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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION ADDRESS: BOX A 584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

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# FREE CONCERT

**Featuring** 



Cliff Bingham



Clinton White

SUNDAY 17th OCTOBER at 2 p.m.

Marrickville Town Hall Marrickville

TOSA PRESS

DIRECTORY TOSA (NSW DIVISION)

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Robert Gliddon-John Weismantel-Neil Palmer.

MINUTE SECRETARY: Norm Weismantel

TOSA NEWS EDITING & PRINTING: Ron Wilson & Doug Smith.

#### WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

Jack Smith, Robert Brown, A.N. Miller, Ian & Bev Harrison, Cliff Jefferson, Nel Tomek, Helmut Schmidhofer, Jim & Joan Kilpatrick, Philip & Shirley Wells, Ashley Miller.

#### BUS TRIP 23/24 OCTOBER

6 Seats still remain vacant and you could get these if you contact Mrs. Phil Wilson (759 6050) immediately.

The Bus Trip is a week-end of fun and enjoyment, and is just a very pleasant break to get away from it all for just a week-end. Good company and lots of laughs. Mudgee is a nice area to visit and we are all just waiting for the day to arrive.

Dont forget the Coach departs from MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL at 8am on Saturday 23rd October.

#### NOEL SMITH'S FAMILY ORGAN CLUB.

The FIRST Tuesday night in each month is the meeting time for the Family Organ Club, which is held at. The Terrace Room, Miranda Fair.

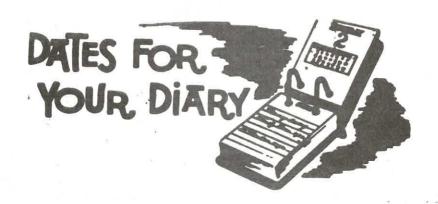
ALL bookings to be made with: JOY STAINER on 529 3390, and the deadline for bookings is Noon on the Friday prior to the first Tuesday.

Dont miss these great night of Dinner and exciting musical entertainment. Book Now!!

## FOR SALE

WERSI ZENITH ORGAN This is a magnificent unit with 2x61-note manuals, 32-note AGO pedalboard, 42 fixed stops, full sets of drawbars, percussion, auto-accomp, rhythym unit etc, \$8995 o.n.o. This price is little more than the cost of the parts and constitutes a genuine bargain.

Please phone: 868 3551



## October

SUNDAY 3rd

(NOTE: Alteration of Date & Venue)

COMMITTEE MEETING at 120 Dennis St., Lakemba.2pm.

WEDNESDAY 6th

CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS

SUNDAY 17th 2.00pm

FREE CONCERT at Marrickville Town Hall featuring CLIFF BINGHAM and CLINTON WHITE from the ACT.

WEEK-END 23/24th

COACH TOUR TO MUDGEE.

## November

MONDAY 1st

COMMITTEE MEETING at St. Annes Church Hall.

SUNDAY 7th

4.00pm SPECIAL HOME PARTY at the Mackay Residence, 21 Inverness Avenue, PENSHURST (57 1303)

Bring your own 'cut' tea and stay as long as you like!

Organ and Piano just ready and waiting for you.

See and hear the Mackay's fantastic collection of Historic Musical Instruments and Machines.

Explore a huge collection of Movie signs and Features from days gone by, plus a range of many other items of interest. Pat and Mal Mackay will present (if we like) some of their hilarious comedy shorts on the wide screen with full sound for our enjoyment!

This is a day you cant afford to miss.

Bookings can be made now on 57 1303 and dont forget,

BRING YOUR MUSIC!!

SUNDAY 14th 2pm

PAID CONCERT at Marrickville Town Hall featuring DAVID PARSONS and SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST..

DANNY McCABE..TRUMPETER.

WEDNESDAY 17th 7.30pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Marrickville Town Hall.

## December

MONDAY 6th
WEDNESDAY 8th

COMMITTEE MEETING at St.Annes Church Hall.

TOSA XMAS PARTY at Canterbury Leagues Club.

