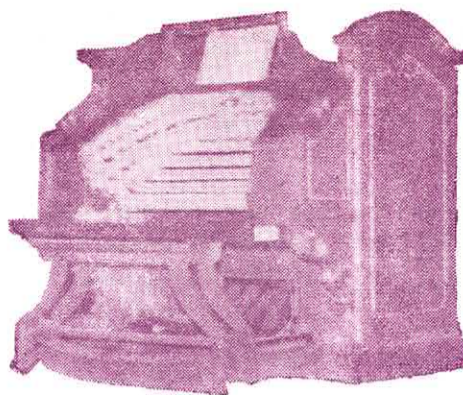


T.O.S.A. NEWS

10c



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.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW SOUTH WALES IN JULY.

THERE WILL BE FOUR "BIG" FUNCTIONS DURING JULY

SATURDAY 6th JULY AT 8pm. Organ party at the residence of George & Joyce Walker
SATURDAY 13th JULY AT 8pm Technical Lecture & Demonstration at R.H. Elvy's showroom.
THURSDAY 25th JULY AT 8pm IAN DAVIES IN CONCERT at Bondi-Junction Waverley RSL Club.
TUESDAY 30th JULY AT 8pm Organ party at the residence of member Alf Lucky.

There will be an organ party at the residence of our members, Mr & Mrs George Walker in aid of the Prince Edward Organ Fund. A charge of \$1 per person will be made and donated by the Walker's to the Fund. This is the third organ party at the Walkers, who have always given us a splendid evening. Those who plan to attend, please phone our Hosts two or three days beforehand and let them know how many in your party - this helps very considerably in the arrangements. The telephone number is 86-5871. The address is ...21 Lyne Road, Cheltenham. Come along and enjoy yourself. The date once again is Saturday 6th July at 8pm.

Saturday 13th July. At the showrooms of R.H. ELVY PTY LTD., 205 Clarence Street Sydney, there will be a Technical lecture and Demonstration presented by the Electronic Organ Sub. Committee. This Sub Committee is to build an electronic organ for the Society in the not too far distant future. The lecture will be given by member George Hughes. As the accommodation for this function is limited, those who plan to attend are advised to telephone Vice-President Des Russell at No. 42-4729 in order to reserve a place. Admission is free - just phone Des to ensure that your name is included in the list.

Thursday 25th July at 8pm. At the Bondi Junction-Waverley R.S.L. Club, located in Gray Street Bondi Junction (rear of Grace Bros Store) we shall once again have the pleasure of hearing our Honorary Member IAN DAVIES IN CONCERT. This will be the first time that IAN has played for us on the NEW THREE MANUAL RODGERS THEATRE ORGAN which is now installed in the Club. A first class buffet supper will be served by the Club and the charge for this function will be \$1 per person. This is a special prestige event and you are urged not to miss out on this one. Those who attended the last concert by IAN at this Club are still talking about it. No drinks are included in the \$1 charge, but our members may make use of the Club's facilities in this regard if they so desire.

Tuesday 30th July at 8pm. This is the night for the big organ party at the home of our members, Mr & Mrs Alf Lucky of 22 Irene Crescent, Kingsgrove. Alf has recently installed a Conn Theatre De Luxe model electronic organ, and this will be the first opportunity the Society has had to see and hear this lovely instrument. There will be a charge of \$1 per person in aid of the Prince Edward Organ Fund, and, as is the usual custom, you are asked to phone your hosts if you plan to attend at least a couple of days beforehand. Alf's telephone number is 50-4995. See you at the Luckeys on the 30th.

REMEMBER.....FOUR FUNCTIONS DURING THE MONTH OF JULY.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded that the next meeting will be the July one and it will be held on Monday 1st July at 7.15pm. The August meeting will be Monday 5th.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF CONCERT RECORDING'S "ORGAN OF THE MONTH" CLUB ??? DON'T YOU MISS OUT ON FABULOUS RECORDS OF THEATRE ORGANS UNOBTAINABLE ELSEWHERE. JOIN NOW !!!

