

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: IAN C. GRIGGS

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

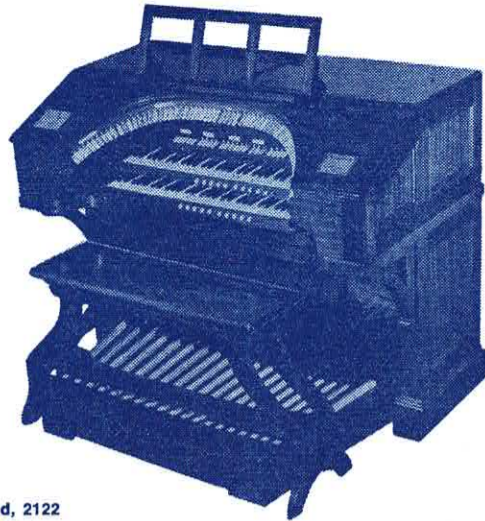
SOCIETY DIRECTORY:

General correspondence to the Secretary, Mrs. PHYLLIS DUNN, 1a Second Avenue, Eastwood, 2122

Financial correspondence to the Treasurer, Mr. OSCAR MOEN, 68 Shepherd Street, Ryde, 2112

TOSA NEWS correspondence to IAN C. GRIGGS, P.O. Box 447, Chatswood, 2067

President: NEVILLE WRIGHT, 67 Clarke Street, Peakhurst, 2210



PRICE
40c



Volume Nine, Number Six

1st June 1971.

WHAT'S ON IN N.S.W. THIS MONTH

19th JUNE : 8.00 a.m. CAPITOL THEATRE
29th JUNE : 8.00 p.m. NOAD'S FACTORY

Saturday morning the 19th June, at 8.00 a.m. is our next scheduled "Early-morn Capitol" recital on the 3/15 Wurlitzer, which, I have heard, is sounding "better than ever." How about setting a few alarm clocks that morning and helping to swell our ranks to really seat the circle and lounge to capacity.

Remember, the early morn Capitols are FREE, and you can bring a friend.

What's that, haven't I told you who's playing? Well, this is probably because even I don't know yet. That's right, folks, it's a MYSTERY JAM SESSION, with THREE (yes, T-H-R-E-E) organists in concert at the Mighty Wurlitzer. Come along and see if you guessed right.

A very rare occasion indeed is our second big attraction for June; have you ever wondered how organ pipes are made; how sound-boards and windchests are put together; how tuning and voicing is done; how mechanical or electrical actions work; how console equipment, relays, percussions and all the other myriad departments of a pipe organ work, and ingeneral what makes the thing blow?

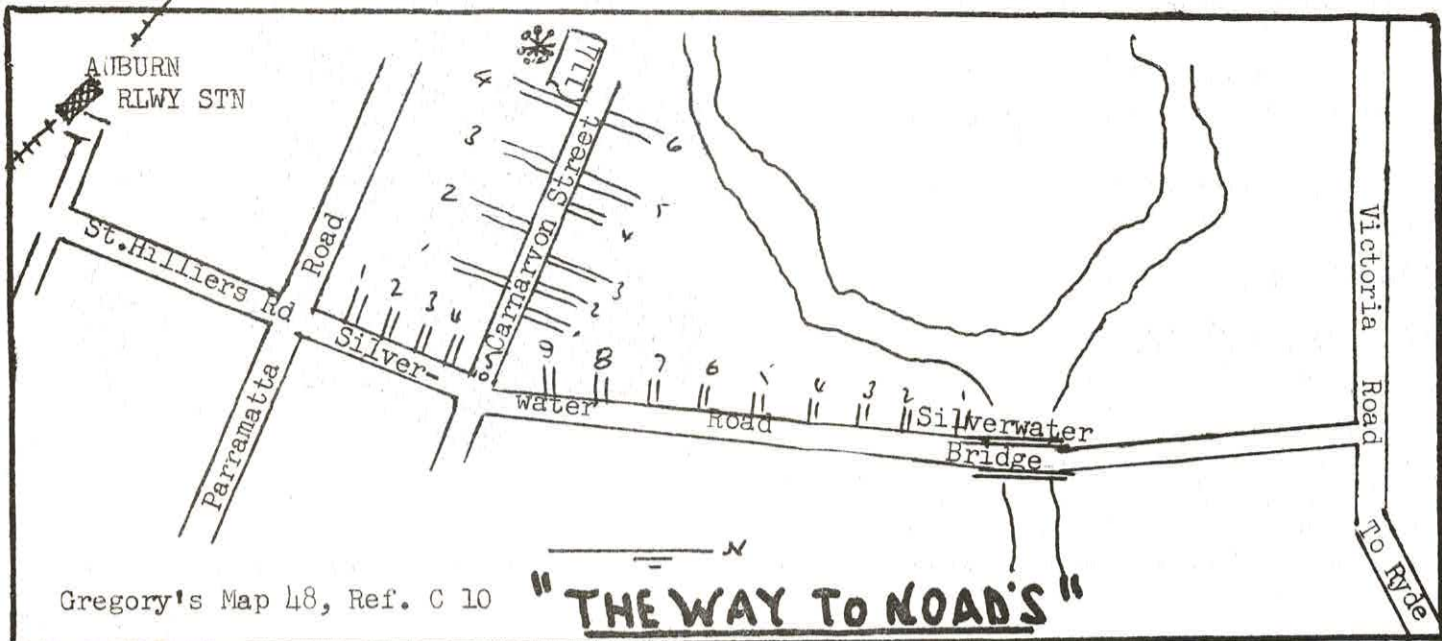
Well then, come along to Noad's Organ Factory at 8.00 p.m., on Tuesday 29th June, and all your wonderings will be over. Mr. Ken Noad and staff has very kindly consented to give us a guided tour of the works, to talk to us on any specialised aspect of organ construction, use, maintenance etc., and answer our queries on these subjects.