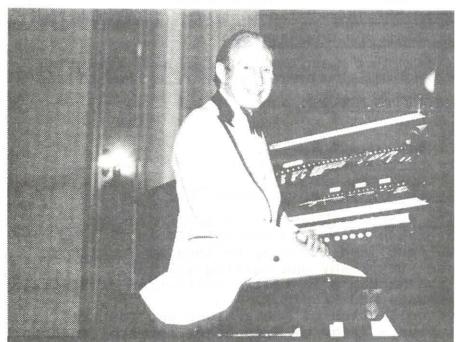
(See inside for details and booking form)

## Ashley Miller

#### ASHLEY MILLER AGAIN SUPERB.

The Wednesday Night concert on September 8th revealed ASHLEY MILLER in a much more relaxed mood than the previous concert and his playing can only be classed once again as superb.

Being caught up in the middle of a petrol drought did not help our patrons and unfortunately our audience was reduced to a small 150 people. They were not disappointed however as ASHLEY MILLER was in fine form and gave us a night of perfect music with excerps from the Shows and many well known pieces. The concert was most enjoyable and the excellent lighting supplied by John Weismantel created a great atmosphere and was appreciated by all present. Thanks John. ASHLEY MILLER...we thank you for some great music.



ASHLEY MILLER AT THE CONSOLE OF THE MARRICKVILLE WURLITZER.

ALAN MISDALE AND ASHLEY MILLER BOTH OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH THE CONCERT.



### RAILWAY CABARET

FRIDAY 19th MOVEMBER at 6.45pm.

#### MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

On Friday 19th November 1982, there will be a Cabaret at Marrickville Town Hall. Whilst I am running this Cabaret for Railwaymen, with whom I work, members of T.O.S.A. are more than welcome to attend.

Starting time is 6.45 pm and on arrival sherries and biscuits & cheese will be served. Table numbers will then be advised and you will be able to dance to the WurliTzer Pipe Organ, in the capable hands of the Society Patron, Mr.Ian Davies. At approximately 7.30pm you will be served a three course meal.

During the evening you will have a chance to singalong to the

organ with our selection of Theatre Song Slides.

The Cost of this enjoyable evening is \$22 a double and \$11 for a single...All you need to bring is yourselves and your choice of liquid refreshments. Dress is optional.

Please arrange your party and book now with Mrs.P.Tooker, 114 Mitchell Street, Croydon Park 2133. Bookings close on Thursday 11th November. Please make ALL cheques payable to J.Lawson and NOT to TOSA.

Mr.Jack Lawson (Organiser)

## 1982 LOWREY QUEST

N.S.W. FINAL NIGHT WILL BE AT

## Bankstown Civic Centre

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30th, 1982

## Special Guest Artist and Judge - Tony Fenelon

Tickets for the final night at Bankstown Civic Centre are available from Mrs. Phil Wilson 759 6050.

ADMISSION \$4.00 Adults \$2.00 Child or Pensioners.

Noel Smith ..Miranda 5244186
Pat Stoddart .. 7092033 or 7092713
Janice and Bob Powell... Wollongong 291261.
Newcastle... 263525
Gosford...245022
Maitland... 331868
Coffs Harbour... 527000

A nice day, a nice home, but the horror 'flu epidemic must have attacked from without, for no less than 14 of our attendants couldn't make it.

Nevertheless, the 26 healthy ones who did, were treated to an afternoon of musical variety from both the large Conn 652 and a genuine WurliTzer upright piano, both in mint condition. Tony and Joanna Van-Oosterum were our hosts and I must congratulate them on having such a pleasant setting in the music room for the organ and piano.

Sitting at the organ bench, one gets the impression of looking out of a huge window of a castle in perhaps Switzerland, and seeing down a big valley to another castle in the distance and the view is breathtaking and very inspiring. It must have encouraged our players for we had a succession of artists all ready with music and they produced a very good afternoon of entertainment for all.

Neil Palmer, John Clark, John Townsend, our Hostess Joanna and Marj Solomon were just a few who played for us, and the organ sounded very good indeed. A few piano-organ duets (off the cuff) were also presented and seemed to be enjoyed by all. I was also suffering badly from the dreaded 'flu bug and lasted the afternoon only with the help of a few pills etc.

The afternoon proved a huge success and I'm sure our next visit (I hope!) to St. Marys will be at a healthier time for all. The amount raised was \$50 and this amount was matched by our Hosts with a very generous donation of \$50 making the total for the day \$100. Our sincere thanks to all who attended and especially to our hosts for the use of such a delightful place and for their very generous donation to our restoration funds.



