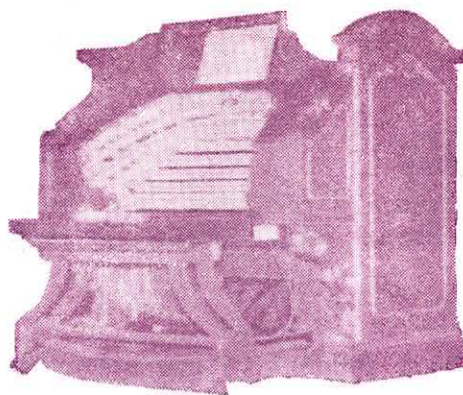


T.O.S.A. NEWS

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PATRON - REGINALD DIXON MBE.

EDITOR - FRANK ELLIS

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TOSA NEWS IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
IN THE DIVISIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, QUEENSLAND AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

JUNE - 1968
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All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary,
P.O. Box 108, Wentworthville, NSW., 2145, Australia.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW SOUTH WALES IN JUNE.

SUNDAY 23rd JUNE AT 2pm SHARP. The second in the series of Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ concerts will be held, at the Clancy residence, 10 Caloola Road, Wentworthville. A very special event, exclusively presented for the members of the NSW Division of TOSA, and featuring the first Australian concert by the well known theatre organist from Ireland, MR PETER HELD, who has chosen to play his first concert in this country, on the 2/15 Wurlitzer installed in the residence of John & Mary Clancy. The programme, of unusually wide variety, will include a number of items which have never been heard at a TOSA recital before. The guest artist will be the charming young soprano, PAULINE GATTENHOFF.

Admission will be by printed invitation cards only, and these will be available by writing to the Secretary, P.O. Box 108 Wentworthville. To obtain your invitation, please send a stamped self addressed envelope and \$1 for each person attending. Include in your request, the names of each person for whom the invitation is desired. Due to the limited accomodation, early application is strongly advised, and because of the anticipated heavy demand for seats, this concert will be for TOSA members only, and there will be NO SEATS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR on the day of the concert. MR HELD has asked that all profits from the concert be donated to the Prince Edward Organ Fund, and this is a very generous gesture indeed, and the Society is most appreciative of it. The concert will be preceded by a short business meeting, as is usual half way through the year.

MINI-PROFILE ABOUT OUR ARTIST.

PETER HELD studied to be a concert pianist in his native Dublin, and later turned to the theatre organ. He was Deputy organist at the 4/16 Compton theatre organ in the Theatre Royal, Dublin for five years. This instrument had an illuminated console and was equipped with a Melotone unit. PETER did a summer season at Brighton England, playing in a large ballroom. It was there he first met DOUGLAS REEVE, famous organist of the Brighton Dome, and he became a firm admirer of this famous organist. In 1960, PETER was chosen by the Rank Organisation to play for the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Savoy Theatre, Limerick, appearing at the three manual Compton organ there. He has also featured at the 4/20 Wurlitzer of the famous Odeon Theatre Manchester England, and the 2/9 Wurlitzer of the Odeon Theatre Hanley. He played for the English Cinema Organ Society whilst at the Odeon Theatre Manchester.

He has more than thirty broadcasts over the National network of the South African Broadcasting Corporation to his credit. His first concert for TOSA is a not to be missed event. We suggest you write to the Secretary NOW. BE SURE OF YOUR INVITATION.

SATURDAY 15th JUNE AT 8pm There will be an organ party at the home of our members, Mr & Mrs Don McDonald of 6 Bligh Street, Kirrawee on the above date. There will be a donation of \$1 per person in aid of the P.E. Organ Fund by courtesy of our hosts. Don has extended and rebuilt his auditorium which now includes 16 mm projection equipment for films, and if members would like to have a silent film run through with organ accompaniment, then this can be arranged. Don has a Lowrey H25 Theatre De luxe organ with an illuminated console, and his movie screen has theatre style decor around it complete with illuminated columns on either side. He also has a grand piano which is being connected up to the organ, and it is hoped that this will be ready in time for the party. If you plan to attend this function (and you shouldn't miss it) please phone Don a couple of days beforehand to let him know how many in your party. There's plenty of accomodation for quite a large number of members in the auditorium. Don's phone no - 521-4136 This will be a grand night in aid of a good cause, so roll up and support the P.E. organ fund, and have a grand night out as well.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded that the June meeting will be on Monday 3rd, and the July meeting, on Monday 1st. Meetings start at 7.15pm.