Also, I have arranged the showing of two excellent films on pipe organ construction, "Singing Pipes" and "Music in the Wind", both from the National Library. These are first rate productions, and will ease Ken's voice, and your feet, for a short while. MAKE SPECIAL NOTE TO BRING SOME FORM OF PORTABLE SEATING ACCOMODATION FOR YOURSELF. Also take note of the map below, to help you find the factory. There is no charge for this evening; it promises to be most fascinating, and indeed is something different to look forward to.

S.T. NOAD & SON: 114 CARNARVON ROAD

AUBURN: SEE MAP OVER...

The famous 2/10 Wurlitzer from the Arcadia Theatre, Chatswood, now being restored by Noad's for Willoughby Council's installation in the new Chatswood Town Hall is now at the Auburn factory and it is anticipated that we will be able to see it in an advanced state of restoration; certainly a special point of interest for T.O.S.A.



FOR YOUR DIARY (SEE ALSO BOTTOM OF PAGE 5)

THE FABULOUS ANDREW FENNER AT MARRICKVILLE? YES, WED 28th JULY, 8.00 P.M. BE THERE.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: MONDAYS THE 7th June and 5th July, 7.15 p.m.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE FOR JULY: WEDNESDAY 23rd JUNE. Phone: 41 0133. Post: Box 447 Chatswood.

New Members this month are Frank and Doreen Bailey, of Wiley Park. A big welcome and "Hello" to both; hope to see you soon at our next functions.

DAVID PARSONS IN CONCERT AT MARRICKVILLE

Tuesday 27th April at Marrickville Town Hall, and a very good crowd to hear our Honorary Member, David Parsons, in concert at our own WurliTzer.

David presented an interesting, well-balanced programme, and as usual, displayed staggering virtuosity at the manuals, bringing out the many colour combinations this instrument is capable of. Blending a good few oldies with several right up-to-the minute hits, and even a couple of real "classical classics", David kept everyone happy throughout the evening. To give you some idea of the cross-section of styles, he included: When you're smiling/Mack the Knife; a Gilbert & Sullivan selection; Can't take my eyes off you; Tschaikevsky's Nutcracker Suite; a Strauss Waltz; A Scottish selection; the Liberty Bell March; What's New, Pussycat?; Trees; My Way; I'm always chasing rainbows; Blue Moon; Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D minor; Old Father Thames, La Mer, Moon River, Old Man River; and two songs from "Sweet Charity."

David's associate artist on this occasion was the brilliant soprano, Elaine Thornborough, who really delighted the audience with her singing and presentation. She rendered Heather on the Hill and Waiting for my Dearie, from "Brigadoon", And This is my Beloved; O my Beloved Father", and for a loudly called-for encore, "Romance."

David was troubled by a few faults in the organ this night, and it is to his credit that he managed to steer clear of them in the presentation of his programme. You will be pleased to know that arrangements are being made to have the organ regularly tuned and maintained, and to have all these annoying little things attended to so constant recital standard will be kept up. (see page 6.)

