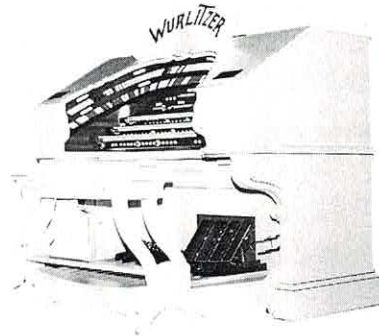


Marrickville Town Hall



Orion Centre Campsie

# NEWS

**PARTY TIME!**  
**ARE YOU COMING?**

---

Marrickville Town Hall  
25 August  
Sunday - 2.00pm

---

**DON'T FORGET YOUR  
RSVP - 1st AUGUST PLEASE**

# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST 1991

## THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W. DIVISION) Inc.

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&  
Mayor of Canterbury, Ald. John Gorrie

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Phone 985 7318

#### PHOTOGRAPHY:

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Barry Tooker

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### COMING EVENTS

#### AUGUST

Mon. 5 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING  
Sun. 25 at 2.00pm Sunday Social Afternoon  
We're "Having a Party"  
at Marrickville Town Hall.  
PLEASE REPLY TO  
SECRETARY IF YOU  
WILL BE COMING.

#### SEPTEMBER

Mon. 2 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING  
Sun. 29 at 2.00pm IAN DAVIES  
"Sing-a-long" with Slides  
and the WurliTzer Organ  
at Orion Centre, Campsie.

#### OCTOBER

Fri. 4 at 5.00pm Nominations close for  
Office Bearers / Committee  
Mon. 14 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING  
Sun. 20 at 2.00pm DAVID PARSONS in Concert  
at Marrickville Town Hall.

#### NOVEMBER

Mon. 4 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wed. 20 at 8.00pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
at Orion Centre, Campsie.

#### DECEMBER

Mon. 2 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING  
Sun. 8 at 2.00pm TONY FENELON  
Christmas Concert  
on WurliTzer at  
Marrickville Town Hall.

Please address all correspondence to:

The Secretary  
T O S A ( N S W Division) Inc.  
P O Box 151  
ALLAWAH N S W 2218

REMEMBER TO TUNE-IN TO 2CBA-FM

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 9.00pm -  
For "Theatre Organ Highlights"



Articles in this journal need not represent the views of the committee or editor.

# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST 1991

## Editorial

Hi everyone ——— out there ——— somewhere.  
Where are you?

It is now four months since I became Editor of  
TOSA NEWS - SILENCE!

How about a few letters? There must be a fund  
of interesting information out there.

The success of any publication depends almost  
entirely on the consistency and quality of its  
contributing members - and we do have over 600!  
We would also be pleased to hear of special  
events and social activities of interest to  
organ lovers. Ideas you may have for T.O.S.A.  
and/or TOSA NEWS.

Just to-day I spoke to a staff member of the  
Willoughby City Council concerned with the  
recommissioning of their WurliTzer organ, orig-  
inally from the Arcadia, Chatswood. System  
installation of the Devtronix multi-action  
organ control system is starting on 22nd July  
under contract with Ardayne Engineering Pty Ltd,  
supervised by Mr Wayne Bennett, a data computer  
specialist.

They are hoping to commence organ recitals at  
Chatswood by the end of the year.

Are there any other items of news we have not  
caught up with at this stage?

Miriam Morris  
EDITOR

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Once again, we have pleasure in introducing  
another group of new members to our society:

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Harry Beanham      | Donald Mantack                  |
| Robert Bembrick    | Geoff Sippel                    |
| John Stephen Clark | Mrs May Sippel (Geoff's         |
| Mr C.W. Kidson     | William Tiley           Mother) |
| Patricia Leonard   | David Walker                    |
| Hugh McVicar       |                                 |

## OVERDUE MEMBERSHIPS

For the few members who have not yet paid  
their subscriptions, please note that this will  
be your final issue of TOSA NEWS unless your  
remittance is received promptly.

## CONCERT BOOKINGS

When making your bookings for concerts by  
'phone, we would appreciate that all calls to  
Ed. Wharton be made between the hours of  
10.00am - 8.00pm.

When making your bookings with 'Booking Forms',  
please include a stamped self addressed envelope  
with your form, otherwise tickets will be held  
at the Box Office.

## 'WE'RE HAVING A PARTY' at Marrickville Town Hall 2.00pm Sunday 25th August, 1991

WOULD YOU PLEASE COMPLETE THE RSVP  
BELOW IF YOU ARE COMING AND POST IT  
TO REACH THE SECRETARY BY 1st AUGUST.

We need to know well beforehand how many  
to cater for. Look forward to seeing you there.

