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39 Roland Avenue, Wahroonga 2076

48 3427



T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

ADDRESS BOX A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

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"T.O.S.A. DIARY"

November 5th. Saturday 2.30p.m.

A Barbecue and Pool Party will be held at the home of Ron and Phyl Wilson on this date and our popular hosts will make everyone most welcome. For the non-swimmers there will be music during the afternoon provided by Peter Held and others who care to 'tickle' the ivories'. Guests are asked to bring their own steak, liquid refreshment, swimmers and towel, the remainder will be provided. Cost per person is \$1.50, please make your bookings for catering purposes by phoning 759 6050 after 5.00 p.m..

November 6th. Sunday, 2.30 p.m.

Come and enjoy our Wurlitzer Organ played by that most enjoyable personality RAY THORNLEY. Ray has his own style which is a delight to listen to and many of our members will probably have Ray's own records at home in their collection. If not, get them, you will enjoy them.

Ray will be conducting a "Music Workshop" session from 12.30 to 2.00 p.m.. Entrance to this 'workshop' is free to those who have bought tickets to

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the concert held in the afternoon. Tickets will be available at the door. It is anticipated that many members will avail themselves of this opportunity to meet Ray and to hear what he has to tell them. Admission \$3.00, TOSA Members \$2.50, Concession \$1.50

November 14th. 7.30 p.m.

Committee meeting to be held in St Anne's Church Hall, Strathfield.

November 18th. Friday, 7.00 p.m.

Just to remind you of our end of year cabaret. See the detailed 'ad' in Septembers TOSA News. Prices are \$15.50 a double or \$8.00 a single.

If you have not already booked hurry up, we have included a booking slip in this issue. Send it in with your cheque made payable to TOSA to Pam Tooker, 9 Blanche Street, Belfield 2191 NOW.

November 19th. Saturday, 7.30 p.m.

A Home Organ Party will be held at the home of Herbert and Mona Wyatt of 39 Roland Avenue, Wahroonga. Herbert, who is a Vice-President and Editor of the Society's News owns a System 425 Allen Digital Computer Organ. After supper there will be an 'open console' session. Those guests who can bring their own folding chair with them will assist with the seating, my source of extra chairs having dried up. Please book by ringing 48 3427 as seating is limited to 35. Proceeds in aid of our organ fund. Admission \$2.00, supper provided.

November 26th. Saturday, 1.30 p.m.

Those people who so willingly gather at the 'Organ Loft' to assist in the refurbishing of our ex-Capitol organ are reminded that the next working bee will be held on this date. Please phone 798 6816 for details. The address is 49 Boomerang Street, Haberfield.

November 30th. Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.

This is the date of our Annual General Meeting. Ballot papers are printed elsewhere in this issue of the TOSA News and you are asked to fill it in and either post it to the Returning Officer or bring it with you and after checking your name with the Returning Officer place it in the Ballot Box. This is a most important meeting and we request you all to attend.

December 11th. Sunday, 2.30 p.m.

This is our last free concert of the year at the Marrickville Town Hall. These concerts are held in conjunction with the Marrickville Municipal Council and this one features two young artists, Margaret Hall and Joe Lefcovitch. We will be featuring more details of these two young people in our next issue.

NEW MEMBERS.

At our recent committee meetings the following new members were admitted- Les Flanagan (Parramatta), Gareth Thomas (Warilla), Ken Brown (Chippendale), Allan Dale (Wentworthville), Malcolm and Pamela Park (Condell Park), Leslie McLeod (Engadine), Jack Gibbs (Engadine), Maurie Dickens (Mortdale), Ron Jones (Waitara), Ron Bolden (Blaxland), Warren and Susan Haydon (Engadine), W.F. Kittson (Ballarat, Vic.), D.Kemp (Caringbah), D.Wilson (Hurstville), Stella McKenzie (Ashfield). Associate Member Gwen O'Hanlon (Lugarno), George Smith (Sans Souci). Clive and Flora Gliddon (Epping). Cyril Wells (Kurrajong Heights), Philip Dean, Elsie Dean (Assoc.) (Ermington), Joanne Mayne (Ermington), Mary Fox, Cecily Fox, Cyril Fox (all of West Ryde), Mr and Mrs Kevin Powell (Northbridge), Joyce Powell (Northbridge), John Kavanagh, Mr Bradley (Adamstown), Arthur and Ruth Sims (Wentworthville), Frank and Dorothy Ogier (Gynea). Ken Barwick (North Ryde),

Rose Kassebram(Panania), Mrs Jean Schumacher(Brooklyn), Mrs Iris Begley (Green Point), Mrs Val Lunn(Brooklyn), Reg. and Bertha(Assoc.) Gabriel (Oatley), Alan and Shirley(Assoc.) Mortimer(Ashfield), Mr and Mrs Tom Thornton(Engadine), Leslie Lawes(Forresters Beach), Dolores Geddes (Assoc.) (Umina Beach), Mr and Cornelia(Assoc.) Green(Punchbowl). We do extend a warm welcome to all these friends and hope to see them at our various functions. Please make yourselves known to us at these meetings so that we can extend our circle of friends.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

Our practise convenor, Chris Palmer after warning his family to not mow without adequate foot protection fell victim to his own lawn mower. He temporarily cannot play the organ with his left foot but it is an ill wind etc. and his right foot pedalwork is improving daily. We hope that the foot soon heals and we see you busy pedalling again Chris! Friends of member Max Slender will be sorry to hear that he is in Prince Henry Hospital undergoing heart surgery. I am told that this operation is not as rare as it used to be and we can all look forward to seeing Max home again before too long. Members who wish to visit him can ring Mrs Slender at 59 1750 to ascertain news and visiting hours.

