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T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

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"T.O.S.A. DIARY"

September 4th. Sunday, all day trip.

You will have read the full details of this excursion in the last issue of this Journal. The committee is happy to say that the coach is now fully booked. This will be a good day for all.

September 11th, Sunday, 3 p.m.

Arno Schonstedt, Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at the Church Music Institute of Westphalia, Germany and Organist at the 700 years old Herford Munster, makes a return visit to Australia in August and September, playing recitals in Perth, Launceston, Hobart, Sydney and Melbourne. On this date he will be playing in the Futter Hall at the King's School, Parramatta. Professor Schonstedt will give a recital for the Organ Society

of works by Bach, Buxtehude, Bohm, Bruhns and Reger. The organ at this school is, as most of our readers will know, the very beautiful Pogson Organ. Since its installation about ten years ago it has become known as one of the finest concert instruments in Australia.

September 14th, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.

This is the date of our next Quarterly meeting. Marrickville Town Hall is the place and you will have read the full details in your last issue. In addition to the information printed there we now list the books purchased by our Research Officer, Ian Cameron which you may peruse or borrow at this meeting.

1. The Wurlitzer Hope Jones Unit Orchestra, Factory Photo Album.
2. The Cinema Organ by Reginald Foort.
3. Castillo's Alphabetical Primer of Organ Stops.
4. Mr Blackpool - Reginald Dickson, by Peter Ashman.
5. The Mighty Organ, by Geoffrey Wyatt. (About English organs and organists)
6. Sixteen Facts about Link Unit Organs.
7. Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ Fact Book.
8. Wurlitzer Unit Organ Catalogue.
9. The greatest Achievement in music for Theatres - Wurlitzer.
10. Wurlitzer Church Organs.
11. Exhibitions in East and West Capitalize with the Marr and Colton, America's Finest Organ.
12. Kilgen Wonder Organ.
13. The Golden Age of the Movie Palace, (The Best Remaining Seats) by Ben Hall.
14. From Piano to Theatre Pipe Organ by Bernard Barnes.
15. Picture Palace Architecture in Australia by Ross Thorne.

More books will arrive before Christmas so when you have read them all there will be nothing you don't know about our favourite subject.

September 15th, 5 p.m.

This is the closing date for nominations for Officers and Committee members for the ensuing year. A Nomination Form is on the last page of this Journal. It must be signed by the proposer and seconder as well as by the nominee. The Nomination(s) must be placed in an envelope marked - The Returning Officer, T.O.S.A., 66 Flinders Road, Cronulla, 2330 and be received by him by 5 p.m. on that date.

September 18th, Sunday, 2.15 p.m.

There will be a Recital by Dr Wheeler on the Kinloch Organ at St Paul's Church of England at 2.15 p.m. on this date. The Church is at 94 Newcastle Street, Rose Bay. The organ is a single manual organ with pedals.

September 19th, Monday, 8 p.m.

The monthly Committee Meeting will be held on this date at the Marrickville Town Hall.

September 21st, Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Visiting Concert Artist Don Jenkins will be playing at a Concert in the Ryde Civic Hall on Wednesday, 21st September at 8 p.m.. Don will be playing a Kimball Organ. He came to Australia for the Music Exhibition in Melbourne and while here will be concertising in the Capital cities and elsewhere. Admittance \$2.00, Children and Pensioners \$1.00. For further information contact Pat Bonham, Australis Instruments, 938 3466.

September 25th, 2.30 p.m. Sunday.

As noted in our previous issue this is the date of our second free concert this year. Peter Held is the featured artist and he will be assisted by four young members of the Y.O.A. For details of Peter's career see separate article in this issue.

September 13th, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

There will be a Stereo Broadcast of Theatre Organ Music by Sydney's Pioneer Community Radio Station 2MBS-FM (102.5 MHz on your F.M. dial). On this occasion our Marrickville Wurlitzer will be featured with local artists at the console.

October 8th, Saturday, 8p.m.

Due to we members having the privilege of hearing Byron Melcher at Marrickville on Sunday 9th Oct., we are postponing this evening till later. See you then.

October 9th. Sunday, 2.30p.m.

BYRON MELCHER at the Marrick ville Town Hall playing our Wurlitzer. Here is a chance to hear Byron Melcher, the well known American Theatre Pipe Organ Concert Artist. Byron is making a whirlwind 8-day tour of Eastern & Southern Australia to introduce the new three manual Thomas Organ. He was President of the Los Angeles Chapter of A.T.O.S. and is featured regularly at A.T.O.S. Conventions. This will be a good chance to hear this popular artist. Admission \$3.00, TOSA Members \$2.50, Pensioners and Children \$1.50.

