

t.o.s.a. news

incorporating **THE DIAPHONE**

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

Volume 12, Number 3.

March, 1974

SOCIETY DIRECTORY.

<u>PATRON:</u>	Ian Davies		
<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	Herbert Wyatt, 39 Roland Ave, Wahroonga, 2076.	48	3427
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	John Roberts, 5 Wyleena Pl, Punchbowl, 2196.	70	3650
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Alan Misdale, 74 View St, Gymea, 2227.	525	5554
<u>EDITOR:</u>	John Atkinson, 46 Lily St, Hurstville, 2220.	587	3374

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1974?

To be sure of inclusion of the new mailing list which will be used for April and future issues of TOSA NEWS rush your subscription now to the Hon. Treasurer, 74 View Street, Gymea, 2227. Metropolitan Members \$8, Country, Interstate and Pensioner Members: \$4 Overseas Subscribers \$A4.

BE SURE THAT YOU ARE FINANCIAL FOR 1974 WHY NOT DO IT NOW ????

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH.

March 6th, Wednesday - 8 p.m. As part of the Willoughby Festival '74 (which features a month of entertainment activities organised by the Chatswood and Willoughby community) a concert featuring our member, Ray Thornley, at the console of the Chatswood 2/10 Wurlitzer, will be an outstanding attraction. Ray is just back from a tour of the U.S.A. during which time he played on many American installations and as you know has played for the society on many past occasions and is an extremely capable organist and one of the "new breed" of young organists.

Ray will be supported by Julie Madden, a vocalist who you will be interested to know is the daughter of Jim Carr, who was Mayor of Marrickville at the time of the installation negotiations of the Prince Edward Wurlitzer in Marrickville Town Hall. The Chatswood installation has recently undergone extensive professional attention and this promises to be a fine night's entertainment. The admission charge of \$1.50

for members, \$2 general public is on behalf of the Chatswood Community Hospital and supper will be served.

March 16th, Saturday - 8 p.m. A colour slide evening will be held at the home of Ritchie Willis, 23 Selwyn Street, Paddington. The subject will be his recent tour of Tasmania. Seating is limited to 16 so please book early and avoid disappointment. A donation of \$1 per person for admission and all proceeds to the Capitol Wurlitzer Organ Fund. Phone after hours 31 8883. Ring tonight and book your seat now.

March 19th, Tuesday - 8 p.m. St. Columbs Church of England, West Ryde. Cnr. Dickson Street and Bellevue Avenue. It is not often we have the opportunity to hear either St. Columbs 2/8 Christie or Alan Tranter so make the most of this concert. It will be a selection of popular theatre organ music at its best. The entry donation of \$1 is towards the Church building fund. Make a point of being early as the last time this organ and organist got together for a recital seats were at a premium.

March 23rd, Saturday - 8 p.m. A Home Organ Party is to be held in the home of President Herbert Wyatt featuring three surprise organists. Herberts address is 39 Roland Avenue, Wahroonga (1st turn left after entering Fox Valley Road from the Pacific Highway - Gregory's Ref. Map 66 B15) and you will be listening to a Conn Theatre Deluxe. A donation of \$1 to the Pipe Organ Fund is asked and supper will be provided. There is a limit of 25 persons so phone early 48 3427.

March 27th, Wednesday - 8 p.m. Barry Goode, Organist aboard the "Ocean Monarch" will be in Sydney during the evening 27th March and through the approaches of our member, Peter Irwin, has made himself available to us at the Rogers Organ in the Bondi Waverley R.S.L. This has been arranged through our Patron Ian Davies and Peter Irwin reports that Barry Goode is a world class organist and is thought so much of by the shipping company which owns the "Ocean Monarch" that they have installed three electronic instruments in the vessel for Barry's use. Peter also reports that the New Zealanders who have heard much more of Barry than possibly we have consider him par excellence. The Rogers Electronic Organ in the Bondi Waverley R.S.L. Club is known fairly well by most of us as an excellent instrument and needs no further introduction. Also the R.S.L. committee and members who are our hosts during these occasions are to be congratulated for their hospitality in anticipation. Admission \$1.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

NATIONAL CONVENTION - ADELAIDE 11th - 14th APRIL.