Betty Weismantel wishes to thank friends for their concern over illnesses and accidents in the Weismantel menage. Anthony is doing well and should return to work soon. Graham is to be congratulated on his gaining his Queen's Scout Award. What's next, Graham?

Bob Gliddon has just had another trip to the U.S. Some people have all the luck. I haven't managed one yet.

To all those kind friends who have so solicitously enquired as to the health of my chooks I am happy to tell you that, judging by the eggs received, they are in good health. If they didn't lay they would, of course not be in good health, in fact they'd be eaten. The time for azaleas and camellias is past and I am getting busy with my dahlias. Incidentally member Stan Hogarth has a lovely show of Hippeastrums, he seems to specialise in many plants, he is of course, known for the lovely orchids he bedecked his house with at his organ party.

MUSIC VARIETY ROOM.

Member Fred and Sylvia Coxhead of 90 Lambeth Street, Panania wish to announce to all Lovers of Organ and Piano Music the start of regular monthly music recitals in their special Music Variety Room. Two nights mentioned are Nov. 18th and Dec. 16th. Vocal Solos (Sylvia Coxhead), Singalong, participation. A charge of \$2.00 each will be made. Supper will be served. A limit of 20 seats makes early booking necessary. They own a Full Console Lowrey (H.25R) and a Thomas Monticello with 2 M0065. A grand piano completes the equipment. Phone 77 5888 for reservations. NO SMOKING, PLEASE.

FOR SALE.

Conn 580, three manual Theatre organ, 11 months old, as new condition. Phone 067 92 2209 after hours. Mrs C.R.Ives, P.O. Box 18, Narrabri 2390.

Lowrey H25-3, Symphonic Theatre Organ, two full manuals, 25 pedals, Self contained. 3 x 50 watts R.M.S. Amplifiers, Symphonic strings. Factory maintained since new. Price less than half new price - a bargain at \$6000.00

Lowrey GAK Stereo Spinet Organ, manual and automatic rhythms, good condition, 2-speed Leslie- no gimmicks - just a good organ, for home or professional use. A gift at \$2000.00. For further details of both these organs ring Ray Thornley, 520 9697.

HOME ORGAN PARTY - A REVIEW.

I am delighted to report that this was again a most enjoyable evening, a gathering of members to hear fellow members Doug. Smith and our Vice-President and Editor Herbert Wyatt at the console of Stan and Daphne Hogarth's Conn Rhapsody Organ. During and after supper many members tried their skill at the organ. The sum of \$51.00 was raised for the Capitol Organ Fund. Having had the pleasure of being Master of Ceremonies for the night I would like to thank Stan and Daphne Hogarth and the two featured organists for their support in this way. A good night was had by all.

Ernie Vale.

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY.

Member George Walker reports that on Saturday evenings at between 7.30 and 8.00 p.m. Radio Station 2BL broadcasts theatre organ music in their programme entitled 'Sentimental Journey'. If you are interested in hearing broadcasts of theatre organs George suggests that you could make your views known to the Station management so that they could tell they were reaching an interested audience.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT.

Other Divisions of TOSA as well as our own have had serious reservations about the Secretariat as originally envisaged at a meeting of Presidents and Secretaries at Brisbane earlier this year. A levy of 10¢ per member was envisaged and the payment of fares and accomodation for the aforementioned members of a National Secretariat to participate in Interstate meetings. Following spirited opposition to the proposal in it's original form your committee decided that the National Secretariat would be useful as a means of co-ordinating presentation of overseas artists and to this end agreed in principle to:

- a) contributing to the cost of postage between varioud divisions as a means of finding out what artists were available and what dates were suitable at an estimated cost of 10¢ per member, AND
 - b) arranging, if necessary, Telecom hook-ups to finalise proceedings.
- We wait to see where the other Divisions stand in this matter.

PRACTISE ARRANGEMENTS.

Chris Palmer advises that rehearsal sessions are still available at the Marrickville Town Hall. For further information please ring Chris at 92 6534.

the border to New South Wales to try our luck on the slot machines (we lost!).

Ken Wherrett found Heidi enamored with Queensland pineapple so it was off to the Glass House Mountains to a tropical fruit plantation. We particularly enjoyed a stop at the excellent movie museum in nearby Buderim where we learned about the early days of Australian film.

The instruments for our concert at the Kelvin Grove High School were in excellent condition. Dennis enjoyed the 3/8 Christie which has been assembled from many sources. The pipework came via England and the console was originally a 2-manual Christie from New Zealand. The crew skillfully converted it to 3 manuals with an all-new electric combination system that was a joy to work with. The piano brought in for Heidi was a Yamaha G3 grand which handled like a trim sports car.

Our stay ended with a get-together with the members of the new ATOS Chapter at the Wherreys' where everyone seemed more like old friends than newly made acquaintances.