October 8th, Saturday, 2.30p.m.

On this date Ian Davies will be presenting a Concert on the Wurlitzer pipe organ (originally the Civic Theatre instrument) at 10 Caloola Road, Wentworthville. The Assisting Artist will be Miss Roslyn Green who will be playing a spinet three manual Wurlitzer electronic organ. It will be an interesting comparison between the original Wurlitzer pipe organ and it's modern counterpart made by the same company. We can be sure that Ian has planned an excellent programme. Tea and cakes will be provided at interval and Concert records will be available for inspection and purchase. Admission is \$2.50 and all seats must be booked in advance by phoning 631 6189.

October 19th. Wednesday. 8p.m.

An Organ Spectacular will be held at the Bankstown Civic Centre on this date. As far as is known at present six dealers will be exhibiting organs. This will be a chance for members who are contemplating the purchase of a new organ to compare some of the instruments they may be interested in. Full details of this meeting will be in your October copy of our Journal.

November 5th. Saturday, 2.30p.m.

There will be a Barbecue and Pool Party at the home of Mr & Mrs R. Wilson on this date. This will NOT be a Quarterly Meeting. The Wilsons are popular hosts and a good time is always had by their guests. Bring your own steaks and swimming costumes. There will be full details of this pleasant Saturday afternoon in our next issue.

November 6th. 2.30p.m.. Sunday.

Note the date, the 6th and NOT the 13th. A mix-up of the booking dept caused this upset. Correct your diary NOW. Ray is a very popular concert artist and his programmes always show evidence of a lot of thought and hard work having gone into them. Not a concert to miss. Details later. Gee, I'm tired of typing 'details later' but this comes of giving you advance notice of all our functions so that you can fill in your diary, and ensure not missing excellent entertainment. Ray Thornley playing the Marrickville Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. Note it down NOW.

November 18th. Friday.

If you read the T.O.S.A. Diary last month you will already have entered this date in your diary. If you have not done so, now is the time to do it. This has always been a well-attended function but we have room still for many more members. So those of you who have never attended our Christmas Cabaret do it this year and spend a most enjoyable evening with fellow TOSA members. Ian Davies is 'Mr Marrickville' and you will enjoy dancing to the music so ably pleyed by Ian. See you THERE.

November 30th. Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.

This is the date of our Annual General Meeting. Keep this date clear. We shall have more to say in a later issue. Just put it in your diary now.

December 11th. Sunday. 2.30p.m.

Our Third free Sunday afternoon concert will be held on this date. Promoted by the Theatre Organ Society in conjunction with the Marrickville Municipal Council this concert will feature two of our younger members, Margaret Hall and Joe Lefcovitch. More information about these two young artists will be in our October issue.

I hope you have noted all these dates down in your diary as occasions at which it is important, for your own entertainment and pleasure, that you attend. Many of our TOSA members are also interested in hearing classical as well as popular theatre music and an attempt is being made to ensure that all our members know just what is being presented on the different organs installed here in Sydney.

NEW MEMBERS.

At our last committee meeting the following new members were admitted to membership of the Theatre Organ Society. Les Flanagan (Parramatta), Gareth Thomas (Warilla), Ken Brown (Chippendale), Allan Dale (Wentworthville), Malcolm and Pamela Park (Condell Park), Leslie McLeod (Engadine), Maurie Dickens (Mortdale), Ron Jones (Waitara), Ron Bolden (Blaxland), Warren & Susan Haydon (Engadine), W.F. Kittson (Ballarat, Vic.), D. Kemp (Caringbah) D. Wilson (Hurstville), Stella McKenzie (Ashfield),. Assciate Members- Gwen O'Hanlon (Lugarno), George Smith (Sans Souci).

We welcome these new members to the fellowship of Theatre Organ lovers and ask you to make yourselves known to other members at home organ parties and organ concerts.

HOME ORGAN CONCERTS.

Membership Secretary has been busy attending Home Organ Concerts and sends this report on two he recently attended. Members Ritchie Willis and Norm Read have at least one organ concert at their Mortdale home each month and on July 30th Neil Jensen from Brisbane was featured. Neil is indeed a showman and his playing skill leaves little to be desired. He has assured us he will be back again next year so all who were present at this concert will certainly deem that good news.

