

T.O.S.O. NEWS

incorporating THE DIAPHONE

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

Volume II, Number 9

SEPTEMBER, 1973

TONY FENELON!
LIVE - IN CONCERT,
MARRICKVILLE
TOWN HALL.
SUNDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER,
2.30 P.M.
BE THERE!!

SOCIETY DIRECTORY.

PATRON: Ian Davies

PRESIDENT: Tom Halloran, 66 Flinders Road, Cronulla, 2230 (523-5077)

SECRETARY: John Roberts, 5 Wyleena Place, Punchbowl, 2196 (70-3650)

TREASURER: Alan Misdale, 74 View Street, Gymea, 2227 (525-5554)

TOSA NEWS EDITOR: Cliff Bingham, 17/26 Huxtable Avenue, Lane Cove, 2066

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH.

Sunday, 16th September, 2.30p.m. Tony Fenelon in concert at Marrickville Town Hall. This will be Tony's final concert before his departure on his third concert tour of America and promises to be one of the best concerts we will hear this year. Tony has put a phenomenal amount of time and practice into his programs and is sure to be at his absolute best for this concert. So members, rally round, even if you haven't attended a concert this year (shame if you haven't), bring a friend (or two or three) and let's jam-pack Marrickville Town Hall and give Tony a rousing send-off to America. Admission is \$2.00 (\$1.50 for members) Special prices for pensioners and children.

Friday, 7th September, 8 p.m. An organ party at the home of Dr. and Mrs. L. Dunlop, 2 Chandos Street, Ashfield, Telephone 798-6444. The Dunlop's have an E3 Yamaha organ, a Steinway grand piano, and an upright honky-tonk piano. Featured artist for the night is David Parsons. Admission is \$1.00 with proceeds going to the Capitol organ fund. Reserve your spot now.

Saturday, 15th September, 8 p.m. Another organ party at the home of Richie Willis and Norm Read, 23 Selwyn Street, Paddington, Telephone 31-8883. Featured artist is David Parsons (busy fellow this month, isn't he?), at Richie's Thomas organ. Admission is \$1.00 for the Capitol organ fund. Seating is limited to 25 so reserve your seat row.

Wednesday, 26th September, 8 p.m. WAL COOK BENEFIT CONCERT

A Letter from Vice President Frank Ellis.

Dear Members,

As most of you already know, our member, Wal Cook has been in the State Hospital at Lidcombe for five months or more, and, unfortunately has had a leg amputated, due to gangrene. Wal has been a dedicated TOSA

member since 1963. At the August meeting, the Committee decided that a benefit concert would be a very good way of helping him financially and at the same time demonstrating that he has many good friends in the Society who are more than just "fair weather " friends. Our Honorary member, David Parsons, didn't wait to be asked to help - he immediately offered to donate his services for a Benefit concert, and the Committee quickly accepted with gratitude. This is just another of the many occasions on which David has displayed his regard for, and loyalty to, the Society - a loyalty, which is so generously given, that we tend to take it for granted.

Cec Cranfield, organ manager of Palings, very kindly agreed to make available to us, the recently arrived, all new, Hammond Theatre organ for a concert with David Parsons at the console. This new organ, a radical new concept from Hammond is the most exciting model ever to come from the Company. It has a traditional horse-shoe console, two 61 note keyboards and possesses no draw bars or tone wheels. Instead, it has large scale integrated circuitry, and is a true electronic theatre organ. Here then, are all the ingredients for a great night's entertainment - David Parsons, plus an outstanding new model from Hammond. The concert will take place on Wednesday, 26th September at 8 p.m. in the Church Hall of St. Anne's Church (cnr. Homebush & Beresford Roads) at Strathfield and the admission will be \$2 per person with 50¢ for children.

I personally appeal to every member especially those who do not attend every concert, to please attend this one. At the opening concert of our Wurlitzer at Marrickville, we donated the proceeds to the Childrens Medical Research Foundation, and they received over \$1,000 from that concert. This being the first time we have ever set out to assist one of our own members, let's make sure the financial result of this benefit concert reflects our "mateship" as well as the affluent times we live in. If only 300 members bring along their wives or a friend, we would have a full house and a financial result which we would feel proud to hand over.