Coming from the tropical north, Melbourne's Summer seemed a little cool but we had to remember that even in the middle of Winter (July) it snows there only in the Mountains.

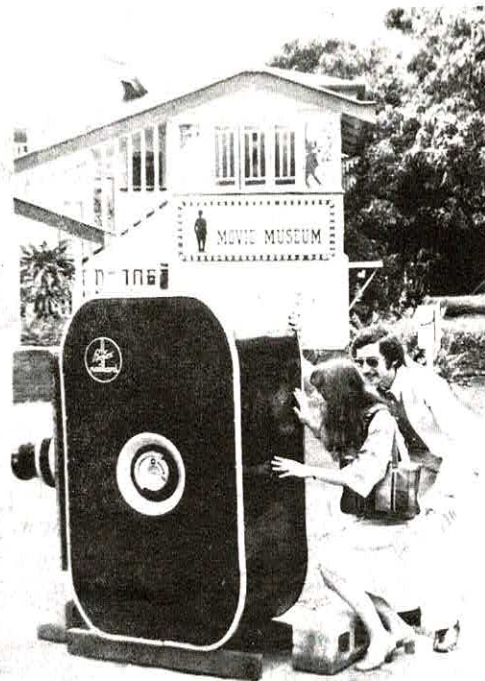
We were intrigued by the trolleys. (trams to the Aussies) that still run up and down the center of the Melbourne streets.

Bill and Margaret Glasson's home became our refuge for R and R. There are so many people who made our down-under tour a success, but most of all we are indebted to Bill Glasson whose tireless managing of the myriad details made it all possible. Heidi took advantage of the time on Bill's home instruments to write a duet version of "Waltzing Matilda." Bill's pipe organ is a rare 2-manual French scroll Wurlitzer console from England to which he is assembling various pipes and chests acquired during his many travels.

We had three concerts in Melbourne. The first was on Thanksgiving Day at Moorabbin Town Hall where we performed in an elaborate stage setting featuring mountain back drop, picket fence and real trees. The organ was a 4/21 Wurlitzer with added Post Horn and 32' Diaphones intact. The chambers are installed over the back of the stage area and speak via carved openings into the auditorium proper. The room features gymnasium-like acoustics and the organ becomes a bit muffled at times. It is, however, a very thrilling sound.

We visited Cinema North where club members are installing a 2/8

The Hawaii Theatre marquee. The first "R" rated concert?



Buderim Movie Museum.

Christie. Already the organ features a bright and bouncy English sound with effective exposed percussions. Sidney Torch would have approved, we're sure!

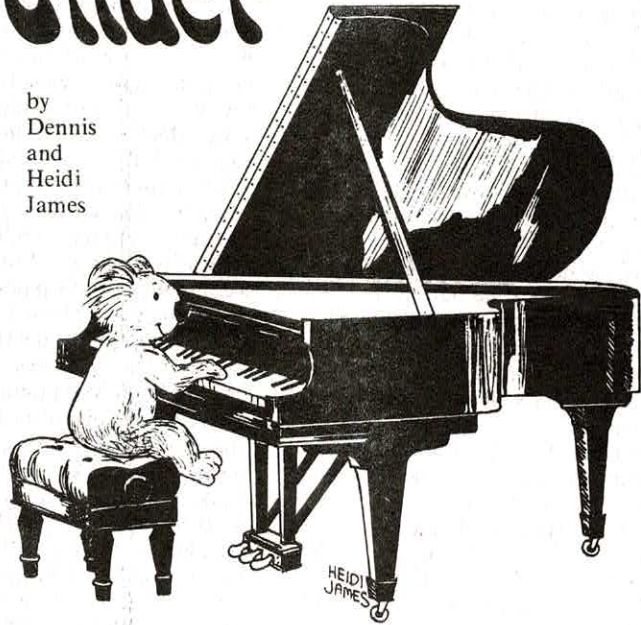
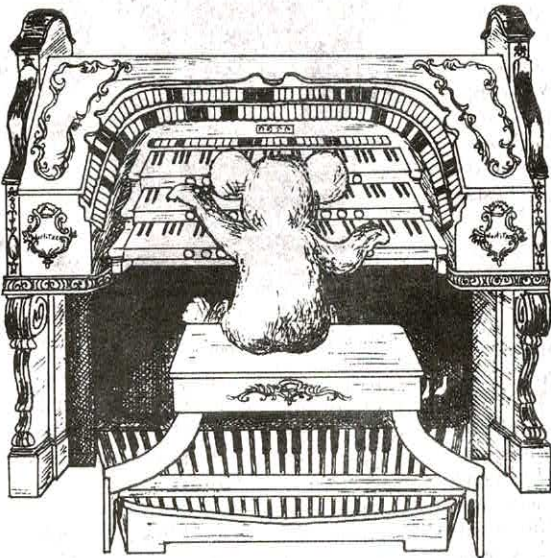
Our second and third concerts were literally back-to-back on Sunday, December 5 at the Dendy Theatre. The theatre is decorated in an Art Deco motif with giant geometric flowers lit by colored lights on the ceiling. The famous Dendy Wurlitzer deserves its fine reputation. It has been heard often on records with Lyn Larsen, Vic Hammett, Tony Fenelon and many others at the console. It has a crisp, clean and bold sound which emanates from chambers installed directly behind the screen. Bill Glasson generously brought in a new Danemann grand from his music store for Heidi.