The other home organ concert was on August 6th when all the Mortdale patrons were invited to the home of David and Beverly Parsons. More than sixty guests including many TOSA members travelled to Beecroft to hear David on the Conn 651 three manual Theatre Organ. David's programme, as always was extremely varied with classical, pop and most other categories in between. I've always known his repertoire to be most extensive and his playing of nearly three pages of requests only further emphasized it. A vote of sincere thanks was moved and acclaimed by those present to show their appreciation of a wonderful evening of music and fellowship.

SEVENTH NATIONAL T.O.S.A. CONVENTION - ADELAIDE- EASTER 1978.

Most members will not be aware that next year's National Convention is to be hosted by the South Australian Division in Adelaide. Those people fortunate enough to attend the "Sunshine Sixth" in Brisbane this year will have a good idea of what's in store for 1978,

The normal format involves a top-ranking overseas organist together with several local artists, usually one from each state present. We have a feast of organ music with a little sight-seeing thrown in. The Convention runs from the evening of Good Friday 'till around lunch time on Easter Monday. The atmosphere is extremely convivial and a good time is assured.

You will, no doubt, realise that reservations anywhere at Easter are in great demand and the holding of the Adelaide Festival in 1978 has only served to heighten the accommodation problem so we have reserved in advance:

1. Flight departing Sydney 24.3.78 at 0850 arriving Adelaide 1010.
2. Accommodation at South Terrace Travelodge (next to Wyatt Hall where the S.A.Division 's 2/12 WurliTzer is housed) on bed and full breakfast basis-
3. Flight departing Adelaide 27.3.78 at 1525 arriving Sydney 1840.

The cost for the above three items (using current air-fares) is approximately \$206 per person (slightly more for single room or less for triple room occupancy) but remember the actual convention cost is also to be added. As an example the Brisbane '77 Convention costs were \$30 which included transport to functions, two lunches, the main Convention dinner and of course entry to all the functions. Should 15 or more people choose to travel on both the forward and return flights the cost could be reduced to around \$190. An application form is included in this issue and it is asked that anyone interested complete the form and return it, together with your deposit as soon as possible to the address shown. Accommodation for only 40 is being held and it's doubtful that extra beds will be available so fill it in now and be assured of a great three and a half days in Adelaide.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

This section of TOSA News is reserved to let members know of the movements and doings of our members, Births and Deaths, ill-health, accidents, Good-luck (Lottery Wins), purchases of new organs etc.. According to information conveyed to me (or rather lack of any info.) you will all be happy to know that nothing has happened of any note, no illnesses, births or deaths, lottery wins or purchases of new organs, holidays, in fact it must have been a boring month. Oh yes, I forgot to mention my chooks are laying well and the camellias and azaleas are in full bloom. Please let me know if anything happens.

WANTED - ORGAN PIPES.

The Beecroft Presbyterian Church is still interested in buying a good second-hand pipe organ, (see last month's issue, page 7.). If you know anyone who can help ring David Larking, 84 1987.

MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER '77.

THIS NOTICE CONCERNS THE SOCIETY'S END OF YEAR CELEBRATION, COMMENCING AT 7.00P.M. ON THIS DATE A CABARET HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS. THIS FUNCTION WILL FOLLOW THE USUAL FORMAT WHICH OVER THE PAST YEARS HAS PROVED SO POPULAR WITH THOSE WHO HAVE ATTENDED.

FOLLOWING IS AN OUTLINE OF THE EVENING'S EVENTS FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS WHO ARE UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE MISSED THE CABARETS PREVIOUSLY HELD. ON ARRIVAL AT 7.00P.M. YOU WILL BE GREETED AND ADVISED OF TABLE SEATING ARRANGEMENTS, THEN SHERRY AND BISCUITS ARE SERVED. ONE BRACKET OF DANCES IS ARRANGED BEFORE YOU PARTAKE OF A MEAL, (THREE COURSE), THEN BACK TO THE DANCE WITH MUSIC SUPPLIED BY OUR PATRON, MR IAN DAVIES AT THE CONSOLE OF THE MIGHTY WURLITZER PIPE ORGAN.

A CLUB ACT HAS BEEN BOOKED TO ENTERTAIN YOU WITH A FLOOR SHOW, WE EVEN HAVE SOME ORIGINAL SONG SLIDES FOR YOU TO HAVE A REAL NOSTALGIC SING-A-LONG ACCOMPANIED BY THE ORGAN. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR DANCING INTERMINGLED WITH OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS. THE COST FOR THIS GREAT NIGHT OUT IS ONLY \$15.50 A DOUBLE OR \$8.00 A SINGLE ALL INCLUDED EXCEPT WHAT YOU MAY REQUIRE IN THE FORM OF LIQUID REFRESHMENTS. DRESS OPTIONAL.

