

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: FRANK ELLIS

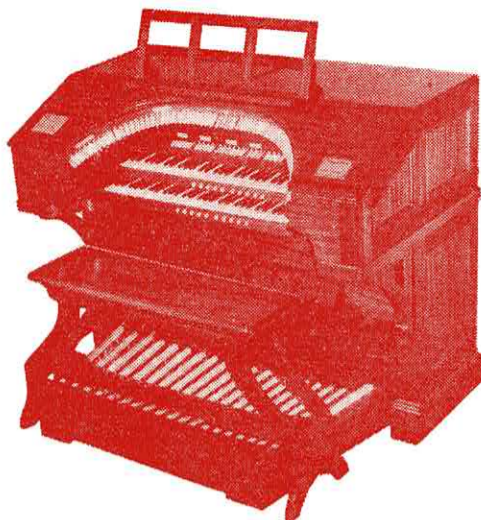
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SOCIETY DIRECTORY:

General Correspondence to The Secretary, Mrs. P. DUNN, 1A Second Ave, Eastwood, 2122.

Financial Correspondence to The Treasurer, R. BLACKMORE, 21 Yethonga Ave, Lane Cove, 2066.

Editorial Correspondence to The Editor, F. ELLIS, 16 Delhi St, Lidcombe, 2141.



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1st JUNE 1970.

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE.

FRIDAY 12th JUNE AT 8pm. MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL. An entirely new type of function for members of T.O.S.A. has been planned for this night. This will be a "Dance To The WurliTzer" night, and, as far as is known, it will be the first time that modern and old time dancing to the music of a WurliTzer organ, has been possible in this country, since the days of the old Romano's Restaurant in York Street Sydney.

Dance music will be provided by our Honorary member PETER HELD at the console together with our member Frank Thornley on the drums. There will be no go-go or other "mod" type dancing, but there will be a full programme of fox trots, quick-steps, waltzes, barn-dances etc and probably a cha-cha or two. This is not a public dance - it is for members and their friends only, but you may bring as many of your friends as you wish. Your friends should ACCOMPANY you through the doors in order to be admitted. Admission is only 50 cents each for members and friends and tea and biscuits will be available during the evening.

During breaks in dancing, our member RAY THORNLEY will be heard at the WurliTzer in guest appearances. Even if you don't dance come along and listen to the organ as you watch those on the dance floor. This is the first attempt in this country, to introduce a novel atmosphere which has been enjoyed by patrons of the Blackpool Tower's famous ballroom, for more than forty years. So, come along and support our first "Dance To The WurliTzer" evening at Marrickville - it could lead to a series of regular dances being held there during the winter months.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU AND THE SUPPORT YOU GIVE TO THE FUNCTION. Its a great combination:-

PETER HELD - OUR WURLITZER - AND A FLOOR WHICH IS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S BEST DANCE FLOORS.

MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL - FRIDAY 12th JUNE AT 8pm until 11pm BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

SATURDAY 20th JUNE AT 8pm.

On this night we will be holding another organ party - this time at the home of our members Mr & Mrs Neville Wright of 67 Clarke Street, Peakhurst (cnr of Clarke & Evans Streets). This will be the first occasion that we have visited Mr & Mrs Wright and we look forward to a very pleasant evening. There will be a charge of \$1 per head for the organ fund and those planning to go along are asked to phone a few days beforehand to let our hosts know how many will be attending. The telephone number is 92-4171 between 9am and 10am or alternatively between 4pm and 4.30pm. PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE DURING OTHER HOURS as this is a business number only. Make a date to attend another of our popular organ parties whilst supporting our Organ funds. It's a wonderful way of spending a wintery Saturday night so come along if you possibly can.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded of the NEW LOCATION for all meetings in the future - the rear hall of St. Anne's Church at the corner of Homebush and Beresford Roads Strathfield. Monday 1st June and Monday 6th July at 7.15pm.

