

# t.o.s.a. news

incorporating **THE DIAPHONE**

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

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## SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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Wednesday, 11th September, 8 p.m.

## THE FABULOUS BILL THOMSON AT THE WURLITZER ORGAN

Direct from the U.S.A. in a special concert for TOSA members and friends we present, Bill Thomson on the Marrickville 2/10 Wurlitzer Organ. Born around the time the Movie Palaces and their mighty theatre organs were at the peak of popularity, Bill Thomson in the ensuing years has grown into a new era of the Theatre Pipe organs and their electronic counterparts.

At the age of 15, Bill began his musical studies with Richard Lehmann on piano. During his career of music, he has studied with Dr. Irene Robertson at the University of Southern California, and Richard Purvis of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, as well as doing extensive theatre organ concerts, including those at the Rialto Theatre, South Pasadena, and the Wiltern Theatre Los Angeles, as well as classical organ recitals at Grace Cathedral and the Wanamaker Department Store's gigantic 6/469 organ in Philadelphia.

Bill Thomson has also made several recordings on both theatre pipe and electronic organs, made many TV and radio appearances, and has also been featured in National ATOS Conventions and the Hoburg Organ Festival the American electronic organ shop window.

Bill owns 'the set' of Rodgers electronic organs, a large theatre model and a large classical model, conducts teacher workshops, and has written a book on improvising. It is fairly common practice for him to arise early, practice for several hours, fly 300 miles piloting his own aircraft, to teach master classes in Central California, to fly to San Francisco to study with Richard Purvis, and to then return the same day to Los Angeles.

Bill says he is happiest when able to prolong his two most enjoyable pleasures - sharing music with listeners who devoutly support concerts, and piloting his own aircraft.

Well, it would appear most likely, that Bill will only be prolonging one of his pleasures in Australia, and we will be most fortunate to be able to hear his masterly playing.

Admission \$2.50 General Public, \$2.00 Members of TOSA, \$1 children and Pensioners. \$5.00 Full Family Ticket.

13th September, Friday 8 p.m. PROMPTLY Home Organ Party at Mark Gabriels, featuring Eric Smith at the Organ and during the evening Eric will accompany the silent film "Phantom of the Opera" and on Friday 13th that should be really something.....seating is limited to 30 people - Admission \$1 per person to the Capitol refurbishing fund. Mark's address is 27 Yarran Road, Oatley and a phone call to 579 2169 will confirm a booking. Look forward to seeing you there.

14th September, Saturday 7.30 p.m. Home Organ Party at David Parsons where all those attending will be assured of a very agreeable evening's entertainment in the David Parsons manner. Unfortunately there are only a very limited number of reservations left due to the popularity of these evenings - so call and secure your booking early. The number is 871 8007 after 3 p.m. You will be entertained by David at the Conn instrument and David has two sets of pipe speakers. Proceeds of the evening will be applied to the Capitol Organ Fund. Supper will be served and the address is 104 Hannah Street, Beecroft.

15th September, Sunday 3 p.m. Eric Smith at the 2/10 Christie in the Lyceum Theatre at 3 p.m. in the regular FREE Lyceum platform. One of the highlights of the occasion will be the complete performance of Gershwin's most famous piece "Rhapsody in Blue" with Eric doing the piano solo part and Ian Tripet at the Yamaha Organ. Ian will also play on the Christie portion of the Gothic Suite by Boallmann. Eric will be heard in selections which he played at a concert hosted by TOSA Adelaide on the 2/12 Wurlitzer in Wyatt Hall.

22nd September, Sunday 2.30 p.m. A FREE Sunday Afternoon Concert will be presented by Peter Held at the Wurlitzer Organ in Marrickville Town Hall and Peter, who originally came from Ireland and whose idol is the famous British

Theatre Organist Douglas Reeve, has been putting much work into his programme for this Dunday afternoon concert. I have at my disposal a profile on Peter Held which tells of his first attempts at the age of 7 to become musically proficient and goes through his career including Theatre Organ engagements up to the present time. Due to lack of space this is available to any member sending a S.A. envelope to the Editor. Come along to Marrickville for an excellent afternoon's entertainment and bring your friends.

28th September, Saturday 7.30 p.m. A Home Organ Party will be held by Warren Robbins at his address: 20 Carina Road, Turramurra, and these evenings have proved very popular so people wishing to attend should phone 44 7091 early as the number of people that can be accommodated is limited. The organ that Warren has is a Thomas - Palace and people attending are assured from previous experience of an excellent night's entertainment. Proceeds to the Capitol Organ Fund. To make directions simple approach Carina Road from the Comenarra Parkway via Ravenhill Road as there is a gully which can cause some confusion otherwise.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20th October, Sunday: A Sunday picnic outing to Freeman's Waterhole. Full details next month.

11th November, Monday: Annual General Meeting to be held at St. Anne's Hall Strathfield.

26th November, Tuesday: Christmas Party - Cabaret - Smorgasboard at Marrickville Town Hall, featuring dancing for members and friends accompanied by our Patron, Ian Davies, at the Wurlitzer.

#### QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING.

I think most people would agree that the business meetings are becoming very entertaining, controversial and informative events indeed. During last month we attended Bert Moody's factory where the Baldwin Electronic Organs are manufactured in Australia and the first part of our get-together was devoted to the Society's General Business Meeting.

The meeting was opened with an address of welcome by President Herbert Wyatt and immediately Peter Held was introduced as having a point to raise. Peter brought to notice the reliability of the Prince Edward Organ and its regulation and voicing and after some long discussion it was decided that officials of the Hill, Norman and Beard organisation would be approached for their quotation to make the necessary adjustments to the regulation and voicing.

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Another item raised was by Jack Lawson, who has had discussions with Greater Union regarding the possibility of installing a theatre organ in either the King's Theatre at Ashfield or their theatre at Manly. Also some discussion took place about the proposed installation of the Capitol Wurlitzer in the Hurstville Civic Centre.

Following the business of the Quarterly meeting our host, Bert Moody, gave us an extremely interesting lecture on the manufacture and assembly of the Baldwin organ - showing us, in minute detail, the technological advancements which are pervading the electronics world.

We were then entertained by our Patron, Ian Davies at this remarkable electronic organ.

Tea and biscuits were served by the Tooker/Lawson manage and members discussions took place informally. It was certainly pleasant to have with us some of the original foundation members of the society that we haven't seen for some time.

### CONSTITUTION:

As the year is fast slipping towards the Annual General Meeting in November, an up to date copy of the Constitution is included with this issue for your information.

### REVIEW - SIDNEY TORCH TWO RECORD SET - CB

Here is a magnificently presented two-record set produced by Doric Records in America that is an absolute must for enthusiasts of the best in vintage theatre organ playing. This collection of the best of the English Organist Sidney Torch, is recorded on five different organs in and around London -- The "Regal" Marble Arch - 4/36 Christie; the "Regal" Edmonton - 4/14 Christie; The Gaumont State, Kilburn - 4/16 Wurlitzer; The "Regal" Kingston - 3/10 Wurlitzer; the EMI Studio Organ Abbey Road London, 3/8 Compton.

The 24 tracks include "They all start Whistling Mary", "There's something about a Soldier", "Song of India", "When Day is Done", "When East Meets West", and four all time Torch Classics - "The Flying Scotsman" (The Train track to end all train Tracks, if you'll pardon the bad pun,) "Teddy Bear's Picnic", "Twelfth Street Rag" and a rip snorting "Bugle Call Rag".

These records were remastered by EMI in London from the original file copy 78's and electronically reprocessed for stereo. (The original aluminium mother discs were melted down for the war effort and probably became spit-fire aircraft or something) The end result is very acceptable, technically, under the circumstances. There is plenty of bass but, on good equipment, some surface noise (from the old 78's) is audible with a lack of really high frequencies. However, none of this should or will detract from your enjoyment of a set of superbly packaged records (plenty of photographs and organ specs.,) that will become a collector's item (if it hasn't already).

#### LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Having recently attended the concert by TOSA member Ray Thornley at Ryde Civic Centre, I was most impressed and prompted to inform TOSA of the details of the evening. The night attracted an audience of about 800 people who heard the Lowrey Citation Theatre Organ in Lieu of the new Lowrey Symphonic Theatre which was to be featured. The most enlightening aspect of the evening was certainly the talents of Ray Thornley. This young organist astounds me with his ability to keep bettering his previous performances I feel sure that for general appeal his talents must rate among the best in the country.

My family and I have been members of the Society since 1967 and closely follow concerts with great enthusiasm. I personally find that our local organists compare most favourably with those from overseas and I always like to see new ones in the making.

Perhaps at the next Quarterly General Meeting we may be able to discuss the likes of Ray Thornley playing an evening concert on OUR organ at Marrickville in the not too distant future.

Yours faithfully, Ron Smith.

Ed. note Ray plays Friday and Saturday nights at Phil Doyle's Mecca Theatre Kogarah on a Conn, during interval and before the show and anyone going to the Mecca to see a show is assured of getting their money's worth in entertainment.

---oOo---

For some time now, I have been concerned at the decline in attendances at TOSA functions, particularly concerts, in

spite of a definite raising of musical standars over the past two years. More importantly, perhaps, the number of members attending Marrickville concerts has also drastically fallen, indicating a definite lack of interest by our own members in our own Wurlitzer. This brings me to the reasons for writing this letter -

- (a) The lack of adequate member accessability to our organ, and
- (b) The future attitude of the Society to this problem, particularly in the matter of a new location for the Capitol Wurlitzer.

I feel that the majority of our members have lost interest in the Marrickville organ because they have virtually no regular opportunity to meet socally at Marrickville and thus to associate with and become enthusiastic about our Wurlitzer. (The South Australian Division hold very successful regular Cabaret Nights at Pulteney Grammar School Hall.) Of all the social activities held in the past few years, how many have involved members, in general, with our organ? Precious few!

I believe the answer to this problem lies in a regular series of members (and friends) only nights around our Wurlitzer. True, we have to hire Marrickville Town Hall (at exorbitant rates, considering it's OUR ORGAN) even for closed society functions, and thus an immediate solution perhaps is not financially practical.