Please return completed form to:

The Secretary, T.O.S.A.,  
  
P O Box 151,  
  
ALLAWAH NSW 2218

I/We would love to come to the 'party' on 25th August.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to play the WurliTzer on 25th August. YES/NO  
Item Name ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

TO BE PROVIDED 1st WEEK IN AUGUST

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST 1991

## 2CBA-FM - THEATRE ORGAN HIGHLIGHTS

(See Page 6 June/July TOSA NEWS)

Congratulations to Chris Styles. His most interesting and enjoyable programme commenced Monday 8th July.

Chris featured the playing of Tony Fenelon at the WurliTzer (originally in the Regent Sydney, then Plaza Melbourne, now in Pulteney Grammar School in Adelaide.)

The historic Sidney Torch 'Blue Marionettes'

Tom Hazleton

Ron Curtis playing the Compton in his own home

William Davies playing:

"The Good Old Bad Old Days"

Chris is planning the following programmes for our pleasurable entertainment:

- 5 & 12/8/91 Special collections from archival libraries.
- 19 & 26/8/91 Recordings of a live concert.
- 2/9/91 Totally Australian organs.
- 9 & 16/9/91 Simon Gledhill concert.

## A REMINDER

Not seen for some time - 2 x 16mm films of the Closing of the Prince Edward Theatre and the Opening of The Prince Edward Organ at Marrickville Town Hall.

We understand that these films are presently being minded by one of our members.

Our Secretary would like them to be returned and included with our other archival material.

## SYDNEY ORGAN COMPETITION 1991

Having received a personal invitation from the Organ Society of Sydney to attend the 1991 Sydney Organ Competition, Pearl and I went to the Great Hall of Sydney University on Thursday 11th July and heard the competitors in the Junior and Intermediate sections. It proved to be a very enjoyable morning with a great array of talent from the seven young men who played.

The Junior Section was won by David Blunden, second place to Graham Lee, and third place to Anthony McCarthy, with an additional prize - the 'Ron Roberts Memorial' going to David Blunden for the best Baroque Performance. Members may remember the late Ron Roberts who, as a member of T.O.S.A., wrote some concert reviews for our magazine.

The Intermediate Section was won by David Blunden, second place to James Stewart, with third place going to Sing d'Arcy.

The adjudicators were Michael Dudman, Dean of Faculty of Music, University of Newcastle; John O'Donnell, Senior Lecturer in Musicology, University of Melbourne and Dennis Hennig, Senior Lecturer in Musicology, Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Many thanks to the Organ Society of Sydney for their kind invitation on behalf of Pearl and myself.

Jack Lawson  
President

## FREE - ONE HOUR CONCERTS BONDI JUNCTION/WAVERLEY RSL Gray Street, Bondi Junction.

Every Friday afternoon our Patron Ian Davies plays a one hour recital on the Rogers from 1.30 - 2.30pm. The Bistro opens from 12 noon for anyone requiring luncheon facilities.

# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST 1991

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As mentioned in the last issue, Pearl and I went to Ballarat for the re-opening of the Compton theatre organ in Her Majesty's Theatre. The organ was installed and opened nine years ago; a function which Pearl and I attended, so we were interested to hear the 're-opening' in the restored theatre. The organ had been closed down for three and a half years, whilst the restoration of the theatre took place. During this time the opportunity was afforded also to do some maintenance on the organ.

The opening concert was played by our member David Parsons, OAM and he gave a superb performance. One was tempted to think perhaps that the Compton organ suited David's style better than the WurliTzer, so pleasing was the result. The concert also featured the Ballarat City Band on stage and they did a segment in each half. They were a band of fine musicians and a very good choice as associate artists for a pipe organ concert. During his program David played a selection of music which had something for all tastes.

The South Street Theatre, as it has been known for many years, underwent complete restoration which included uncovering the large ceiling dome which had been boarded over for many years. This certainly adds to the majesty of the auditorium which consists of stalls and two balconies and a seating capacity of 931. An orchestra pit has been added to accommodate twenty five musicians. The interior decor, whilst very nice, is in our opinion too dark for an auditorium that has such limited house lighting.

There was a lesson to be learned from this concert; we must NOT get involved in computer ticket selling. The theatre now sells all tickets at the Box Office for all (including T.O.S.A.) concerts. Sales are made by giving patrons a look at the box plan, then after selection of seats, tickets are ordered on the computer keyboard, and finally printed on the printer. As this was a large crowd, on a very wet day, the queue filled the lower foyer and the concert start was delayed thirty (30) minutes. Even then some people were still queued up, but slow clapping by a large number of the audience forced the start.

Following our stay at Ballarat we went to Melbourne and on the next Wednesday evening attended T.O.S.A. Vic's club night at Moorabbin and heard David Johnston play the WurliTzer. They also presented two lady instrumentalists.