COMING EVENTS.

In August, it is planned to feature celebrated Hammond organist ERIC SMITH in a concert for TOSA members. ERIC has recently released an organ and piano L.P. on Festival label which is now available in music stores. Full details will be given in the next edition of TOSA News.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.

Over forty people gathered at the home of our members Don and Mrs McDonald, for the organ party held on Saturday 15th June. Despite the cold night, the warmth and cheery atmosphere inside Don's new auditorium, was equalled only by the warmth of the welcome extended to the Society by our Hosts. Don's Lowrey Theatre organ, on its raised dais to the right of the screen, was in constant use all evening, and sounded fine. Among those playing, to name a few, were, George McNeil, our Host Don McDonald, David Parsons, Lance Wells, Dr Robbins, John Clancy, Mrs Spring and Ernie Erwin.

The facilities of Don's extended auditorium were admired by all present. These included, as already mentioned, a raised dais for the organ console, a grand piano playable from the console of the organ, and 16 mm projectors in a separate projection booth. The screen, covered with heavy drapes, has a translucent column on each side of it, each column being lit by internal spotlights fitted with color changing wheels, giving a constantly changing and variegated pattern of light. Three silent cartoons were screened and these were accompanied by DAVID PARSONS at the organ. David, having his first crack at the highly demanding art of silent movie playing, without the benefit of a previous rehearsal, carried off a most difficult task quite well, all things considered.

Mrs McDonald, assisted by the ladies, served a really delightful supper, and the evening was voted a memorable one indeed. After organising a raffle for an organ recording, donated by our member, Mr Ledwon Sen. of USA, your Editor's number came up the winner after David Parsons had indulged in a little fun with the winning number 89, which he announced as 68. The sum of \$42 was raised for the P.E. Organ Fund, and the Society sincerely thanks Don and Mrs Mac. for their wonderful hospitality. The record raffle produced a further \$7.20 to the fund.

PETER HELD IN CONCERT AT CLANCY RESIDENCE WURLITZER.

An almost capacity audience of members filled the auditorium of the Clancy residence, on Sunday 23rd June, to hear PETER HELD in concert at the two manual Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe organ. They were rewarded with a recital of outstanding merit.

PETER HELD, giving his first concert before an Australian audience ably demonstrated his complete mastery of the intricacies of theatre organ playing in no uncertain manner. We were left in no doubt that we were listening to a man with very wide experience of this type of instrument, nor was there any doubt that he knew how to extract the best from it. And he did, indeed, do just that.

PETER's registrations were well chosen, and included many delightfully soft and delicate ones, which were a delight to the ear. At other times, he registered voices, which were very reminiscent of England's DOUGLAS REEVE, the Maestro of the Brighton Dome. His technique was lightning fast, and a comment made to this Reviewer, concerning his pedal work was, "that he was very fleet of foot". Very fleet he was indeed, but he was also very light of foot with it too - his shoe barely seeming to skim the pedals, rather than to touch them.

One or two cyphers, which unfortunately popped up, enabled PETER to show the professionals way to play round them and get away with it, and the applause for this, clearly demonstrated that the audience were alive to this ability. The programme presented a number of items which had not been heard previously at any of our concerts, and covered a wide variety of music and tempos. The Guest artist was soprano, PAULINE GATTENHOFF who was given a warm welcome by members. She was in good voice singing three delightful numbers during her first appearance. At her second appearance, after the intermission, she overcame her earlier nervousness, and announced her own numbers in a friendly and very charming manner over the microphone. She concluded with a bracket of Al Jolson numbers, after which it was back to PETER for the remainder of the programme.