COMING EVENTS.

In July, there will be a concert by our Honorary member IAN DAVIES at the three manual Rodgers Electronic theatre organ installed recently in the Bondi Junction-Waverley R.S.L. Club, where IAN is resident. On Saturday 6th July, there will be an organ party at the home of our members George & Joyce Walker in aid of the P.E. Organ Fund. There is always a warm welcome at the Walker home for members (central heating installed) and a happy time is assured. Phone the Walkers about the beginning of July if you are going. Their number is 86-5871. July will also have a Technical lecture on a Saturday night at a city location and another organ party at the end of the month, making July a month full of activity. Full details will be given in July TOSA News.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.

Our member DAVID PARSONS presented a splendid recital, at St. John's Church Penshurst on the 15th May last. The organ, a Conn, is the largest electronic installation in a church in Australia, and its installation was designed and supervised by our Honorary member, REUBERT HAYES. MR HAYES gave a descriptive talk on the organ's specifications, with DAVID demonstrating the stops, as REUBERT dealt with each one. The talk was both informative and entertaining, and the demonstration had very obviously been well arranged and rehearsed, so smoothly did it go. DAVID PARSONS is just as much at home with a church organ, as he is with the entertainment organ, and his ability and fine musicianship received warm applause. Highlights of his programme were, Handel's "Trumpet Tune & Air", "Sanctuary Of The Heart" (Ketelbey), "Evensong" (Easthope Martin), Andantino In Db (Lemaire) played with Trems and Leslie Speakers no less, and "The Arrival Of The Queen Of Sheba" by Handel. The Society thanks DAVID for the recital, REUBERT for his talk, and the St. John's Church authorities, for the opportunity of hearing this superbly installed organ.

Four Star Jam Session at the Capitol. On Saturday 25th May, members had another opportunity of hearing the Capitol Theatre's Wurlitzer once again. The occasion was a "jam session", and the four artists were, CLIFF BINGHAM, LANCE WELLS, BILL SCHUMACHER and DAVID PARSONS, in that order. Their different styles of playing and registration, brought forth a great variety of tonal colors, and this, together with their very differing choice of music, gave the audience a most entertaining programme indeed. CLIFF BINGHAM gave his usual polished performance, and revealed his mastery of the GEORGE WRIGHT style of playing, as well as his own inimitable one. LANCE WELLS was delightful in the slow romantic ballads, which he plays with feeling and soft registrations entirely suitable to the item. BILL SCHUMACHER played with assured ease, and, in the nostalgic "Autumn In New York", introduced a style which we have not heard from him before. DAVID PARSONS was the final artist, and he rounded off the recital in fine style with registrations entirely different to any heard from his three fellow organists. It was a splendid feast of music, yet, because of the lack of sufficient time for each artist to establish rapport with his audience, one could not help feeling that we had been served only the hors d'oeuvres without any main course. This was unavoidable, it was not possible to give each one any more time at the console, due to an earlier than usual morning movie session. All four organists are to be congratulated on their performances. Noticed among the audience, was one of the ABC's top T.V. newsmen, MR JAMES DIBBLE, who, informed your Editor that he had very much enjoyed hearing the Capitol's Mighty Wurlitzer organ once again.