SUDDEN DEATH OF N.S.W. MEMBER

This Division's sympathy is extended to the relatives and friends of the late Henry Baker, of 83 Sutherland Street, Jannali, who passed away on Wednesday the 19th May, after a Coronary attack. Our thoughts are with the family of Henry Baker, who had always taken part whole-heartedly in T.O.S.A. activities, and had recently purchased a fine electronic organ.

STOP PRESS: BE PREPARED FOR AN ORGAN PARTY TO
CHRISTEN DAVID PARSONS' NEW MUSIC ROOM - - EARLY AUGUST.
DETAILS LATER.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This letter was published in the Sydney Morning Herald, following the references to theatre pipe organs the previous week in the article about the Hammond X organ. I was wondering how long TOSA members could keep quiet about it. Congratulations to Heather Moen for this boost to our Society and its causes.

Theatre organs loud and clear

SIR, — In an article on organs in the home ("Herald," April 24), the report spoke of "cinema organs being sold off as scrap, and the few that remain being shrouded under dust covers." I wish to correct this popular misconception.

Although the days of organ entertainment during a show have long since passed, efforts are now being made to preserve these valuable instruments.

The Wurlitzer once in the Prince Edward Theatre was installed in Marrickville Town Hall in 1968 by the Theatre Organ Society, where public concerts with fairly large attendances are held frequently. A similar installation will be made in the

new Chatswood Town Hall when it is completed.

Due to much restoration, the three manual Wurlitzer in the Capitol Theatre may still be heard in its natural surroundings and in all its original splendour. The four manual organ at the State is still also in operation.

As well as this, a few enthusiasts even have these pipe organs installed in their homes.

So, far from being "shrouded under dust covers" the theatre organ is, fortunately once again being heard more frequently. Despite the convenient size and low price of many electronic organs, there are virtually no examples (in Australia, at least) which come near to matching the tone and characteristic grandeur of the pipe organ, whether built for either popular or classical music.

HEATHER MOEN.

Ryde.

PIPES UNDER THE HAMMER

Ian Davies rang me to say that Saturday the 11th June, at 10 a.m., at Waverley-Bondi-Junction Methodist Church, the fine three manual, seventeen rank organ by Alfred Hunter, England, 1888, will go up for auction, together with the rest of the Church furniture and accessories. The organ is a superb example of a well kept late 19th century tubular-pneumatic instrument, and it would be a tragedy if it were sold for dismantling and breaking up for use in other organs proposed or under construction. If you have strong feelings on the matter, then give the Town Clerk of Waverley a ring and suggest that the Council buy it for installation in the proposed new Town Hall there. Thanks to Ian Davies for this advice on the impending sale.

A.B.C. THEATRE ORGAN CLUB.

I had read often of this South Australian A.B.C. radio programme, but had not mentioned it as I thought it would be too far away for reliable reception from Sydney, but Peter Held rang me to say that this is not the case, because he receives it quite clearly on a Sunday night at 10.30 p.m., over station 5CK, situated 1/3 of the way from 7FC to 2BL, on 140 kilocycles. It is hosted by S.A. TOSA executive Malcolm Paterson, and consists of a half hour of theatre pipe organ music. Put up a few more yards of aerial wire and see if you can get this session, which would indeed be worthwhile listening to.

RECORD REVIEW

"Introducing Ernest Broadbent" recorded on the manual Wurlitzer at the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool.

The Tower Ballroom Organ takes on an almost completely different sound with Mr. Broadbent at the console, however there are some registrations which are the sounds that are unmistakably of this instrument alone.

The melodies which are of special interest are; Swedish Rhapsody, which is extremely well performed; Tango Taquin is precise and rhythmic and has many of those familiar "Tower" sounds; theme from "Modern Times" reveals a rank of very beautiful tibias, and the glockenspiel counter-melody is very interesting; Jealousy can be a thrilling number when well played, and this version would probably be one of the best on record. P.T.O.

RECORD REVIEW (CONT.)

This is the first recording released in Australia since Mr. Broadbent became chief organist at the Tower. Let's hope it won't be too long before we hear more of his masterful style.

Selections are;

Side One: For you, Swedish Rhapsody, Tango Taquin, I Love the Sunshine of your smile, Theme from "Modern Times" (Smile), When your'e smiling, Zorba's Dance, The Happy Wanderer, Tulips from Amsterdam, Jolly Brothers Waltz, Happy Hora, Magic Moments.