An item at the piano, revealed him to be an outstanding pianist, as well as a most accomplished organist. Included in the programme was a bracket of Irish melodies, and what organist who was born in Ould Oirland, could fail to have a few of these lovely

(Continued on page 5)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

The Society extends a warm and friendly welcome to the following new members, together with the hope that you will join in as many of the functions as you possibly can, and enjoy with us, the music of the "king of instruments". Mr H. Barter of Sydney - Mr John Jones of Sydney - Mr & Mrs Thomas Dowsley of Sydney - and Mr Ashley King, also of Sydney.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF PRINCE EDWARD ORGAN FUND.

The Society sincerely thanks the following members for their help to the Fund. Every dollar brings our own Wurlitzer pipe organ a step nearer. Sale of a record donated by Mr Ledwon Sen. of USA \$5 - a further record donated by Mr Ledwon was raffled at the Don McDonald organ party and raised a further \$7.20. Donation from member Oscar Moen \$10. Proceeds of organ party at the home of Don & Mrs McDonald \$42. This makes a total of \$64.20 this month - a very good effort indeed.

NEXT WORKING PARTIES AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. It has been necessary to change the date of the July working party on our Wurlitzer at Marrickville Town Hall - this will now take place on Saturday 13th July and not on the first Saturday in the month as usual. The change was made necessary because of a prior booking of the Hall. The August working party will be on Saturday 3rd of August. Members of the working parties, please take note.

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

<u>THIS MONTH'S RELEASE</u>	"VIENNESE KNIGHTS" Record number is CR 0022
<u>THE ORGANIST</u>	DON KNIGHTS
<u>THE ORGAN</u>	3/9 COMPTON ORGAN IN THE ABBEY HALL ABINGDON ENGLAND.
<u>THE PROGRAMME</u>	You Will Remember Vienna - New Pizzicato Polka - Oh Rosalinda - In Grinzing - Schatz Waltzer - Leichtes Blot - Gold & Silver - Merry Widow Overture - Bad'ner Mud'len - Einzugsmarsch

In choosing his programme DON KNIGHTS very obviously felt that lovers of the waltz and its music had been sadly neglected for too long. He has taken the trouble to correct this omission with a record which is entirely devoted to the music of the waltz and aptly titled, "Viennese Knights". The music of Johann Strauss, Lehar, Kalman and Stolz etc is liltily presented by a theatre organist of wide experience over the last thirty years or so, and he plays them with an assured competence. Some may argue that an entire recording of waltz music played on a theatre organ, is too much, but this is a matter of personal opinion and taste. For those who like the music - this is their cup of tea and they will fully enjoy the record, for MR KNIGHTS knows how to get the best from the instrument.

The organ is the 3/9 Compton, originally in the Gaumont Cinema Birmingham, now owned by the local chapter of the Theatre Organ Preservation Society (T.O.P.S.) England, and is installed in the Abbey Hall Abingdon. It has the addition of a Fanfare Trumpet, enlarged to three octaves to increase its scope. This particular rank was peculiar to Compton organs of the early 1930's. The organ has a big sound and is a particularly good example of re-installation.

THE ALTERNATE RELEASE

Concert Recording is proud to announce that it has obtained the rights to produce the original series of GEORGE WRIGHT recordings. First produced by HI-FI Records Inc., these are now out of circulation. In the interests of Theatre Organ enthusiasts, they will release these legendary collector's items as alternate selections, packaged in contemporarily designed jackets.

This is indeed good news for those who started their record collecting since these discs disappeared from the music stores. You can now catch up on these fabulous Wright discs. If you take both records this month, they can be had for only \$7.99 for the two which is a considerable saving. "Organ of the Month" Club records are usually \$4.95 each.

GEORGE WRIGHT'S PROGRAMME ON THIS MONTH'S ALTERNATE RELEASE IS AS FOLLOWS.

Prisonero Del Mar - You Were Meant For Me - Mockin' Bird Hill - I Get The Blues When It Rains - Nola - Masquerade - Love Letters - Paradise - Pagan Love Song - Beer Barrel Polka

TWO GOOD RECORDS THIS MONTH IN CONCERT RECORDING'S "ORGAN OF THE MONTH" CLUB RELEASE.