With barely enough time to sign autographs we plunged into the second performance: a screening of the Fritz Lang 1926 science fiction classic *Metropolis*. We premiered our duet score for the film last May in London, England, and added a synthesizer during the Dendy show. The joint-improvisation included various effects for the city and robots by Heidi on the piano and synthesizer while Dennis provided the continuous score.

We were invited to take part in a two segment history of film music documentary for Australian television which led to our own half hour special on the ABC Network.

Dennis and Heidi Down Under

by
Dennis
and
Heidi
James



A few flakes of snow drifted past the window as our jet took off from Columbus on November 11. Hours later we stepped off the plane into 80 degree weather to be greeted by an equally warm reception from lei-laden ATOSers Claire and Al Watson and Dan Engelhard. Hawaii proved to be one of those few places that is as beautiful as the travel ads promise. The Watsons provided our lovely suite in the Ilikai Hotel with a balcony overlooking Waikiki Beach.

The next few days we were tourists by day turning into musicians at midnight practice sessions in the Hawaii Theatre. The 4/16 Robert Morton was installed in 1922 in the downtown Honolulu Theatre. It is basically a 2/11 with an added two coupler manuals and a 5-rank division on a vented chest. The instrument features outstanding percussion and a beautifully restored console with ornate Hawaiian-motif carvings added by a local enthusiast. The crew works hard and the instrument was in tip-top shape for the concert. The piano, fresh from Dan

Englehard's store, was the top-of-the-line Bladwin SD-10 nine footer.

We rented Honda motor bikes and tore around the southern tip of Oahu taking in the local attractions. One evening Claire and Al Watson took us to the Polynesian Cultural Center for a performance of authentic Pacific Island dancing. Thirty foot waves had smashed a few houses in the area the day before but the surfers were out in force anyway, being tossed about like pebbles.

November 14 was our Sunday morning concert date at the Hawaii Theatre. We met the celebrated theatre organist Johnny DeMello at the buffet-style get-together afterwards. He regaled us with many stories from the Hawaiian organ scene.

Monday morning we flew to the "Garden Island" Kauai where we saw the Pacific Grand Canyon and took a river cruise to the hanging fern grotto. In the very center of the island is Mt. Waialeale (why-a-lalay), the wettest spot on earth with over 400 inches of rain annually, though it was bone dry the day we

visited. The Sea Flite hydrofoil made a pleasant return trip through the rainbows back to Honolulu.

John and Grace Jenkins saw us off at the airport (more leis!), and we were off to Australia.

Two days later our plane landed in Sydney, having lost 24 hours somewhere along the way. We had just enough time to grab a quick flight up to Brisbane where we were greatly surprised to find ourselves back in tropical splendor.

We'll give the TOSA Queensland group five stars for great hospitality. Various members went to great lengths to arrange well-planned excursions. Dot Herd took us to Bunya Park where we petted and fed the wallabies, kangaroos and various other native animals. A particularly aggressive emu grabbed Dennis and ate his bag of corn, paper and all. At one point we were alarmed by a terrible rumbling noise which turned out to be the resident koalas snoring in their sleep!

Ted Badger took us to the beautiful Gold Coast beaches and over

Dennis was fitted for various costume changes by the wardrobe department, including a 1920's outfit and formal Phantom of the Opera garb. The program included a tour through the chambers, music to illustrate the history of theatre organ and a closing segment with piano and organ in duet.

We spent some time visiting Aussie organist Tony Fenelon as well as meeting John Atwell, upcoming young concert artist. John Pearson showed us through the enormous Melbourne Regent Theatre which closed in 1969 and was completely stripped by auction in early 1970. With a recent \$2½ million grant the theatre is scheduled to be completely refurbished with restoration work in progress while we visited. It is hoped the original Wurlitzer can again be installed for the re-opening. The Regent had a small theatre underneath, the Plaza, whose 2/10 Wurlitzer ended up in Adelaide where we headed next.

The South Australia group is one of the most enthusiastic clubs we've ever run across. The average age is younger than most and their spirit highly infectious. Our receptions at Ted Lloyd's and Gary Vanderwerp's were among the most hilarious evenings we've had in a long time. Many local musicians were present and we all joined in various parodies of American tunes and other festivities.

A magnificent 9-foot Steinway destined for Festival Hall somehow found its way to the Pultenay Grammar School for our concert and Heidi thoroughly enjoyed its responsiveness and well-voiced tone. The Wurlitzer was equally fine in an excellent installation behind the stage wall speaking directly into the seating area. The chests and tremes were sub-floored and the blower detached in a separate room. Careful alterations of the existing unification and added couplers made the console a joy to play and the full-house audience couldn't have been nicer.

Much remains of the Adelaide Victorian architecture with the wide streets and long porches with hitching posts remindful of a Western set. The city was well laid out in the 1800's in a grid pattern with four squares and a surrounding park belt. Hosts Helen and Ted Lloyd took us touring throughout the area including a drive up to the Barossa vine-

yard country for a picnic at the Sepeltsfield winery.

The city-of-the-black-swan, Perth, was next on the tour. The atmosphere had a newly minted air about it that is refreshing. We saw the Indian Ocean for the first time and drove into the bush country with host Ray Clements. Perth was a lot like the best of Southern California without the rampant commercialism spoiling the landscapes.

The area has no working theatre organs as yet, so Ray arranged for a Conn 651 for the concert at Subiaco Town Hall and Heidi found a elderly Bechstein grand.

Getting to our own show turned out to be somewhat of a problem. The taxi driver got lost and when we finally recognized a street near the hall, it had no outlet. We ended up walking over a small stream through a wooded area in full concert dress, arriving just in time to play.

Ray took us to a community hall under construction where he will soon install a 2-manual Wurlitzer. The hall will be a multi-purpose facility with the console on tracks, a la Radio City. The high chambers and overall design foretell an exciting sound in years to come.

We were anxious to see three things in Sydney: the Opera House, the Town Hall organ and the State Theatre. All three were tremendous.

Bill Schumacher, Mark Gabriel and host Rob Glidden took us to a

Bill Schumacher, Heidi and Mark Gabriel at Sydney Harbor.



Dennis and native.

stirring performance of *The Messiah* in the Opera House concert hall. The auditorium acoustics were very natural and pleasing. The organ case is in place but the instrument not finished and may never be if news accounts are to be believed. Over \$1½ million has been invested to date with no completion date set.

Dennis was allowed an hour on the famous Town Hall organ with its 64' open reed. The 5/128 Willis dates back to the nineteenth century and is undergoing a complete restoration.



Dennis and Heidi with Tony Fenelon at Moorabbin Town Hall.

It is a very exciting instrument with powerful reeds and an incredible Tuba which brought to mind the Tuba in the Blenheim Palace Willis in England. With cathedral-like sound, the organ proved to be as good as its reputation.

Our third treat was provided by Jack Lawson and his wife who escorted us on a tour of the magnificent Sydney State Theatre. The 4-manual Wurlitzer is rarely available for playing but happened to be up on the lift during our visit. It is one of the very last remaining Australian organs in its original location. Unfortunately the tone is somewhat muffled with the chambers high in the proscenium arch.

The State is one of the last remaining movie palaces with all of its original statuary, paintings and furniture intact. A large clock sunken into the foyer floor catches one's eye when entering the lobby. We were quite unprepared for the vision of Versailles when we enter the theatre proper. The immense main crystal chan-

delier with its twelve flanking chandeliers were turned on for us. The galleries are filled with paintings by leading artists of the day especially commissioned for the opening of the theatre. The State has survived partly due to several unique construction details: it's unusual 45 degree angle into the surrounding block makes high rise plans difficult and the double balconies preclude division into smaller theatres.

Our concert in Sydney was at the Marrickville Town Hall where a fine Yamaha C3 grand was brought in for Heidi. Dennis unfortunately did not fare as well. A unique feature (now being corrected) of the 2/11 Wurlitzer was the windline from the blower ducted up an outside wall, over the roof and into the chambers. The concert day was a very sunny and dry 97 degrees and super-heated air entered the organ. A drastic drop in wind pressure and various ciphers marked the concert.

Mark and Bill treated us to a day-on-the-town with ferry and hydrofoil rides on the sail boat studded Sydney Harbor. Rob Glidden took us to a beautiful State Park where we toolled about in a rented launch. After an interview by Les Flannegan for the Australian editions of *Organist Magazine*, we were off to New Zealand for the conclusion of the tour.

The New Zealand scenery is first class and the "natives" are friendly. Resident ATOSer Norman Dawe showed us around Auckland where we met Mollie and Jack Granwal who have worked with Norm to form

the Kiwi Chapter. They proudly showed us the chapter charter and gave us official organ pins to add to those received from the Australians.

Norman drove us down through pastureland and steep, rolling hills to Tauranga where we were the guests of June and Rex White. Their house has a commanding view of the harbor at Otumoetai. Rex is the retiring Chief Engineer at the Tauranga Electric Company and the guiding force behind the restoration of the 2/10 Wurlitzer in the Tauranga Town Hall. The rest of the crew are engineers at the telephone company so you can imagine the quality of the workmanship in the circuitry.

Despite Christmas and summer vacations so near, a large crowd came to our December 19 concert. A bus load of enthusiasts made the 3½ hour trip from Auckland with other devotees flying in from Wellington and Chrichchurch. The organ behaved beautifully and its sound ideally matches the hall size. Heidi thoroughly enjoyed the 9' Yamaha grand.

The Mayor of Tauranga welcomed us and Heidi received a huge floral bouquet from the Mayoress. We closed with the singing of the beautiful Maori farewell song "Now Is The Hour" with the audience all joining in.

The next morning, before leaving for Auckland, we were pleased to see glowing reviews in the national New Zealand papers... theatre organ concerts are a rare thing with only one theatre organ playing in the entire country.

Norman was once again our tour captain and outdid himself on our return trip to Auckland. We drove along the Firth of Thames, coastline to the right and pastures to the left. Occasionally we were forced to stop for herds of sheep and cattle crossing the roads.

The lushly carpeted green hills contrasted constantly with exotic jungle-like foothills covered with tree ferns. Through it all our little two-laned road wound about like a corkscrew. As we neared Auckland, a rainbow shimmered through the drops that were beginning to fall. Like the rainbow, a symbol of promise, we were leaving this part of the world with hopes of returning again soon. □

Kiwi Chapter members after their program in Auckland.



THE A.T.O.S. CONVENTION

I suppose we would all like to attend a Convention of this nature but alas, finances and/or time does not permit it for most of us. Therefore I have prevailed on our member Bob Gliddon to write this report showing the type of holiday that would have been enjoyed by us, if we could have gone.

What better way to start a trip to the U.S.A. than to stop over in Hawaii for a time? Unfortunately, one day is not long enough to do much else than to recover from the long flight of approximately ten hours from Sydney. Honolulu has a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society and it is appropriately named Aloha Chapter. The Honolulu Theatres have pipe organs installed, both instruments are 4 manual 16 rank Robert Mortons. The one in the Waikiki Theatre is featured every week end by John De Mello who has been playing in theatres for over 50 years. Robert Mortons are usually superb instruments, famous for their beautiful strings, smooth big reeds and percussions, and the organ in Waikiki Theatre is no exception. The theatre building is very interesting and follows the Hollywood Premiere style of forecourt entrance somewhat like "Grauman's Chinese Theatre" Hollywood or Sydney's own Roxy Theatre at Parramatta. The inside of the building is very definitely "Hawaii Atmospheric" with the traditional cobalt blue ceiling and side walls lined with palm trees and tropical flora.

The next stopover on the tour was Seattle, Washington. Seattle is located in the Pacific Northwest region and is best known for the manufacture of Boeing Aircraft. The scenery in the Pacific Northwest is breathtaking - pine trees, snow capped mountains, and laske as far as one can see. Seattle too, has some notable theatre organ installations, though only one remains that is original. The 4 manual 20 rank Publix One WurliTzer was installed new in the Paramount Theatre in 1928, though the organ hasn't been used much in the last few years it was featured in the 1971 A.T.O.S. Convention, it is truly a beautiful sounding instrument. The Bruer 'Pizza Chain' have two fine installations "Pizza & Pipes" Greenwood and Bellevue. (both Seattle suburbs). The two organs are very similar, both being 3 manual 17 rank WurliTzers - they are in top playing order and great care has obviously been taken with the installation, as usual they are fully viewable from inside the restaurant. Local and imported artists, (from other States) play six ~~nights~~ per week. We had the opportunity to hear both instruments on the same night, the Greenwood organ played by Jimmy Paulin formerly of the Radio City Music Hall, New York - the Bellevue organ played by Don Clayton, a local musician who plays a bright bouncy style which is popular with his audience. There are between 10 and 15 home installations playing in the Seattle area and it is planned that the 1981 A.T.O.S. National Convention will be held there.

Portland, Oregon was the next point of call, about three hours easy driving south of Seattle. Similarly, Portland too is a very beautiful city, the principal industry there being the manufacture of electronic equipment, and also the home of the Rogers Organ Company. The chief touring attractions other than skiing are the magnificent rose gardens and the Rose Festival which is held in early June. Organ-wise, Portland has one of the most notable WurliTzers in the U.S.A., and certainly the second largest installed in a public place. Yes, you guessed it - I'm talking about the 'Organ Grinder' Pizza organ. The WurliTzer currently stands at 4 manuals and 49 ranks of pipes! The building seats approx-

ately 450 people and as you may well imagine the organ is virtually never played "flat out". For those of you who attended the convention here in Sydney last year and saw the film made at the "Grinder" you will understand when I say that this organ has to be one of the greatest entertainment instruments ever assembled. The entire chambers are under glass, including outside walls so you can see the workings from the street as well as from the inside of the building. The chambers are air conditioned by a completely independant unit from the one which supplies the restaurant though both unite are of equal capacity! There is a panel of top artists _ Jonas Nordwall, Paul Quarino, Don Simmons and several others who provide the music from 12 noon until 1 a.m. daily, it just has to be the most played WurliTzer anywhere in the world. Whilst in Portland I was privileged to visit the home of Milt & Shirley Keefer. The Keefer's have a beautiful 2 manual 9 rank WurliTzer installed in their living room and a neater installation it would be difficult to find anywhere. The organ is proof that a small theatre organ can fit into a home environment and still sound superb.

The main purpose of the trip was to attend the Chicago A.T.O.S. Convention. Headquarters for the event were at the "Palmer House" Hotel, on the corner of State and Monroe Streets, right in the heart of Chicago's loop district. By the evening of Tuesday 28th June nearly 1,100 people had registered for the Convention. The final attendance was 1152 persons, the largest ever yet. As there were so many events over the next seven days I will list them making some brief comments.

Tuesday evening was reserved for the always popular "No Host Cocktail Party" where many had a chance to see old friends and acquaintances from past Conventions. Whilst the Cocktail Party was in progress, the Chapter Representatives and the National Board of Directors were meeting in another area.

Wednesday morning saw us all boarding buses for the giant "Chicago Stadium" to hear Ron Bogda play the 6 manual 62 rank Barton Theatre Organ. I must admit I was really expecting the Stadium Organ to have a big, raw unrefined sound, as this is the way it always comes over on record, this was certainly not the case hearing the organ in live performance. A brief time only then for something to eat and a quick trip to the Patio Theatre to hear Hector Olivera play a 3/17 Barton. As always, Hector played a spectacular concert with plenty of visual action at the console. The balance of the afternoon was spent at the Pickwick Theatre where Tom Cotner (a local artist) played a cleverly prepared sing-along and silent movie presentation. The organ in the Pickwick Theatre is a 3 manual 11 rank WurliTzer and was almost certainly the best small organ in the entire lineup. Wednesday evening after dinner there was a piano and organ duo-concert at the Opera House on the 3 manual 50 rank Skinner Classic Organ installed therein. Unfortunately the writer was feeling unwell and was unable to attend this event, however I heard from several different people that they had enjoyed the evening immensely.

Thursday morning and it was all aboard for Joliet - a town about 40 miles from Chicago to hear the 4/21 Barton organ in the Rialto Theatre there. The weather was not at all kind this day and the rain poured down, even more in Joliet than Chicago. We were no sooner seated in the magnificent surroundings of the theatre when there was a power failure. After some minutes Don Baker, the featured artist for this programme was able to commence his recital although there was no lighting in the theatre. Don was able to register the instrument with the aid of several hastily found

torches. Unfortunately Don's problems were just beginning, it was immediately evident that the organ had suffered badly also, from one cause or another. It was a great disappointment to all that Don was in no way able to show off the fine artistry of which he is capable, particularly as the Rialto Theatre itself is in such beautiful condition and could be compared to a super clean version of the Sydney "State". By lunch time the weather had improved considerably and we enjoyed a delightful lunch at the dining room of a large hotel located near the next venue, at the Arcadia Theatre. The theatre is located in the outer suburbs of Chicago and houses a 3/16 Geneva WurliTzer. (The local firm Geneva rebuilt the console and added certain ranks). Lowell Ayars was the featured artist of the afternoon. Lowell is a very popular musician and has appeared at no less than 8 National Conventions. The afternoon's entertainment included not only items by Lowell but an excellent stage show as well. There were two seminars at the Red Lacquer Room at the Palmer House after dinner, but having been thoroughly bored and annoyed by the first lecturer I didn't stay for the remaining part of the programme.

Friday morning, and for the first time we had an early morning concert to which we were able to walk. The Oriental Theatre, on Randolph Street was the locale to hear Walter Strony play the 4/20 WurliTzer. The theatre architecture there is amazing to say the least. Ben Hall, author of "The Best Remaining Seats" described it as Hasheesh-Dream Decor" Unfortunately the theatre is neglected and as with so many of the large theatres left in the U.S. one tends to stick to the carpets and seats etc.. Chewing Gum and Popcorn - Yuk!

The WurliTzer has to be one of the boldest and brassiest manufactured by that firm, and is a pure delight for Jazz and rhythm playing. Walt Strony who is in his early twenties did an absolutely brilliant recital and the audience responded appropriately at the conclusion with two standing ovations. Friday afternoon saw us all on the way by bus to Hinsdale, another outer suburb to hear Kay McAbee play a 3/21 WurliTzer-Kimball, is that ever a loud instrument? Back on the buses again and off to the Elm Skating Rink (roller) to hear Paul Swiderski, the resident organist there play a varied programme on the 4/24 Geneva Hybrid organ. Next move was to Downer's Grove High School Auditorium where they have a 3/10 WurliTzer installed. The first artist on this programme was the well known Bob Ralston of "Lawrence Welk Show" fame. For a nationally prominent T.V. organist his performance was incredibly poor. The programme was dated in content and chording used by this artist very basic in structure. The rest of the afternoon was saved by an excellent and imaginative performance by Jim Benzmilller who played the same instrument. The remainder of the day had nothing scheduled, this gave people the opportunity to visit the electronic organ demonstration downstairs at the hotel to hear Jonas Nordall on Rogers, Dwight Beecham on Allen, Byron Melcher on Thomas, WurliTzer and Hammond also being represented. Saturday morning, back to the buses for a short ride to suburban Mont Clare to the "Mont Clare Theatre" to hear Ron Rhode play the sweetly voiced 3/10 Barton. One could easily be deceived into thinking this organ a WurliTzer as the sound is so refined. Ron Rhode played a carefully chosen list of items and proved to all that he will be a major name on the U.S. theatre organ scene in the next five years. The balance of the morning was spent listening to Fred Arnish play the Axle Skating Rink 3/13 WurliTzer. The interesting feature of this organ is that it is still in it's original home, as installed by the WurliTzer Company.

Saturday afternoon gave those who were interested a chance to see some local home organ installations. The evening was taken up with the Annual Convention Dinner, at the Palmer House Main Ball Room. The food was absolutely delicious and the dining room was filled to capacity. Les and Edith Rawle from England were named this year's Honorary Members and few people on the face of this earth have done more to promote the cause of the Theatre Organ Hobby. George Wright was given Honorary Life Membership of the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Society.

Sunday morning early, over 1000 Conventioneers took a walk for three blocks down State Street to the Chicago Theatre for a concert "Jesse Crawford Style" presented by John Muri. The Chicago Theatre 4/29 Wurlitzer has just undergone a rebuild, under sponsorship of CATOE and sounds magnificent. It was on this instrument that Jesse Crawford became famous prior to his long engagement at the Paramount Theatre New York. Printed programmes were handed out at the door, and it was obvious that John Muri had gone to a great deal of trouble to present a concert which duplicated the ones given by Crawford from this theatre 1921-26. John Muri is an amazing man in his early 70's, he has been playing the organ since silent movie days, yet is still able to produce today's sound on the theatre organ as well more 'period' style playing. John received a well deserved 'standing ovation' at the end of his recital.

Sunday afternoon was reserved for more home tours and an optional visit to Temple Shalom to hear a large genuine Church Wurlitzer. It is interesting to note that the famous British Theatre Organist Reginald Foort was resident at this instrument for some years after migrating to the U.S.A.. For many conventioneers this afternoon gave a chance for a break from organ type activities. The writer was able during this time to see some of the sights of the town, including the view from the top of the Sears Tower (the world's tallest building) and an inspection of the Field Museum.

Sunday evening and it was time to join the buses to Maine North High School Auditorium for a recital by Tom Hazelton, on the 3/10 Wurlitzer which has just recently been installed there. Tom's usual good mixture of old and new tunes were presented with the same high standard to which American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts have become accustomed over the past 15 years or so. During the concert Tom decided to do "something different" and with the aid of the excellent lighting facilities this trick was easily accomplished. Tom arranged with Dennis James and Jonas Nordwall to be waiting in the wings, when the lights dimmed, firstly Jonas came in and held the chord while Tom left the console, Jonas then played one number, the process was then repeated with Dennis and then Tom returned to the console. It was really amazing, that although the audience suspected that something was "going on" very few people guessed what had happened until Tom returned to thank his two friends for helping out with the programme.

Monday morning, the final programme, but the one most had been waiting for all the Convention - George Wright playing the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer. The organ had taken on a much different sound to that which we had heard at the John Muri concert one day earlier. It was obvious that George and some helpers had done some slight alterations to the organ. To hear the world's greatest living theatre organist play live at one of the most famous Wurlitzer organs was truly a great experience. George played a magnificent programme, although it was obvious at the start that he was rather emotional and nervous. However with the first two or three numbers behind him we began to hear all the sounds an

avid Wright fan knows so well from his nearly 40 L.P. records. Virtually the only difference hearing Wright 'live' as compared to on record -s that you're actually there instead of listening through speakers, those incredible registrations and technique are all there! What better way to end an excellent Convention?

(Editor's Note. I have reprinted this article (first three pages) as due to being given the wrong ribbon to use in our typewriter the printing was read with dif ficulty and so many of our readers rang me up and asked for it.)

OUR IMPROVED WURLITZER!

Those members who were privileged to hear Byron Melcher play our Wurlitzer on Sunday 9th October must have thought that their ears were deceiving them. Sounds were produced that had not been heard before from this instrument. The explanation is simple. Some of our committee had done a lot of hard work behind the scenes. A new rank of pipes, the 'Post Horn' had been added. Our member Cliff Bingham brought the idea back from the U.S. where he had observed that Oboe pipes from old church organs could be converted to Post Horns. Our hard working committee man Bob Gliddon followed this idea up and working with George Stephens of Melbourne had some pipes rebuilt and altered and took them back to the States to be evaluated by Jonas Nordwall and Dennis Hedberg who are the tonal advisers to the Organ Grinder Corp'n, Portland, Oregon. Convinced now that he was on the right track the idea was put to the committee and the project endorsed. More time was spent with George in Melbourne and finally a suitable set of pipes obtained. George has cleaned, reshaped, resoldered and revoiced the pipes and Bob was able to tell the committee that what he had heard was a first class set of Post Horn Pipes.

The pipes were received by Bob on Wednesday 28th and on Saturday October 1st a team was assembled and the task commenced. Ex-President Tom Halloran and Committee man Alan Misdale, veterans of the maintenance committee who have overcome so many problems with the organ, assisted by Committee-men Bob Gliddon, Bill Schumacher, Mark Gabriel together with John Andrews and Adrian Holmes worked hard and faithfully and by night the job was mostly done. Extra 'tidying up' took up further time during the following week and the result was a joy for all to hear. We are heavily indebted to George Stephens of Melbourne who selected the pipes to best blend with our other ranks, repaired and voiced them to give the splendid effect and tonal ensemble that we all heard. The T.O.S.A. N.S.W Division thanks you all.

ANOTHER PERSONAL PARAGRAPH.

Not all attacks of the 'flu can be cured by a few days in bed. Member John Andrews caught a severe bought of the complaint but unfortunately did not manage to rid himself of the trouble in the usual time. Three weeks he has been ill with complications but is now on the mend and hopes to be back at work in a week or two. We look forward to seeing you fighting fit again very soon John but in the meantime - early nights, keep warm, no worries and don't try to finish off your pipe organ. Good Luck.

We have just received news of another concert to be held in Sydney which we know will be of great interest to our many readers. Tony Fenelon will be appearing in concert together with 'Tandem', a singing duo. A compere who is I think, new to Sydney theatre organ concert audiences will preside in the person of Leonard Teale. The concert will be held in the Ryde Community Centre, Sunday December 4th at 2.00 p.m.. Admission: \$5.00, For Children and Pensioners \$2.50. The organ used will be a Lowrey Symphonic Orchestral Theatre Console.
