

t.o.s.a. news

incorporating **THE DIAPHONE**

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

Printed by T.O.S.A. PRESS

Volume 13 Number 2 SOCIETY DIRECTORY February, 1975

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IF YOU ARE UNFINANCIAL THIS IS YOUR LAST COPY OF TOSA NEWS

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

21st February, Friday 8.00p.m. A home organ party is on at the home of our Treasurer, Mark Gabriel at 27 Yarran Road, Oatley, (off Mimosa St.) The organist to be featured is Bill Schumacher who has recently demonstrated to us that he is certainly putting in a lot of extra practice time as witness the Darwin Appeal Concert. Bill is playing new music with new arrangements and his modern harmonies make for spine tingling musicianship. To reserve your place at this swinging night's entertainment phone Mark on 579 2169. A donation to assist with our activities will be asked and at the conclusion of the evening supper will be provided. As a regular attender at Mark's evenings I can enthusiastically recommend them as very happy and convivial affairs enjoyed by all those lucky enough to be able to attend. Phone and make your reservations tonight.

23rd February, Sunday 2.30p.m. A FREE Sunday Afternoon Concert at the Marrickville Town Hall 2/10 Wurlitzer pipe organ will be presented featuring the organist, Neil Jensen, from Brisbane. You may have been fortunate enough to have been in the audience for one of the cameo playing spots when Neil impressed all those present with his ability. Neil is a very capable young organist with an infectious enthusiasm which effects his audience in the most agreeable way. So come along on Sunday the 23rd and bring your friends, neighbours and relations as I dont think you will be disappointed by this performance.

Registered with the G.P.O. for posting as a periodical-
Category B

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st March, Saturday, 8a.m. One of the rare visits to the National Trust Classified Sydney State Theatre, has been arranged for this early morning to feature, at the organ, during the first half of the programme Ken Banfield from South Australia. Ken owns a Hammond organ and does regular practice at the Wyatt Hall Wurlitzer and is one of the few members of South Australia's TOSA group to have unlimited access to their instrument. For the second half of the programme we will be entertained by Ian Sommerville who is the group leader of the State Organ working party and Ian owns a Norman and Beard Pipe Organ previously in St. Georges Church in Hurstville and a Yamaha Electronic. You may recall that Ian played a small spot at the Christmas Caberet. This rare visit to the State Theatre should be taken advantage of by every member of our Society as has been outlined in these pages previously these opportunities could very easily vanish overnight.

8th March, Saturday 2.30 p.m. A Barbeque in a carnival atmosphere is being organised by Pam and Barry Tooker featuring Malcolm McKay's carnival organ. A quarterly business meeting will take place during the afternoon and additional film entertainment will be provided. It is understood that the meat will be provided for the Barbeque but those attending to BYOG. Please phone Pam or Barry 642 6086 to reserve your steak and at the same time assist financially with the preservation of our Capitol Organ.

19th March, Wednesday 8.00p.m. Charity Organ Concert at Chatswood Civic Centre in conjunction with the Willoughby Festival of the Arts. More details next month of all these items.

28th March - 30th March THE FABULOUS FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

With this edition of TOSA News you will find an advertising brochure for the 1975 National Convention detailing the programme more fully than the sketchy information we included with the last newsheet. The star attraction for the 1975 Convention is the American Theatre Organist, Bill Thomson. The price to attend the convention which includes all activities is Adults \$21.00, Children \$10.00, Students and Pensioners \$18.00 and if you wish to attend please forward your deposit or total registration fee together with your name and address to Fourth TOSA Convention, 17 Powderham Road, Caulfield North 3161, Victoria, immediately.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

The alternatives are:-

RAIL

<u>Daylight Express</u>	Depart Sydney 7.45 am	Arrive Melbourne 8.20 pm
	Depart Melbourne 8.40 am	Arrive Sydney 9.22 pm
	FARE \$36.00 (incl. Reserved Seat)	
<u>Southern Aurora</u>	Depart Sydney 8.00 pm	Arrive Melbourne 9.00 am
	Depart Melbourne 8.00 pm	Arrive Sydney 8.45 am
	FARE \$60.00 (with Sleeper)	
<u>Spirit of Progress</u>	Depart Sydney 8.10 pm	Arrive Melbourne 9.55 am
	Depart Melbourne 6.45 pm	Arrive Sydney 8.45 am
	FARE \$60.00 (with Sleeper)	

A 10% reduction is available for 15 or more bookings.