JULY PROFILE THE BARRIE BRETTONER STORY

One of Australia's foremost theatre organists, BARRIE BRETTONER (F.T.C.L.), was born in England on February 22nd 1913. He came to Australia at an early age, and settled in Sydney. He had his first music lessons from his mother at the age of four, and later, continued his study of the piano with Rex de Cairos Rego. He was taught straight organ by G. Faunce Allman, and the clarinet by Crosby Brown. During his musical studies, he won two Gold Medals, and became one of the youngest Fellows of the Trinity College London. At this stage, the theatre organ entered his young life, and he began training in the theatre organ techniques, under the tutelage of the great HORACE WEBER, who was, at that time, appearing for a season at the State Theatre Sydney. This was during the latter part of 1930, and into 1931.

Mr Eustace Dodd, Wurlitzer's Sydney representative, affectionately known as "Brother Dodd", to the fraternity, had given BARRIE permission to go with the organ tuners as they moved around the various theatres tuning the organs, and this was a splendid opportunity to try out many different organs, thereby adding to his experience. Needless to say, BARRIE took full advantage of Brother Dodd's gesture. His first appointment was to the Palatial Theatre at Burwood, where he was billed as "Australia's Wonder Boy Organist". Twelve months later, he was chosen to be organist at the new Civic Theatre Auburn, which was then ready to open. His place at the Palatial Theatre organ was filled by KNIGHT BARNETT. The Civic Theatre's opening night took place on Tuesday 13th February 1934, and BARRIE was hailed as an outstanding performer at the lovely 2/13 Wurlitzer which was installed in this house.

During his residency of about twelve months, he celebrated his twenty first birthday, and was presented with a large key, by the theatre staff. An amusing sidelight to his Civic Theatre days occurred one evening, when the console's hydraulic lift developed a fault. The console normally turned around as it came up on the hoist, and usually operated very smoothly indeed. On this occasion however, as BARRIE brought the console up, whilst playing his theme melody, the console came up very slowly, stopping every few inches as though trying to gain the energy necessary to lift itself a little higher. BARRIE was equal to the occasion however, and abandoning his theme music, he commenced to play, "I'm Coming, I'm Coming, But My Head Is Bending Low" etc, timing his pauses in the song to the pauses in the rise of the elevator.

BARRIE's next residency was at the Civic Theatre in Auckland New Zealand, at the console of the three manual Wurlitzer which BARRIE still recalls as one of the best sounding Wurlitzers in the Southern Hemisphere. From Auckland, he moved on to the De-Luxe Theatre at Wellington for a season. Whilst there, he gave a recital on the Wellington Town Hall organ, which was a four manual job, by Hill Norman & Beard. On his return to Australia, he took a holiday from theatre organ playing for a few months, and became organist at St. John's Church at Mudgee, where he relieved well known Arthur Massey during an illness.

Late in 1936, he appeared at the Arcadia Theatre Chatswood for a season, which ended the following March, when he and his new bride left for a honeymoon trip to England. On his arrival, he was quickly engaged by HAROLD RAMSAY who controlled organ presentations in a vast number of cinemas throughout England, and he became one of the eight "ACE" organists whom RAMSAY used to open new organ installations, or to be featured at special prestige organ presentations throughout the country. BARRIE was in the best of company, other members of this special team of "ACES" being SYDNEY TORCH, H. ROBINSON CLEAVER, JOSEPH SEAL and NEVILLE MEALE. BARRIE's first English appointment, was to the Ritz Theatre at Huddersfield at the console of a three manual Wurlitzer, which had been played only the night before, by REGINALD DIXON at a charity concert.

Later came an extended tour through the provinces including Lancashire, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Warwickshire, and it was during this tour that BARRIE came into contact with the Compton Theatre organs which were in many of the large cinemas. He had a high regard for the Compton and its Melotone unit which he exploited to the full. He still speaks glowingly of the qualities of the Compton, with particular mention of its terrifically fast action.