Also on the same day, at 8pm, a good roll up of members were present at the Presbyterian Church Hall at Ryde, for the demonstration recital of the Schober organ built by our member Oscar Moen, who has done a very creditable job of work indeed. The organ is a Schober Recital model, and revealed itself as a good straight or theatre instrument. Used as a theatre organ, its tone was very authentic indeed. Our member IEN BADMAN played the instrument in a competently assured and familiar manner. He had gone to great lengths to assure a variety of items in his programme, which opened, as he so aptly put it, with a taste of the heavy music, then getting lighter and lighter. The surprise of the evening was the owners daughter, fifteen years old HEATHER MOEN who has been learning for only a year. She played several items, both classical and popular, and was recalled for encores. Her showmanship and confident attitude at the console, suggest, that in the years ahead, the Society may have another future NOREEN HENNESSY. Guest artist Mr Collins, possessor of a lovely voice, was very warmly received by the audience. The minister of the Church, Mr Hamilton, in his speech, recalled his boyhood days of watching the man in white, rising from the pit, seated at a white console at a theatre in Scotland, and said that TOSA would be very welcome to return any time in the future. President Tom Halloran suitably responded.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

Warmly we extend a welcome to the following new members this month - we hope that you will enjoy your membership and take full advantage of the facilities afforded by the Society for the enjoyment of popular organ music. Please contact any member of the Committee at the first function you attend so that you may be introduced to other members and made feel welcome. Committee officials all wear badges for easy identification by new members. Now we say "hello" to the following:- Robert Lassau of Sydney - John Hornsey of Sydney - John Hillman of Sydney - Mr & Mrs Clive Nott of Sydney - Mr Ovens of Queensland - Mr & Mrs King of Queensland - Mr Doyle of Queensland - Mr Pottinger of Queensland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF PRINCE EDWARD ORGAN FUND.

With pleasure we announce the sum of \$26 from members MR & Mrs Merv Moore, the proceeds of the organ party at their home last month. There still remains a debt of just over \$400 on our own Wurlitzer organ now being installed in the Marrickville Town Hall. For the information of new members, our own organ is the Wurlitzer formerly in Sydney's Prince Edward Theatre. This organ is the property of all of us so by helping the P.E. organ fund we are helping ourselves to a future of the kind of music, played on the kind of instrument that we all like best. Can you help the fund in any way ?????

WORKING PARTIES AT THE P.E. ORGAN AT MARRICKVILLE.

The next working party at Marrickville Town Hall will be held on Saturday 1st June and this will be followed by Saturday 6th July. Come along and help this great project.

RECORD NEWS.CONCERT RECORDING'S "ORGAN OF THE MONTH" CLUB.

Instead of releasing new records this month, Concert Recording is giving Club members the opportunity of catching up on any records they may have missed from the past monthly issues totalling 23 records. This is an excellent idea your Editor thinks, and one which is well worth taking advantage of. Our Secretary has now received stocks of all the discs so far released in the last two years including our own members IAN DAVIES and CECIL CRANFIELD - IAN at the Capitol Theatre Wurlitzer and CECIL at the Sydney Town Hall organ. As well there are records by DON FRENCH, FRANK OLSEN, DICK SMITH, GEORGE BLACKMORE, AL BOLLINGTON, VIC HAMMETT, WENDELL KENNEDY, DICK SCHRUM, BUDDY NOLAN, GERALD SHAW, DOUGLAS REEVE, BOBBY VAN CAMP, and JACK HELYER all first class examples of theatre organ records.

For the benefit of new members, as well as country and interstate members the following information about Concert Recording's "Organ Of The Month" Club is given. Firstly, it costs you nothing to join the club, and you are under no compulsion to buy records every month. The Club issues a new release each month of a well known and famous organist playing a different theatre organ, and featuring popular theatre type music. The cost is less than comparable records would sell in the music stores IF THEY WERE ABLE TO BE BOUGHT. Usually they are not. Most commercial recording companies regarding the theatre organ as being extinct, which is far from the truth. Theatre organs are re-awakening all over the world, and Concert Recording is the only company which is dedicated to the production of Theatre organ discs exclusively. Records sell to members at \$4.95 each, and are in full stereo sound. A monthly Newsletter is sent to each member advising him of next month's release and the member may then elect to take the next record or not according to his wishes. They also release an alternate organ record, thus giving you a choice each month. If you desire to take the two discs, then the second disc comes to you at a reduced price. Every member of TOSA is urged to join the "Organ Of The Month" Club - remember it costs nothing to join and you pay only for the records of your choice. Write to Secretary John Clancy now and JOIN THE RECORD COLLECTORS who are all building up a library of really pleasurable listening.