STAR ATTRACTION:

GERALD SHAW PLAYS WYATT HALL WURLITZER.

COACH TOUR.

A reservation has been made with Pioneer Tourist Coaches for the Charter of a Coach (fitted with reclining seats and toilet facilities) leaving Sydney approx. 9 p.m. Thursday, arriving Adelaide approx. 8 p.m. Friday - Depart Adelaide approx. 9 p.m. Sunday, arrive Sydney approx 8 p.m. Monday. Coach seating capacity - 38 persons. Approx. return coach fare \$30.00. Cost of all convention functions on Saturday & Sunday \$20.00. Members (or friends) wishing to join the tour should contact the Treasurer Alan Misdale 525 5554 or Vice President Tom Halloran 523 5077 IMMEDIATELY.

ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE FINALISED BEFORE MARCH 10th.

ACCOMMODATION:

While enquiries are being made re a block booking for private arrangements available, individual arrangements should be made where possible.

FOR FULL DETAILS OF CONVENTION PROGRAMME SEE TOSA NEWS DECEMBER OR JANUARY.

April 23rd, Tuesday - 7.45 p.m. Quarterly General Meeting and get-together, organist Joh Congert.

May 10th, Friday, Jonas Nordwell at Marrickville.

May 26th, Sunday, Free Concert at Marrickville.

May 31st, Friday, Jonas Nordwell at Chatswood.

June 22nd, Saturday, Jim Patrick Home Organ Party.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING by Barry Tooker

At the Annual General Meeting held on February 28 at St. Annes Hall Strathfield the following were elected to executive and Committee:

PRESIDENT	Herbert Wyatt	48 3427
VICE PRESIDENTS	Tom Halloran	523 5077
	Des Russell	
SECRETARY	John Roberts	70 3650
MINUTE SECRETARY	Cliff Collinson	92 5606
CORRESPONDENCE SEC.	Coralea Jones	34 7003
TREASURER	Alan Misdale	525 5554
COMMITTEE	Kevin Eadie	299 2187
	Bill Schumacher	
	John Weismantel	80 2680
	Ritchie Willis	31 8883
	Ray Garrett	869 7247
	Barry Tooker	667 3031 Ext 35
TOSA NEWS EDITOR	John Atkinson	587 3374
CONCERT REVIEWS	Kevin Eadie	299 2187
	Clif Bingham	

IAN DAVIES WAS RE-ELECTED PATRON.

The Treasurer reported a balance of total funds in hand at 30th September when the books were audited of \$1,676.06. A motion that future Annual General Meetings be held in November was passed. Quarterly general meetings will now be held as a result of another motion. These meetings will consist

of a short business meeting including committee reports and general business and the major time shall be given over to entertainment.

The notice of the motion published in November TOSA News concerning change of rule 9 of the Constitution was passed.

EDITORIAL by John Atkinson.

As your TOSA News Editor for 1974 I would first like to thank you all for this opportunity to be of service to the society and although I am at present a little overwhelmed at the magnitude of the task in store I am looking forward to a period of activity and productivity. Naturally, however, this ambition can only be achieved with a great deal of assistance from every member, in advising me of news snippets, notes on their endeavours and any information that you feel you would like to see appearing in your magazine.

I am sure you will agree that we would all like to have detailed reports of progress of those amongst us who are restoring and rebuilding the pipe organs in our charge as these men are the life blood of our society and their efforts and achievements are therefore of paramount importance.

You will find in this month's edition a potted history of the Christie 2/8 now installed in St. Columb's Church of England at West Ryde and I think this is the type of article we would all like to see in our future TOSA News's so members please come forward with information of interest to us all as amongst our ranks there must be much of interest to many and as space permits we will include any article or material with merit and interest to us all.

Remember the quality of the articles appearing here are entirely in your hands for although I am your editor you are in effect the reporters and my reliance upon you all for information is part of the working of the Society.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on 4th March, 1974, at St. Anne's Church Hall, Strathfield.