Finally, after a season at the huge Capitol Theatre Didsbury, near Manchester, which accomodated over 3,000 people, and was equipped with a four manual Hill, Norman & Beard organ, reputedly one of the largest of its type in Britain, BARRIE was sent by Major Wright, Wurlitzer's London representative, to open the first Wurlitzer organ installation in Denmark. The theatre was the unusual and lovely Palladium in Copenhagen which had all seats on the one sloping floor, plus a Royal Box in the centre. The organ, a 3/7 Wurlitzer, was, according to BARRIE, an exquisitely voiced instrument. It had big fat sounding Tibias and Voxes, and possessed a Gamba of rare quality. (continued on page 5)

JULY PROFILE THE BARRIE BRETTNER STORY

Returning to England, he appeared at the A.B.C. Ritz Theatre Hastings for a couple of years, playing a three manual Wurlitzer. Following this season, together with his wife and two young sons, he left for Australia travelling on the ill-fated liner, the "Rangitane", travelling in wartime convoy. Shortly after the ship had set them down in New Zealand she was sunk. The Brettner family crossed the Tasman to Sydney in the Aust-N.Z. liner, "Wanganella", and BARRIE took over the console of the Christie organ in the Savoy Theatre at Enfield. This was followed by seasons at the Savoy Theatre Hurstville and the Roxy Theatre Parramatta, after which he returned to the Civic Theatre Auburn and the Wurlitzer he had opened way back in 1934.

The Army was his next job for a considerable time, until the War ended, and upon being discharged from the Army, he gratified a desire he had entertained for some time, and went on to the land. He remained on his property for a few years.

He returned to the Arcadia Theatre at Chatswood, and was the last organist in residence at the time the theatre closed down. He was manager of the organ department at Palings Music Store for a few years, and introduced the first Compton electronic organ into this country. The first really large Compton electronic organ sold here went to Sir Eugene Goosens for use in the Sydney Conservatorium, and BARRIE was very proud of having made this important sale. At that time, electronic organs were something of a novelty in this country, and BARRIE felt that acceptance by such an eminent musician was a most important step forward.

Your Editor found MR BRETTNER to be a fascinating story teller of the Golden Days of the Theatre Organ, with an unlimited stock of memories to draw on - memories one could listen to for hours on end.

Exceptionally friendly and easy to get along with, he is keenly interested in people, and especially so, in children. He is bubbling with energy and spends much of his time in fostering a love of ballet and its music to many classes of enthusiastic youngsters, none of whom would possibly even have seen a Wurlitzer organ in a theatre. A brilliant and talented musician with a sparkling personality to match, his interest in the theatre organ is still as deep as ever. This then, is BARRIE BRETTNER - OUR PROFILE FOR JULY.

PETER HELD CONCERT CONTINUED.

songs in the programme - they were lovingly played, as they deserved to be, and added a nostalgic touch to the afternoon. In fact, MR HELD's line of patter as he announced each item proclaimed that he had probably kissed the Blarney stone himself as his many whimsical asides to the audience would prove. President Tom Halloran, in thanking PETER, the guest artist, PAULINE GATTENHOFF, and John & Mrs Clancy, said that he hoped it would not be too long before the Society once again had the privilege of hearing the artistry of PETER HELD, and from the applause given to him, it was plain that the TOSA members hoped so too.

BRIEF REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETING.

The half-yearly Business Meeting took place in the Wentworthville Scouts Hall on Sunday 23rd June at 2pm. The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and confirmed. There was no correspondence to be dealt with, so the Chairman proceeded to the Motion moved by the Treasurer, Rod Blackmore concerning By-Law 20 (Amendment to) and also an amendment to By-Law 28. These Amendments were outlined in last month's TOSA News. Both were carried.