Tony & Joanna Van-Oosterum

# overseas news

This month's "Overseas News" rather than being transcribed from magazines from abroad comes to you first hand as it was the pleasure of this reporter to have spent five weeks holidaying recently in England and Scotland. Whilst the trip's prime purpose was visiting relatives and sightseeing the chance was taken to visit several instruments as well as people concerned with theatre organs in the U.K. One evening shortly after arriving in London we drove from Kent, where we were staying, right across to the other side of the City to Hertfordshire to visit T.O.S.A. members Len and Judith Rawle. Following a delightful dinner much talk ensued concerning happenings in both Australia and the U.K. and also of the Rawle's recent tour. As most of you will already know Len and Judith are the proud owners of a four-manual twenty five rank Wurlitzer, the console of which is prominent in their lounge room. Len proceeded to put the organ through its paces, something he obviously enjoys greatly - and what magnificent sounds he produces. Surprisingly this large instrument which once filled a three thousand seat theatre with sound (The Empire, Leicester Square, London) is so well installed that at no time now, even when played almost at full organ level, is a normal conversation not possible, a remarkable feat! Thank you to Len and Judith for their hospitality, we all hope, I'm sure, that it won't be too long at all before they both make a return visit to Australia.

Equally well known in organ circles worldwide are Len's parents Les and Edith Rawle, they have had a Wurlitzer installed in their Northolt, Middlesex residence for the last twenty two years. The organ originally came from the Granada Theatre, Wandsworth Road, London, and started life (like so many of the Granada Circuit organs) as a three manual, eight ranker. The organ now has an extra stop-rail and eleven extra ranks! Les and Edith founded the London Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society and hold regular monthly club nights at their home. The July Club Night I was fortunate enough to be able to attend, the featured artist for this night was Manchester organist Nigel Ogden, who is also the compere of the National B.B.C. Programme "The Organist Entertains". Nigel played an interesting and very varied programme which was enjoyed by approximately 75 members including one other from Australia, Adrian Wright from T.O.S.A. Queensland, and also the Peckham Family from New York State, U.S.A. The organ fraternity in England will forever be in the debt of Les and Edith Rawle for their untiring efforts in the theatre organ cause.

On return from Scotland I gave Les Rawle a call once again and he told me that several days later he planned to go to do maintenance on the Christie Organ at the Regal Theatre, Edmonton, in North London. This was a chance too good to miss to see the four-manual fourteen unit Christie made famous by the ledgendary Sidney Torch who played there from opening night in 1933 and for several years after, and made many superb recordings thereon. The organ is installed in two chambers one on top of the other on the right hand side of the theatre, and the console is in the centre of what used to be the orchestra pit. The theatre is now used for Bingo which as most of you know is still extremely popular in Britain. (For what reason I know not.) The Regal organ was considered by the makers Hill, Norman and Beard to be one of their most successful cinema organs and listening to recordings made on it one can understand why. Sidney Torch directed the tonal adjustment of this organ to his own personal requirements and to this day still says it was his favorite of all he ever performed on.

I am pleased to say that the theatre is well kept and patronised and the organ is now restored to excellent concert condition. During September, London A.T.O.S. have the young American organist Lew Williams booked to play a recital.....no doubt he will be playing some of his excellent "Torch Style" arrangements.