DEADLINE FOR JULY TOSA NEWS.

Friday 19th June is the deadline for news items for inclusion in the July issue of TOSA News. If you have an item you would like to appear, send it to the Editor by the due date.

COMING EVENTS.

SATURDAY 4th JULY AT 8pm. Our members George and Joyce Walker will be holding another organ party at their home on the above date. It will be in aid of the Organ Fund. The Walkers have hosted many organ parties for the Society over the years, and have been instrumental in raising a considerable sum towards the Fund, which we deeply appreciate. A splendid evening's entertainment is assured and there is always a large and lively crowd in attendance. If you plan to attend, you are asked to phone our hosts a few days before-hand so that they may be aware of how many will be attending. A charge of \$1 per person will be made and their address is 21 Lyne Road, Cheltenham - telephone number is 86-5871. Although this party is on the 4th July, TOSA News thought you should know about this event in good time, in case the July issue should be running a day or two late.

Also in July, there will be an early morning concert at the Capitol Theatre in Sydney. Timed to start at 8am, it will feature the mighty 3/15 WurliTzer in its first appearance following the overhaul of its generator and blower. Full details will be given in the July TOSA News.

LOOKING BACK AT MAY.

Saturday 9th May found those who were present at the home of our members, Oscar and Marjorie Moen spending a very enjoyable evening indeed. Oscar's Schober Recital model organ was played by his daughter, Heather who opened the evening's entertainment, LANCE WELLS, DAVID PARSONS and George Walker among others. Making his first appearance at the console was member Lawrence Dunk of Carlingford who joined the Society in January last. Due to the fact that this organ party was in the early part of the month, and the TOSA News did not reach members until a day or two before the event, there was a disappointing attendance, nevertheless, those who were there had a wonderful night which didn't end until the clock struck midnight. The sum of \$15 was raised toward the organ fund and we thank Oscar and Marjorie for their hospitality. There were some enjoyable duets during the evening with young Heather on the organ and David on the piano. An enjoyable supper complimented the evening and we look forward to a larger roll up of members the next time we are invited to visit the Moen family.

Saturday 18th April. There was quite a large gathering of members at the home of Lance and Mrs Wells on the above night, on the occasion of their organ party for the Organ funds. LANCE has a Conn Theatre De Luxe model complete with the Conn electronic pipes and this fine installation was put to good use during the evening. First up at the console was our host, LANCE, who was formerly organist at the King's Theatre at Gordon. He was followed at the console by many others including Des Russell, Jim Bass, Colin Tringham, Mrs Nott, Mr Birkett and DAVID PARSONS.

There was a very friendly and happy atmosphere and all those present fully enjoyed their evening with the Conn. Mrs Wells served a delightful supper and during the supper break, came the surprise of the evening. Quietly, and without any fuss whatsoever, our hosts son Ross took his place at the console and started to play much to the surprise of everyone. Few members, if any, knew that Ross was being encouraged to play by his father, so it was quite a surprise. Keep up the good work Ross - we are delighted to see young people take up the study of the organ. The sum of \$36 was raised for the fund and this was acknowledged in last month's TOSA News. Unfortunately, we were unable to print a report of the party in the May issue.

TONY FENELON TO PLAY TOKORO A WURLITZER.

A letter from our member Eddie Aikin to your Editor brings the news that TONY FENELON will break his journey to America in June, to stop-over in New Zealand and play a concert on the Tokoroa High School WurliTzer owned by Eddie, and installed by him in the School's auditorium. TONY will play for the High school pupils on the morning of Thursday 4th June, record a broadcast for the N.Z.B.C. in the afternoon, and play a concert for the townspeople that night. He will leave for the U.S.A. on the day afterwards. Sounds like a busy day for TONY. Who'd be an organist??

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

Once again we have quite a number of new members joined TOSA this month, and we are particularly pleased to welcome the following:-

Raymond W. Henderson (Sydney)	Roger S. Sheppard (Condong)
Mrs. S. Goodliff (Belmont)	Peter Clarke (Sydney)
Stephen J. Blunt (Sydney)	Mr Fred Cross (Sydney)
Mr R.H. Kentwell (Castle Hill)	Neville Longbottom (Sydney)

Mr Neville Longbottom transferred from the South Australian Division where he has been a member for 2 years. (I assume that Neville has moved to Sydney now - Ed.)

Its nice to see the name of Kentwell on our membership lists, and as Mr R.H. hails from Castle Hill, I guess he must be a relative of "our WILBUR" who has told me on numerous occasions that Castle Hill is "Kentwell" territory. Anyway, to all our new members, we extend a very warm welcome - we hope to see you at as many functions as you can possibly manage to attend. Every one of them if you ~~can make it~~.

ANOTHER ORGAN SESSION TAKES THE AIR.

For some time past, TOSA News has been reminding members that an organ session is broadcast by 2KY each Sunday morning at 11 oclock sponsored by organ dealer Mr F. Wadsworth of Parramatta. This features recorded organ music by well known popular organists. We have also told you that our Honorary member REUBERT HAYES is regularly to be heard "live" on Channel 7 (and seen, of course) each Thursday morning between 7am and 9am during the "Sydney Today" programme. REUBERT appears three or four times in the two hour programme playing brackets of request items on a Conn organ.

Now we can add yet another organ programme to the above named two. Our Treasurer, Rod Blackmore, has received word from Mr L. Sharam, the manager of Dynamic Musical Enterprises of Chatswood, that his firm are sponsoring an organ session every Saturday morning at 9.45am on Radio 2CH. This session will feature CLYDE COLLINS at Yamaha and Baldwin organs. It is not known whether this session will be "live" or pre-recorded. Dynamic Musical Enterprises retail organs in the Chatswood district. The programme is titled, "The Dynamic Sounds Of The Seventies" and went to air for the first time on May 9th. CLYDE COLLINS will be remembered as a former organist of 2UW in the days of the community singing era and other "live" shows featuring such people as Reg Quartley and Cecil Scott, Frank Hatherley and others. It should be very interesting to hear CLYDE again after such a long spell from the Sydney scene. With no less than three organ shows per week again it would appear that "mod" Sydney is waking up to itself and making an attempt to recapture melodious popular music again. Your Editor's prayers for an end to the era of guitar type musical bilge have been partly, if not fully, answered. Members of TOSA should all listen as often as possible, and then ring the TV or radio station and express their enjoyment of such organ interludes - your phone call to the station could greatly help in facilitating a return to musical sanity. How about it??

DAVID PARSONS TO GIVE RECITAL.

Our member DAVID PARSONS will give a recital on the Schober Recital model electronic organ in the Church Hall of the Prsebyterian Church at 74 Bowden Street, Ryde on Saturday 11th July at 8pm. A special invitation has been extended to all TOSA members who would like to attend. Admission is 50 cents for adults and 20 cents for children and the proceeds are to the Church building fund. There will be a guest vocalist. DAVID PARSONS popularity as a solo artist either on organ or piano always ensures a good roll up of his fans where ever he plays - and there is no doubt of his crowd-pleasing ability.

WURLITZER ORGAN REBUILD.

In the March (1970) edition of TOSA News, we quoted an unconfirmed report that the WurliTzer Company were building a theatre pipe organ for the Ricta or Richter Center in New York. A further report has now come to hand that clears up some details. It is learned that the console was from a demonstration organ built by the Company, and never ever installed in a theatre, and that the pipework is being manufactured by another firm which formerly produced some of the WurliTzer pipework. The fully restored console and the new pipework together with all other necessary equipment would then be installed in the Center. It is presumed from the report that the WurliTzer Company are supervising the installation. TOSA News has not been able to confirm this report which came from the same source as the original one, and is regarded as a very reliable source indeed.