Please, dear member, DON'T LEAVE this concert for others to support - my appeal is to YOU PERSONALLY. Come along yourself and bring a friend or two with you.

I have already received \$20 in donations from 3 people and this will be added to the amount raised at the concert. Because stocks of the new Hammond "Regent" theatre organ are very limited, and delays in production and shipping are being experienced, it could happen that the

new instrument will be unavailable for the concert, but this is considered to be unlikely. Should it occur, however, Cec Cranfield will make available a suitable replacement organ. See you at the Wal Cook Benefit concert on Wednesday, 26th September.

Yours cordially,

FRANK ELLIS.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY .

October 17th, Organ Spectacular, Sydney Town Hall.

October 14th, Movie Night for Railway Fans.

November 28th, Fifth Anniversary of Marrickville organ opening.

December 1st, TOSA Christmas Party, Bankstown Civic Centre.

MEMO FROM THE SECRETARY .

Apologies to Members for missing the last couple of issues of T. O. S. A. News but I missed the printing deadlines - Did you ??? Firstly, news from our friends in the North who have formed the Tweed District Chapter under the auspices of their hard working President, George Richardson, who at last count had 16 members drafted into their new chapter. To date they have had a couple of organ parties and are planning an " Organ Spectacular " at the Regent Theatre, Murwillumbah, on the 29th October. I'm sure if any members are passing through around that time that they will be made very welcome indeed. Expected are 6 topline organists and 5 theatre model electronic organs. CONGRATULATIONS and great success to them all. While on News of Chapters - Max Geddes' Central Coast Chapter is going from strength to strength, and must be flushed with success at having a charity concert for 400 with RAY THORNLEY and HOWARD MAUGHAM featuring on a Wurlitzer 4573.

A VERY SPECIAL MENTION to members who have been throwing their homes open for Organ Parties. MR. & MRS. STAN HOGARTH who featured DAVID PARSONS and raised \$30 for the Capitol Organ Fund. MR. & MRS. JIM PATRICK who had a small party but where many of those present paid DOUBLE and raised \$36 for the Fund. MR. & MRS. BARRY TOOKER who only have a small home unit, but managed to get so booked out that they had TWO Parties on consecutive nights and raised \$35.40. Last but not least, members RITCHIE WILLIS and NORM READ who

have been having small parties every six weeks or so - they have purchased a Thomas Theatre Organ for the use of the society and to raise money for the Capitol Organ Fund, and they DON'T PLAY - How about that! CAPITOL ORGAN - Negotiations are still proceeding and Hurstville Council have employed an Acoustics Engineer who is studying sound pressures, taking measurements on the walls of the Civic Centre at Hurstville and comparing them with Chatswood Town Hall.

News from Member M.D. Bell in Western Australia who is making a film on the manufacture of pipes of different materials (paper, clay etc) for organs. Hope to have it later in the year for showing. Watch T. O. S. A. News for details . Thanks to Member Harold Duffell who read T. O. S. A. News and offered your one fingered Secretary, a Typewriter.

Don't forget Dr. and Mrs. Les Dunlop's Party on Friday, 7th September, featuring DAVID PARSONS on the E3 Yamaha PLUS a STEINWAY Grand PLUS an Upright Honky Tonk Piano. Be early and phone 798-6444. Bring your music and glasses, etc.

Would you believe - my wife Dianne, thought I was some kind of nut charging off to play with organs all the time; until she saw Cliff Bingham bringing the Wurly at the State, out of the pit - couldn't work out where it was 'PLUGGED IN' and why it sounded 'different' to ours at home. She is now a confirmed pipe organ fan.

All for now,

John Roberts.

AROUND AND ABOUT.

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Rumley of Baulkham Hills.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Green of Punchbowl.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Jackson of Oatley.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Elliot of Concord.

Mr. and Mrs. Warner of Hornsby.

Mrs. B. Himsley of Manly Vale.

Mr. J. Sullivan of Maroubra.

We look forward to meeting you at all our future functions.

Member Rob Gliddon recently made a Marimba-Harp available to the society for the bargain price of \$50.00. Before its planned installation on the Marrickville Wurlitzer, considerable work is required on it. Any members with woodworking experience who would be willing to help in building an action for it (under expert guidance, of course) contact the secretary on 70-3650.

