microcircuit producer can be expected to go after the industry which last year sold 124,000 electronic organs for \$192.6 million.

REPORTED BY U.S.A. THEATRE ORGAN MAGAZINE "THE CONSOLE"NEW CONSOLE TO BE BUILT FOR PARAMOUNT WURLITZER.

A new four manual console will be built by William Bunch, head of the organ firm of Balcom & Vaughan, Seattle, to replace the original Wurlitzer keydesk of the famed New York Paramount Theatre organ that was destroyed by arsonists, Sunday night February 25th in Wichita. Time required to put the new console together will be approximately one year, it was noted by R.C. Simonton who has been aiding the Wichita Theatre Organ Inc. group since they purchased the instrument from Simba. Insurance funds will cover all costs.

"THE CONSOLE NEWS" CONTINUED.NEW YORK CAPITOL THEATRE TO CLOSE.

Ben M. Hall, world's leading theatre and theatre organ buff, has been named by Loew's Inc., to the Committee now planning a gala benefit performance that will close the New York Capitol Theatre next September. The theatre is to be demolished and a new office building erected on its site. It will include, according to reports, a smaller theatre.

The first real great theatre palace, the Capitol was, for many years, the largest motion picture house in the entire world. Opened in 1919, it was the mecca for tourists, much as Radio City Music Hall is today, and featured the largest Estey pipe organ ever built and installed in a theatre.

In contrast to the sad news in the above story, there is joyful news from San Francisco, where the famous Avenue Theatre, San Francisco's only remaining house with a Wurlitzer installed, has re-opened, and features organ concerts several nights weekly.

TERSE VERSE TIME.

The announcement of the formation of the Western Australian Division is good news indeed, spreading, as it does, the "gospel according to Wurlitzer" a further 3,000 miles across Australia. Your Editor offers his 'tongue in cheek' terse verse commentary.

To Western Australia TOSA has spread,
We're all so excited, its gone to our head,
If a visit to Perth was part of your plan,
You've more reason than ever "to go west" young man.

STOP PRESS

Your Editor has just been informed by telephone that theatre organist BARRIE BRETTONER is in Sutherland District

Until the next issue,
Organically yours,
THE EDITOR.

Hospital following an accident, which apparently happened about two weeks ago. A check with the Hospital uncovered the fact that the report is, unfortunately true, but that he is in a satisfactory condition. It is expected that he will be in Hospital for a considerable time. Last month's "PROFILE" story featured BARRIE BRETTONER. All TOSA members will join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

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