PRACTICE TIMES AT MARRICKVILLE.

An allocation of practice time on the Society organ at Marrickville Town Hall can be obtained by written application to the Secretary. A strict rotation system exists and sessions are allocated immediately they become available. The order in which the applications arrive is the order in which they appear on the roster and the nights available are: Every Monday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.- 2nd Tuesday in each month 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and every Saturday morning 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and each session is for 1 hour per member.

ELECTRONIC ORGANS.

For an interesting article examining the state of the art entitled "The New Breed of Electronic Organs" see the February edition of "Electronics Australia". The article is by the

Editor, Jamieson Rowe and there are also some interesting recordings reviewed featuring the Allen Electronic Organ.

ON THE SICK LIST.

We have news from Ritchie Willis that member, Bill McKenzie of Ashfield is at present in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. Bill has just come through, with flying colours, a very big operation, and our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery and good health in the future years go to him. By the way a little bird told me Bill is in his eightieth year, and as they say you can't keep a good man down.

FOR SALE.

3/13 Wurlitzer - this organ is a home installation comprising English Horn, Trumpet, Tuba, Diaphone, Horn Diapason, Tibia, Clarinet, Orchestral Oboe, Viol de Orchestra, Viol de Celeste, Salicional, Concert Flute and Vox. It is presently situated in Durban, South Africa, has a polished console and the action is in good condition. Peter Held made broadcast recordings on the installation in its present condition for the South African Broadcasting Commission in 1965-66 and should you be interested in further information telephone Peter between 6-7.30p.m. on week nights, 73 2193.

RECORD IMPORTS

As reported in last month's edition of TOSA News under this heading, the recordings made at our Marrickville Wurlitzer by Reginald Porter-Brown are available for around \$4.00 (Aust) by contacting Peter Irwin. Peter has had a number of enquiries regarding items included on these recordings and for those of you about to ring him they are listed below:

Record No.1 Holiday for Strings, In a Clockstore, Dizzy Fingers, Moonlight and Roses, Smilin' Through, Zampa Finale, Donkey Serenade, I want to be Happy, One Day when we were Young, Don't Dilly Dally, Old Father Thames, Harlem, Variations on a Red Red Robin".

Record no.2. I've Got Rhythm, Smoke Gets in your Eyes, Walk in the Black Forest, Slow Boat to China, Hello Dolly, You Will Never Walk Alone, I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing, Autumn Concerto, The Best Things are Free, March Memories, Finlandia, Dance of the Three Old Maids.

THE CHRISTIE UNIT ORGAN IN ST. COLUMBS CHURCH OF ENGLAND, WEST RYDE.

During the year 1928 the owners of the Kings Theatre, Gordon, installed a Christie Unit Organ manufactured in England by Hill, Norman and Beard Ltd; The organ was played by several of the leading local theatre organists until 1958. The introduction of Television had knocked the theatre business and many theatres sold their organs.

St. Columbs Church of England West Ryde negotiated with the theatre and purchased the organ for the bargain price of

£300.0.0(\$600.00). Three members of the church who were PMG technicians spent three years of their spare time restoring and installing the organ in a room, which had been used for Sunday School classes, situated above the church vestry. A Section of brick wall was knocked out to provide an opening in which to install the swell shutters. The displaced bricks were then re-used to build a blower house attached to the rear of the church. The re-installed organ was dedicated in October, 1960.

When first installed in St. Columbs the instrument proved to be rather unreliable due to considerable water damage it had suffered in the theatre as a result of a leaking organ chamber roof. This caused the timber in many of the chests to warp badly. The instrument constantly cyphered, particularly in hot weather. The only thing that made it useable for church services was the fact that like most British theatre organs, each chest was fitted with a ventil. A ventil is a valve which completely cuts off the wind supply to a particular rank of pipes and is operated by the organist in the event of a cypher, in order to silence the offending note, leaving the remaining ranks in use and thereby not marring the organists performance. As a temporary cure for a cypher, ventils are very useful, but at St. Columbs they came to be relied on constantly. During the summer months there were always 4 ventils operating leaving only 4 ranks in use (i.e. $\frac{1}{2}$ the organ).