Wanted - any mechanically or roll-operated musical instruments or just rolls. These are to be rebuilt and displayed in working order in a home museum. Contact member Malcolm Mackay on 57-1303.

For Sale - Two Manual, 4 rank, tracker action pipe organ complete with blower unit in playable condition. This organ originally came from England to St. Paul's Church, Ipswich in the 1890's, was subsequently reassembled in the Southport School in the 1920's; was then installed in the St. Peter's Parish Church, Southport, Queensland. The church has purchased a new organ and will consider all offers. For information contact the secretary on 70-3650.

SUCCESS STORY.

YOUNG AUSTRALIAN PLAYS IN U. S. A. CONVENTION

Members who attended the T. O. S. A. Convention last Easter, will remember the young man from the Queensland Division, who played our Marrickville Wurlitzer during the Saturday afternoon session of Cameo Spots. His name was Neil Jensen.

Until January of this year, Neil had never, ever seen a real Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ, let alone played one. He was given the chance to try our 2/10 one Saturday morning, and after less than an hour at the console, he so impressed our Vice-President Frank Ellis, that he was immediately invited to play a Cameo Spot at our Convention. The rest is history. He was an instant hit with Conventioneers, many of whom found it hard to believe that his entire Wurlitzer pipe experience totalled around two hours. He received a tremendous ovation which ended in the only way possible - he was brought back at the end of the show for a well deserve encore.

And now history repeats itself. In July, Neil and his mother attended the ATOS Convention in the U. S. A. and Neil was invited to play a 15-20 minute Cameo Spot for them. As in Sydney, he was encored, and chose to play one of the numbers which had won him such a warm response from T. O. S. A. Members. The number, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco".

Frank reports that Neil was given many opportunities to play theatre pipe installations in the U.S.A, including a giant 4/61 Robert Morton organ, during his Stateside holiday. It is gratifying to know that his theatre pipe organ debut was made on the N.S.W. Division's 2/10 at Marrickville. The Queensland Division are fortunate to have such a brilliant young player ready, willing and able when they open their Christie theatre organ in due course. He will be a great asset to them.

Special Thanks to Reg Black who although not a member of our Society gave his services free of charge at Richie Willis' last organ party at which \$20.00 was raised for the Capitol organ fund. Thanks also to member Mr. R.W. Read for a \$5.00 donation to the fund.

Other Functions.

Friday, 5th October, 8 p.m.

The Warringah Organ Club will feature David Parsons at the Memorial Hall, Pittwater Road, Mona Vale. Ample parking available. For more information contact Jim Bass on 919-4684.

Glen Derringer is Back. This popular and tremendously talented demonstrator/concert organist for the Wurlitzer Company is appearing twice in Sydney under the sponsorship of Wadsworth-Stamford. His first concert is on Wednesday, 5th September, 8 p.m. in the new Bankstown Civic Auditorium. By popular demand, he will also be playing a second concert the following night, Thursday, 6th September, 8.30p.m. (late night shopping) in the Chatswood Town Hall. A full range of Wurlitzer organs and tone cabinets will be on display and bookings can be made at all Wadsworth-Stamford stores as well as Mitchell's booking agency. Admission is \$1.20 for adults, 50¢ for children.

Organ Program.

Radio Station 2BL has an organ music program on Saturdays from 8-8.30 p.m. Happy listening and thanks to the A.B.C. for recognising this popular form of music.

New Organ on the Market.

Mr. John Payton of F. Payton & Son extends an invitation to T.O.S.A. Members to a preview showing of the new English KENTUCKY "ADVENTURER" Organ. This is the first commercial electronic popular organ to appear from England in quite a long time and has a most interesting

specification. The preview will be held on Friday, 14th September, 10a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 15th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the showrooms of F. Payton and Son, first floor, 218-222 Clarence Street, Sydney. The organ will be demonstrated by Len Thomas.

REVIEWS!

Vic Hammett at Marrickville.

The Marrickville Wurlitzer really was "pipin' -hot" under the experienced fingers of Vic Hammett on his return visit to Australia from swingin' England. A fair-sized and appreciative audience heard a balanced program of newies and oldies and all of them good.

