

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: IAN C. GRIGGS

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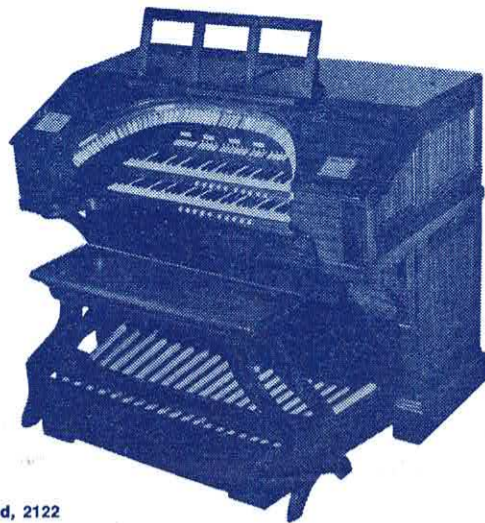
SOCIETY DIRECTORY:

General correspondence to the Secretary, Mrs. PHYLLIS DUNN, 1a Second Avenue, Eastwood, 2122

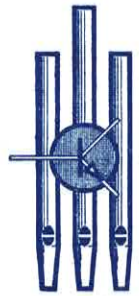
Financial correspondence to the Treasurer, Mr. OSCAR MOEN, 68 Shepherd Street, Ryde, 2112

TOSA NEWS correspondence to IAN C. GRIGGS, P.O. Box 447, Chatswood, 2067

President: NEVILLE WRIGHT, 67 Clarke Street, Peakhurst, 2210



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1st August 1971

WHAT'S ON IN N.S.W. THIS MONTH:

SATURDAY 14th AUGUST AT 7.45 p.m.

N.S.W. FINALS OF THE YAMAHA ORGAN COMPETITION...TO BE HELD AT THE TEACHERS' FEDERATION HALL, SUSSEX STREET SYDNEY....ALL WELCOME

Judges are Joseph Post, Eric Smith and David Parsons....to be compered by Gordon Boyd, who will also entertain with song during the evening. A most interesting line-up of talent is promised, and a happy worthwhile night assured.

WEDNESDAY 25th AUGUST AT 8.00 p.m.

MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

T.O.S.A. HONORARY MEMBER ERIC SMITH IN CONCERT AT THE WURLITZER

P L U S
P L U S
P L U S

THE PRIZE-WINNING FORT STREET BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR.

Here is a night not to be missed (and indeed what TOSA function isn't?); Our Honorary Member ERIC SMITH hasn't played for us for many months, and it is certainly something to look forward to. ERIC brings a wealth of musical experience and technique, with a fine sensitivity for YOUR kind of music. With ERIC will be the renowned Fort Street Boys' High School Choir, a choir which is, and has been for many years, one of the finest young people's choirs in N.S.W. Come along and see what joy it is to hear this choir in performance.

Admission is \$1.20, general public, 50¢ children and pensioners; TOSA Members 80¢, and their children free.

FUNCTIONS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

19th SEPTEMBER, 2.30 p.m..... FREE MARRICKVILLE WURLITZER CONCERT

24th SEPTEMBER, 8.00 p.m.....ORGAN PARTY AT COL TRINGHAM'S...THE FABULOUS GULBRANSEN RIALTO ORGAN.

6th OCTOBER, 8.00 p.m.....SYDNEY TOWN HALL....ORGAN SPECTACULAR.

15th-16th OCTOBER....N.S.W. DIVISION'S ANNUAL CONVENTION.Full details next month.

WHAT'S BEEN ON IN N.S.W.

NOAD'S ORGAN FACTORY VISIT 29th JUNE

We had little need to worry about the response to this function, the like of which hasn't been offered for some time; Noad's Organ Factory at Auburn was crammed full of curious TOSA members, who availed themselves of any and all possible means of temporary seating to hear Mr. Ken Noad's fascinating discourse on some of the modern trends in pipe organ construction, as well as a run-down on the Willoughby Council Wurlitzer installation.

The Parramatta River-bank freeze soon crept up through the floor, but nevertheless, after Ken's talk, and a find-your-way-around and have-a-look-see break, members pulled up their chairs, upturned chests, bellows, bits of console paraphernalia or whatever, and settled back to enjoy a Canadian film on organ construction, in which we saw metal and wooden pipes being made, as well as the complete construction of a modern electric action pipe organ for cathedral use, followed by erection, tuning and a short recital of contemporary French music.

In all, a quite different but highly entertaining evening. Our thanks to Mr. Ken Noad and staff for their co-operation, and to Cec Taylor for the playing of his priceless recording of the last public recital on the Arcadia Wurlitzer, which also happened to be TOSA'S very first pipe function, in April 1960.

STATE THEATRE GALA CHARITY PREMIERE 1st JULY

After a great panic and running-around sessions as regards tickets etc., it was certainly gratifying to see so many TOSA members turn up on this occasion. It sure was a glitter and glamour night, and a really important one for Sydney's cinema scene, the Premiere of "Nickel Queen."

By no means the least important factor contributing to the success of the evening was the use of the State's Mighty Wurlitzer, played by our friend, IAN DAVIES. What was working on the organ that night (and I believe it was a great deal more than last time) was working very well indeed; a credit to those able souls who keep the famous instrument going.

IAN DAVIES played for about an hour before the V.I.P.'s arrived, and again throughout the evening, and the manner he handled this rather difficult instrument, and the delightful tunes he played so capably brought forth a warm, well-earned, sustained round of applause from the capacity audience. Congratulations again, IAN.

Our sincere thanks are extended to the Management of Greater Union Theatres for their very generous offer of tickets, which enabled our members to hear this great organ in its superb setting of Sydney's STATE THEATRE.

IAN POGSON'S ORGAN PARTY 17th JULY.

Another capacity crowd was seen on Saturday night the 17th July, this time at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ian Pogson, at North Epping.

A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all, whether one was content to sit and listen, or actually play Ian's very fine Hammond H 111 installation, which proved to be a sheer joy to hear. Thanks go to those willing members who displayed their talents in the musical field to us, and to Honorary Member DAVID PARSONS, who topped the evening off with a collection of well known, sometimes strangely-arranged, but always exciting pieces, including the ever-popular request session.

Thanks to the Pogsons for a happy evening, a wonderful supper, and \$30 to go to selected TOSA funds.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mondays 2nd August, 6th September and 4th October, all at 7.15p.m., St. Annes Church Hall, Strathfield.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE For September issue will be Wednesday 25th August. Please note that as from 9th August 1971, my new RESIDENTIAL address will be 16 Southleigh Avenue, Castle Hill, 2154, and my new home phone No. 634 4602. The TOSA News Postal Address will remain however, as shown, and I would appreciate it if you could ring me during the day, at 412 3333, and only use the home No. for really urgent matters.

NEW MEMBERS.

Robert and Dinah Newman, of Randwick; John Denyer, of Wagga; Leslie and Doreen Buck, of Villawood; Newton and Maxine McMahon, of Pennant Hills; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hazzard, of Earlwood; Geoff Long, of Hobart (Tas.); Arthur and Dorothy Cammell, of Peakhurst; and Stephen Walsh, of Wagga.

A very warm welcome to these new folk, and we trust that they will soon feel a part of TOSA and commence a very happy stay with us.

FROM THE COMMITTEE:

REVISED CHARGES FOR MARRICKVILLE PRACTICE TIME

The Committee have decided to increase the charge for members' practice times on our Marrickville WurliTzer Organ as from 1st August 1971. The New charge will be \$1.00 per hour instead of the previous 80¢.

Members unable to use their allotted time must give 24hours notice of cancellation to the Committeeman in charge of such practice times. Failure to comply with this requirement will render the member liable to the fee for that practice time.