PLEASE SEND YOUR BOOKINGS TO MRS P. TOOKER, 9 BLANCHE ST., BELFIELD 2191 AND MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO TOSA, YOU MAY MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ON THE FORM INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE OF TOSA. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU WOULD INCLUDE THE CHRISTIAN & SURNAMES OF ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY TO ASSIST WITH THE PREPARATION OF NAME TAGS. ALL THAT REMAINS NOW IS FOR YOU, THE MEMBER TO MAKE THIS A SWINGING NIGHT BY INVITING A PARTY OF FRIENDS ALONG. REMEMBER THIS FUNCTION IS OPEN TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS. IF YOU REQUIRE CONFIRMATION OF BOOKING INCLUDE STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. PHONE ENQUIRIES 642 6086 OR 569 3775. CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS IS WEDNESDAY, 9-11-77!!!!!!

PETER HELD.

Peter has supplied me with the following information which he feels may be of interest to his many admirers.

At the age of 8 he sat for Grade 6 of the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music, London and passed with Distinction which made him a child prodigy. He passed his Final Grade of the Associated Board when he was 18, obtaining an excellent pass. He then turned to light music with a stint at the Theatre Royal, Dublin and then became a Ballroom and Vaudeville artist performing in England as well as Ireland. After more seasons in England he went to South Africa where he toured with Chipperfield's Circus for two years as well as doing 30 broadcast programmes for the South Africa Broadcasting Commission.

In 1968, at the age of 30 he came to Australia, residing at Sydney when he joined TOSA, for which organisation he played for in Sydney, Orange, Brisbane and Adelaide. He tells me that he was the first cinema organist from Sydney to play a full public recital on the Pulteney Grammar School Wurlitzer. We, of course, have also heard him many times at Marrickville. Since early 1976 Peter has modified his style of playing and his forthcoming concert at Marrickville will exemplify this. He has recorded two programmes on the Hammond Organ for the A.B.C. Sydney and has had considerable experience in R.S.L. Clubs in musical backing of acts. He is organist for the Touring Theatre show, Tribute to Broadway as noted in our last issue.

Peter says his main interests these days are: The promotion of the organ and giving young players the benefit of his wide experience, helping refurbish the ex-Capitol Wurlitzer for us and- Making New Friends.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr J. Lawson gives Notice of Motion to be presented at the next Annual General Meeting:

Motion. That by-law No. 9 be amended to read (from the beginning)

The Executive of the Society shall consist of President, Secretary, Treasurer and Two Vice-Presidents and these shall have full voting powers with the exception of the President who shall only have a casting vote. The remainder of the by-law from the paragraph "The Executive, subject to any directions" etc. will remain unaltered.

A NEW GEORGE WRIGHT RECORDING.

A new George Wright recording will be available from our vice-president featuring this famous organist playing on the Allen Digital Computer Organ. This is expected about the 10th September and will cost \$6.60 post free. Ring 48 3427 or write to the Editor to reserve your copy. I will only have 25 copies.

APPLICATION FOR EASTER CONVENTION - 1978

The Convention Committee,
C/- 47 Horbury Street,
Sans Souci, 2219

Dear Sir,

I/We wish to take part in the Seventh National Theatre Organ Society Convention Excursion to Adelaide in 1978 and enclose a deposit equivalent to \$20.00 per person. I/We understand that the balance will be payable by 10th February, 1978 and that any monies paid are fully refundable in the event of cancellation up to 24th February, 1978.

I/We will require:-

- Travel. (a) Forward and Return flights with the group flight booking detailed OR
 (b) Forward atam/pm on1978
 Return atam/pm on.....1978 OR
 (c) Will be making own way to and from Adelaide.

Accommodation.

- (a) Sgl Rms.....Dbl/Twin Rms.....Triple Rms.
 (b) If extra nights required show arrival and departure dates at Motel.
 Arrival.....am/pm. Departure.....am/pm.

OR (c) Accommodation will not be required.

Special Requirements:.....

Names: 1. 2.

3. 4.

Address:
 Postcode.....

Telephone No.(after hours);Bus. Hrs.

My/Our Cheque/Money Order/Postal Note for total deposits of \$..... is enclosed.

Signature: