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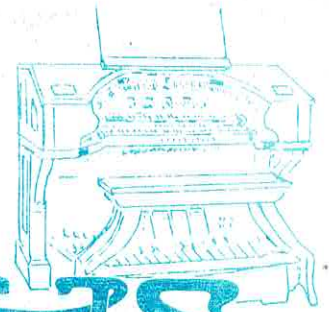
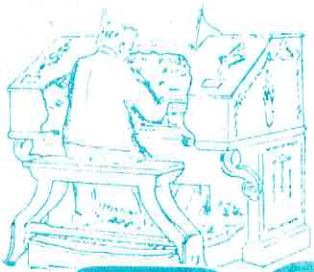
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# T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

ADDRESS BOX A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

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## "T.O.S.A. DIARY"

August 10th. Wednesday, 8.00p.m.

This is the meeting to which all members are strongly urged to attend so that they can see for themselves the Auditorium at the Sydney Technical High School, Forest Road, Bexley, (almost opposite to the Croydon Road intersection) which your committee and the members at the last Quartlerly Meeting thought might form a suitable situation in which to install our Capitol Theatre Organ. Alex Britton has kindly agreed to lend us an organ for the occasion which he and Ian Davies will play. There will be films as well. So please, all come, and then

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August 9th, Tuesday, 7.00p.m.

Sydney Community Radio Station, 2 MBS FM, will be featuring a one hour programme of theatre organ music. This will be in full hi-fi stereo and can be received on 102.5 MHz.

August 19th, Friday at 7.30 p.m.

A home organ party will be held at the home of Stan and Daphne Hogarth, at 15 Cross Street, Pymble. They own a Conn Rhapsody Organ and several organists will be playing for your delectation. The proceeds of this party will be for the Capitol Organ Fund. Please book by 'phoning Stan or Daphne on 498 3495 and DO IT NOW as seating is limited to 40. Gents-\$2.00, Ladies \$1.50 and a plate of goodies for supper. Please support this function and come and enjoy yourselves.

August 27th, Saturday, 1.00 p.m.

The next working bee will be held at 1.00p.m. on the above date at The Organ Loft, 49 Boomerang Street, Haberfield. Phone 798 6816 for details (See report elsewhere in this issue for details of the last meeting.)

September 4th. Sunday, all day trip.

The Newcastle Organ Society will be having a concert on this date to wind up the end of the 'Matara' week Festival. Sydney T.O.S.A. members who would like to go to this Festival should contact Phyllis Wilson on 759 6050 for details. A coach has been arranged from the Brighton Bus Service providing comfortable seating for 45 people and music will be played during the trip. Four pick-up points have been arranged as follows:-

6.15 a.m. Bus Depot, Rockdale, Mobil Service Station, Cnr West Botany Street and Bestic Street, Rockdale.

6.45 a.m. Marrickville Town Hall.

7.15 a.m. Regent Theatre, George Street, Sydney.

7.45 a.m. Chatswood Town Hall.

There will be a stop at the OAK on the upward journey for refreshments etc. Cost per person for the coach trip is \$5.00. Money should be paid as soon as possible, the deadline being the members night on the 10th August at Sydney Technical High School. The organ featured at the concert is the Conn Custom Organ in the Great Hall at the Newcastle University. The organ comprises three manuals, six channels of amplification, a speaker system consisting of 11 sets of Conn electronic pipes with 8 x 15' and 10 x 12' speakers mounted behind the pipes. Members may avail themselves of the opportunity to play this organ at an open console session commencing at 11.00a.m.. Then we will have a picnic lunch in the University grounds for which members should bring their own lunch. Tea, coffee and drinks will be available at the University. (Kentucky Fried Chicken is nearby for anyone wishing to purchase a lunch there. After lunch David Parsons will be featured in Concert for which there is an admittance charge. The concert will conclude at approximately 4.30 p.m.. David's programme, I am told will feature popular music. If you are unable to make the trip and have booked a seat please let Phyl know so that we can fill the vacancy. This is essential as the coach is nearly booked out. On the tour members are requested to WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE.



September 14th, Wednesday, 8.00p.m.

The next Quarterly meeting will be at Marrickville Town Hall on the 14th September. After the business is concluded, (45 minutes ?) it is proposed to display the books and magazines purchased by our Research Officer, Ian Cameron, for members to peruse. It is also envisaged that some members will play our organ in an open console format after which all can enjoy a cup of tea and a 'natter'. This may be the most popular part of the evening.

September 20th, Tuesday 8.00p.m.

Noreen Hennessy will be the Guest Artist at the monthly meeting of the Hammond Organ Society No. 3 on this date. The meeting is held at the Kendall Community Centre, Warwick Avenue, Cammeray. Admission is \$2.50 and supper will be served. For further information ring Carmen La Motte at 439 2821.

September 25th, 2.30p.m. Sunday.

The Theatre Organ Society in conjunction with the Marrickville Municipal Council will be presenting the second free organ concert. Peter Held is the featured artist. As a recent issue noted Peter has changed his style of playing somewhat and this will be a chance to hear him again. Peter is a professional organist of many years standing, having played mostly in Ireland, England, South Africa and of course, here. Peter is always worth hearing and we can look forward to an excellent programme from him. He is at present playing with the Touring Theatre Company, on a Conn Theatrette organ accompanying "A Tribute to Broadway". Peter will share the afternoon with some members of the Y.O.A. performing short interludes for us. Make it a date to hear the new Peter Held and some up and coming talent from some young organists. There will be refreshments and organ records for sale.

September 25th, Sunday, 2.00 p.m.

Here's another notice about Noreen Hennessy. She will be giving an Organ Recital at the new Senior Citizens Centre, Church Street, Burwood. The car entrance is from Fitzroy Street. Noreen will present a programme of popular music which made her famous during her long stay at the Prince Edward Theatre. Tickets are available (\$1.50 per person) from The ORGAN STOP at 52 Burwood Rd, Burwood, 747 4055 and at 28 Railwat Street, Liverpool, (602 4120).

October 8th, 8.00p.m.

There will be an Organ Night party held at the residence of Herbert and Mona Wyatt on this night. Herbert owns an Allen Digital Computer Organ, System 425 and after supper there will be an open console session. Proceeds in aid of the Capitol Organ Fund \$2.00 admission, supper provided.

November 5th. Saturday, 2.00p.m.

There will be a Barbecue and Pool Party at the home of Mr & Mrs R. Wilson. The Wilsons are popular hosts in this Division and a good time is confidently promised to all. More details later.

November 13th. Sunday. 2.30p.m.

On this occasion we will be presenting Ray Thornley at the Marrickville Town Hall. Make a note in your diary so that you will not miss hearing this brilliant young organist. Admission \$3.00, TOSA members \$2.50, Pensioners and Children, \$1.50. More details as they come to hand.

<sup>4</sup>  
November 18th. Friday.

The year is passing fast and this date brings around our popular Christmas Cabaret. Our Patron, Ian Davies will again entertain us and he has arranged a popular act to provide a change from dancing for a short while. Then again it will be 'On with the dance'. The dancing will of course be preceded by the excellent meal we have come to expect at these meetings. Make a note NOW.

November 30th. 8.00p.m.

The Annual General Meeting. Details in the next issue. Note that our Returning Officer is Mr Tom Halloran and that all nominations for all executive and committee must be posted to him before Sept. 15th. Note the altered date. Nomination forms, signed by the proposer, and the seconder and the signature of the person nominated, signifying his willingness to be so proposed to be posted in an envelope marked The Returning Officer, T.O.S.A., 66 Flinders Road, Cronulla 2330 and received by him by 5.00p.m. on that date.

#### PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

We will be glad to hear that Jack Lawson, who during the month was in Ashfield Masonic Hospital with a severe bout of Bronchitis and Pleurisy is now up and about. Jack is a very active member and it must have irked him to be so restricted in his movements to be so confined. However he is making up for lost time and is as 'busy as a bee'.

Robert Gliddon and Bill Schumacher are now back from their recent trip to the Organ Convention in the States and are making us all wish we could have shared in their experiences seeing all the latest models of organs. See Bob's article later in this issue.

Those members of our Division of TOSA who dine in the Music Hall, Neutral Bay on Fridays or Saturdays for lunch will, in addition to the gastronomic delights be entertained by Noreen Hennessy playing for their pleasure.

#### Rveiw-Free Concert, Sunday 10th July. Marrickville.

Well, what a great social afternoon this was. I hope you didn't miss it. Our seating, set out in a true curved theatre setting, seemed to give everyone a more personal view and appreciation of our artists in action at the console. We had the pleasure of hearing two different styles of presentation; Mr Greg. Abrahams with a quiet, selective style was followed by Mr David Smith with a confident versatile technique, obviously dictated by piani training. This was made more evident when he gave us "Flight of the Bumble Bee", a musical revelation for all. Both artists were well received by an enthusiastic audience. I must say 'Thank you' to our Womens Auxiliary Members for their outstanding efforts during intermission when approximately 100 people were served with tea and coffee. John Atkinson's big selection of Pipe Organ records were available for sale and proved popular. Don't miss glancing over these, you may find that record you've been looking for for a long time here to hand.

