

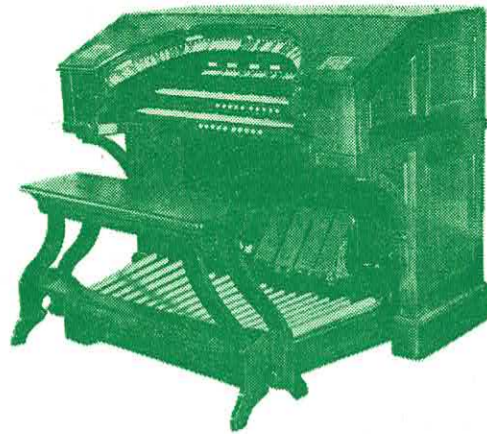
T.O.S.A. NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE DIVISIONS OF N.S.W., QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

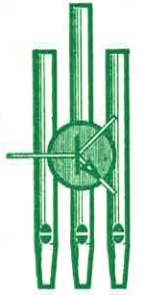
PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: FRANK ELLIS

REGISTERED AT G.P.O., SYDNEY, FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A PERIODICAL.



**PRICE
10c**



All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 108, Wentworthville, 2145, N.S.W., Australia

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 3.

1st MARCH 1969.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW SOUTH WALES IN MARCH.

DENIS PALMISTRA IN CONCERT FOR T.O.S.A.

The Society is proud to announce the arrangements for the FIRST EVER concert for TOSA members, by one of this country's most brilliant theatre organists, MR DENIS PALMISTRA. This will take place on SUNDAY 30th MARCH at 2pm sharp, at the residence of our Secretary, John Clancy, 10 Caloola Road, Wentworthville, and will feature the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed there. Due to limitations of accomodation, the concert is for TOSA members only. Admission will be \$1 per person. In order to secure their reservations, members should phone John at 631-6189 after 7pm any evening, and it is suggested that you ring as soon as possible. Proceeds of the afternoon will be donated by John & Mary Clancy to the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund.

This concert will premiere the new 12" L.P. recording of DENIS PALMISTRA which was recorded on the Clancy residence Wurlitzer organ recently. The record, which is on the Concert Recording label is for world wide distribution. Some of the items heard on the recording will be featured by DENIS during the concert. This is the first 12" LP record of a residence Wurlitzer organ ever made in this country. In January of this year, DENIS PALMISTRA appeared in concert at the Wurlitzer organ of the Tokoroa High School auditorium and received "rave" notices for his exciting and spectacular concert. A full report of this function appears elsewhere in this issue.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear DENIS PALMISTRA IN CONCERT on the organ he played for the Concert Recording Co.L.P. disc, titled "ESPECIALLY FOR YOU". If stocks of the record arrive in time for the concert, DENIS will personally autograph each record sold.

THIS IS THE FIRST CONCERT BY DENIS PALMISTRA
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME AN L.P. RECORD HAS BEEN LAUNCHED AT ONE OF OUR CONCERTS
THIS IS THE FIRST 12" L.P. RECORD OF AN AUSTRALIAN RESIDENCE WURLITZER ORGAN

THREE IMPORTANT "FIRSTS" AN AFTERNOON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET. DON'T MISS OUT.

PHONE OR WRITE FOR YOUR RESERVATION, BUT DO....IT....NOW. LIMITED ACCOMODATION.
SUNDAY MARCH 30th AT 2pm SHARP D E N I S P A L M I S T R A C O N C E R T.

COMING EVENTS.

The second concert in the 1969 series on the Society's Wurlitzer organ at the Marrickville Town Hall, will take place in April. Full details will be given in the next issue of TOSA News.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded that the March meeting will take place on Monday 3rd March and the April one, on Monday 7th April. Meetings commence at 7.15pm.

PUBLISHING DATES OF TOSA NEWS.