The last call of interest was made the day before departing for home, it had long been my ambition to visit the Musical Museum in the inner London suburb of Brentford. The collection has been assembled over many years and is on display each week-end during the summer between 2 and 5 p.m. in what was formerly a large stone church which fronts onto the Thames River just near Kew Gardens. Frank Holland, the founder of the Museum gives a conducted tour which is almost an hour in duration and this is repeated three times during the afternoon. It was surprising that there were about 60 people for the first tour and about 50 for the second tour. I must agree with another Australian couple whom I met during the tour that the hour certainly went very quickly, such was the interest of the exhibits on show. From the very first type of player piano which was actually a device which pushed up to the keyboard and was actuated by felt covered fingers to the most sophisticated reproducing grand pianos were all on display for the visitors to see. Many instruments were demonstrated including a beautiful Steinway Duo-Art Reproducer and also the last Chickering Grand Piano to be equipped with the Ampico "B" Reproducing Action made in 1940. One item which created particular interest was the Mills Violano-Virtuoso which is in fact a short compass piano of 44 notes and an automatically bowed real violin, the entire instrument is controlled by a paper roll and was popular in the earlier part of the Century. All instruments demonstrated played perfectly and showed a high degree of skill in the restoration of the same. The pride and joy of the Museum is the 3 manual 12 rank Wurlitzer theatre organ which was formerly installed in the A.B.C. (Regal) Theatre, Kingston-Upon-Thames. Many people will no doubt have recordings made on this famous Wurlitzer either by Sidney Torch or in later years by Joseph Seal. The organ sounds in fine voice in the Museum and the high apex ceiling enhances the sounof the seven reed ranks (!!) and five flue ranks. The demonstration of the organ was made by a roll playing attachment connected to the instrument and this caused a good deal of interest by those gathered to listen. Roll playing attachments for Wurlitzers are extremely rare, this example being the only one in Europe. (As a matter of interest there is a similar roll player attached to the Hearne Residence Wurlitzer in Geelong (Vic.). The three manual Wurlitzer console has intact one of the illuminated glass side attachments which is fully functional and changes through about eight different colours in sequence or remains the one colour at the will of the organist. After a fascinating visit to this excellent and rare collection of musical instruments I came away feeling more than a little sad that the authorities have not yet seen fit to take more interest in the Museum and provide more suitable and safe quarters in which to display the best collection of automatic musical instruments in Europe.

23/24 October 1982

## COACH TOUR

23/24 October 1982

#### MUDGEE AND GULGONG

<u>DAY 1</u> We depart MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL at 8.00am travelling through Sydney's Western suburbs crossing the Nepean River at Penrith and begining our ascent to the scenic Blue Mountains follow the steps of explorers Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson.

After a morning tea stop at Katoomba, we descend Mt. Victoria to the western slopes and Lithgow. Skirt Lithgow and continue on through Cullen Bullen and Capertee to Mudgee.

Mudgee is the centre of a flourishing wine producing area so we visit one of the local wineries for winetasting, allowing ample time to purchase if you wish.

Honey is the other product Mudgee has become known for and we visit the honey company to watch processing and packing before "Kinlochleven" where mead is produced from honey. Overnight is spent in the picturesque Cudgegong Valley at Mudgee.

<u>DAY 2</u> Our day begins with a short journey to Gulgong - The Town depicted in the Ten Dollar note - to wander in streets of by-gone days and visit the pioneer museum which houses the most comprehensive collection of goldrush and pioneering days.

In the afternoon, we return to Sydney via Mudgee, Lithgow and Bells Line of Road, to Bilpin and Windsor arriving in Sydney at approximately 6.00 pm.at Marrickville Town Hall.

COST. \$69 per person.

The cost includes all travel, dinner, bed and breakfast twin share accommodation at the New Mudgee Motel, the winery and honey factory visits and the entry to the Pioneer Museum.

#### Please make cheques payable to T.O.S.A.

People interested in this tour, please contact Mrs. Wilson, 120 Dennis Street, LAKEMBA 2195 or by phoning 759 6050.

#### HOME PARTY AT CRONULLA.

The Raines-Collins Home Party at Cronulla proved to be very entertaining to all present. Our Hostesses Jane Raines and June Collins proved to be the stars of the day and even composed a welcome song to greet us and this was sung by Jane's mother, Mrs.Wendy Raines which was

quite delightful and much appreciated by all present.

We were also honoured with the presence of ACT President, Clinton White accompanied by his charming wife Libby. Clinton commenced the afternoon with a big Another Openin' Another Show and set the audience for a big afternoon to follow. We had Piano-Organ duets by our Hostesses and piano and organ solos by Edith Tomek and Nell Tomek, Giancarlo Giacci and Brigid and Sharon Maennl, but the piano and organ duets by our Hostesses Jane Raines and June Collins along with vocal soloist Wendy Raines were very well received by all and proved that a lot of hard practice had been put in for the afternoon and I thank them most sincerely for their fine efforts.