On the next Saturday we went to Malvern Town Hall where Bruce Ardley is in charge of the organ installation and he gave us a guided tour of the building and the organ.

The Town Hall is a most impressive building; the foyer and stairway are beautiful dark marble and lead to a balcony which has a Bio box and projectors. The ceiling is vaulted and painted a delicate shade of blue and picked out plaster is gold leaf.

Organ chambers are located either side of the proscenium and a hoist is to be installed in the stage area. As the organist will be sitting inside the proscenium line and would find it difficult to hear, there are another set of shutters located on the side walls of the chambers. These face directly across the stage toward the organist. The organ is basically Compton, but has been increased to twice its original rank size.

Having seen the hall, the work which has been done, as well as the work team in action, I believe this organ will be worth a trip down to Malvern to see and hear at its opening concert. This has tentatively been set down for February 1992, however Bruce has assured me he will advise the confirmed date in good time. We can then publish that date. So watch TOSA NEWS for further details.

That about covers our trip, except to say Victoria ran true to form. We had one fine day in the fortnight we were away.

Jack Lawson

### TRIVIA - THAT NAME REGINALD AGAIN!

Another theatre organist with the name Reginald has been noticed in 'Cinema Organ'. He was Reginald Halcrow who in 1929 played at the Savoy, Leyton (near Walthamstow) in U.K.

# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST 1991

## THE BAMBOO ORGAN IN LAS PINAS - THE PHILIPPINES

Situated south of Manila on the way to Lake Taal Volcano, this small town is famous for its bamboo organ in the San Jose Church.

Construction of this organ was commenced by the Spanish Father Diego Cerra in 1816 and completed in 1824. Most of the pipes and much of the action was made of bamboo to save money. To make the bamboo elastic it was kept in wet sand for several months. The organ stands over 5 metres high and has 832 bamboo pipes and 122 of metal, 22 registers and a 5 octave manual.

In 1880 the organ survived 3 earthquakes and a typhoon in 1882. Fortunately it was also undamaged during the revolution of 1898, however for some 17 years it was practically unplayable.

It was not until 1966 that really intensive efforts were made to save the organ. In 1972 a contract was let to a German organbuilder in Bonn, where restoration work was carried out under specially controlled climatic conditions. This work was completed in 1975 and the organ now sounds as good as new.

A small shop in the Church porch sells records and cassettes of bamboo-organ music. The real thing can be heard on Sundays or during the Bamboo Organ Festival which lasts for a week every February. It's a social occasion, with internationally famous organists, choirs and ensembles. On normal weekdays the organ can only be seen from 2 - 4 pm.

Las Pinas also makes colourful Jeepneys and the people in the workshops are quite happy to have you look around, although they are closed on Sundays. As you leave the Church, the Sarao Jeepney Factory is about three km further south on the main street.



Reproduced by courtesy of Philippines Tourist Office, Sydney.

## THE FIRST WURLITZER IN BRITAIN

Reprinted from Cinema Organ Society Newsletter.

We all know of course that it was an Englishman, Robert Hope-Jones who invented the theatre organ, although he did not specifically set out to do so. His collaboration with the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company of North Tonawanda in the State of New York, which he joined in 1910, produced the first "Wurlitzer Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra", as it was known, in 1911. A 'Mighty Wurlitzer' was part of the standard equipment of any sizable American Movie Theatre by the

1920's, and it is curious that the first one in the U.K. was not despatched before 1924, thirteen years after the first opened in the USA. John Compton had of course introduced some unified ranks of pipes at the Exchange, Northampton in 1920, and had installed unit organs at the Surrey County Cinema, Sutton and the Pavilion Shepherd's Bush in 1921 and 1923 respectively, but the first Wurlitzer opened at the Picture House, Walsall, in 1925.

# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST 1991

## CONCERT REPORT Clinton White at Marrickville Town Hall June 23rd 1991

By John C. Harrison

This afternoon's concert was performed by an experienced artist from within the ranks of T.O.S.A. A.C.T. Division. It was full of surprises and a classic example of Theatre Organ music at its present day best.

Introduced as usual by compere Frank Ellis, Clinton White from Canberra was greeted with enthusiastic response.

Clinton announced that today was the tenth anniversary of his first concert here on the Marrickville installation. He opened the show with 'The Sound of Music' from the musical of the same name, followed by Cole Porter's 'Night and Day' and 'Begin the Beguine'.

Next, a slightly different arrangement of the Rogers and Hart favourite 'The Lady is a Tramp' (how many of you remember Frank Sinatra singing to Rita Hayworth in the film 'Pal Joey'? An unusually interesting number, 'Something to Remember You By'; was followed by Gershwin's 'Someone to Watch Over Me'; 'Brazilia'; then memories of Nelson Eddy and Jeanette McDonald with 'My Hero' from the film 'The Chocolate

Soldier'. Was this the film in which Nelson Eddy fought a sabre duel with George Saunders or was it 'Bitter Sweet'? A really good rendition of Cole Porter's 'It's De Lovely' brought us to interval.