For the benefit of official interstate correspondents of TOSA News, copy is required to arrive here by Friday 21st March for the April issue. The News is typed ready for the printers on Saturday and Sunday March 22nd and 23rd. News items may be sent to F. Ellis 16 Delhi Street Lidcombe 2141 or directly to the Secretary.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.REUBERT HAYES DELIGHTS FANS AT MARRICKVILLE.

A large, and audibly enthusiastic audience at the Marrickville Town Hall on Wednesday 19th February, heard our Honorary member REUBERT HAYES, play the first concert on our WurliTzer for the 1969 season. It was also the first occasion on which we have heard REUBERT at the WurliTzer pipe organ, since he opened the 1963 Convention at the Capitol Theatre. His many loyal fans all agreed that he excelled himself completely on this occasion, and, from among the large audience of non-members, it would be safe to say that he won himself a host of new admirers.

REUBERT'S flawless keyboard technique stamps him apart as a musician of precise and impeccable quality, and to these attributes must be added his undoubted talent of showmanship - a showmanship born of long experience in theatre organ playing. His programme opened with Schubert's Marche Militaire, followed by "On The Edge Of The Lake" (Coates), Heykins' Serenade, "Estrelita" and Cole Porter's "Begin The Beguine". Then came our guest artist, Miss JULIE CARR who was such a hit at the Premiere of the organ last November 27th. Miss Carr, making her final Sydney appearance before joining J.C. Williamson's "Fidler On The Roof", sang "Who Will Buy?" and "As Long As He Needs Me" from the show "Oliver", to thunderous applause. REUBERT HAYES continued with "The Rosary" and Excerpts from the film version of "The Student Prince" after which Miss Carr returned to sing "Ma Curly Headed Babby" and "Summertime" from Gershwin's Porgy & Bess. REUBERT HAYES final item before the intermission was his own arrangement of a selection of Spanish and Italian melodies which formed "A Mediterranean Holiday". The second half opened up with The March from Handel's work "Scipio", "Andante Cantabile (Tschaikowsky) followed by Tschaikowsky In A Different Mood featuring excerpts from his famous Ballet music. Julie Carr's next bracket consisted of "It's A Great Day For The Irish" and "Danny Boy". REUBERT then took "a random look at the pops" with five popular melodies ending with a foot tapping "Rag Doll". For her final appearance Julie Carr sang "The Maids Of Cadiz" and the audience expressed its good luck wishes on her forthcoming theatrical future with a rousing send off.

REUBERT'S next item was the descriptive "In A Persian Market" which brought the house down, then came The Best Of Irving Berlin, and finally "The War March Of The Priests" brought a wonderful evening to a close. Reluctantly, though I feel, wisely, REUBERT declined to play any encores despite an ovation that lasted several minutes. The playing of the National Anthem ended REUBERT HAYES concert - but there is little doubt that, like Irving Berlin said, "the melody lingers on, and will do so for a long time for all those who were fortunate enough to have been in the audience.

In the couple of months since the last concert on our WurliTzer, much work has been carried out by the Installation Committee under the guidance of expert Jim Waters, and the difference in the sound of the instrument was such that, during the interval, one could hear amazement being expressed on every hand at the refinement of tone and voicing since the previous concert. Great credit is due to all those involved in the work - it would be difficult to estimate just how many hours they had spent on the project, but whatever it was, it was well worth while. Jim Waters was seen grinning like a "proud parent" and was very obviously pleased with the organ and the interest of all those who made it their business to tell him of their pleasure. Jim informed TOSA News that it will continue to improve until he is satisfied that its full potential has been achieved. The show was compered by your Editor, who would like to thank those members who rang him the next day for their kindness and thoughts.

ORGAN PARTY AT THE WALKERS.