Committee man, Barry Tooker, raised the question of incorrect and misleading reports, which sometimes appear in overseas Theatre organ magazines, concerning Australia. He stated that these could have come from several sources including TOSA News. They could also have come from wrong interpretations being placed by the Overseas magazines on what had been said. The Chairman instructed Mr Tooker to place specific instances in writing and forward same to the Secretary, and where necessary, appropriate action would be taken to correct such statements.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm, and all those present made their way to the Clancy home in order to attend the Wurlitzer organ concert by MR PETER HELD.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS (From President Bob Smith)

The May meeting of the Queensland Division was held at the "Organ Centre", Messrs Whitehouse Bros, Red Hill. An Ordinary meeting of the members took place prior to the entertainment segment of the evening. A Committee was formed to look into special aspects of the Division's activities. At the conclusion of the business, members and their friends adjourned to the organ factory, where pride of place was given to the large merry-go-round organ mentioned in last month's TOSA News.

The organ is now owned by Nev. Short, and Whitehouse Bros., were commissioned to overhaul and rebuild, where necessary. I'm sure the sound of this organ brought back pleasant memories of earlier days, and members were pleased at the opportunity presented to them not only to hear, but to see the action and pipework etc. Various members rendered harmony on electronic organs, and we were fortunate to have with us, LES RICHMOND and WILBUR KENTWELL on the programme.

The next meeting of the Division will be held at the residence of President Bob & Mrs Smith on Friday 28th June. The surprise for members will be the inspection of the new Remand Section of the Brisbane Prison, reputed to be the most modern in Australia. This should be another "first" for Queensland members, even if they have to go to prison to achieve it. The night should prove to be a most interesting one, and has been changed to Friday to give the younger generation a chance to attend the meeting, without upsetting homework commitments. A Report will be presented at this meeting of the results of the newly formed Committee.

(Bob Smith)

ORGAN EVENTS. The Organ Institute of NSW announces an organ recital at Christ Church St. Lawrence, Railway Square Sydney at 5.55pm on Tuesday 9th July. Organ and violin will be combined in a pleasing recital. Admission will be 50¢ each.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS.

It was reported in the June Issue of Sth. Aust. TOSA, that a house party would be held at the residence of Mr & Mrs Fran Searle of Seacliff Park on Saturday 29th June. No other details are yet to hand.

In the South Australian Division News segment of last month's TOSA News, it was reported that BARRY HALL had released a record on RCA Camden label featuring a Hammond organ. It has been reported to your Editor that the organ used on this record, was, in fact, a Model 4460 WurliTzer electronic organ. TOSA News apologizes for the error.

FOR SALE.

LOWREY FESTIVAL ORGAN PLUS LESLIE CABINET. 25 NOTE PEDAL BOARD
61 NOTE MANUALS GOES TO 2' PITCHES PLUS FRACTIONALS INCLUDES
SWELL TO GREAT & SWELL TO PEDAL COUPLERS PRICE....\$2,000
Apply to Neville Wilks, Building Supervisor, Grace Building,
Sydney. Telephone 29-3831

THE ELECTRONIC ORGAN IN U.S.A. Micro circuit manufacturers have a major foothold in the lucrative electronic organ market as a result of having produced micro circuits designed expressly for organs - a frequency divider and a dual gate keyer. It is estimated that \$200 million worth of electronic organs will be sold this year.

FACING A DILEMMA.

Producers of theatre organ records face a dilemma each time they set out to make a new recording. They could have the organist play fairly full registrations as he would in the theatre, capturing the sound as it comes, or alternatively, the organist can be asked to select more solo voices than he would use in a "live" theatre performance, leaving out any stops which do not record well. With correct microphone placing, usually very close to the chambers, the result can be very brilliant tonally revealing strong contrasts between the various voices. The record is then more interesting, as the organist has played "to the record" and not "to the theatre", but the sound is not as the theatre's patrons would hear it in a "live" performance. The question is, which is the more desirable sound to be captured on record? WHAT DO OUR READERS THINK????? If you have any opinion on the subject drop a line to the Editor, 16 Delhi Street Lidcombe, NSW 2141, stating in not more than fifty words what you think and why. Letters of special interest will be published.

That's all for this month,
Organically yours

THE EDITOR.