Not having attended many concerts since Ian Davies in May 1990, (except the Saturday evening convention performance) it was good to circulate during interval and meet up with a few of the 'old faces'. It was interesting to see how Clinton's delightful children have grown. Spotted too, during interval, was a radiant Andrea Harrison

after a long absence from concerts, in company with a fellow Conservatorium B.M.E., renewing old acquaintances.

The second half was a continuation of a well thought out programme with a rousing 'Man From La Mancha', an unusually interesting arrangement of Gershwin's 'Embraceable You' followed by a very appealing blending of J.S.B's 'Air on a G String'/'Solitaire'.

A subtle compliment to the audience with Henry Sullivan's 'May I be Wrong but I Think You're Wonderful', brought us to an enjoyable sing-a-long with keen audience participation. Another interesting arrangement of Gershwin's 'Swanee' and then we were off to the Highlands for 'Skye Boat Song'.

To round off a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, Clinton chose an exciting 'Under the Double Eagle' and 'Blue Danube' followed by an encore 'Have a Nice Day'. I'm sure we all did.

The artist made excellent use of the particularly unique installation, using solo and main chambers either separately, or in unison for dramatic effect.

What more can I say about Clinton White? That unpretentious amiable giant of a fellow, whose face radiates life with that 'boy next door' appeal. His handshake which is sincere, has the strength and firmness of a blacksmith belying their dexterity on the keyboard. His style of playing has that clean crisp sound, that make his interpretations at all times, pleasant and interesting to listen to.

### FOR SALE

Wanted to sell C3 Hammond with tone wheel and PR40 Tone Cabinet. Also 122RV Leslie.

Excellent condition - Best Offer

CONTACT: Phone (08) 272 3615

or write to: G. Bennett  
44 Sussex Terrace  
WESTBOURNE PARK  
S A 5041

# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST 1991

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### QUALITY WILL LIVE

As I sit and write this brief message, I must reflect a moment and be thankful for several things. I am thankful that we live in such a musical country - a country where all forms of music are accepted and regarded and appreciated. I am thankful that we as an organisation have a mission. I am thankful that we have an opportunity to hear music made from an instrument that produces "the happiest sound known to man" - the theatre organ. And I am thankful for continuity. Theatre organ is past, present and future. It represents all of these things for us. It is the thread that, in so many of our lives, holds together the constant change in our worlds. As a relic of yesteryear, theatre organ represents a more genteel time. It represents a simpler way of life, a link to the past when things were less complicated (although I'm sure in 1927 people longed for things from "long ago!").

As something which emotes and speaks to people, it is an instrument of great power which continues today to move and stir from within.

Its great power entertains much as it did in yesteryear. It is an instrument for today. And it is an instrument for the future. Don't be fooled into thinking that the theatre organ is on the brink of extinction. More and more instruments are being preserved today than ever before and even though some of these instruments are being consolidated into large conglomerates (I'm waiting for a 6/132 WurliTzer/Morton/Moller/Kimball/ et al), the effort is being made to preserve "the happiest sound . . ." I'm truly a 'Pollyanna'. I believe that everything always works out for the best in the end. I'm certain that the theatre organ will survive and grow, not into the 'Fancifull Frivolous Fawn' relic so many people have destined it to be, but rather the artistic and musical outlet it was intended. True, you can't play Rap on the theatre organ, but musical trends come and go, and fads are short-lived. Quality music and musicianship endure the test of time. Let us look to the future and plan for future generations the continuation of this most unique musical medium.

Gary W. Jones, ATOS Board of Directors

Reprinted from 'Cinema Organ' which in turn reprinted from 'Theatre Organ'.

## BILL DAVIES DEDICATES GERMAN ALLEN

Reprinted from 'Cinema Organ'