George and Joyce Walker were hosts to about forty members of the Society at the organ party held at their home on Saturday 22nd of last month. These friendly folk go out of their way to make sure that everyone enjoys themselves and this particular function was no exception. Among those heard trying out the new Conn organ after Joyce had broken the ice, were, David Parsons, George McNeil, Peter Held, Len Badman, John Clancy, Heather Moen, Mr Wyatt and one or two more. Member Arthur Spring had brought along the rhythm Ace and Peter Held demonstrated the various rhythms possible, with a brief explanation from Arthur for those members who had not seen the device before. During the evening, an LP record donated by George Walker was raffled and added a further \$6.40 to the proceeds of the party. A tempting supper was served by our hostess, and no one needed a second invitation to "come and get it". Nineteen sixty nine's first organ party resulted in the addition of \$45.40 being added to the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund, and we thank the Walker's very much for their hospitality. It was a most enjoyable night and the music was just fine.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society, and hope you are able to participate fully in the Society's activities and enjoy the company of the many new friends you'll meet in the Society. New members to NSW Division are:- John Andrews, Mr & Mrs Koch, and K. Fogwell all of Sydney and Miss Pamela Cook of Lithgow.

New members to the West Aust. Division are:- John Green, Mrs Rheta Weston, Mrs Doris Arnot, Mrs Dorothy Younes and Don Young.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF PIPE ORGAN PURCHASE FUND.

We thank the following members for their assistance to the fund. Proceeds of tape copying \$2 - Sale of Dick Schrumm records donated by Dick Schrumm and Russ Evans of U.S.A. \$7 and member Arthur Wright \$2. Thank you all for your help.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS. (Reported by Neville Seymour)

The Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Division elected Mr Hal Whitehouse as President for 1969. The Annual meeting, was, of course, held in January. The February meeting was set down to be held at the home of Vice-President Claude Harrington of 15 Mormont Street, Chermside, Brisbane. The date for this evening's entertainment is given as February 25th.

The Division has arranged a "progressive dinner" for Saturday March 8th, when they will visit three member's homes during the dinner. The addresses of the three homes involved are to be announced through their local newsletter. The big event of the month of March however, is the concert by visiting American organist DON KINGSTON, which is scheduled for March 24th in the Riverside Ballrooms. With the memory of DON KINGSTON'S last visit to Australia fresh in our minds, we would have little hesitation in saying that this will be an outstanding night's entertainment.

WEST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS (Reported by Sec. Ray Clements)

The important news from West ern Australia this month, is the release of our new local Newsletter. The publication will be called "CIPHER" and will take the form of an illustrated newsletter covering events of mainly local interest. It is anticipated that the "CIPHER" will be released every six weeks. The Society is indebted to John Fuhrman and Doug Miller for the time and enthusiasm they have given to this new venture.

The January meeting was held at Max Bell's home. The President welcomed several new members to our ranks, and the Secretary spoke briefly of his recent trip to visit members of the NSW Division, after which members were treated to a superb night's entertainment with the Conn organ. Those playing in order of appearance were, Max Bell, Ray Clements, John Fuhrman, Rheta Weston, and Dot Arnot. Our thanks to Mrs Bell for a most enjoyable evening.

The Western Australian Annual General Meeting was held on February 12th. Venue for the event was Mrs Cook's residence. First up was the election of Officers and those elected were:- President - Jim Thompson Sec/Treasurer - Ray Clements.
Committee:- Max Bell, John Fuhrman, Doug Miller.

Co-Editors of The Cipher - John Fuhrman and Doug Miller.

Of special interest was the announcement that the W.A. Pipe Organ Purchase Fund had been launched. During the evening the sum of \$2 was raised by means of a raffle for the Fund. Those who played the organ at this function were:- John Fuhrman, Jim Thompson, Ray Clements and a visitor to TOSA, Mrs Farmer. The Society thanks Mrs Cook for the use of her home for this most important meeting.

Meetings for March are :- Sunday March 2nd. Visit to country members, Peter and Mrs Fry who live 100 miles from Perth. A picnic lunch and an afternoon of organ music.
Tuesday March 4th. Meeting at John Fuhrman's residence, 9 Linden Gardens, Floreat Park which will feature John's Lowrey theatre organ.
Tuesday March 12th. DON KINGSTON appears in concert at the Conn Theatre organ. This prestige event will take place at the South Perth Civic Centre and admission is \$1. Proceeds of this event have been kindly donated by "Armstrong's Piano & Organ Salon" to the W.A. TOSA Theatre Pipe Organ Fund. So please bring all your friends and your friends friends too.