B.B.C. THEATRE ORGAN RECORDS

Vice-President Frank Ellis reports a good response to the offer of BBC Theatre Organ records which he reviewed in July TOSA News. On displaying the record covers during the inspection of Noad's organ factory, he had a rush from members anxious to add these discs to their collections. The records have now been distributed, and Frank has asked your Editor to advise members that the second record in "The Organist Entertains" series (REC 110) is expected to be available in October, and a more detailed announcement will be made when full particulars are known. An earlier release by BBC records of Dudley Savage, entitled "As Prescribed" (REC 23) which also received an excellent review by Frank is now available in Australia. When first released, this record had to be ordered direct from the BBC London, and took a considerable time to reach Sydney; however, it, too, can be ordered from Frank from stocks available in Australia. If you wish to order a copy of any of the BBC records mentioned, send \$5.35 (Cash or postal notes, please) to Frank, who will then order on your behalf. The four records are:-

- REC 23 "As Prescribed" (Dudley Savage) Available NOW
- REC 72 "The Organist Entertains" (Eight organists) Available NOW
- REC 79 "Plymouth Sound" (Dudley Savage) Available NOW
- REC 110 "The Organist Entertains" (Series II) (Six different Organists)
Not available till OCTOBER

In response to several members who enquired as to whether these records could be obtained on either tapes or cassettes, it is advised that they are not available, nor has the BBC any plans to issue this material in either form at present.

NEWS FROM ROUND ABOUT.

Arthur Spring has received a letter from the master organ builder, Leslie Bourn, designer of Compton Organs. He sends greetings to the good friends made on his visit here last year. Les has been hospitalised with a heart condition, but still hopes to visit again, Christmas 1972....." I hope it is a good thing for you to be taken over by Philips. Yours instrument Vernus II, was, of course, extremely good and so much better than the things I've heard coming from sources." He was dismayed by the Sydney Town Hall Organ making a noise "...somewhat resembling a kettle drum...it didn't seem to matter what (54') note I put down on the pedal! The nicest organ I tried was in Melbourne Cathedral (Ed.: Which one?),,, quite the most beautiful Diapason chorus I've heard." We wish Les good health and a speedy return with more of his reminiscences.

NEWS FROM TASMANIA

New member GEOFF LONG of Hobart (of the firm Long, Langlois and Johnstone, Conn Organ retailers) has written saying that following the interest created by Don Kingston's concert there in May, consideration is being given to the inauguration of another Division of T.O.S.A. in the Apple Isle, bringing TOSA to ALL STATES OF AUSTRALIA!

He says there is a theatre there considering using a Conn organ for interval music in the near future. Also he has sent interesting information concerning the Old Strand Theatre Wurlitzer Organ, which will be mentioned shortly, in the "Diaphone" section.

DON KINGSTON'S VISIT TO TASMANIA.

Don Kingston usually makes an annual tour of Australia but because of lack of time he had not been able to add Tasmania to his itinerary. However this year Mr. Kingston was able to make his first visit to this state. He arrived in Hobart on the 4th May for a brief two day stop-over. On the Tuesday night he gave a concert to over 200 Hobartians in the local Teachers Federation Auditorium. (The auditorium was recently constructed and is lined with acoustic material and is possibly one of the most modern auditoriums in Australia: perfect for concerts of this type)

Mr. Kingston mainly played on a two manual Conn Theatre with two ranks of electronic pipes. The programme ranged from novelty numbers (Chicken Polka, The Waltzing Cat), light popular music (Pieces of Dreams, Love is Blue), classical (Prelude in Classics, LE Pettit Cloches) to full theatre style (George M Cohen selection, Oliver selection, Carousel selection etc). The audience fully appreciated hearing an organist of Mr. Kingstons standing and noticeable on the stereo tape recording of the show is the absolute quietness while the numbers were being played (except for the novelty numbers which were successful in raising a few laughs).

During the luncheon time period on Wed 5th May Mr. Kingston played for 1½ hours in our local Cat & Fiddle ARCADE. Mr. Kingston played mainly requests at this time and I think that it was only because he had to catch a plane early in the afternoon that prevented the programme from being extended by popular demand.