As a confirmed Gershwin enthusiast, I thoroughly enjoyed Vic's opening medley containing favourites such as "I Got Rhythm", "Lady be Good", "A Foggy Day", "Fascinatin' Rhythm", "Biding my Time", and a rousing "Strike up the Band" with tuning up sounds and plenty of percussion accompaniment. A medley of Viennese waltzes were followed by the beautiful "Hashmiri Love Song", played as a bolero, and a selection of songs revolving around the theme of Japan, (with appropriate oriental registrations).

After interval, Vic opened up with a selection of numbers of the type of music that he obviously enjoys playing the most. Among others, we heard "Cheek to Cheek", "Winter Wonderland" and "Brother can you spare a Dime" played in the exuberant Hammett style that has entertained audiences all over the world. The serenade from "Hassan" was followed by a tasteful rendition of the intermezzo from "Cavalleria Rusticana" which showed off the lovely strings and voxes of the Wurlitzer. A swinging "Sunny" was followed by the highlight of the evening - a "Tenth Avenue" selection including a fabulous performance of the famous "Slaughter".

Encores were definitely in order and Vic included his very funny send-up of the not-very-good "Village Band".

To sum up, an enjoyable top-line concert from an artist who obviously is complete master of his music and the instrument and is able to effectively communicate his enjoyment to his audience.

John Atwell - Where Have You Been Hiding?

On Wednesday, 8th July in Marrickville Town Hall, a disgustingly small (but wildly enthusiastic) audience consisting mainly of the "old faithfuls" of T. O. S. A. heard one of the best concerts ever performed on the society's Wurlitzer. The artist was a young Melbourne organist named John Atwell, a medical student by profession (they seem to make good organists, don't they?) and obviously a young man with a tremendous musical future.

John's lively program opened with "On the Sunny Side of the Street" followed by the bright waltz "Belle of the Ball". The Carpenter's "Close to You" preceded Fats Waller's arrangement of "Ain't Misbehavin'". Overcoming some initial nervousness, John then gave a brilliant performance of Mozart's 40th Symphony in its current swinging style, and continued with the recent hit "Tie a Yellow Ribbon". Space does not permit a full list of the items played but some of the highlights were Jesse Crawford's "High Hat" the march "Semper Fidelis" and a rip-roarin' "Tiger Rag". A magnificent performance of the Prelude to Act III of "Lohengrin" by Wagner (with some very adept double-peddalling) ended the first half of the program.

After a refreshing intermission (thanks to the hot drink stall staff) "Sing Hallelujah" opened a bright second half followed by numbers such as "Mountain Greenery", "If I Loved You", a stirring theme from "Lawrence of Arabia", "Roller Coaster" (with more than a touch of George Wright) "Sometimes I'm Happy" and finishing with two beautiful ballads, "Fascination" and "Goodnight Sweetheart". Such a performance deserved more than one encore and John responded with "It's all right with Mr" and a song very reminiscent of the late Horace Weber "Look for the Silver Lining".

It was obvious to the audience that a great deal of time had been spent on careful preparation of this program. John's technical ability, his imaginative registrations and his choice of music all added up to a top-line concert. It's a great pity that more people didn't bother to encourage this brilliant young performer by turning up at his concert. The loss was completely theirs!.

THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
N.S.W.DIVISION

SYDNEY
7 September, 1973

Dear Friend,

In addition to the Tony Fenelon concert which is detailed on the accompanying notice, the society is presenting a benefit concert for a long term society member, Mr. Wal Cook, who has been hospitalised for the past five months, resulting in a leg amputation as a result of gangrene.

Popular Sydney organist, DAVID PARSONS, has offered his services free for this concert, which is to be held in St. Annes Church Hall, (Crn. Homebush & Beresford Rds.) at Strathfield at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 26th September.

Admission to the concert will be \$2.00 for adults and 50c for children.

To make this concert especially attractive, the Society aims to present this concert on the new HAMMOND "REGENT" Theatre Organ - the very latest instrument from the Hammond organisation, featuring a horse-shoe console with two 61 Note keyboards.

This truly electronic organ has no draw-bars or tone wheels and thus represents a marked departure from previous Hammond models.

Please bring as many friends as you can to enjoy this concert with us, and help us to help a friend in need.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely.
T.O.S.A. Concert Committee