(TOSA News, having received a copy of the first edition of the new W.A. Division "CIPHER" would like to offer its sincere congratulations and good wishes to the boys in Perth for an excellent job of work on this very important aspect of their activities. They have not yet been in existence a year and yet they have managed to produce a very worthy News.)

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS (From The Vox Magazine)

N.S.W. Division Honorary member, CHARLES TUCKWELL was presented in concert on the Dendy Wurlitzer by the Victorian Division on Sunday 23rd February. No report has yet been received regarding the programme details, but knowing CHARLES, TOSA News feels sure it would have been a fine programme.

RECORD NEWS.

There is still no new release from Concert Recording of America, due to delay in the shipping. An unconfirmed report said that there had been some waterfront trouble which had caused the delay. However, it is hoped that a return to normal monthly shipments will shortly be possible.

MEMBERS PRACTISE SESSIONS AT MARRICKVILLE.

As already announced, the Committee are preparing for the day when members will be able to practise on the Society Wurlitzer at the Marrickville Town Hall. In order to ensure a fair and equitable allocation of practise times to members our President has asked TOSA News to publish the following request for information. Would all those members who require or would like practise sessions on the organ please write a brief letter requesting practise times and stating the day and time they would prefer in order that a general idea of members requirements may be assessed. When this has been done, and the Committee have had time to plan a timetable, an announcement will be made.

NEWCASTLE HAMMOND ORGAN CONVENTION.

Newcastle Hammond Organ Society have announced to TOSA News, that WILBUR KENTWELL has been engaged to appear as the star organist of their third Annual Convention to be held on Saturday and Sunday 3rd and 4th May at Newcastle. Secretary John Clancy is awaiting details as to the actual timetable and programmes planned for the weekend but TOSA members desiring to attend may make a tentative booking now pending this information coming to hand. Write to John P.O. Box 108 Wentworthville 2145 as soon as possible as this Convention is expected to be a sell-out due to the appearance of WILBUR KENTWELL in the district where he is so widely known. He will be appearing at the Hunter Theatre with the organ on stage during the Convention.

VICTORIAN DIVISION EASTER CONVENTION.

Secretary Miss Irene Veale has advised that the Victorian Division will be holding a two day Convention in Melbourne on Easter Saturday and Sunday with several organists participating. A cordial invitation for NSW members to attend has been given.

GILBERT & SULLIVAN AT MOSMAN.

Our member Mr Wyatt is producing G & S "Patience" which is being presented by the Mosman Musical Society at the Mosman Town Hall on Tuesday 18th March through to Saturday 22nd March, five nights in all. The programme will commence at 8pm and has an excellent cast. Prices are \$1.50 \$1.20 and 80cents. Children half price.

VISITING ORGANIST ENTHRALLED TOKOROA AUDIENCE.

Visitors from Auckland, Rotorua, Tauranga, Taupo, Hamilton and Melbourne joined Tokoroa people to enjoy the enthralling programme of music presented by Australian organist, DENIS PALMISTRA on the Wurlitzer organ in the Tokoroa High School on Saturday night.

As the console rose out of the pit into the spotlight, it soon became obvious that MR PALMISTRA is a master of the Wurlitzer and his opening selection of Waltzes by Strauss were brilliantly played and colored with many orchestral effects which earned enthusiastic applause and established a warm relationship between artist and audience.

The presentation included a wide range of music from recent popular numbers from the shows to light classics, and while every number was warmly received, MR PALMISTRA'S rendition of "Beyond The Reef", beautifully played with some of the softer tones of the organ while producing the effect of rolling surf with a contrasting rippling tone was one of the highlights. The programme concluded with a vivid presentation of "Czardas" by Monti which evoked prolonged applause. MR PALMISTRA'S artistry at the Wurlitzer enhanced the popularity and versatility of the instrument and he used its resources to provide soft colorful tones where the music dictated or rising to

stirring full organ climaxes in others. DENIS PALMISTRA recorded two fifteen minute programmes for Station LZ0 and the N.Z.B.C. which were for broadcast over the National Stations shortly.