CONCERT RECORDING will return to its normal policy next month with the release of the famous English theatre organist DON KNIGHTS latest release titled "Viennese Knights" which features a three manual Compton Theatre organ. The alternate release will be Volume 1 of GEORGE WRIGHT AT THE WURLITZER.

LOCAL RECORD NEWS.

For Hammond organ fans, there is a release on Festival label of well known Sydney organist ERIC SMITH playing, "The Bonnie & Clyde Hit Parade". It features thirty hits of the 1930's and is described as multiple organ and piano. Record news continues on page 5.)

JUNE PROFILE THE BARRY BAILEY STORY

This month's "PROFILE" was compiled from material supplied by Gordon H. Berry, Vice-President of TOSA's Queensland Division. We are very grateful to Gordon, and extend sincere thanks for carrying out the interview on our behalf.

Gordon Berry sat watching a mediocre act in a Surfer's Paradise night club. A female in a mini-dress, was shaking herself to pieces in a go-go act, whilst singing off key. She was accompanied by a pianist intent on destroying the piano, whilst he demonstrated how shocking the modern trend of "off key" chords can really sound. As he listened to this cacophony of culture, Gordon reflected, "If only BARRY BAILEY were here with his Compton Melotone organ, then perhaps one would enjoy having a night out".

BARRY BAILEY is regarded with great respect by the Brisbane theatre fraternity, as well as with great affection by the members of Queensland's Division of TOSA. He is always ready to help the Society in any way possible, and has given many concerts for the Queensland members. A brilliant future is predicted for him.

He was born at Alstonville, a small town about twelve miles from Lismore in Northern New South Wales. When he was five years old, the family moved to Queensland to live. As a young boy, he was taken to the magnificent Regent Theatre in Queen Street Brisbane. BARRY still remembers the awe he felt as he first saw the huge three manual Wurlitzer pipe organ, and the orchestra rise from the pit, each on its own lift. At the age of nine years, he started studying the piano, and like all boys, hated to practise. Later, when he commenced working for a living, his fascination for the organ, led him to spend many a Saturday morning, watching REUBERT HAYES, and later, LES RICHMOND playing the Regent's Wurlitzer.

BARRY BAILEY's first teacher of the organ was Marjorie Horn, who after some time, went overseas. He then continued his studies with Ken Best, until ill health forced Mr Best to give up his teaching practise. BARRY then studied under Robert Boughen, for some years. He first played for a church service at the age of 14 years, using a Bell reed organ. Four years later, he was playing the pipe organs in two churches. In 1958 he was married, and today, his charming wife Beverly is his greatest critic.

About that time he became manager of the big suburban Jubilee Theatre at Toowong in Brisbane. This theatre later closed down due to the advent of T.V. In its silent film days, the theatre had been known as the Gaiety, and Radio 4QG broadcast the musical programmes from the theatre each Saturday night for many years. BARRY then joined the Brisbane showrooms of W.H. Paling Ltd., where he demonstrated Hammond and other organs. He frequently played a Hammond which was located just inside the doorway of the showroom, and as the crowd gathered to listen, the footpath would become jammed with an appreciative audience. This was not surprising, as BARRY has that rare ability to demonstrate the Hammond to its best advantage. The firm were quick to recognize this ability, and BARRY was soon sent to play and demonstrate organs in many centres in Queensland, playing both modern and serious music.

He was transferred to Paling's Lismore branch, and here he was starred in a weekly T.V. show, playing all moods of music. He featured in night clubs and cabarets for some time, and was never short of engagements. Whilst in Lismore, he purchased the large Compton Melotone organ, which was later, to take him back into a movie theatre again - this time as a featured organist. On his return to Brisbane, the Compton was duly installed in the Imperial Theatre Lutwyche, and BARRY became resident at this popular theatre, where he remained for a very long time. Many patrons of nearby theatres, who had held permanent bookings each week, cancelled, and then became "permanents" at the Imperial Theatre, after the organ became a featured part of the show there. BARRY made a point of playing as many requests from the audience as he possibly could during the intermissions. These requests were relayed to him by the theatre's ushers. It was small wonder that the Imperial Theatre continued to draw good houses despite the advent of T.V., for the management's policy of booking sensible shows, and featuring the organ, was the right one to follow, when theaters all around them, were closing down. The Imperial gave its patrons, value for their money during the days when other houses offered less and less.

Later, BARRY BAILEY was appointed assistant manager of the Wintergarden Theatre in Brisbane, and he is still to be found in this popular and lovely theatre.

(Continued on page 5)

JUNE "PROFILE""THE BARRY BAILEY STORY"

As he surveys the theatre from the Dress Circle, BARRY may well remember the former glory of the Wintergarden Theatre, as the ghosts of the past, pass before his eyes. Rita Henderson playing up in the loft, "Painting The Clouds With Sunshine" and that great hit of yesteryear, "Barney Google" - Gregory Ivanoffs orchestra with Ellie Jones at the Wurlitzer, after it had been moved into the pit, and, as she played, a huge feathered fan opened out behind the console, illuminated by concealed lighting, and presenting a picture of grandeur and elegance. BARRY might well conjure up the ghosts of the past, as he gazes into the Wintergarden's auditorium, with its memories of the golden days, when a visit to the movies was an exciting and eventful experience.

BARRY's Compton Melotone organ is now installed in his home, where he can do musical compositions of a constructive nature. He hopes for the day when the theatre organ will once again be a feature of an evening at the movies, and there are many, like BARRY, who believe this day is coming perhaps sooner than we expect, for canned home entertainment, whether it be Stereo, or T.V., cannot satisfy the public craving for something different in the way of a big sound - and the biggest sound to be found is still the mighty theatre organ, which, unaided, can outdo the amplified guitar etc, in pure and undistorted sound.

A talented, friendly, and natural musician, with a dream of the theatre organ's return to popularity foremost in his mind, this then is BARRY BAILEY - our PROFILE FOR JUNE.

LOCAL RECORD NEWS (continued from page 3)

The record number of the ERIC SMITH disc is SFL 932841 in Stereo and FL 32841 in Mono. Price in the music stores is \$5.75 but it can be had for \$5 by contacting the Hammond Organ Club Secretary Mrs Iris Begley at telephone 81-2753, who will be pleased to help.

In a letter to our Secretary, our member, JACK LOREN of California, a well known and popular organist in the States, advises that he has been chosen to make the first recordings of the totally restored 4/78 Moller Theat re organ installed in the 6,600 seat Los Angeles Auditorium. (Four manuals, 78 ranks ???? Wow ' . ' . What a whopper) Ed. Restoration of this huge and lovely instrument by experts Lester & Olive Pepiot is now almost completed, and a sensational sound should result. Good luck with the record Jack.

AGENDA FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING ON SUNDAY 23rd JUNE.

1. Reading of minutes
2. Correspondence
3. General Business

Notice of motion. To be moved by R.D. Blackmore Treasurer That By-Law No.20 be amended by deleting the words "Country & Interstate members" and by inserting in lieu thereof the words "Pensioners, Country & Interstate Members"

The effect of this amendment would be to permit Pensioner members in the city to pay an annual subscription of \$4.00 in lieu of \$8.00. Such an amendment has been recommended by the Committee.

Amendment of By-Law 28. Delete the words "England & New Zealand £1.4.0. Sterling" and United States & Canada \$3" and substitute the words "Equivalent to \$4 Australian". Also delete the words "other countries"

There is a vacancy on the Committee to be filled by election at this meeting, and member Lance Wells has been nominated. Mr Wells, a former theatre organist, has a great knowledge of theatre organ matters which would be a great asset to the Committee. Other nominations are invited.

Members are reminded that correct procedure should be followed in regard to any correspondence to be read at a business meeting. This is that letters should be forwarded to the Secretary to be read by him at that meeting.

CAN YOU WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR "THE DIAPHONE" MAGAZINE.????

Any member who can write an article on theatres, theatre organs etc for publication in future issues of the Society's quarterly magazine, "The Diaphone", is invited to send same to the Editor Mr Rod Blackmore as soon as possible. How about sending him your material soon. He will also be pleased to receive interesting photographs too.

SOCIETY THANKS MEMBER.

The Society thanks member Peter Hunt of Oak Flats for his offer of speakers for the Society amplifier, following the appeal in last month's TOSA News. Thank you Peter.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS. (from President Bob Smith)

The April meeting of the Queensland Division was held at the residence of new members Mr & Mrs Bert Pottinger of Indooroopilly. Peter Johnstone was not only the organist at the console of the Wurlitzer Electronic Theatre Organ (the first in this State), but he also organised the complete musical programme.

Sid and Kay Paterson are both well known singers in Brisbane, and members and their friends enjoyed both their solos, and their duets. Seldom does the Society have the privilege of listening to such fine singing. Gracie Smith, another very good entertainer, showed her versatility in her choice of numbers and delighted everyone with her comedy songs. Gracie Fields herself could not have performed better with her own songs chosen by Gracie Smith. Peter certainly showed what the organ was capable of having planned his programme accordingly.

The Queensland Executive are to visit the Gold Coast on Friday night the 24th May to assist and advise some enthusiasts down there to form a Chapter of the Queensland Division.

On Wednesday 15th May the Committee held its first meeting, which was very successful. Information will be conveyed to members at the next meeting of the Division which will be held at Whitehouse Bros Organ Centre on Monday 27th May. A treat is in store for those attending, besides most models of Conn organs, many other makes will be available to see and try out. The highlight will be a large merry-go-round pipe organ of German origin, which has just been completely rebuilt by the firm. This is of course played by rolls, and it is learned that these are still available from Germany. It is almost certain to be the organ first used at the "White City" Sydney, then known to be the largest in Australia, and it later found its way to Manly. Further checks are to be made but I am almost sure this is the organ I knew as a boy when I visited the White City quite frequently from my home at Vacluse.

Tapes recorded by DON KINGSTON and WILBUR KENTWELL at Milton Courts are now available from Howell Whitehouse.

STOP PRESS In a telephone call from Brisbane today, Bob Smith Reported to TOSA News, that the Gold Coast Chapter of TOSA was in fact formed last night (May 24th). Your Editor, on behalf of all TOSA members everywhere sends his congratulations to the new Chapter, the first such, to be formed in Australia. President of the new Chapter is Jim Barron with Arthur Rizzo as Secretary. Congrats. and best wishes to you two gents. Arthur is a former member of the NSW Division before he moved to Surfers Paradise. He is the proud owner of a three manual Rodgers Theatre organ. Thank you for the call Bob - its a real scoop.

FOR SALE NOTICES.

Julius organ two 49 note keyboards with 13 note pedalboard, 21 voices condition as new. Price \$1,100 Phone 90-4612

One Tenshodo H.O. gauge model railroad equipment. Any reasonable offer accepted. Apply to member Ron Read of 38 Cascade Street Paddington, any evening after 7 pm.

Julius Premier organ for sale. Apply to 96-3817

WANTED TO BUY An appeal has come from a member in Tasmania who is looking for an electronic organ in good condition for round about \$500 including the cost of shipping it to Tasmania. The organ is for a person forced to give up work due to a heart condition, who would like to take up the study of the instrument. Second hand electronic organs not being too plentiful in Tasmania, he has sent the appeal on to us. If you can help this organ lover, please contact the Secretary who will arrange for our Electronic Organ Sub Committee to inspect the instrument on behalf of the Tasmanian interests.

ORGAN EVENTS.

The Organ Institute of Nsw announces an organ recital at Christ Church St. Lawrence, Railway Square Sydney, at 5.55pm on Tuesday June 18th. Admission is 50cents each.

NO. 3 CHAPTER HAMMOND ORGAN CLUB.

The above Club announces a cabaret dance on Tuesday 18th June at 8pm at the Community Centre at Cammeray. Featured at the organ will be TOSA member CLARENCE BLACK. Admission will be \$1.50 per person.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS.

The South Australian Division spent a most enjoyable evening on Sunday 28th April with Anthony Taylor's Hammond Organ. Other players being David Marks, Ken Banfield, Alf McDonald, and Geoff Canaway. During the supper break, organ talk ran at a louder level than the organ music they had just listened to. The May meeting was held at the St James Church Hall and took the form of a Club night. It was announced that South Australian personality BARRY HALL has released a Hammond organ record on RCA Camden label.

THE BEST REMAINING SEATS (NOT BY BEN HALL)

The Society is interested in the loan or acquisition of a number of suitable type stacking chairs, for use at organ parties and functions. If any member knows where the Society may secure these items, perhaps from a church hall or school which no longer requires them, please contact the Secretary. They would greatly add to your comfort at some of our functions where seating is in short supply. Can you help????

WORD FROM OUR PATRON AT BLACKPOOL TOWER.

In a letter to the Secretary, our Patron REGINALD DIXON says, "I would like you to know how much pleasure it gives me to learn that you have once again elected me your Patron for 1968. The organ in the Tower, has been having a major overhaul. It has been completely renovated, and I am sure I would be right in saying that it is the most cared for WurliTzer in England. My next LP record will be released in June. Thank you for your good wishes, which, as you know, are sincerely reciprocated." Reg. Dixon.

"REAL GEORGE" From TOSA's own American Correspondent Laura Thomas

GEORGE WRIGHT has a new image to we Easterners, at least to those of us who had never met him and had the opportunity of talking with him. The old grapevine had it that he was difficult, stand-offish, etc., etc. Nothing of the kind, and we are going on record with this statement. "He is a most charming and witty person, with a personality and friendliness that completely captured his audience at the Auditorium Theatre in Rochester the evening of May 11th where he was given a standing ovation. (Just 2 weeks ago - Ed) Many artists receive such an ovation for their performance, but we feel certain that George received his not only for his truly great artistic ability at the keyboard, but also because he is such a heck-of-a-nice-guy. Your reporter was seated in the front row, directly in front of the console, and saw how deeply touched George was by his audience reaction, and could see his eyes glisten with tears and the effort he made to keep himself under control.

Wright brought up the console of the Mighty WurliTzer with a jim-dandy arrangement of No Business Like Show Business which was almost drowned out by the sound of over 2,000 pairs of palms beating each other. After taking his bow, he seated himself nonchalantly on the bench, facing the audience and proceeded to give his opinion of the instrument. "I love it". He commended all who had had a hand in the restoration and continued maintenance. His next remark just about brought the house down. "I would like to make a DOT recording of this beautiful organ" Let it be soon George - like tomorrow. We'll wager this one will top sales of any previous Wright recording. The programme was of two hours length with a ten minute intermission, but it seemed much too short. Wright announced his own numbers with sometimes very amusing remarks pertaining to the tune in question.

Coffee and cookies were served in a lower level room (sounds so much better than saying basement-) where many of the crowd had the opportunity to meet him personally.

Laura goes on to say that so many members had come from other Chapters and even other States for the occasion, that it seemed like a Convention more than a concert.

TOSA News Editor says thanks Laura for such a prompt report on this aspect of the American organ scene, we are glad to be able to print this only two weeks after the event, whilst it is still newsworthy. Got any more scoops for us??????

UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUE,
ORGAN-ICALLY YOURS....THE EDITOR