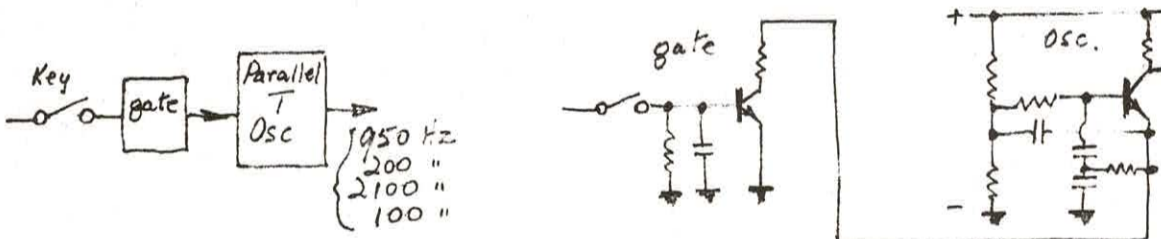
TECHNICAL LECTURE by Mr R.MOODY.
 Reported by Des Russell.

On Friday evening 15th May, a very interested audience listened to a most informative lecture on the various aspects of the design and production of electronic organs. 'Bert' Moody, well known in electronic circles, (electronic music being his great involvement) is, in his Lidcombe factory, the Australian assembler for the American Baldwin Organ Company. He has spent some time with Baldwin in the USA prior to his company's commencement of local assembly, and this has enabled him to give us the history of this large company which involves 15 large factories turning out some very large numbers of organs each year. Typical of an American company of today, they have their own staff planes (and pilots) to enable their business personnel to hop rapidly from one factory to another.

To illustrate the various characteristics of a Baldwin organ, Bert very kindly brought along a spinet model 15 R, which was, later in the evening, demonstrated by member David Parsons. The small appearance of the organ (that's the idea of a spinet of course,) gave no hint of the pleasurable sounds David was able to extract in his usual effortless style. However, returning to the technical details of the lecture, Bert elaborated on two sections of the organ design as follows -

(a) keying. In this organ it is very successfully achieved by the use of two types of 'conductive' plastic in combination with precious metal contacts. When a key is depressed, a prec. metal finger attached to the key tail engages with the first layer of conductive plastic and the resistance in series with the signal is approximately 100k ohms. As the key is further depressed, the second type of conductive plastic is engaged, and the effective series resistance falls to approximately 3k ohms, until finally with further movement, two prec. metal contacts come together with a slight wiping action. Thus, this method does provide a virtually stepless method of keying the organ tones. Experienced members agree that unless an organ has good, reliable, clickless keying, (except for the percussion effects) any other wonderful qualities the instrument may have will be lost.

(b) percussion, - this section of the organ was well equipped, and members present commented on the success of the chimes stop. The basic frequencies of some of the percussive stops are as follows,- Temple Block 950 Hz, Tom Tom 200 Hz, Clave 2100 Hz, and the Bass Drum 100 Hz. One of the many diagrams drawn for us on the board was that of the percussion oscillator and its associated gating circuit. In simplified form -



The lecture concluded with the playing of a well recorded tape of the large Baldwin model PR 200. Our thanks to you Bert for a fine lecture, also sincere thanks to Mr & Mrs Arthur Spring for once again making their home available for such a pleasant evening.

Following the formalities of the evening, interested members adjourned with Arthur Spring to the workshop (more like a Lab. I'd say) where the 'ADAM' TUNER was demonstrated and opened for their inspection. This is an electronic device for tuning ANY instrument to the tempered scale. It generates any note in any octave over the audible range, and can be preset by a knob to any frequency from A= 442 to 427 Hz. (No need to put off that long overdue tuning job any longer now !)

LATE FINAL EXTRA - Mr Les. Bourn (Gt. Br.) of Compton organ fame, will be holidaying in Sydney in the very near future and has agreed to give a technical lecture to TOSA members on electronic and pipe organs. It may be in the very near future and at very short notice! If interested phone Des Russell 42.4729 (before 9 pm please) as soon as possible for date and place of lecture.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS.