Switching from one house to the next seemed to go off smoothly and a nice afternoon tea was served and the music continued on. A total sum of \$64 was raised towards TOSA funds and this was received with thanks by President Alan Misdale who also thanked our Hosts for

their support.

## HOME ORGAN PARTY REVEIW



Jane Raines

#### NOMINATIONS!!

This is the last reminder that nominations for all Executive and Committee positions for 1983 will close at 5 p.m. 6th October 1982. Should you wish to nominate any member for the above positions you are urged to check your August or September issues of T.O.S.A. News for the Nomination Form, complete this and forward without delay to the Returning Officer.

#### THE SELWYN GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS

## A CHARITY CONCERT

in aid of

## THE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S CENTRE OF N.S.W.

at

#### EARLWOOD-BARDWELL PARK R.S.L. AUDITORIUM

on

#### SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER at 2.30pm

#### FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS...

VALDA LANG

ORGANIST

MARIE TYSOE

MEZZO SOPRANO

GINO ZANCANARO

**TENOR** 

BERNARD WALZ

PIANIST

PATRICIA WOOLDRIDGE

SOPRANO

DAMIEN SCOTT

ORGANIST

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3

CONCESSION \$2

#### ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.

ORGAN: Courtesy of FAMILY MUSIC CENTRE. BANKSTOWN SQUARE.

Dining facilities of the Club will be available to the Concert Audience.

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## TOSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

### WED. 17TH NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM

A cordial invitation is extended to all TOSA members to attend this most important meeting. The activities of our Society during the past year will be summarised and comments on any activity from our members will be MOST welcome. This is your chance to SPEAK UP and let us know your thoughts. Sensible constructive criticism is very necessary to the controlling body, and if they become aware of your ideas and thoughts it helps enormously to guide us for the future programming.

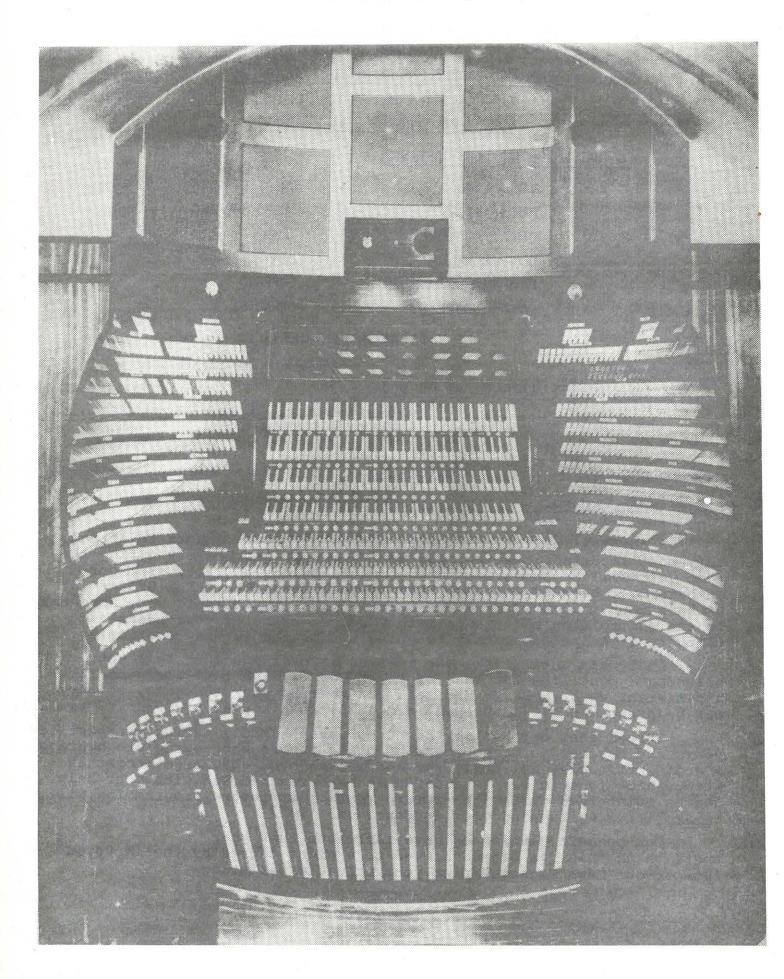
DONT wait until after the meeting is over and then tell your friends "I dont like the idea of that"..or "I wish they could do it a different way"...GET UP and tell the meeting your thoughts, so they can be discussed by all present and a suitable answer arrived at, for all.