The above report appeared on the front page of the paper Waikato News on 21 January. Arrangements for the concert and broadcasts were carried out by NZ member Eddie Aiken and TOSA News Editor, Frank Ellis. Such was the success of DENIS PALMISTRA in New Zealand, that Eddie Aiken has since written stating that he is considering setting up 4 or 5 concerts for his next visit.

Eddie Aiken also sent us full coverage of the VIC HAMMETT tour of New Zealand last September. Due to The Diaphone being fully committed for the following two issues, this material has been held, and if space is not available in forthcoming issues of The Diaphone, it will appear without the pictures in the next issue of TOSA News.

FAMOUS AUSTRALIAN ORGANIST DIES.

Member Wal Cook reported to TOSA News that he had seen in a Sydney paper, a report of the death of DES TANNER in Seattle U.S.A. TOSA members will be saddened at the loss of this fine artist who was as much at home at the console of a city theatre WurliTzer as he was at the console of a suburban theatre's Christie or a radio studio's Hammond. Those of us who recall his appearances at the Roxy Theatre Parramatta or the Hammond organ which was rolled on stage at the Mayfair Theatre Castlereagh Street or yet again, his weekly radio show over 2UE, titled, "Music In The Tanner Manner", have very warm and wonderful memories of a truly great performer. He is reported to have died after a very long illness. Through a friend who had been a neighbour of the Tanner family years ago, your Editor contacted a cousin of DES TANNER'S who said that she, herself, had only heard of his death, and that she was awaiting confirmation and other details.

MARCH MINI PROFILE THE DENIS PALMISTRA STORY

One of Australia's top theatre organists, DENIS PALMISTRA has a style which is unquestionably his own. It is best described as a unique blend of the traditional style of theatre organ playing, combined with the best ideas of the modern school of thought on this subject. He brings a vivid and imaginative approach to each and every number he plays, and weaves a pattern in richly chorded hues, full of strong contrasts, and complimented by delightful counter melodies. From the serene and delicately registered to the virile and lusty, DENIS PALMISTRA takes each song and adds his own particular brand of magic to it.

He commenced to study the piano at the age of seven years and made rapid progress. When the Capitol Theatre opened in 1928 DENIS was frequently in the audience to hear the great American organist FRED SCHOLL who was the opening organist of the theatre. It was fitting therefore, that when DENIS took up the study of the organ, the great FRED SCHOLL should be his teacher. His first residency was at the 2/10 WurliTzer of the King's Cross Cinema, the organ on which he played the first live broadcast of a theatre organ in Australia. He then moved to the Regent and Plaza Theatres Sydney, followed by a season at the Capitol Theatre.

In 1936, he became resident organist at the Civic Theatre Auckland New Zealand, and on his return to Australia he appeared at the Roxy Parramatta and the Victory Kogarah. He was opening organist at the new Savoy Theatre Enfield and then moved to the Palatial Theatre Burwood followed by the Strathfield Cinema. Then came seasons at the Civic Theatre Auburn and the Savoy Hurstville before he commenced a return season of six months in each one of the Western Suburbs Cinema circuit houses. In 1950 he returned to the Civic Theatre Auckland for a further two years. He was for a time organist on the Jack Davey Radio Shows, and has toured with a Hammond for the Great Levante. DENIS has hundreds of broadcasts and radio spots to his credit. An organist of exceptionally wide experience, he is an undoubted "Master of the Organ". A friendly, warm and sincere person, he has a quiet and unassuming manner but once his friendship has been given, he is a loyal and fascinating friend.

This, then, is DENIS PALMISTRA - OUR PROFILE for MARCH.

HOLIDAYS.

By the time this issue reaches you I will be away on holidays - as usual it will be a busman's holiday with as much organ activity as possible crammed into it.

Until next month - Organically Yours, THE EDITOR.