The latest issue of "Tibia" officially announces the Queensland Division's purchase of the three manual, nine rank Christie theatre pipe organ from the Granada Theatre in Maidstone, Kent, England. This organ was one of the later theatre organs, and opened in 1932 with ALEX TAYLOR as the resident organist. Queensland members will now be anxiously awaiting the arrival of the instrument so that they can get busy on the restoration and installation of their organ.

The NSW Division warmly congratulates them on their purchase and extends its best wishes to them for the future of theatre organ in the "sunshine State". With the arrival of a real "live pipe beast" on the Brisbane scene, the future sure looks "sunny" for Queensland members.

Plans are being formulated by the Queensland Executive and Committee, to make the 1970 Warana Festival an even bigger success than was the 1969 one - and the 1969 one attracted 1,500 of the public to the Brisbane City Hall. Good luck Brisbane, hope you "lay 'em in the aisles" again this year.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS.

Victoria's "Vox" magazine has a full report on the opening of the Moorabbin Town Hall's 4/21 WurliTzer on Wednesday 29th April last. The story, written by Alan Glover, a former President of the Victorian Division, described in detail the intense excitement of the audience of 1,150 persons, as the great ivory and gold console rose from the pit to tremendous applause. American organist LYN LARSEN opened the organ and gave a varied programme which was well received. The organ and its installation cost \$21,374 - what it would have cost the Moorabbin Council if the Victorian Division had not carried out the installation for them staggers the imagination. Nevertheless, it is a great credit to the Council that they had the vision and the courage to go ahead with the project - and a great credit also, to the Victorian Division for their magnificent voluntary work over such a long period of time. Long may Moorabbin and TOSA continue to flourish in Victorian theatre organ concerts for the public entertainment.

WEST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS.

"Cipher", the journal of the W.A. Division announces the fact that live organ music is now being heard in three Perth theatres. JOHN FUHRMAN is regularly heard at the Metro Theatre at the console of the two manual WurliTzer theatre pipe organ, whilst at the Town Cinema, IAN McLEAN is heard at an augmented Hammond T-100 electronic organ, and W.A. Division's secretary RAY CLEMENTS plays a Thomas (Lawrence Welk model). JOHN and IAN are both heard on Saturday nights whilst RAY plays on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Perth is certainly turning into an organ city these days, and it is to be hoped that this state of affairs will not only continue, but perhaps even result in other theatres following suit.

As mentioned in the May issue of TOSA News, the W.A. Division, like their Queensland brothers, have purchased a theatre pipe organ in England, and are now awaiting the arrival of their organ so that they, too, may commence the enormous task of restoration and re-installation. Each State's Division of TOSA now has its own organ either installed or soon to be installed, with Victoria and NSW also having the use of one or more other organs. In New Zealand, our member Eddie Aikin owns the two manual WurliTzer installed in the Tokoroa High School.

Now it should be evident to everybody that the theatre organ hobby is not only a growing one - its a booming one indeed. The combined value of the five Society owned instruments running into an enormous sum of money, whilst the combined membership of the Divisions must be approaching the 1,100 or more mark. Clearly TOSA has now come of age, and is a force to be reckoned with in the organ world. The next few years will see a dramatic growth in our stature and importance if we all work together for the common good. The future lies in our hands - let not our hands remain idle or unworthy. Nor should our left hand be unaware of what our right hand is doing. Let us all work together to advance TOSA into the swinging seventies with a momentum that will carry it through into the decade to follow.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS.