I feel that our Society has progressed rapidly during the past few years and has become a good band of music lovers who appreciate hearing a good artist play our WurliTzer and who enjoy a casual get together at our home functions. A standard has been reached and with your help can be maintained during the future years. Our future programming will be amplified by knowing your suggestions.

Our concert audiences have increased this year and I think this has been achieved to a great degree by the improved look of our News Magazine plus your valuable assistance.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING.....

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THE WORLD'S LARGEST ORGAN IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST AUDITORIUM.

In Atlantic City's mammoth \$20,000,000 Auditorium and Convention Hall there are located two exceptionally fine organs. The one in the Ballroom is the largest and most complete semi-theatre type organ ever built. But the really big one is in the main Auditorium. In size and power it stands alone. It is beyond most people's conception of a pipe organ. Even the experts are amazed at its inspiring proportions and glorius tone.

The architectural porportions of the Auditorium are so harmonius that its immense size is not easily comprehended. It occupies 4 city blocks. A 13 story building could be set upon the floor and not touch the roof. The interior space amounts to more than 9.500,000 cubic feet. Here in a single room, clear of any obstructions, can be seated 41,000 people.

Emerson Richards, the organ architect, decided that neither a large orchestra or electric amplification would answer the problem in providing music for this huge Auditorium and that only a pipe organ of heroic size would do the job. In the eyes of the architect the fact that the result was the largest organ in the world was incidental. It had to have greater power, more versatility and finer musical values, than any other organ in existence. As was hoped the result was the largest and finest pipe organ in the world.

The organ had to be heard from all parts of the Auditorium under many different conditions. It must not only cope with a capacity crowd but a partly filled hall as well. One night it may be leading a great international religious meeting. The next a boxing contest or even a football game. The next week it could be a great political convention, so the organ had to do things for all people.

The organ pipes are disposed in eight locations, all discernable from the Auditorium by reason of grill screens which form the face of each chamber. In addition some of these locations are subdivided into "swell boxes" fitted with aluminium louvres in place of the conventional wooden shades. There are 12 rooms in which are located the electrical relays and other mechanisms that operate the organ. Eight motors with a combined total of 395 H.P. drive the great blowers that supply wind to the organ.

The console is also of original design. It stands on a platform that can be turned in any direction and is located to the right of the stage. There are a total of 1,439 hand controlled tablets of which 1,255 control the speaking pipes. These tablets are placed in a "bowl" surrounding the organist. There are also foot controls. These include four separately adjustable crescendos. The Great and Choir manuals are extended to seven octaves to form a "Grand Great" and "Gran Choir".

The organ and the Ballroom organ are under the personal care of William R. Rosser, organ expert and his assistants, who find it a full time job to maintain and tune the two organs.

The organ was built by Midmer-Losh Organ Company of Merrick, Long Island, New York, organ builders since 1860. They had in their employ an outstanding group of diapason, string and reed voicers, who, under the direction of the architect produced the amazing tonal results that distinguished this organ from its contemporaries and so far in advance of its time was its design that it is still the World's most outstanding organ.

Wind supplied from the eight large blowers varies from  $3/\frac{1}{2}$  inches to 100 inch wind pressure. The console has seven manuals and there are 455 ranks of pipes. A tour of the organ would take four and a half hours. Cost at today's prices would exceed \$1,450,000.

