

PRICE 40c

t.o.s.a. news

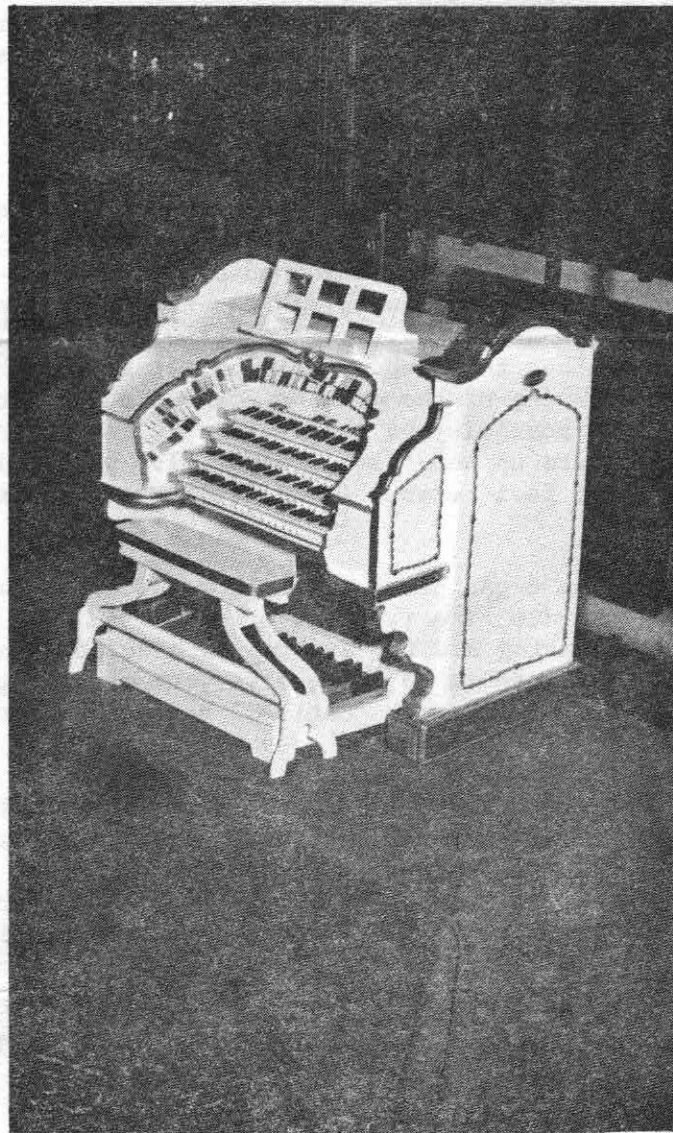
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THE DIAPHONE

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

Volume 11, Number 6

JUNE 1973



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WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH.

Friday 15th June 8p.m. An organ party at the home of Ritchie Willis, 23 Selwyn St., Paddington, featuring guest organists Lance Wells and Doctor Warren Robins at Ritchie's 'Lawrence Welk' organ. Seating is limited to 25 so reserve your seat by ringing Ritchie after hours on 31-8883. Admission is \$1.00 with the proceeds going to the 'Capitol' organ fund. Ladies are asked to bring a plate (with something on it of course.)

Wednesday 20th June, 8p.m. In place of our regular concert, we are featuring a members playing night at Marrickville Town Hall on our own 2/10 Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. This is your opportunity to try your hand on your organ. Admission is 50 cents (or a larger donation if you wish). As the cost of hiring the hall is in the region of \$70.00, we are asking for the support of every member not only to defray costs, but to encourage those who will be playing. All those wishing to play will be listed at the beginning of the evening for two songs. In this way, we hope to give as many members as possible the chance to play the organ. So come on all you budding 'Tony Fenelons', turn up and 'have a bash', let your hair down the accent is on informality, so don't feel nervous about it. Supper and refreshment facilities will be available.