Side Two. Thunder and Lightning Polka, Moon River, Blue Moon, Spanish Flea, Ma, he's making eyes at me, Que sera sera, I don't know why, Jealousy, You always hurt the one you love, My Blue Heaven, Memories of you, For You.

Columbia recording, SCX 6410, available David Jones, \$5.75

MUSIC BOOKS NOW READILY AVAILABLE.

It appears that the book 1001 tunes, and other organists "bibles" are plentiful supply from the right sources. One of these is Mr. A. Rizzo, 77 Stanhill Drive, Chevron Island, 4217, Queensland. If you write to him he will send you printed lists of the contents of the volumes available, and you may then write and advise him of the copies you require.

Some available are: "1001 Tunes"; mostly old time numbers

Volume 5; Russian, Portuguese, Hawaiian, Latin, Jewish, Danish, and old time nos.

Volume 6; Show tunes from Roar of the Greasepaint, Paint your Wagon, How to succeed in Business, Flower Drum Song, Gigi, Fiddler on the Roof, Golden Boy, Do I hear a waltz, Fantasticks, I had a ball, Baker Street, Cinderella, Mary Poppins and Little Me; plus Christmas Songs, Some Classical, Latin & Rock.

Volume 7; Broadway Musicals: Anyone can Whistle, Baker Street, Camelot, Do I Hear a Waltz, Fiddler on the Roof, Flower Drum Song, Funny thing happened on the Way th the Forum, Gigi, Gypsy, Hello Dolly, High Spirits, I had a ball, Little Me, Hello Dolly, High Spirits, Mary Poppins, Milk and Honey, Music Man, My Fair Lady, No strings, Oliver, Plain and Fancy, Sound of Music, Stop the World, Girl who came to supper, West Side Story, What makes Sammy run, best of the Beatles.

Thanks to member Bob Graham of Singleton, for this information.

BIBS AND BOOTIES

This info got to me a little late for May issue. Anyhow, hearty congratulations to Ian Cameron (with some help no doubt from his wife, Maureen) on the arrival of the couple's baby boy, Alexander Norman. No need to play the organ, Ian; the cries of this babe must surely be music to your ears!

NEWS FROM INTERSTATE AND THEREABOUTS

T.O.S.A. Gold Coast Chapter advise of a concert by Tony Fenelon, in the Corroboree Room of the Chevron Hotel, Surfer's Paradise, on 6th June, tickets @ \$2.00 ea., and are available from Stan Haigh, 71 Brighton Street, Labrador.

Tuesday 8th June, at 8.00 p.m. in Brisbane City Hall, will be held a special Youth Prom Concert, at which will appear, besides two complete Youth Orchestras, T.O.S.A. Members Michael Lynch, at the magnificent City Hall Pipe Organ, and Neil Jensen and Sue Whitehouse on Electronic organs in solos and organ duet

This is a special finale to Commonwealth Youth Week, and is presented by the Queensland Theatre Organ Society and the Queensland Youth Orchestra. His excellency Sir Alan Mansfield, Governor of Queensland, will honour the concert with his presence.

Welcome back to Wilbur Kentwell. He has returned from a successful tour of England and the U.S.A. We hope Wilbur will find time to drop us a few lines of impressions for publication in TOSA News.

NEWS FROM AROUND ABOUT (CONT.)

On the 13th June, at the R.S.L. Hall, Ballina, commencing 8.00 p.m., will be the inaugural meeting of the Summerland Chapter, N.S.W. Division. The guest organist at the meeting will be Tony Fenelon, and the featured organs will be Thomas, Conn, Yamaha and Lowrey. Everyone is invited and it should prove an enjoyable night.

"Console Whispers", the Official Newsletter of the Organ Society of New Zealand, proves to be amost entertaining publication to read, and TOSA News extends the best of good wishes to this Society ("O.S.O.N.Z."), for their continued success. Anyone travelling to N.Z. might like to contact the Secretary, Jim Bridges, P.O.Box 32091, Auckland 9, for info on current events.

From "Tremulant", (T.O.S.A., Western Australia) we are advised that their concert featuring ANDREW FENNER will be held on Wednesday 23rd June; unfortunately, they don't say where; if you're in Perth at that time, I suggest you phone the Secretary, on 28 5128, or (A.H.) 31 4854.