## T.O.S.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY

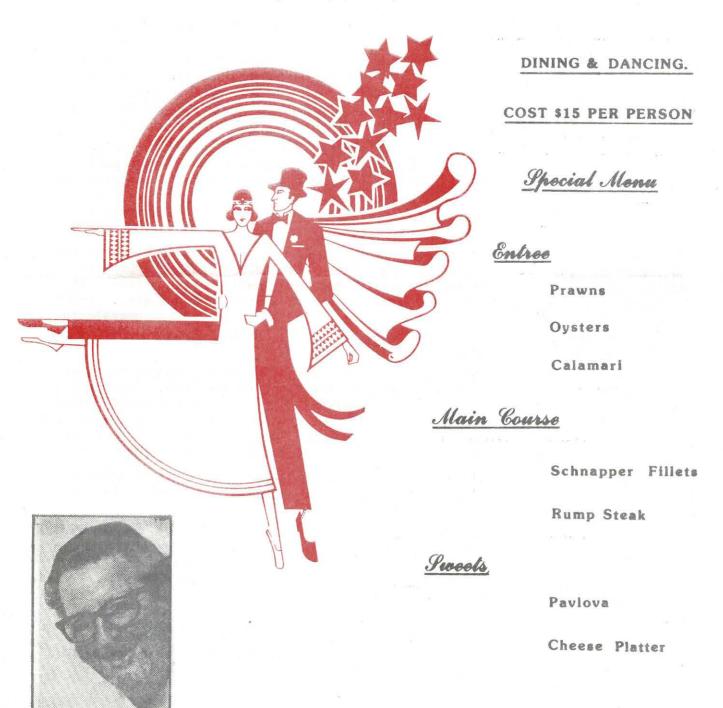
WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER

Commencing at 6.30p.m.

## "THE DEEP SEA TAVERN"

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN LEAGUE CLUB LTD.

26 Bridge Road, Belmore,



FREDDIE MACK

818

RESIDENT ORGANIST/VOCALIST

BOOKING FORM IN THIS ISSUE

## Theatre Organ Society

of australia

ns.w. division

## **PRESENTS**

at the console of the mighty

**Theatre Pipe Organ** 







SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER at 2p.m. Marrickville Town Hall Marrickville

As a member of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia since 1967, David has given many concerts on the few remaining famous theatre pipe organs. He played the Capitol Theatre 3/15 Wurlitzer for the 1967 Convention and part of the final concert before it was removed from the theatre; the State Theatre 4/21 Wurlitzer for two Society concerts, including the National Convention in 1977; The Lyceum Theatre Christie for many Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Services; and of course the former Prince Edward Theatre 2/10 Wurlitzer now installed in Marrickville Town Hall, where some four public concerts including the Fifth Birthday Concert in its new home were played by him. His first recording called "Long Live the Wurlitzer" was made on this magnificent and historic instrument in 1974. He has also recorded the organ in the Great Hall of Newcastle University which has a very large Conn 3 manual custom built electronic organ.

## Danny Mc Cabo

Danny McCabe commenced playing the trumpet when he was 7 years of age under his father's guidance. At the age of 9 years he began studies with that well recognized trumpet player John Hoffman. Danny is now 11 years old.

Playing duo with his father who is a guitarist has given Danny a keen appreciation of Jazz. Danny has performed on the television show "Young Talent Time" and will appear in the semi-finals of this show during October.

In addition to being a keen trumpet player, Danny is a BMX bike enthusiast and he races with the local BMX Club.

## Clinton White

Clinton commenced classical piano at age 8 and continued to AMEB Grade 7, Clinton was successful in Eisteddfods in Wollongong and Goulburn and played in the Goulburn Eisteddfod Championships at age 15. Clinton discovered theatre organ music in 1972 and by 1974 had the distinction of representing the Society at the Adelaide Convention as a cameo artist playing the Wurlitzer owned by the S.A. Division. Clinton's first major concert was at the Albert Hall in Canberra and since then has appeared at Goulburn, Yass, Cooma, and at the Wurlitzers at the Dendy Cinema, Marrickville Town Hall, Cinema North and Kelvin Grove High School in Brisbane.

Clinton White took part in a duo concert at the Marrickville Wurlitzer last year and proved to be very popular with the audience.

## Cliff Bingham

Cliff Bingham has been on the popular organ scene now for some 16 years, Cliff began piano lessons at age 8 and moved on to study the classical pipe organ some 6 years later at St. Matthews Church, Manly. Over the years, Cliff has concertized in most States on both pipe and electronic organs for both T.O.S.A. and commercial dealer networks. Cliff is organist and deputy choirmaster of the East Lindfield Baptist Church where he plays a fine twenty-six rank classical organ built to his own specifications. Cliff has played many times at the Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ and

at many of the popular lunch-time recitals at the Sydney Opera House organ.