Doug. Smith.



THEATRE ORGAN REVIVAL IS MORE THAN NOSTALGIA by Thomas Willis <sup>5</sup>  
reprinted from the Chicago Tribune

I think it is high time we acknowledged that there is a lot more than nostalgia behind the reviving interests in the Theatre Organ.

Some of the enthusiasts cherish their reconstructed "monsters" as an antique car owner does his Deussen. They delight in showing off the castanets, double xylophones, cog horn, cymbal, and other motorised percussions. They lovingly refinish exteriors, sometimes approaching the Carnival splendour of the ornate original installations. They give concerts for their friends, and help one another with the more difficult installation jobs in much the same spirit that our rural ancestors raised barns. Like the partisans of the whooping crane, they are determined preservationists.

But those who are seeking to restore theatre organs, learn the music, and save a few of the period palaces are on to something which may be exceptionally important. It may have been a press agent who called them "Mighty Wurlitzers", but the adjective was not mere hyperbole. The name of the game for the theatre organist was power— sound power pure and simple; the power of shared reactions and fantasies, and the therapeutic joyful power which sweeps through a group of strangers as they unite in a single, trusting action.

This action can be as simple and as complex as the singing of a party familiar song.

The important point in such cases is not that we are being manipulated but that we are surrendering a little control, loosening a few bonds, playing as a group. And that we are doing this in the same room where we have been lending our feelings to the fantasy world of the silent movies, a world where visual forms and musical sounds are primary and where words and referential sounds are kept to a minimum.

Every minute of a "movie palace" performance in the per-sound track days united the living present with the canned and arc-lit past. No one could escape completely. The distant hero on the screen was complemented by the local man at the keyboard. He might not be the one as dexterous as his successor in the audio studio. His reinforcement might leave a lot to be desired on several levels. But he was indubitably present and part of the rite.

Today we are faced with an electronic information barrage of lethal dimensions. Background music lulls our musical sensibility into lethargy. The transistor and the Hi Fi set have made listening a private act, to be enjoyed by family and friends. Churches and concert halls have backed themselves into socio-cultural corners, taking their music along. The rock palaces have the best of it, with their open floors, contagious informality, and easy access to the high level sound. But even rock remains aloof. Its audiences either listens or dances. The one can be an alienated sensual trip, the other a silent communication of exhibited muscles. The souped-up machines and would-be supermen onstage may be blowing our senses loose from their moorings. But what power there is, belongs only to them.

The silent movie and its accompanying organist are as necessary a blend of fantasy, sight, sound, machine, and participating public as any we have today. We need all the "mighty WurliTzers" we can save, not just to remind us how lucky our fathers were, but to show our sons and daughters what direction to take with their synthesizers and hyped-up guitars.

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Review of Ron and Phil Wilson's Home Organ Party.

I am delighted to say that it was a huge success where every-one enjoyed the informal evening and in the process \$60.55 was raised for the Capitol Organ Restoration Fund. There were four organists presented, each playing approximately 20 minutes, thus providing the audience with plenty of variety. The artists were Daphne Hogarth, Ron Smith, Janice Wilson and David Smith, all donating their time and talent for which those present were most grateful. The supper was out of this world and I am only sorry that I spent so much time talking to people that I didn't manage to sample more of the goodies. But then, of course, it is so enjoyable talking to other theatre organ enthusiasts. I would like to thank Ron and Phil for opening their home to us for T.O.S.A. and the Capitol Organ. After supper there was 'open console' and the talent scout had a busy time. David Smith closed his spot with his own composition "Cascading Keys" played in a masterful manner on the piano.

Ernie Vale.

Congratulations to our Women's Auxiliary for a fine effort at our free concert at Marrickville last month. It was good to see so many of our ladies actively involved in providing a fast, efficient service with a variety of refreshments available with the cheese and biscuits kindly donated by Flo Lawlor for which the committee is most grateful. The takings amounted to \$26.30. Well Done, Ladies.

June Working Bee Review.

The organ loft was really buzzing by 1.30 p.m. with 18 enthusiasts working and taking part in numerous jobs and having a good 'natter' whilst cleaning, glueing, punching holes, stripping primaries, removing diaphone boots, dismantling the Marimba Harp, cutting gaskets, removing perflex and old leather gaskets, cleaning guide pins and replacing pallets and springs in the Tibia top board. The work was re-organised in preparation for glueing secondaries into chests and to enable work to be done on the console.