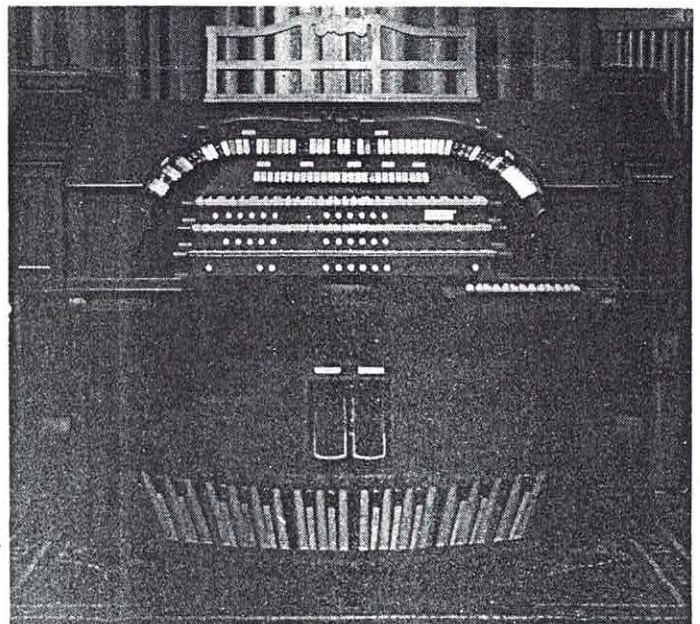
The theatre organ scene continues to grow in Germany, with regular concerts in Frankfurt and Koblenz. Now a further theatrical venue joins in - a rather special Allen in Hans Volmerg's residence at Hamm, in the north of the country.

On January 21st 1991, Members of the Theatre Organ Club of Hamm, Germany, celebrated their opening concert with the first Allen Theatre organ in the country. The 3/19 Computer theatre organ built by that well-known American manufacturer was installed by Allen's German representative, Mr H.R.Cremer of Cologne, in the home of Mr Hans Volmerg in Hamm. Hans is very much involved with the theatre organ scene in Germany, in particular with the WurliTzer in the Frankfurt Film Museum.

Organist of the day was William Davies, who had come over from Hamburg where he had played a joint concert with Heinrich Riethmueller on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the famous 3/24 Welte organ in the NDR Broadcasting House.

At Hamm Mr Davies provided a fireworks of melodies of many kinds including evergreens, medleys of tunes from musicals, and some classical tunes, all in the way that this great musician is known for. His arrangements of 'Chattanooga Choo Choo' and 'Orient Express' brought back memories of the old puffing steam locomotives. 'La Golondrina' went along with sweet bird whistle, and with the marches there were sirens, police whistle, large kettledrums and other percussions. An audience of 30 organ-nuts, crowded into the living room, would not let Mr Davies go without a few encores.

As the owner of the organ did not like the plain woodwork of the console, he ordered a pair of custom-built wooden bolsters to be added on either side of the console (see picture). These were built by the P & W Company of Hamm. So, now there is a most beautiful and probably unique Allen Granada-style theatre organ. In addition, a short-compass manual has been added on the right of the console that controls a set of real Deagan cathedral chimes.



The custom Allen console in the music room of the Volmerg Residence in Hamm. (Hans Volmerg photo)



AUGUST 1991

From Quentin Ballamy  
as reported in 'Cinema Organ'.

### THE FIRST PIZZA PARLOUR

After my first day at Berkeley High School, I was taken out to Ye Olde Pizza Joynte, to hear the 3/13 WurliTzer in this the first pizza parlour ever to be opened. Jerry Nagano was at the console and I looked on in wonder at all the flashing lights, the tonal and non-tonal effects - including calliope - and the enthusiasm of the gathered crowd of pizza-eaters. I developed a taste for ham and pineapple pizza that night.

Following on from that experience came a ride out into San Francisco to see the sights and sounds of that most beautiful of cities. It was little wonder that when I returned home I found that I had, somewhat carelessly, left my heart in San Francisco!!

It was Beck Parsons who told me that I had hit the jackpot, organwise, by getting selected for the Berkeley exchange. He enthused of pizza-restaurants and various installations around and about. When I was in my early teens, I always

thought that it would be wonderful to play in a pizza parlour. But the reality of pizza music in the 1990's is not so pleasant for the former glory of such places as the Capn's Galley in Redwood City, and Pizza 'n' Pipes in Serramonte, both once owned by the same chain, is now well and truly faded. The WurliTzers in both these venues are sadly neglected and it is only by the dedication of the organists putting in hours of do-it-yourself maintenance, that they play at all. I played Serramonte, a Style 265 with an added Morton post horn which parts the hair!! It suffered slightly in the earthquake of October 1989, but even before that a single shutter blade was hanging perilously, its upper pin having broken. Bill McCoy, the staff organist there, is a joy to listen to. He patiently disregards the faults on the organ and makes beautiful music. But tragically both venues are less than shadows of former glory - and the pizza is yucky!

### THE STANFORD WURLITZER

In Palo Alto, the home of the Stanford University, is Stanford Theatre. This theatre is now the property of David Packard, whose father is a business tycoon in the world of computer technology - Hewlett-Packard is a well known name on this side of the Atlantic too. Packard is a film buff and he bought the Stanford Theatre in order to restore it to its original condition, then to present American classic movies. When he bought it he found a three man team, Dave Banks, Cliff Luscher and Ken Eaton at work, installing their own WurliTzer in the chambers vacated by an organ built by the Smith organ company. He decided to take over the project by injecting big money into the WurliTzer, such that the end result is a 3/19 WurliTzer with two ranks by Skinner. Many purists do not appreciate the Skinner ranks amidst the WurliTzer pipework, but the result is not displeasing or unmusical.

Unfortunately, however, the installation is the victim of a poorly designed Packard computer relay, which has rendered the piston mechanism

useless. One of the two swell pedals is inoperable and the crescendo pedal is useless. This is a tragedy, because the organ has tremendous potential. One is left speculating whether the owner has lost interest in the organ or if he is in fact truly capable of designing an effective computer relay. Perhaps it may be said that in the light of the work already done by Solid-State Logic and Devtronix in this field, we have a man attempting to re-invent the wheel. However, what has the potential of being one of the finest WurliTzer installations on the West Coast, is now a musical non-event and a great disappointment. However, maintenance of the instrument has now been placed in the skilled hands of Ed Stout, so there is now hope where there seemed none before.

Tom Hazleton was called upon to open the Stanford Theatre Organ on the 8th December, 1989. The restoration of the theatre is truly impressive and the first film to be shown (at which I was present) was the ubiquitous "Wizard of Oz".

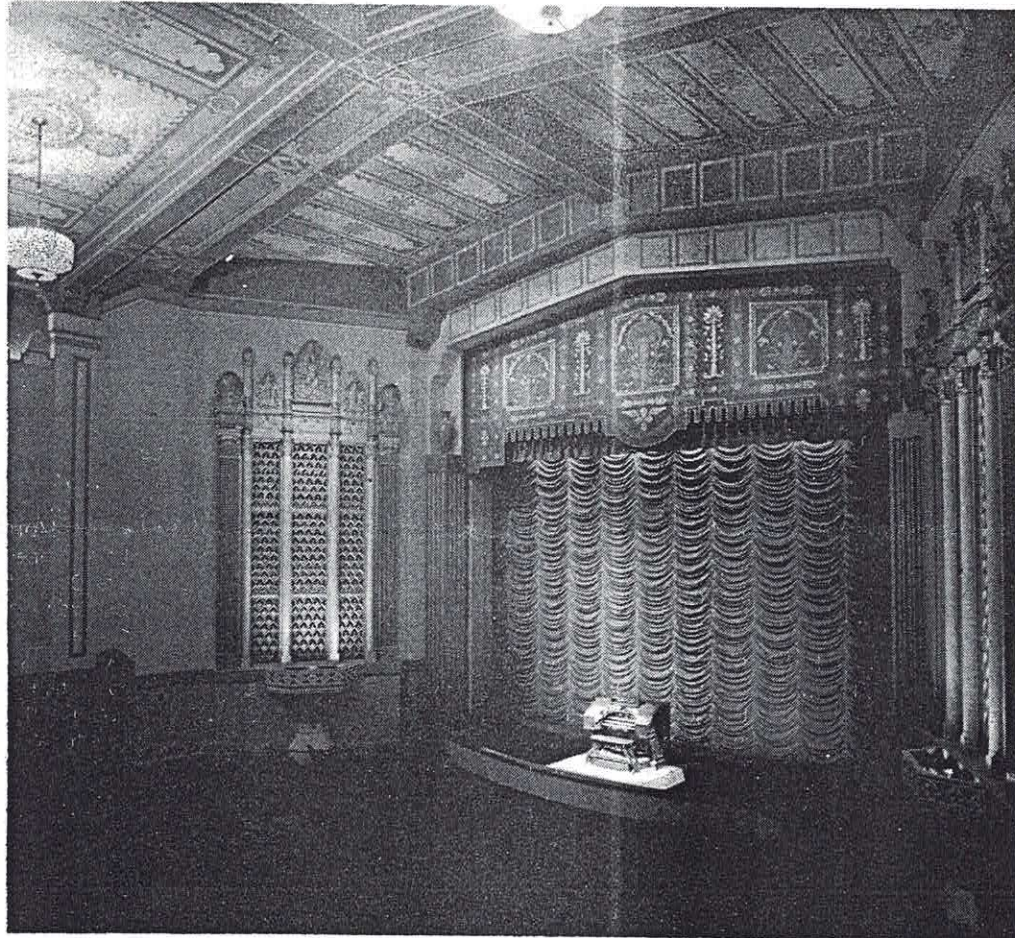
# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST 1991

From Quentin Ballamy - THE STANFORD WURLITZER - Continued.

*The beautifully restored Stanford Theatre with its 3/19 Wurlitzer.*

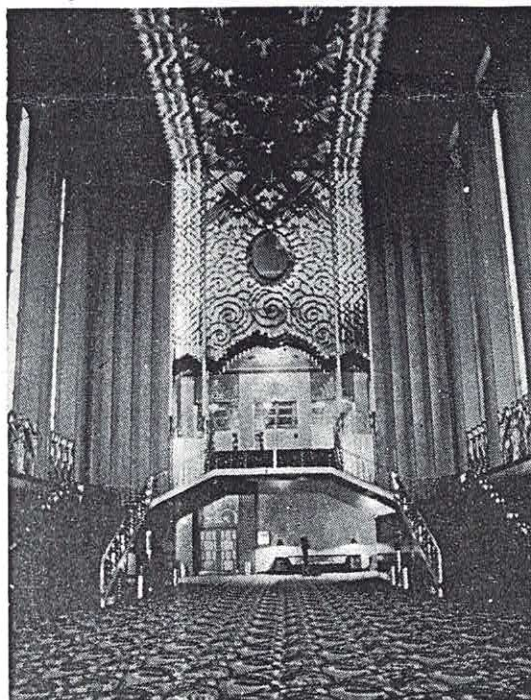
*(Rudy Frey photo)*



## THE PARAMOUNT SOUND!

The Wurlitzer at the famous Paramount Theatre in Oakland is very special. Originally a Publix #1 (4/20) it has been enlarged to some 26 ranks. Curiously enough, it is the second Publix #1 Wurlitzer in the building - the first having been removed some years ago. Moreover the first Paramount organ was the first Publix #1 to be built, and the current one is the last to come from Wurlitzer's factory. While I was there, I was able to hear Larry Vanucci (who asked me if I was from Australia!), Hector Olivera (whose recital was tedious in the extreme), and Lyn Larsen playing hits from the 50's, with a dreary dance band conducted by Jack Bethards, the managing director of Schoenstein Pipe Organs. This was a curious tribute to the 50's as it did not include a single reference to Elvis Presley. More my cup of tea was Bob Ralston, sometime organist to the Laurence Welk Orchestra, and now resident organist at the Founder's Church of Religious Science in LA - a more curious religious sect I have yet to encounter. He also played on a grand piano (including a gorgeous arrangement of the old evangelical hymn, 'There Will be Showers of Blessings' - one of the musical highlights of my time in America). George Wright also played but I missed that concert, being at the ATOS Regional Convention in Phoenix at the time. Unhappily, the Paramount suffered severe cosmetic damage in the earthquake, and huge nets covered the magnificent Art Deco wall panels and ceiling to prevent any plaster

falling on the audience in the event of another 'quake. I had a number of very pleasant dates at the Paramount with a young lady training for the Lutheran ministry - a great place for an evening out!



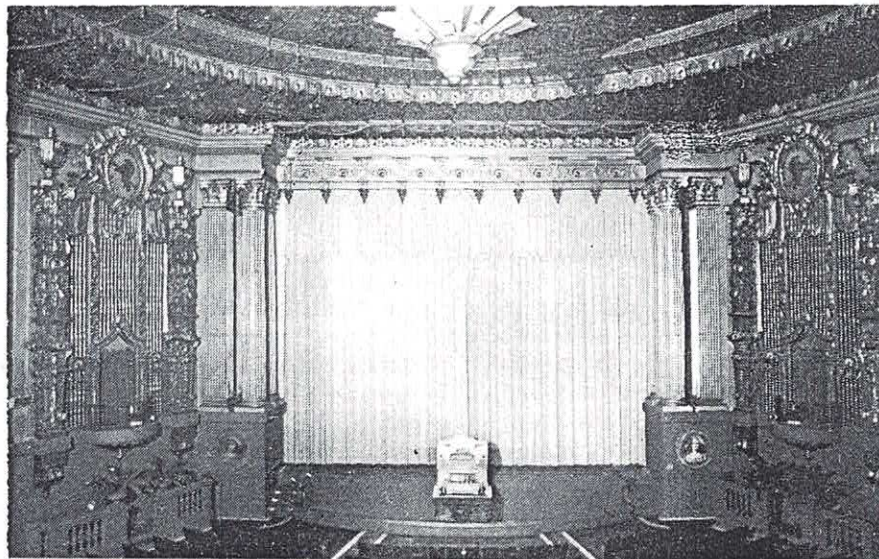
*The magnificent entrance lobby of the Oakland Paramount. (Photo Rudy Frey)*

Continued on Page 11.

AUGUST 1991

From Quentin Ballamy - Continued.

## THE IMPECCABLE CASTRO



*The impeccable Castro. The 4/21 Wurlitzer is installed in chambers behind the two ornamental grilles either side of the stage. (Rudy Frey Photo)*

The organ at the Castro, recently brilliantly recorded by Simon Gledhill, is the ultimate Wurlitzer, the workmanship of my very good friends Edward Millington Stout III and Dick Taylor. Ed and Dick are rightly considered to be amongst the finest technical men in America; they have the care of the great Aeolian-Skinner organ at Grace Cathedral, and both are absolute perfectionists when it comes to the word Wurlitzer.