AIR

Frequent Services - roughly hourly RETURN FARE - \$73.00 Economy Class
10% Reduction is available for 15 or more bookings.

COACH

Express Services usually \$33.00

For a full coach of 40 passengers this gives a return fare of \$17.50 (for express trip) or \$21.50 for complete use while in Melbourne. It is proposed to have the coach leave at 9.00 pm Thursday night arriving in Melbourne at 1.00 pm Friday and to depart 11.30 pm Sunday arriving about 4.00 pm Monday.

This will provide an economic and convenient trip saving one night's accommodation.

ALL INTENDING TRAVELLERS MUST MAKE A BOOKING WITH A DEPOSIT OF AT LEAST \$5.00 TO REACH THE TREASURER OR PRESIDENT BEFORE 10th FEBRUARY.

ACCOMMODATION

A request has been made for tentative booking of 25 units to be confirmed before 15th February.

IT IS STRESSED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO MAKE BOOKINGS EARLY

IF ATTENDING 'PHONE

MARK GABRIEL 579 2169

TOM HALLORAN 523 5077

NOW !!!!!!!!

CONCERT REVIEWS

On 7th January our Treasurer Mark Gabriel, presented an entertaining home organ party featuring Ray Thornley at the 'Wurlitzer 4570' organ. During the evening Ray entertained 40 people in a programme of light contemporary music. He played themes from many current feature films such as 'Paint Your Wagon', 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'Superstar', 'The Way we Were', 'Serpico', 'Jonathan Livingstone Seagull', and 'That's Entertainment'. One of the highlights of the evening for many people was a very old piece of music called 'Where my Caravan is rested' which Ray told us he thought no-one had ever heard of except his Grandfather and himself but which turned out to be well loved by many of those present.

Ray performed very capably and has developed a rather pleasant rapport with his audience. Those present for this evening's entertainment were amply rewarded and refreshed by Mark and Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel's hospitality with a delightful spread for supper and judging by the happy chatter at supper time the opinions of the reviewer were shared by all.

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THE TOSA BENEFIT CONCERT FOR DARWIN

In the early hours of Christmas 1974, Cyclone "Tracy" almost completely destroyed Darwin - the extent of the damage became apparent as news reports filtered through. The comment which made most impact was from our Deputy Prime Minister (in our Prime Minister's absence overseas) assuring Australia that the City of Darwin would be rebuilt. The evacuation of over half the population is another story but the shock, misery and upheaval will be felt by a lot of people for a long time.

To assist the Relief Funds which have been set up by the various municipalities of the other major cities of Australia the TOSA assisted by the Marrickville Municipal Council advertised a benefit concert on Sunday 19th January to aid the collection of funds. The response was magnificent nearly all the available Sydney organists offered their services free - the services of four were accepted and to the others a million thanks-and the task was set to fit in a programme between interruptions to the electricity supply due to the present industrial disruption. We have received two excellent reviews of this great afternoon's entertainment and are therefore reprinting both and we hope that you will be proud of the part played on your behalf in the Darwin Relief Appeal, by your committee.

JOH CONGERT'S IMPRESSIONS:

Dilemma - When I was asked to express my impressions of the Charity Concert on Sunday, January 19, 1975, I found myself wondering what to say. Of course one could write a drawn out analysis about who did what and how, but what is the point, so, in short here are some impressions taken from a professional viewpoint.

In general a wonderful concert played by 4 well known organists. A well balanced programme ranging from classics to modern popular melodies, a wide variety of styles, registrations, rhythms - some very fast in pace - some delightfully slow moments, in short a concert worthy of congratulations to everybody involved.

Some of the highlights for me were:-

Opening Organist Cliff Bingham:- a no fuss, no nonsense approach, lively hopping up the steps and quickly setting up some stops then "in to it".

Some delightful left hand melody with a nicely balanced contrast between the two chambers - good expression too. Some of his arrangements, I think, influenced by the latest Lyn Larsen recording "Out of a Dream" soon to be available in Australia.

My good friend Peter Held:- demonstrated his incredible fingering technique.

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Peter must be Sydney's fastest male organist. Later on in his second spot he showed his ability to play slow tunes in "Laugh Clown Laugh". I also enjoyed the "Brigadoon" selection very much.

"Nice Guy" David Parsons:- as always a popular performer, plenty of Charisma, very nice console manner and a musical ability to match. His version of "Three Blind Mice" showed a lot of original ideas and some very nice counter-melody. The double pedalling with light coloured shoes is always a crowd pleaser.

"Gentleman Billiam" Schumacher:- was as his usual suave best. Some excellent registrations, quite a lot of extended harmonics, exquisite version of the melody "If" and some very nice melodic lines in other tunes.

Over the years I have been a member of the Society I have seen each of these gentlemen more than once and - remembering some of the earlier efforts - I will say this, each one of the above organists has not only improved with age but each has matured in their music. The proof of this statement was their skill at this concert.

Congratulations to the four organists also to President Tom Halloran, Compere Frank Ellis and to the other members who combined to make this afternoon a success.

Joh.

P.S. In case you insist to know what I did not like - come and see me and I will tell you privately.

KEVIN EADIE'S IMPRESSIONS

Four organists were featured in a concert on Sunday 19th January, on the Marrickville Wurlitzer, organised at short notice by TOSA and Marrickville Council to aid the Council's Darwin Cyclone Relief Appeal. Cliff Bingham, Peter Held, David Parsons and Bill Schumacher, each generously donated their services to what must have been one of our most interesting concerts for years. The programme was arranged so that each organist could play 1 or 2 pieces before the threatened blackout (which did not eventuate) at 3 p.m. Cliff Bingham - Get Happy, Sunny; Peter Held - Tres Jolie; David Parsons - Waltz of the Flowers; Bill Schumacher - Wake up and Live, The Way we Were. At 2.55 pm a previously apprehensive Tom Halloran appeared with a spring in his step, and a smile which indicated to all present that there would be no blackout:-

Peter Held - Laugh Clown Laugh, London Everyday, Something (Harrison), The Heather on the Hill, Almost Like being in Love, Forgotten Dreams.

Cliff Bingham - You are the Sunshine of my Life, We Kiss in the Shadow, Piano Roll Blues, How Great Thou Art, American Patrol.

- INTERVAL -

David Parsons - Wedding Processional from The Sound of Music, Variations on Three Blind Mice, Godspell selection, Toreador Song (Bizet).

Bill Schumacher - This could be the start of something Big, If, Let's Face the Music and Dance, Everybody Loves Somebody, When you wish upon a star, That's Entertainment.

Variations in taste, style, and presentation, are thrown into sharp relief in a concert such as this. Comparisons of ability in these pages would be odious but is certain that members of the audience will have formed definite preferences. Peter Held is to be commended for his sensitive orchestral registrations - particularly the strings - and for his courage in presenting some less familiar pieces. He has the famous Irish sense of humour (re the console's handrail). If only for the benefit of those not present it should be recorded here that Peter's tempos were all very nearly "standard".

Cliff Bingham's performance was probably best by far. He played one wrong note and only for a moment. Page 5: TOSA News, February, 1975 him to really make the noise our right. Even an un-bugle murrin makes it all look so easy, when, of course, we all know it is not. It is difficult, on

Cliff Bingham's performance can probably best be described as "polished" - not one wrong note and only the barest hesitancy at stop changing, which enables him to really make the monster swing. Even on up-tempo numbers, he makes it all look so easy, when, of course, we all know it is not. It is difficult, on most organs, to achieve a "full organ" sound without over doing it, but Cliff's "How Great Thou Art" reached the brink of that precipice beautifully.

David Parsons projects a strong classical bias, both in material and technique. With his usual pleasant manner, he was able to involve his audience in his music. Three Blind Mice - though we've heard it from him before, was a brilliant example of what can be done with a little melody and a lot of thought. When David had finished moulding it, it certainly didn't have much relevance to mice - rather elephants!

Bill Schumacher's forté is his ability to employ a progressive approach to chords yet not offend his more conservative listeners. His beautiful arrangement of "If" must surely be the source of many future requests. Lesser organists who favour the use of the swell pedal should also look to Bill for enlightenment.

At interval, President Tom Halloran presented Mayor Devine with a cheque for \$225, being the door takings from an audience of around 100 persons, (remarkable, considering that there was no commercial promotion). Mr. Devine thanked the society on behalf of his aldermen and the people of Darwin, explaining that there were some 100 evacuees from that city presently living in the municipality.

EDITORIAL

Well, this month we have our typist back on deck and we are going to work her to death this year with articles written by our readers YOURSELVES. This last year we offered open access to you to encourage members to write down information which you think may be worth reading by other members and the response has been magnificent. This offer is reinforced. If you have any criticism of this Newsheet then here is your chance to influence change. We now have a relatively cheap method of production so inundate us with articles and photographs which we can copy and return. Don't forget -- Lack of time is no real excuse - it plagues us all, but we are all attempting to do as much as we can to help us raise our standard. It's up to you to help and I thank you in advance for your efforts.

BIJOU THEATRE BALMAIN

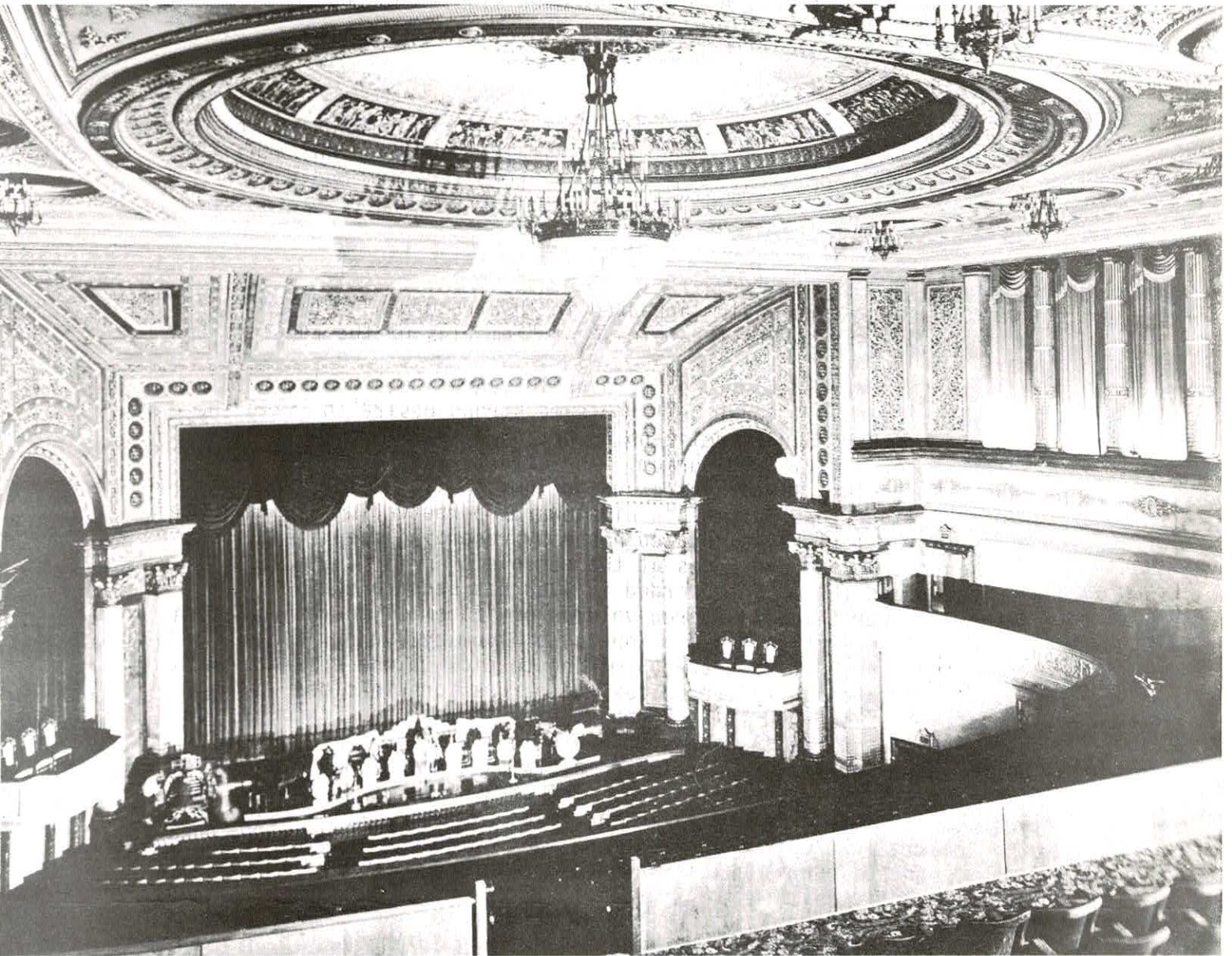
Representatives of your committee recently visited the Bijou Theatre, Balmain to inspect at first hand recent refurbishing and renewal and to measure up various areas with the view to ascertaining its desirability as an alternate site for the reinstallation of the Capitol Wurlitzer.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you have not as yet posted off the renewal slip from last month's TOSA News along with your cheque this will be your last copy of TOSA News. Get out your cheque book NOW and send it off to our Treasurer :- Mr. M. Gabriel, 27 Yarran Road, Oatley as we would not like to think you will not be reading our next exciting! issue.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS TO BE IN MELBOURNE FOR THE
CONVENTION AT EASTERTIME?

MELBOURNE REGENT THEATRE



Our photograph this month is of the interior of the Melbourne "Regent" Theatre and was taken some time prior to the introduction of Cinemascope. Shown are the music stands on the Orchestra Lift and the organ console is in it's original position, on the hoist.

The Theatre has been empty for about four years - all the fittings have been sold at public auction - the only suggestion of its former decoration remaining is the plaster work which is basically in tact.

Its fate hangs in the balance and has been discussed recently in the National Parliament. The National Trust has recently issued a press statement part of which reads "The Theatre is part of the State's heritage and should be preserved .. it is an outstanding example of Hollywood's boom period .. the trust considers they should be preserved, restored and re-opened as theatres."

*NEWS FLASH

Rudolph Valentino is not dead and has been sighted in the company of his friendEric Smith.....
Watch for further developments!!!!!!

SICK LIST

You will be sorry to learn that our Past President, Herbert Wyatt has recently undergone a period of hospitalisation from which he is now convalescing at his home. We are sure that you add your wishes to ours for a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him "back on deck".

RECORD REVIEW

The following record review appeared in "Theatre Organ" October, 1974 edition and aptly covers the release of "Memories of the Fabulous Fox Vol. VI".

When the theatre closed its doors over 10 years ago, theatre buff/Audiophile Frank Killinger felt the same strong desire to "save the Fox" which caused San Franciscans to petition city officials to take the house for a civic auditorium. The efforts failed and the Fox, like so many other fine theatre auditoriums, was levelled. But not before Killinger had put in his bid towards perpetuating at least the memory of the lavishly decorated house by recording many reels of tape with Messrs. Nourse and James at the console.

Over the years the music recorded in 1963 has been released on the Fantasy and Doric labels; three volumes of "Farewell to the Fox" with both artists participating plus one solo album by Everett Nourse. All of the discs reflect the careful miking to pick up the ensemble sound while still catching softer voices and percussions in close up perspective. The result is an opportunity to hear the Fox organ like no one seated in the theatre ever heard it.

This latest, and last, Fox release maintains the same high technical standards set by its predecessors. The organists' work matches the technical quality. Both play in the lush, big organ style associated with theatre intermissions, providing many changes of registration and tempo. Whether one is completing a Fox record set or making initial auditory contact with a great organ in its original acoustical setting "Memories" is a "must".

Everett Nourse plays: Coquette, Love is a Many Splendored Thing, You made me love you, Time Was, September in the Rain, I Aint got Nobody & The Sheik.

Tiny James plays: Merry Widow medley, A Kiss in the Dark, The World is waiting for the Sunrise and Linger Awhile.

This recording is available in Australia from John Atkinson (587 3374) or Robert Gliddon (869 2083).

TOSA BADGES & CAR STICKERS

The recent shortage of TOSA Badges & Car Stickers has been overcome and these items are now available from Treasurer, Mark Gabriel.

They can be purchased at any TOSA function or ordered by mail.

The cost of these items are:-

Badges:	\$1.00	posted	\$1.50
Car Stickers;	30¢	posted	40¢

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to members joining over this past month and we hope that they enjoy happy fellowship and good music with us.

Alan Smith, Sylvania Heights - Ron & Enid Brook, Kingsgrove - Warren Wood, Concord - Ernest Mansell, Bankstown - Peter & Sandra Pocock, Wahroonga, Denis & May McDonald, Hurstville - Ray & Eileen Gale, Sans Souci - Ron & Gloria Northop, North Ryde.

It is interesting to know that our membership at present is in the vicinity of 400 financial members but as our membership includes husband and wife as one member the actual figure would be in excess of 700 people.

RE-ISSUE OF INVITATION

An invitation by Ernest Mansell printed in December's edition of TOSA News unfortunately had two numbers transposed in the telephone number so Ernest would like to re-issue that invitation to members who may like to visit his home for a practice or arrange a get-together of members living around about to contact him on 709 1693.

Ernest lives in the Bankstown area and has a Lowrey Citation Organ. We are sure many members will want to take up this kind invitation and good fellowship will be the result.

NEW ART CENTRE? FACELIFT? OR WHAT?

During the month two conflicting reports appeared in the Sydney press regarding the future of the Hoyts historic Roxy Theatre in Sydney's western suburb of Parramatta. The Packer press reported that the Roxy which is classified by the National Trust, is to be converted into three smaller theatres the outside of the Theatre, its Foyer, Lobby and arch over the stage are not going to be destroyed -- while the local Parramatta press reported that the Council had applied to the Department of Urban and Regional Development for a grant of \$6,000,000 for a Civic Centre to include a performing Arts Centre.

This plan has not been proceeded with and recently the Mayor, Alderman B. R. Wood, submitted a proposal to the Department for a grant to develop the Roxy Theatre as a Performing Arts Centre. The Department requested further information of the proposal but so far there has been no further developments.

The plan to develop the Roxy Theatre as a Performing Arts Centre was suggested by the Western area Director of the Council for the Arts, Mr. A. Pike.

Perhaps another venue for our Capitol Organ.

DEADLINE

Unfortunately we are having members ringing us after deadline dates for articles to appear relating to the coming month and the magazine has already gone to press. It takes a few days to have typed and printed then it must be stapled and folded and posted to reach you hopefully before the 1st of the month so you can see we have to set a day for all items to be in so that we know just what can be accomplished.

Our deadline for March issue is 17th February please let us have any information you wish to place in your magazine on or preferably before that date and you will not be one of the disappointed!!!!

JULY 15th - 20th, 1975.....AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
NATIONAL CONVENTION ----- SAN FRANCISCO.

FLASHBACKS - Ian Cameron

Quite recently, whilst researching for suitable material to include in my 'FLASHBACKS', I hardly expected to find an article on the Theatre Organ appearing in an Australian Post Office staff magazine. However, this is just what did happen, and I am pleased to be able to have this article re-printed for your reading pleasure and enjoyment. In due course, it is hoped to present an article on this particular organ covering its installation and history in its former setting.

"Know anyone who wants to buy an organ?" This question, which passed casually between two musician friends, started a train of events which reached a proud conclusion three years later in St. Columb's church at West Ryde, New South Wales. A discarded cinema organ was to be transformed, through the patient work of three men, into an inspiring guide to harmony in church worship.

The question, which was asked by Post Office Technical Instructor Ken Jordan, aroused the immediate curiosity of his companion, Technical Training Principal Tom Raynsford. Tom was interested, and ideas began to shape themselves in his mind as Ken told his story.

The Organ, a Christie, was the English equivalent of the American Wurlitzer and had originally been installed in a suburban theatre at Gordon at a cost of nearly £20,000. This was back in the 1920's when organs of this type provided a popular musical background to silent films. With the advent of talking films, however, organs gradually disappeared from theatres and were either stored and forgotten or sold cheaply for their useful parts.

Ken told his friend that this particular organ was going to be sold for scrap-metal and could be obtained for £200. Tom, keenly interested on behalf of the church, arranged for the instrument to be purchased, and from then on, events moved quickly under his capable guidance.

Having assessed the magnitude of the task that faced them if the organ was to be rebuilt and adapted for church worship, Ken and Tom enlisted the aid of Senior Technician Noel Stoes who has made a hobby of organs and organ construction. The three man team was complete.

The three men who directed "operation organ" combined the three distinct talents needed for the mammoth project. Tom, the leader, is a competent organiser and planner; Ken is a brilliant organist; and Noel is a precise craftsman with experience of the many mechanical and electrical problems to be encountered in organ building. All perfectionists, they approached their task with a full appreciation of the time and work it would entail. The common bond uniting these three men, and the many others whose aid they enlisted, from time to time, was love of music. The whole project, indeed, provided a splendid example of the power of music as a unifying influence. Music lovers of all creeds, attracted by the magnitude and complexity of the job, offered to assist in building the organ for the West Ryde Church.

To people less optimistic and less confident than Tom, Ken and Noel, the task of rebuilding the dilapidated organ would have seemed hopeless.

A mass of wood and metal, with no apparent use beyond the scrap-heap, it was a sorry-looking sight. The three Post Office men saw it as an exhilarating challenge.

After thirty years in storage, every part of the instrument was covered with a heavy layer of dust; many of the perishable parts were useless. It was soon evident, too, that complete rewiring would be needed.

Handling and identifying all parts of the organ called for extreme care. The largest pipes were sixteen feet long and sixteen inches in diameter. Made of a special lead alloy, they were heavy and unwieldy. At the other extreme, the smallest pipes were only half an inch long and could easily be lost. Replacement of these pipes with new ones to give exactly the same pitch presents a difficult, although not insurmountable, problem. With meticulous care, the three friends took stock of the material available and examined the condition of all parts of the instrument. They made numerous drawings until they were thoroughly familiar with every detail of construction.

Source; A.P.O. Magazine - Vol. 8 No.1

TO BE CONCLUDED:

OBITUARIES

A friend passes on - It is with sorrow we inform you of the recent sudden passing of one of our members Jack Lucre.

Jack was among the most enthusiastic members we had, his love for music was unbounded and distance no object in attending a function.

Jack was not a musician himself but was always there to praise and encourage others in their fields of musical endeavour.

To his wife Norma and children Paul, Ross and Julie we extend our deepest sympathy in their recent loss.

Vic Hammett - It is with sadness that we have the task of informing you that during the last month Vic Hammett passed away after a short illness. During his recent concert tours Vic Hammett endeared himself to the Australian Organ World with his warm personality. He was a charming man and had a radiating warmth, which captured his audience and personal friends alike. Vic followed Sidney Torch at the Regal Cinema in the Edmonton section of London with its magnificent Christie Organ, later becoming a pianist, orchestral arranger and orchestra leader. During a tour of the Continent he was interned by the Germans and became a prisoner-of-war until 1945. Vic then went into teaching and concertising, doing piano and organ work with the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra under Sidney Torch, recording and world travelling as solo organist. His world tours have taken him through U.S.A. Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia and in his capacity as electronic organ demonstrator has been into U.S.S.R. as far as is known the only organist to go through the Iron Curtain. It would be accurate to state that the whole of Australia was looking forward to the next time Vic Hammett landed on our shores again-but that is not to be.