The band of parishioners who installed the organ, one by one moved away from the parish and thus the organ was no longer being maintained. When Alan Tranter first became organist at St. Columbs almost 10 years ago he persuaded the church committee to make arrangements to have the instrument regularly tuned and maintained by the Sydney representative of Hill, Norman and Beard Ltd; When the organ builders were approached, they replied that due to the unreliable condition of the instrument they were not interested in being responsible for maintaining it unless the church spent several thousand dollars in repairs to bring the electro-pneumatic action up to a standard where it could be maintained at approx. 8 visits per year.

The church authorities were not in a position to lavish this amount of money on the instrument, so Alan decided to commence work on the organ himself and after 2 years of spare time, devoted to re-covering pneumatic motors and adjusting valves and electrical contacts the organ reached its present high standard of mechanical excellence. Hill Norman and Beard Ltd were again approached and after noting the contrast in the instrument agreed to commence tuning the pipes while leaving the maintenance of the action in Alan's hands. As a small token of appreciation for his untiring efforts in refurbishing the instrument the Church committee presented Alan with a fine book on European Organ Building. This Small instrument of 8 ranks really sounds magnificent and is the only Christie organ still in use in

Australia which has been restored virtually in its original condition, except for the deletion of several percussion effects which were sold. All the other Christies which have been reinstalled have been marred tonally by being "Churchized". This is not so at St. Columbs where the congregation appreciate the organ's warm tones. In fact it makes a finer church organ than many orthodox church instruments around Sydney.

THE STATE THEATRE SYDNEY

This is the title of an article written by A. Emmelhainz A.M.I.E.Aust. Chief Engineer, Union Theatres Ltd, which appeared in the July 1931 edition of the "Electrical Trader" complete with photographs of the dimmer switchboard Generator room, Operating Room and Centre Electrolier (as they apparently called the Chandaliers in those days) an extract follows and a complete photo-copy of the total article can be obtained by forwarding a self addressed stamped envelope to the Editor.

Lifting the Organ Console and Orchestra Platform.

The organ console is lifted by a 3½ ton hydraulic ram, which is electrically controlled by the organist, with press buttons. The console platform also is revolved electrically by the organist.

The orchestra platform is lifted by an 18 ton hydraulic ram also actuated by press button, and controlled by the conductor. The stage may be raised in two sections to a height of eight feet above normal level, each section being lifted by a nine ton hydraulic ram electrically controlled from the Stage Manager's desk.

Main Crystal Electrolier.

The main crystal electrolier, which is illustrated here-with weighs 3½ tons and is 21 feet high by 14 feet in diameter; 13 smaller crystal electroliers installed weigh 15 cwt each. All the electroliers are on counter weights in which the balance is so arranged that the winches on each unit have to be used to bring them down, the counter weights taking the units up and engaging against stops, thus preventing an over-haul of the gear in the event of a winch failing.

Cable and Wire Used.

In all 102 miles of cable and wire were used for the lighting and power installation, 400 miles for the organ and 35¾ miles of conduit from 5/8" to 2", all screwed.

General

Altogether 65 electricians were engaged for 18 months on the installation, the latter period being double shifts. The permanent staff consists of two shift engineers and 10 electrical mechanics. Over 30,000 lamps of many and various

types are installed, and wherever possible all material such as lighting fixtures, fans, switchgear, etc, is Australian Made.

FOR SALE.

Hammond Organ A100 , Two 61 note manuals - 25 note pedal board - 11 preset stops - 2 sets (18) drawbars per manual - reverb and percussion.

Mahogany case and stool - As New.

Cost \$4,300 will sell for \$2,950 or near offer.

Suit Home, Church or Professional - Apply Mr. Cooper

524 7734 or AH 524 6583.

DEADLINE FOR TOSA NEWS.

For those of you anxiously waiting to inundate us with material for April issue of TOSA News the deadline we have set is 18th March.

This allows us time to edit and corelate articles to have the magazine in your letterbox on or before 1st April....