HAMMOND ORGAN SOCIETY (SYDNEY)

The latest newsletter advertises a Hammond Organ Society Combined Get-Together, Saturday afternoon and evening the 19th June; (Same day as our early-morn Capitol), It will be held at the Rotary Community Centre, 34 North Parade, Campsie.

Curtain time is 3.00 p.m., and a super Buffet Dinner will be served at 6.30. Entertainment and festivities will resume after dinner until all are asked to vacate the premises at midnight. A limited number of tickets at \$3.00 per head are available. For further information please contact Harry Robertson, the Secretary, at 85 3387.

WALKERS ORGAN PARTY

Saturday evening the 22nd May, and boy, was Walkers' lounge-room packed! There must have been nearly sixty happy souls there, crammed, but comfortable, to hear the Walkers' latest aquisition, a big Conn Theatre organ, demonstrated by six willing members, and then by Honorary Member David Parsons.

Ladies first, we heard Betty Randall, Shirley Nott, Joyce Walker, Heather Moen and Pat Stapleton. George Hughes was the sole volunteer from the "blokes". What's up chaps, was the sight of the big Conn too much for you?

David Parsons finished off the evening with some truly beautiful renditions; as well as displaying his usual keyboard acrobatics in pieces such as a strange arrangement of Tip Toe through the Tulips, and Souza's Liberty Bell march.

Fifty five dollars were collected towards the T.O.S.A. Funds, well done, Walkers, a splendid effort. Thanks too for the beaut supper.

WANTED; (OLD ORGAN PARTS DEPARTMENT)

Would anyone knowing where I could get hold of a (mechanical action) organ keyboard and some bellows please drop me a line. The keyboard should be about 18" in length, (i.e. back to front), and can be either square or splayed section. It doesn't matter how old it is as long as it'll work with a sticker or tracker action. The bellows should be suitable for use with a small blower delivering about 1½ to 2" wind, to 4r. Please phone me at 41 0133, Ext 67 if you think you can assist.

DATES TO MAKE A NOTE OF

17th July; Organ Party at Ian Pogson's, 30 Hanover Ave., Nth Epping
28th July; Andrew Fenner at Marrickville Town Hall.
15th and 16th October; N.S.W. DIVISION'S ANNUAL CONVENTION: some great attractions lined up for this very special Annual occasion. Details when the time draws near, but in the meantime, make a note that whatever you do, DON'T LEAVE SYDNEY THAT WEEK.

THE JARVIS' ORGAN PARTY.

This, the first time Les and Mrs. Jarvis offered "open house" to T.O.S.A. members, for an Organ Party, was indeed a most enjoyable evening.

The setting, as we had anticipated, was magnificent; with sweeping views across the city and to the mountains, the effect was truly a wonderland by night. And, as well, the fine installation of the Conn Theatrette organ and modern low-profile Leslie cabinet further enhanced the general impressions.

As well as TOSA members playing their little spots, Honorary Members Eric Smith and David Parsons shared the console for the "recital" segment; each was in tip top form, and kept the sixty visitors contented. Yes, another attendance of sixty; these organ parties are certainly becoming popular!

Thanks Les and Mrs. Jarvis for the \$60 you raised for our funds, and for the opportunity of sharing your home for this happy evening.

LANCE WELLS AT MARRICKVILLE WURLITZER

A most pleasing number of personages were gathered together Sunday afternoon the 23rd May at Marrickville, to hear our friend Lance Wells, in concert at the big Wurlitzer.

Lance entertained us with a very popular, nostalgic, programme, made up mostly of all the popular tunes of the thirties, with a few modern pops thrown in for good measure.

His style was pleasant and relaxing to listen to, and a refreshing change too, was the soft, delicate registrations he often used. The audience showed how much they appreciated his way of playing by their warm applause after every number, and by calling for an encore, for which Lance played "La Mer."

It was gratifying to see many visitors from afar, notably A.B.C. Newcastle's Geoff Moore and family, and another couple of car loads from Novascastria, as well as a few from Wollongong.

In contrast to and as a result of certain action mentioned in, my article on page 2, it was certainly a great relief and pleasure to hear the organ sounding so well; Noad's had tuned throughout the previous Friday, as a result it sounded really lovely. Let's hope we can keep it so.



THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE AMUSED BY THIS CARTOON BY GERARD HOFFNUNG; While it is more appropriate with big organs such as Sydney Town Hall, with a mirror in front, no doubt players of the bigger WurliTzera will get a chuckle from it.

On this light-hearted finale, I wish you bye bye till next month.

John Gigg
(Editor)