Mr. Kingston has now requested that Tasmania be added to his 1972 itinerary and he believes that he may be able to bring with him the famous American Theatre Organist Don Baker.

REGINALD FOORT COMES BACK SMILING From the London Times 14th April 1971
Kindly sent to me by Charles Tuckwell.

He admits that hardly anyone under 40 will remember him, but to the vast wireless audience of the twenties and thirties, his theatre organ and cheery catchphrase "Keep Smiling!" brought him the sort of following that now goes to pop stars. When Reginald Foort left his job as the BBC's resident organist to become a freelance in 1938, 10,000 people wrote begging him to stay. The BBC sent the letters to his home in a huge sack, and he answered every one himself.

Twelve years earlier he made a recording of "In a Monastery Garden" which sold 3,250,000 copies, and in the golden age of wireless he was one of the medium's outstanding personalities. But the golden age passed, and in 1951, after some 2,000 broadcasts, Mr. Foort emigrated to the United States, his fan mail dwindling to half a dozen letters a year.

A new generation has grown up, but the old wireless listeners wondered: what has happened to Reginald Foort? The answer came in London yesterday when a sprightly man of 78, his face tanned by the Florida sun, announced that he was making an all-concert tour of Britain. He starts on Friday at the Albert Hall, sharing a "grand organ festival" with the great Frenchman Marcel Dupre (Ed.: this would have been one of Dupre's last appearances before he died), and the young organist of Westminster Cathedral, Nicholas Kynaston. But the ultimate in nostalgia will be an appearance at the Granada, Tooting, where he will play the mighty Wurlitzer, and exchange memories with old colleagues like Sandy MacPherson, Felton Rapley, Ena Baga and Reginald Porter-Brown.

The programme will be in the familiar Reginald Foort style --- "popular classics and light melodies" which embraces both Bach and "You are the cream in my coffee."

On the whole, he has stopped short of dance music, preferring to leave it to people like Reginald Dixon. He insists that the old songs are the best, although he did like the score of the film Love Story; and does not go much on "that awful pop stuff". Since going to live in the United States, he has done little concert playing but has managed to keep up another side of his work, that of church organist. Although an Anglican, he plays at one of Florida's biggest Jewish temples on Fridays and Saturdays and in a Presbyterian church on Sundays.

Advance bookings for his concerts suggest that the nostalgia is building up nicely and that his journey will not be wasted.

FROM WOLLONGONG

The Hammond Organ Society, Illawarra Chapter, proudly announces their coming= Charity Organ concert at the Wollongong Town Hall Annexe on Saturday 4th Sept. at 8.00 p.m.

Guest organist will be Peter Graves, Vice President of Sydney No.1 Chapter, and ex London Palladium Organist; he will be playing a Hammond C3.

Allan Brewster, President of the Illawarra Chapter, will be playing his own fabulous X77 with two Leslie cabinets.

Ted Springett, pianist of Bowral, will be accompanist to singer Ray Clarke, of Russell Vale. Compere will be (ex London comedian) Rev Hall, of Figtree.

Tickets will be Adults \$1.50, pensioners and children 75¢. All proceeds are to be donated to the Tawarra Handicapped Childrens' School for their new school and its requirements. This should be a most enjoyable night, but it needs the help of everyone to attend to make it a success.

Tickets to TOSA members are available by writing to Val New, 7 Wooroo Street, Albion Park Rail, phone 5611401.

THE 1971 SYDNEY ORGAN FESTIVAL

I have received a remarkable brochure outlining a veritable FEAST of recitals, lectures, demonstrations, teach-ins and the like, featuring no fewer than TWELVE famous organists.

Scheduled for Friday 20th August to Sunday 29th August, there is just so much on, that it would take a whole page of TOSA news to give the details. Therefore, I suggest you ring Michael Edgeloe, at 88 9126 (Office) and ask him to send you a form for tickets etc.,

Briefly, the timetable includes recitals on Sydney Town Hall, Knox College Wahroonga, Kings School Parramatta, Hunter Baillie Church Annandale, and Harbord Catholic Church. Organists are; Keith Asboe, Robert Boughen, Francis Cameron, Sergio de Pieri, Michael Edgeloe, Robert Goode, Wilbur Hughes, John O'Donnell, Howard Pollard, Christa Rumsey, David Rumsey and Michael Wentzell.