Saturday 23rd June, 8p.m. An organ party at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ross Adams, 3 Selkirk Street, Winston Hills. The featured organist (s) must remain a "mystery" at this stage, so an interesting and fun evening is assured around the Adams' Thomas Organ. Seating is limited to 20 so reserve your seat by phoning Mrs. Adams on 639-6343. Admission is \$1.00 for the 'Capitol' organ fund, and ladies are requested to bring a plate of 'goodies.'

Friday 29th June 8p.m. at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Barry Tooker, Unit 3, 78 Park St., Campsie, a "Surprise Night" (sounds interesting doesn't it?) featuring some very interesting 'look and listen' surprises. Admission is \$1.00 for the 'Capitol' organ fund. As there is a limit of 15, please ensure your spot by phoning Mrs. Pam Tooker on 78-6713.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 17th August at MIDNIGHT, the big silent movie Nostalgia Night at the Lyceum Theatre featuring Eric Smith at the Christie Organ. More details later.

COVER PHOTO: Look closely, you may be surprised. No prizes for guessing the organ or the location.

AROUND AND ABOUT.

A warm welcome to the following new members:-

Mr. & Mrs. Mansell of Bankstown.
Mr. & Mrs. Butler of Mortdale.
Mr. & Mrs. Neal of Turrumurra.
Mr. & Mrs. Levy of Elanora.
Mr. & Mrs. Walker of Belmore.
Mr. & Mrs. Boyce of Strathfield.
Mr. Jewkes of Cremorne.
Mr. Sharpe of Sydney.

We look forward to meeting up with you at our functions.

Welcome also to our new members who form the new Central Coast Chapter of T.O.S.A.

Many thanks to members Ron and Edna Smith of Sans Souci for the donation of \$5.00 each to the Capitol Organ Fund.

Speaking of the Capitol Wurlitzer, your Executive Committee passes on the information that negotiations are continuing favourably with Hurstville Council regarding the possible installation of this organ in the main hall of the Civic Centre. However, according to reports in the "St. George Pictorial" dated 16th May, 1973, some strengthening of the walls is required to ensure proper installation of the organ. By all reports the Hurstville Council appears to be enthusiastic about the organ and it certainly was great to make the front page of the above paper.

The Executive Committee is asking any members who possess official tape recordings of T.O.S.A. concerts to forward catalogues of these functions to the Secretary for compilation in the society's archives.

Congratulations to Barbara Coxhead, daughter of members Fred and Sylvia Coxhead of Panania, who won the senior division of the Yamaha Electone Festival held at Bankstown Square on the 8th May. She now goes on to the State Finals to be held on 7th July in the Teachers Federation Hall, Sussex Street, Sydney.

For sale - member John Bowman has a copy of 1000 times a book (not 1001), partial scores of Broadway musicals and movies. Cost \$24.00, sell for \$18.00. Phone 43-5381 evenings.

T.O.S.A. ORGANISED U.S.A. TOUR - IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

Mrs. Vera Crane, a member of the N.S.W. Division, is one of the lucky persons who will be travelling to U.S.A. for the A.T.O.S. Convention, as a member of the T.O.S.A. Overseas Tour organised by the South Australian Division. Mrs. Crane, who will be travelling alone, thought it would be a very good idea if other N.S.W. members who are also going on the tour, could all meet together before the start of the tour. Accordingly, she rang Frank Ellis to see what could be done about this matter. Frank suggested a paragraph in T.O.S.A. News would help to start the idea off. It is understood that several N.S.W. members are going on the tour, so if you should happen to be one of the lucky ones, why not contact Mrs. Vera Crane and arrange to meet each other before you meet at the airport. You could perhaps meet at an organ party or concert during this month and become acquainted before you board the aircraft which would be a whole lot more friendly, wouldn't it? You can reach Mrs. Crane at 4 Eric Street, Bundeena (Postcode 2230) or telephone her at 523-5336 on Saturdays only. Arrangements could then be made for all those going on the tour to get together.

CONVENTION '73 - A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

The 1973 T.O.S.A. National Convention got away to an appropriate start on Saturday 21st April at 7.30a.m. in the magnificent surroundings of the State Theatre. After the opening and welcoming speeches from Frank Ellis and President Tom Halloran, the magnificent sounds of the mighty 4/21 Wurlitzer were heard as Cliff Bingham brought the console up for the first convention concert.

Cliff opened with a lively 'That's Entertainment' and continued his performance in his customary pleasant style. His varied programme included Berlin's 'Piccolino', a selection from 'Follow The Fleet', 'American Patrol' a medley from Jesus Christ Superstar' and finished with a moving arrangement of 'Amazing Grace'.

Bill Schumacher then took over the console and his smoothly polished playing complemented his programme which included a selection from the currently popular musical 'No No Nanette'. Bill certainly deserved the enthusiastic applause accorded to him by the audience. The organ itself sounded most impressive and a credit to those who have worked such long hours on its restoration.

BONDI JUNCTION R.S.L. CLUB.

This beautiful club with its excellent floor and table space made for a friendly atmosphere and proved to be an ideal lunch spot. The big Rodgers Theatre Organ sounded in excellent voice as it was expertly put through its paces by our Patron, Ian Davies. A magnificent smorgasboard lunch followed which was a credit to the catering facilities of the club.

CAMEO KEYNOTES

On Saturday afternoon the Marrickville Town Hall was the venue for what the convention programme call 'The Cameo Spot'. It was not a formal concert as such, but more of an informal session as prelude to the main concert that evening.

Several local and interstate organists were featured each giving a short recital on the 2/10 Wurlitzer installed in the hall. Included were John Atwill, Ray Clements, and Peter Held. The youngest organist of the afternoon and one of the most popular, was Neil Jensen from Queensland. He played three numbers, but was called back to do an encore at the end of the session. His style certainly indicates that he has real promise.

After the performance, members of the audience were invited to have a close look at the organ chambers.

TONY FENELON - ABSOLUTE MAGIC

The first public concert of the convention featured the young man whose tremendous ability at the keyboard has given him a well earned international reputation as one of the world's top entertainment organists - Tony Fenelon. From the opening bars of his first number the audience were immediately spellbound by the Wurlitzer Magic of this finest of musicians. Tony's programme included 'Skye Boat Song', 'Cabaret', 'Love Story', 'Begin the Beguine', a very swinging 'Sentimental Journey' (with a wild left hand counter melody), the first half of the concert closing with the rousing Knightsbridge March'.

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FENELON MAGIC. cont.

The second half opened with the 'Overture to George M' and featured (among many other numbers) themes from 'Man of La Mancha', 'Caravan', 'Pizzicato Polka' the current hit 'Morning Has Broken', Seventy six Trombones' (mostly) an outstanding 'If I Ruled The World' and finishing with a medley - 'My Way' and 'I Left My Heart In San Francisco'.

The tumultuous applause from the biggest and most enthusiastic audience seen at Marrickville in quite a while demanded an encore - three in fact, ending with 'Now Is The Hour' (a hint perhaps.) As usual, Tonys' technique and registration were flawless - a lesson to all organists present. A fabulous finish to a great days organ music.

LYCEUM THEATRE - A VERY PLEASANT AFTERNOON

Every year at Easter, the Central Methodist Mission gives the public a non-church concert at the Lyceum. This year, because of the TOSA Convention the theatre organ recital was a special feature of the programme. The advertised organists were RAY THORNLEY and ERIC SMITH. Also giving his debut performance that afternoon, was ROBERT BROUGHALL. Robert shows great promise, and played three numbers beginning with selections from 'Oklahoma', and including a very impressive classical piece by J.S. Bach.

Ray is an extremely able organist, and gave fine renditions of such numbers as 'Smoke Gets In Your Eyes', 'Rhythm Of Life', and the popular classic 'Marche Militaire'. Also included in his repertoire was a beautiful Easter hymn, in accordance with the season. The bright, crisp tones of the Christie Organ were heard to full advantage as he played.

Eric Smith, one of Sydney's most popular organists, also proved to be a good entertainer. Among his notable pieces was an excellent selection of Chopin melodies, and the 'Halleljuaah Chorus' which everyone enjoyed whilst standing (as is the custom).

Both organists showed great skill at the console and a pleasant console-side manner. But the real charmer of the afternoon was special guest artist and comedienne, ANNE SALISBURY. Anne has a great personality and a fine singing voice. She was accompanied by Eric Smith on the Christie Organ and on a grand piano, and had the audience in her palm while on stage. After giving a splendend version of 'Pedro The Fisherman' and an amusing monologue, she invited the audience to join her in the old Tommy Steele song 'The Little White Bull', which was very popular. Her voice also proved excellent for the singing of an Easter hymn. There were also plenty of laughs as she carried on her repartee with Eric Smith and the audience.

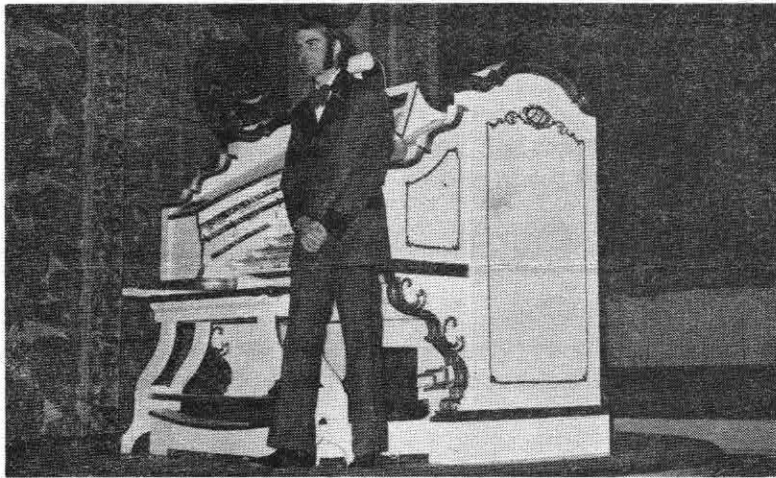
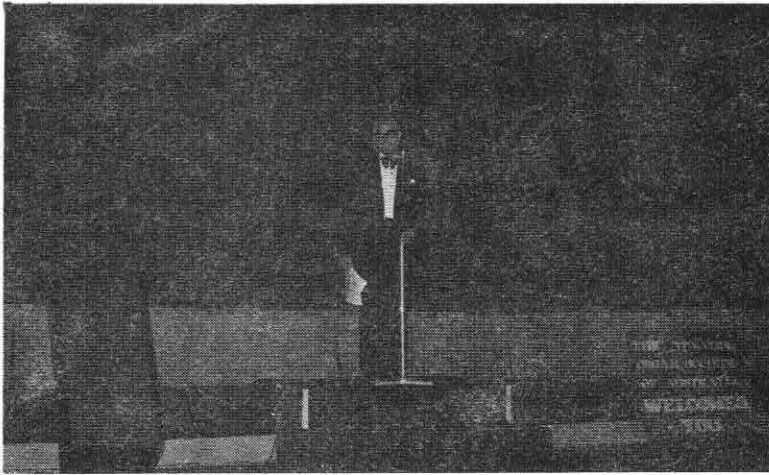
After the concert some of us were able to examine the organ chambers high above the stage. The organ is kept in very good condition, and is tuned regulary. This could be seen from the clean, neat layout of pipes.

Thus our Sunday afternoon outing was most enjoyable - the concert was not only entertaining but good fun as well.

1. Compere FRANK ELLIS during the opening ceremony at the STATE THEATRE.

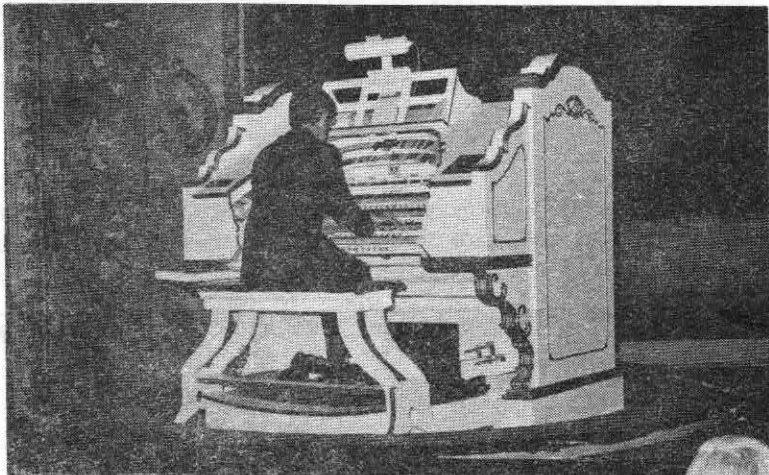
2 and 3. CLIFF BINGHAM and BILL SCHUMACHER at the STATE WurliTzer.

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CHATSWOOD FINALE

The 1973 National Convention came to a happy conclusion at the Chatswood Town Hall where the featured artist was Wilbur Kentwell. This was also a public concert and a good crowd was present to hear a very varied programme of light organ music.

Two melodies were heard for the first time in Sydney from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical version of 'Cinderella'. For some reason, this fine music has been restricted from Australia, and consequently had not been heard before by Sydney audiences. The melodies were delightful - typically Richard Rodgers - and aroused considerable interest. It is a pity discs of the music are not available to the general public!

After intermission we were treated to two medleys, one featuring a 'rainy' theme and the other an appropriate collection of Easter songs suitable to the occasion.

A supper in the foyer afterwards provided the opportunity for farewells to interstate visitors, bringing to a conclusion Convention '73. Many bonds of friendship had been made, or strengthened during the weekend. Four different theatre pipe organs were heard, and a great variety of organists presented a spectrum of theatre organ styles. Theatre organ fans from all over Australia (something like 24 from Victoria, 40 from S.A., 12 from Queensland, 12 from Canberra, 4 from W.A., and even 2 from New Zealand) were able to get together for such an occasion and swap notes etc.

Frank Ellis and his team are to be congratulated on their splendid efforts in organising such an enjoyable and successful Convention. Their labours were not in vain - the many, many hours of work which must have gone into the preparation for this Convention resulted in the smooth, well organized weekend of festivities which we now look back on with much pride and pleasure, and which has set a standard for Conventions to come.

CONVENTION SIDELIGHTS

Due to some slightly 'crossed wires' there was a slight overcharge on the smorgasboard luncheon. This has been refunded to the various state divisions according to the number of members attending the Convention.

Our appreciation must go also to Miss Anne Salisbury who donated the proceeds of her record sales to TOSA funds. It should also be noted that both Ian Davies and Eric Smith donated their fees for the Convention to TOSA funds. They were presented with appropriately inscribed pewter mugs (which will no doubt be put to useful purpose) from the Society in appreciation of this very generous gesture. With support from people such as these, our Society must go from strength to strength.

AN APOLOGY

The editor deeply regrets any inconvenience caused by the late arrival of the May TOSA News. This was not entirely avoidable however as TOSA News was mailed on the 6th May. It seems the P.M.G. also has its problems. Some members tell me that their 'News' arrived on 11th. Five days in the mail? Sorry! Will try harder next time!

4. "Take the grand staircase to the left."

5. Patron IAN DAVIES makes a point at the Bondi-Junction-Waverly R.S.L. Club concert at the Rodgers Organ.

6. TONY FENELON acknowledges applause at his magnificent Marrickville concert.