S.A. Division has had a number of very successful functions in recent weeks, including a silent movie night on Sunday 22 March at the Windsor Theatre, Brighton with organ accompaniment by PENN HUGHES at a Thomas Theatre organ and a recital by the

visiting American organist, DENNIS AWE, official recitalist for the Lowrey Organ Company. DENNIS spent as long at the smaller and cheaper models of the Lowrey range as he did at the more expensive models - this made a more interesting concert and clearly demonstrated that the less expensive models are not just toys, but are very clearly capable of sustaining a full concert recital. Some organ demonstrators spend but a few minutes on the smaller model before jumping straight back to the larger prestige organs.

South Australian members also had a concert by DON KINGSTON a couple of days later which was described as being even smoother than ever, and on Easter Sunday, the former Adelaide Regent Theatre's Wurlitzer was played by KNIGHT BARNETT supported by JOHN ATWELL as guest artist.

Nothing further has come to hand re the installation of the S.A. Divisions own Wurlitzer (from the Melbourne Plaza Theatre) and it is therefore presumed that all is going well and according to plan.

LOCAL NEWS.

It is understood that the Yamaha Organ Playing Contest will be on again shortly. The format last year, was for each State to hold its contest to find the best player, who would then be pitted against the best players from the other States. The Australian championship last year was won by NSW member DAVID PARSONS who was flown to Tokio to take part in the world grand final. Although DAVID did not win the grand final, he was given honorable mention as well as being given the V.I.P. treatment in Tokio.

NSW members of TOSA who would like to have a try this year are advised to get in as much practise as possible starting from now. The Yamaha people are anxious to have as much participation by TOSA members as is possible and we look forward to a close and pleasant relationship with them throughout the contest. Perhaps you could be enjoying a FREE flight to Japan this year. It all depends on you.

WURLITZER ON ROLLERS.

A recent letter from our member Eddie Aikin of Tokoroa, New Zealand, tells of an unusual event. Eddie was called on to pay a visit to the Hutt Valley High School to advise on the feasibility of moving the Wurlitzer installed in the school's Assembly Hall in toto with the whole building to a new site some 500 feet away, in order to make way for the building of new class rooms. Eddie found that the whole Assembly Hall structure had been so well braced that he could see no harm come to the instrument during its 500 foot long ride on rollers. And so the Assembly Hall which is approximately 120' x 70' x 40' complete with its precious two manual Wurlitzer, rolled away to a new site. Eddie has maintained this instrument for the school for a number of years, making a yearly overhaul, as well as routine maintainence.

OUR WURLITZER HEARD ON RADIO 2GB.

On Tuesday 12th May last, Radio 2GB, presented, as its "nine oclock feature spot" some highlights of the WILBUR KENTWELL concert at the Marrickville Town Hall on 23rd April. The Society and our Wurlitzer came in for a number of excellent plugs by the announcer presenting the programme. It was just great to hear how our organ came over the air waves, and there is no doubt that we have an excellent broadcasting organ. This was a notable "first" for us - a theatre organ has not been heard on commercial radio in this State for many many years. There may be some other exciting news concerning the WILBUR KENTWELL concert in the near future, so keep watching these pages - we'll tell you as soon as we are able.

THE AMERICAN SCENE (From ATOS Official magazine, "Theatre Organ")

Members of the NSW Division of TOSA - prepare yourselves to drool over the following few paragraphs. The April issue of "Theatre Organ" which arrived only yesterday, carries a two page spread slap-bang in the centre of the magazine for ATOS and its "Fabulous Fifteenth Annual Convention" to be held in New York City - July 11th to 17th 1970. Now we come to the drooling bit. The organs to be heard during the Convention include the following:- Academy of Music Theatre 3/15 260-Special Wurlitzer - Loew's Jersey 4/24 Wonder Morton - Renwick Studios New York Paramount 4/42 Wurlitzer "Plus" - United Palace Loew's 175th 4/29 Wonder Morton - Radio City Music Hall 4/58 Dual-console Grand Wurlitzer -- Long Island University 4/26 Brooklyn Paramount Wurlitzer - Schaeble Studios Loew's Valencia 4/24 Wonder Morton - Brandt's Beacon 4/19 "junior Roxy Wurlitzer" - Rahway Theatre 2/7 "Biggest Little" Wurlitzer plus two church organs, one being a 141 rank Aeolian-Skinner with State Trumpets.
(cont).