PROFILES:

During last year a request came from America for information about the Australian Theatre Organists - the profiles which follow monthly are informative and as accurate as information available allows and you will be interested to learn some of the facts.

DENIS PALMISTRA

Piano studies were commenced at the age of seven, and Denis made rapid progress. When the Sydney 'Capitol' opened in 1928, Denis was frequently in the audience to listen to the American, Fred Scholl, at the 3/15 Wurlitzer. It was fitting that Fred Scholl should therefore be chosen as his teacher.

Denis' first residency was at the 'King's Cross' Theatre, Sydney on a 2/10 Wurlitzer. He moved on to the 'Regent' Theatre which boasted a 3/15 Wurlitzer and the 'Plaza' Theatre 2/8 Christie and was later featured at the Sydney 'Capitol' 3/15 Wurlitzer in 1934, to relieve Billy Dick.

In 1936, he became resident organist at Auckland's 'Civic' 3/16 Wurlitzer in New Zealand, and returned to Sydney where he was featured at the Parramatta 'Roxy' 3/10 Christie and the 'Victory' Kogarah 2/8 Christie.

He opened the 'Savoy' Enfield 2/10 Wurlitzer and moved on to the 'Palatial' at Burwood, playing a 3/10 Christie and then to the 'Melba' at Strathfield, which boasted a smaller Christie; a 2/8 instrument. His services were sought at 'Auburn's Civic', and its 2/13 Wurlitzer was the largest instrument outside the city.

Denis has been active in theatre organ circles in New Zealand in recent years and has been featured at the Tokoroa High School 2/10 Wurlitzer. In the late 1960's he recorded for Concert Recordings on the ex-Civic Wurlitzer installed at the residence of John Clancy at Wentworthville, Sydney. To promote the record, Denis gave a recital on this organ. He also played the 'Capitol' 3/15 Wurlitzer during a visit and entertained members of TOSA.

RECORDS GALORE

The Theatre Organ Society has availed itself of the following discs and is offering them to members at a special price.

The two discs available are:-

Dick Schrumm at the Seattle Paramount Wurlitzer 4/20 featuring such numbers as -- Satin Doll, Second Hand Rose, How about You, You're Nobody till Somebody Loves You and many more great numbers.

A must for the lover of lush Theatre sounds. A fine recording by a most capable artist.

Noreen Hennessy's farewell Concert on the Prince Edward Organ while still installed in the Theatre. If you missed out when this record was first released DON'T miss out now.

BOTH THESE RECORDS ARE PRICED AT \$4.00 AND ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE PRINCE EDWARD MAINTENANCE FUND

and are available from the Treasurer at TOSA functions. Buy early, stocks can't last long at these low prices.

A VOTE OF THANKS

We are all indebted to a few people for the production of TOSA News during the last two months as our regular typist was firstly ill and then in hospital during the production of the last two issues. The typing work involved is not insignificant for our newsheet and without the assistance of Robert Gliddon, Bill Schumacher and Mark Gabriel and a typewriter with half a mind of it's own nothing could have been produced.

THEATRE DISASTERS

Theatres have figured in noteworthy disasters through the years. Fire destroyed the Brooklyn Theatre in 1876 with 295 lives lost; the Ring Theatre in Vienna in 1881 with 850 lost; the Exeter in England in 1887 with 200 lost; and the most destructive in America, the Iroquois Theatre in Chicago in 1903 which claimed 602. Then there was the disaster which befell a theatre, supposedly caused by the vibration of sound traced to its pipe organ?

Yes, that was alleged to have been the cause in the collapse of the Knickerbocker Theatre's roof in Washington in 1922; causing 98 deaths, injuries to 133, and ultimately the suicides of architect and owner. Following the disaster, the Buffalo Evening News ran a thoroughly researched article entitled "When Death Played the Pipe Organ" in which strange deaths of numerous church organists were described.