NEWS FROM CHATSWOOD

The Chatswood Town Hall is scheduled for completion on 12th October 1971. The builders have just started building the pipe chambers, and the wind conveyance pipes from the blower pit are in place.

The special 52 page souvenir booklet dealing mainly with the history of the home of the Wurlitzer, the Arcadia Theatre, will be printed to be released at the time of the official opening of the Hall. I have spent over 18 months preparing this book, and am very pleased that the Council have accepted it and will pay for its publication. It will be issued free of cost to the official guests present at the opening; an unlimited number will be made available to TOSA members and others interested in obtaining a copy. Next month I shall include a form for reservation, which will insure that you will get one.

Next month I shall also give a brief run-down on the contents of the book, as well as one or two critiques.

I am sure that you will like to share this letter from our member Peter Irwin, and you might like to let your Secretary know if you would be interested in such an exciting evening that Peter proposes:

Dear Ian,

As I mentioned last evening when we met I had written a letter to you - I have now started a re-write. It may seem a bit long-winded but pick anything out you like.

I was interested in the reference in this month's Newsletter to the ABC theatre chain in U.K. My latest information is that the Wurlitzer at Kingston-upon-Thames and the Compton at Plymouth will be kept. All other organs are up for sale. Included is the Compton at the Forum Southampton which Reginald Porter-Brown opened and has played for many years. It was the first all electric organ in the world - in fact until R P-B told me I had always thought it was a pipe organ.

The BBC record featuring the Compton at the Forum, Jersey on one band was opened in 1935 by an old friend Edward O'Henry who played it for many years; Today O'H was the senior Wurlitzer exponent for Europe. He died last year. He shared a prison cell with Quentin Maclean in the First War. When O'H went to Jersey the BBC wrote in the radio times that "this very polished musician was now unfortunately lost to broadcasting".

I am expecting a shipment of specially commissioned records from U.K. any day now and these may well provide interest to Members one evening. Records include Gerald Shaw and John Howlett on the "Empress" - the 5 manual Compton at the Odeon, Leicester Square, London, Horace Finch on the Empress Ballroom, Blackpool Wurlitzer (now the BBC theatre organ - Finch fell in the orchestra pit and died last year), Terence Casey, Frederick Curzon, Harold Coombs, Charles Smart, Felton Rapley on the Moller, John Madin and Robinson Cleaver on the Granada Footing Wurlitzer, Robin Richmond on the Trocadero (Mac's old organ), some of Foort's recent playing in UK together with Palotti, Gilbert Le Roy, Piet Van Egmond and Charles Smitton - all making a wonderful addition to my library.

I have several tapes of Reginald Porter-Brown giving concerts on the brilliant dual purpose Compton at the Guildhall, Southampton. Perhaps we could arrange a Members' evening at my house to hear a P-B recital. I am sure anyone who attends will be greatly impressed. A short resume of his life is that he accompanied the "Messiah" on the organ at the age of 12. At 13 he conducted a massed band and choral festival. Sir Henry Wood, no lover of the theatre organ, said that he revelled in this young man's ability (in his early twenties) and introduced him to the BBC. He once broadcast with one hand. He has broadcast well over 1000 times on piano, cathedral, parish church, concert and theatre organs. Known as "The organist with three hands" for many years, he is now called "The Organist Extraordinary".

Well, there we are. If you would like to fix up an evening I will be very pleased. I also have a Compton electric organ which members might care to try,

Yours sincerely,

Peter Irwin

(T.P. Irwin)

Next month I hope to devote lots of space to what's been happening interstate. Such will help to bring our Divisions closer together. With the possibilities of a new Division starting in Tassie, it won't be long before the circle is complete, and our society truly the T.O.S. of AUSTRALIA

Kind regards to all,

Ian B. Spigg