I am sure that everyone enjoyed themselves and I am delighted at the amount of work that was achieved. Our buffer rails were returned from Newcastle on Sunday with fresh bright red felt glued in place thanks to Geoff Moore and his band of helpers. They did such a good job that I have now given them the pipe supports to clean down and replace the felts. This has been a most satisfactory week end for the Capitol organ and brings us a little closer to the time when we shall be hearing it again.



let your committee your views. One advantage of the site which has been stressed by the sub-committee is that it will bring to the attention of the younger folk the advantages of a genuine WurliTzer orga. This will strengthen our own society and perhaps form a pool of competent organists who will be well trained in the Pipe Organ traditions as is happening in the States where there seems to be always keen, young, competent organists coming forward. Members of the P. & C. have also been invited to attend because as parents of the musical young folk there they will want to know of this chance to play a real organ. Their interest will, of course, also help to build up the attendances at any concert we might be holding there. So please, ALL COME.

A NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS OF PIPE ORGANS AND COLLECTIONS OF PIPES.  
The Beecroft Presbyterian Church is interested in purchasing a good second hand pipe organ, preferably mechanical action, one or more manuals and four or more ranks. Should anyone know of such an instrument please contact David Larking, 152 Copeland Rd, Beecroft 2119 or ring 84 1987.

A.T.O.S. '77 NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Three TOSA N.S.W. members, John Wall, Bill Schumacher and Robert Gliddon were privileged to attend the convention in Chicago from Tuesday, 28th June to Monday 4th July. Chicago was billed as the Theatre Organ Capitol of the World and as far as original installations are concerned this is certainly true.

From the huge six manual sixty two ranks Barton installed in the Chicago Stadium to the beautiful Chicago Theatre four manual twenty-nine ranks WurliTzer (Jesse Crawford rose to fame on this instrument) to the brassy four manual twenty ranks WurliTzer in the Oriental Theatre or the small three manual ten ranks Barton in the Mont Claire Theatre all had something different tonally to offer the listener. Fourteen different Theatre Organs (plus Home Tours) provided all the variety in sound that one could wish for. The artists were equally as varied as the organs-famous names such as George Wright, Don Baker, Tom Hazelton, up and coming players such as Ron Rhode and Walter Strony as well as good local performers.

A review of the Convention will be presented in the next edition of T.O.S.A. News.

R.Gliddon.

Editorial.

Due to the Committee meeting being held so late in the month on this occasion it is not possible to write you a report on it. The sub-committee dealing with the placement of the Capitol organ finalised details of a possible basis of negotiation with the Department of Education. You, the members, will attend on the 10th of August to evaluate for yourselves the desirability of such an installation. The programme of organ entertainment for the rest of the year should be varied enough to please everybody. After Ray Thornly's exciting concert at the Mecca Theatre last month it will be a pleasure to hear him at the console of our own WurliTzer. Until next month then, Good Listening and Solid Practise on your own organ.

## THE TOSA ELECTRONIC ORGAN FUND.

This fund was started several years ago to enable Society members to construct an electronic organ for the general benefit of the Society. It is now felt that it would not be an economical proposition to construct such an instrument and it would appear difficult to find sufficient members with the time to give to such a project. We have two pipe organs and this seems to take up all the time our members have to spare. The suggestion has been made that the funds in hand for this purpose be used to assist in the operation of our pipe organs by incorporating suitable electronic components or circuits. The switching on the organs could be a case in point. Members are therefore asked to write in to the secretary if they have any comment on this suggestion.

## WANTED - INFORMATION.

## ENCLOSURE FOR ORGAN CONSOLE, MARRICKVILLE.

Consideration is being given to the replacement of our present timber enclosure with a fibre glass or similar type of structure. Will anyone with specialised knowledge or experience in fibre glass working please contact Mr T. Halloran, 523 5077 or 66 Flinders Road, Cronulla, 2230. Thank you.

## NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr J. Lawson gives notice of motion to be presented at the next Annual General Meeting.

MOTION. That by-law 26, paragraph 2 be amended as from the words 'extraordinary meeting' to read-

The decision to wind up the activities and affairs of the Society can only be made by at least two thirds (2/3) of the members present and entitled to vote at such an Extraordinary Meeting. In the event of a decision to wind up the Society all monies property and organs excluding the ex Prince Edward Organ be sold and such monies be divided among members remaining in the Society at that date. The ex Prince Edward Organ be handed over to the Municipality where it is installed for use by residents of that Municipality.

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