OUR PATRON "MR BLACKPOOL M.B.E.



PICTURE BY DENIS THORPE

REGINALD DIXON took a stroll with his memories yesterday . . . the first day of his retirement.

It was the morning that fans and Reginald himself heard his farewell concert on Radio 2.

At the recording there were flowers and tears as 4,000 packed Blackpool's Tower Ballroom.

It was a sentimental occasion. The end of Reginald's 40 years at the giant Wurlitzer, on which he played to international acclaim.

Excited

He said: 'The final night was something I can never forget. But I was too engrossed, excited, and happy at the wonderful reception to gather my thoughts.

'I feel much more saddened today.'

The beach under the shadow of the Tower was deserted and dampened by a cold drizzle yesterday.

But the signature tune of Reginald Dixon, now 65, was, after all: I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside . . .

His life is full of memories:

He was christened Mr Tower by couples who danced to his music before the war, and who still request tunes he played on their honeymoon.

When he received the MBE in 1966 the Queen greeted him as Mr Blackpool.

He proposed to his wife, Vera, in seat 33 in the Tower Ballroom balcony a few weeks before he was offered the appointment there.

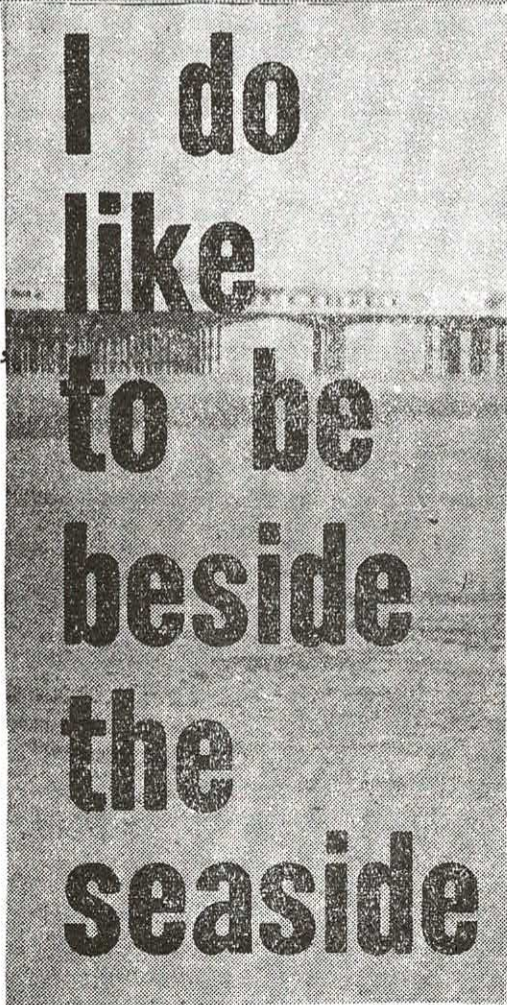
Now, 2,000 broadcasts and hundreds of thousands of records later, Mr Blackpool has retired to a bungalow . . . not far from the seaside.

Story by JAMES STANSFIELD

REGINALD
DIXON
AND THE
FAMOUS
BLACKPOOL
TOWER.

LATE NEWS FLASH.....

Following the WILBUR KENTWELL concert at Marrickville, the Mayor, Alderman Tom Foster, made a personal donation of \$20 to the Society. This was a very warm and friendly gesture and the Society extends its sincere thanks to him.



If that list of organs hasn't made you drool, now listen to the names of the organists who will be appearing at the Convention, given in alphabetical order.