The console of the Castro Wurlitzer is somewhat plain in appearance, but the organ is anything but plain, as Simon's CD clearly reveals. It is a Rolls Royce among Wurlitzers and a dream

to play: yes I had that honour one Friday morning. The most memorable event at the Castro was a performance of the Griffith epic film, "Intolerance" - a famous silent movie about 3½ hours long, fantastically accompanied by Denis James, possibly the greatest accompanist of silent films in the world. The house was a total sell-out, with over 600 disappointed people being turned away from the door. Present, however, was this ordinand from the Church in Wales. Every pipe is beautifully regulated, and the sound in the theatre is bright and crisp, and . . . oh, that post horn!

## AN ENTHUSIASTS' DREAM

California is an organ enthusiasts dream. From the glory of the Skinner at Grace Cathedral to the melancholic throb of the Castro Wurlitzer, the San Francisco Bay Area is just another world. I really believe that spending my final year of training at Berkeley was one of the best things I have ever done. I know where

I will be spending many of my annual holidays in the future!

Of these holidays, the first will be the ATOS Convention in San Francisco this July, when some of the finest theatre organs in the world will be on show - each one a beauty!

# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST 1991

## 1992 T.O.S.A. EASTER CONVENTION ON QUEENSLAND GOLD COAST "Go For Gold"

We have been asked by T.O.S.A. Gold Coast Division Inc. to provide you with the following information:

CONVENTION ARTIST - Michael Wooldridge

### ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

Are you having difficulty deciding where to stay on the Gold Coast? If you aren't driving, are you worried about making your way between your accommodation and the convention venue, the Albert Waterways Community Centre? Will there be transport? If you plan to fly, how will you know if you are being offered the best air fare?

In conjunction with ANSETT, we have appointed AN TRAVEL on the Gold Coast to attend to all your travel requirements. Ansett has authorised AN TRAVEL to offer you the most attractive air fares available at the time.

One toll free phone call to AN TRAVEL will provide all the answers. Ring 008 074 349 and quote Theatre Organ Society Reservation and you will receive details of the best Ansett air fares, excellent accommodation rates and a transport package between your accommodation and Albert Waterways Centre.

In addition to the information handed out in Sydney, we are pleased to give details of two more recommendations which can be booked with AN TRAVEL.

SOUTHPORT QUALITY INN - Situated on Southport Broadwater.  
8 storeys & lift.

Room only rate \$58/night (twin share or double)  
Licensed a la carte restaurant (breakfast served)  
Outdoor heated pool  
Undercover parking  
Balconies, Broadwater views  
Individual air conditioning, heating  
Colour TV, Direct dial telephones  
Refrigerator, tea/coffee making facilities  
Ensuite bathroom  
Guest laundry. Disabled room.

The Southport Quality Inn is 8kms from our convention venue, 4kms from the Surfers Paradise shopping area and 1km from the large new Australia Fair shopping complex and other Southport shops.

For those without a car, a transport package between the Southport Quality Inn and Albert Waterways Centre will be available. The cost will be approximately \$14 p.p., based on 30 people using this transport. For fewer passengers the cost will be higher. If you are interested in this package, please tell AN TRAVEL when booking. (It should be noted that this package does not include our coach trip to Brisbane or any other coach travel which will be included in our convention package).

### BROADBEACH MOTOR INN -

2651 Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach  
(Opposite Casino). 7 Storeys, lift.

1 & 2 B.R. Holiday Units.

2 B.R. Units (4 people) \$105 per unit per night  
(5 people) \$110 per unit per night  
1 B.R. Units (1 or 2 people) \$83/unit per night

Under cover parking  
Swimming pool/spa  
Guest laundry, B.B.Q.  
Cooking facilities, microwave, refrigerator  
T.V., video, direct dial telephones, fans

The Broadbeach Motor Inn is a short walk to Albert Waterways Centre (approx. 1km). There is no transport arranged between this accommodation and Albert Waterways Centre.

To receive the special rates offered by either of these accommodation houses, bookings must be made with AN TRAVEL, quoting Theatre Organ Society Reservation. The address is:

P.O. Box 7319  
Gold Coast Mail Centre  
Queensland 4217

or  
Phone (Toll Free) 008 074 349  
S.T.D. (075) 70 3588  
Fax (075) 38 6357

If you would like further information (no bookings please), contact Convention Secretary:

Mrs Beryl Kingsbury  
10 Sunshine Parade  
Miami  
Queensland 4220

or  
Phone (075) 35 2921

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### PLEASE NOTE:

Further information concerning the 1992 "Go for Gold" Gold Coast Convention will be published when it comes to hand.