LOWELL AYARS - DON BAKER - JEFF BARKER - RAY BOHR - ANDREW CROW - LEE ERWIN - CALVIN HAMPTON - DENNIS JAMES - DON KINNIER - LYN LARSEN - RICHARD LEIBERT - JERRY MENDELSON - ASHLEY MILLER - ALLEN MILLS - BILLY NALLE - JIMMY PAULIN - FRED TULAN - JACK WARD - TED ALAN WORTH - SEARLE WRIGHT.

Appearing in person at every event will be BEN M. HALL (author of "Best Remaining Seats") as Convention M.C. Features of the Convention include silent films, Convention Banquet, Electronic Concert Festival, Midnight at Radio City Music Hall, Informal Buffet Gala at the Brooklyn Paramount, Magic Music Hall Afterglow at the R.C.M.H. In addition to all this their Convention includes tours of organ installations, lectures, workshops etc. If anyone gets any sleep during the week long wing-ding, it will be a minor miracle.

New York is "all out" to really turn it on and eclipse anything yet staged by ATOS in previous years. The NSW Division of TOSA extends its best wishes to ATOS for a wonderful Convention - we will be with them in spirit if not in the flesh.

A SMOOTH RECITAL BY ALLAN TRANTER.

In his first concert for the Society since becoming a member, ALLAN TRANTER made an impressive debut to an appreciative audience at the Marrickville Town Hall on Sunday 24th May. He is endowed with a splendid sense of registration which enabled him to achieve very pleasing tonal colors throughout the performance - additionally, he produced quite a number of unusual combinations which added interest to what was being played. He made good use of our organ's widely separated pipe chambers, alternately throwing solo voices from side to side with excellent effect. This was especially noticeable in the first half of his programme.

For the most part, he relied on the solo voices of the instrument, using full organ registrations but seldom. His playing was smooth throughout, and this could be said of his programming - it too, was very smooth. Highlights of his concert for me, were, "Londonderry Air" in which he gave a delightful and sensitive performance full of delicate shading, and a spirited and stylish "Jealousy". Also worthy of special mention were a very trendy "Ain't Misbehavin'" which had a novel and fascinating counter melody, and a light and bright "Nola".

To sum up - a splendid first concert by an organist possessing his own distinctive style allied to an accurate and delicate touch complimented by good registration. I would hope that in his next concert for the Society, ALLAN TRANTER will include one item with some "fireworks" and full organ sound to let us hear his treatment of the "hell, fire and brimstone" technique much beloved by some organists - it would contrast and further compliment his normally smooth styling.

VISITOR FROM VICTORIA.

We were really delighted to have with us at the ALLAN TRANTER concert, our good friend Bruce Hester from the Victorian Division of TOSA. Bruce made it abundantly clear that he had enjoyed ALLAN'S concert. He was also hearing our WurliTzer for the first time and was impressed with the sound of the instrument in its Marrickville setting. He said he had been in Sydney for a week without knowing there was anything on at Marrickville - he had only heard about the concert at the last moment. He made the suggestion that if each State were to publish in their respective journals, a brief announcement as to what is on in EVERY OTHER STATE each month, the many members of TOSA throughout Australia, who may be travelling to another State, would thus be aware of what they could attend whilst they were away from home.

In these affluent times, many of our members right round the country, often take business or pleasure trips, and this is a service which each Division of TOSA could be rendering to its members, so that visits to other States may be made more enjoyable musically, and at the same time, give them the opportunity of meeting other friendly TOSA members where ever they may be. This suggestion by Bruce is well worth looking into, and your Editor intends to do just that in the near future. We were also very pleased to have eight members of the Hammond Organ Society from the City of Orange with us in the audience. They arrived in the morning, and were invited to inspect the organ chambers, and were also given the chance to have a brief play on the instrument before the afternoon concert.

BLACKPOOL TOWER & THE BBC. The unconfirmed report given to TOSA News last month, concerning the sale to the BBC of the Blackpool Tower organ, appears to be incorrect. Latest information is that the BBC have bid for four theatre organs, but have not been successful as yet.

*Till the next issue
Frank Elin*