This brings me to the matter of the new location for the Capitol organ. It is essential that regular, adequate, FREE, society accessability to this organ be negotiated with the owners of the auditorium, well in advance of installation plans. This matter must not be left as an afterthought. I believe the Society is in a strong bargaining position as we have an instrument worth tens of thousands of dollars. The farce of Marrickville must not be repeated. (Do our members know that even if a better home for the Marrickville organ could be found, we could not legally remove it under the trustee agreement unless the Town Hall is demolished; and yet, WE OWN THE ORGAN!)

I feel that the following suggestions should be regarded as the very minimum terms and conditions under which the Society allows the Capitol organ to be re-installed -

1. That the Society have at least one night per month available for TOSA functions; six of these per year to be used for paying public functions (none of this financially disasterous, free Sunday afternoon concert nonsense), and the remaining six to be RENT FREE for closed, society evenings (including perhaps our Christmas Party).
2. That the Society be allocated adequate time, RENT FREE, for -

- a) members to practise on their Wurlitzer (for a nominal fee)
- b) concert artists to practise for pending concerts.
- c) regular, comprehensive maintenance of the organ.

Anything less than the above would, I believe prevent the Society making the best use of its OWN Organ both for the public in general and the interest and enthusiasm of its members in particular.

Yours, in the interests of TOSA and its members.

Clifford R. Bingham.

### NEW MEMBERS

We have quite a few new members to introduce to you through the pages of TOSA News this month but please try and look them up at functions and do the job personally. We are after all a group of people gathered together to share like interests and to enjoy the music and fellowship such gatherings bring. New Members too should not be backward in approaching members and introducing themselves any club is as strong as its members and the fellowship fostered between them.

A big welcome to you all

Mr. G.J. Pyne - Neutral Bay, Mr. and Mrs. J. & D. Koop - Killarney Heights, Mr. Irwin Young - Middleburg, Virginia, U.S.A., Mr. and Mrs. B. Begg - Padstow Heights, Mr. B. Sharp - Belmore, Mr. R. Brown - Tweed Heads, Mr. D. Salisbury, Terranora, Mr. Reg Black - Rose Bay, Mr. B. Cleaves - Merrylands, Mr. R. Hughes - Roseville, Mr. R. Hayson - Peakhurst, Mr. L. Wotton - Ramsgate, Mr. G. Gaul - Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. W. & N. Nye - Dundas, Mr. G. Rosten-Lee - Sydney, Miss C. Kiley - Mosman, Mr. and Mrs. A. & L. Ney - Engadine, Mr. and Mrs. R. & M. Mitchell - Bexley, Miss E. Lee - Picnic Point, Mr. and Mrs. W. & B. Bonnard - Gynea, Mr. & Mrs. V. & J. Burton - Dee Why, Mrs. M. Sandland - Caringbah, Mr. and Mrs. S. & W. Andrews - Frenchs Forest, Mr. and Mrs. C. & N. Pitts - Merewether and Miss Y. Gilmore - Marrickville.

### EDITORIAL

They slip away and we hardly even notice their passing -- last year the Civic Auburn this year the Savoy Hurstville? Next year -- what will be left.....

The photograph in this issue is kindly lent by Richie Willis and is of the late Owen Holland at the Savoy Wurlitzer 2/10 now in the Congregational Church Burwood. Today the Savoy stands empty all the seats taken to the tip, carpet gone, equipment into storage. Damage which has not been completed by the official Theatre destroyers is being completed by unofficial vandals.

The glass top surround on the hoist which you see in the photograph lies smashed and twisted, the main light fittings are being broken, the projection booth is a shambles, the area under the stage and around the organ hoist is flooded and some one has even made a feeble attempt to set fire to the building.

To someone who remembers the Savoy of a few years ago it is now a very sorry sight and it makes one wonder .....With theatres in the hands of private operators being so financially successful today, are we going far enough? As a society in N.S.W. we have saved two might Wurlitzers and members amongst us have in their care at least two other organs - is this where we stop?? Is there any possibility that we should even start thinking, as they have done in Detroit, with their 4/34 in their own Senate Theatre - we would not be on our own in Australia working along these lines and maybe its time to move before it's too late .....

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

#### OCTOBER DEADLINE

As you can see the quantity and quality of the articles has certainly taken us by storm this month and as you can imagine it is very gratifying indeed and makes preparation of your magazine so interesting. Our deadline for those amongst you with latent journalistic tendencies is 18th October, 1974.

#### CASUAL PLAYING TIME AT MARRICKVILLE

Due to the large numbers of enquiries from people wishing to play their 2/10 Wurlitzer in Marrickville Town Hall on a casual night basis, the necessary arrangements are in hand for a night to be set aside this month and in future months as well. Those people that are interested in playing this month should contact Herbert Wyatt for dates and times. Visitors from the country, interstate or overseas can be allowed to play the Marrickville Town Hall 2/10 Wurlitzer on most days by phoning Bill Richards who will make the necessary arrangements.

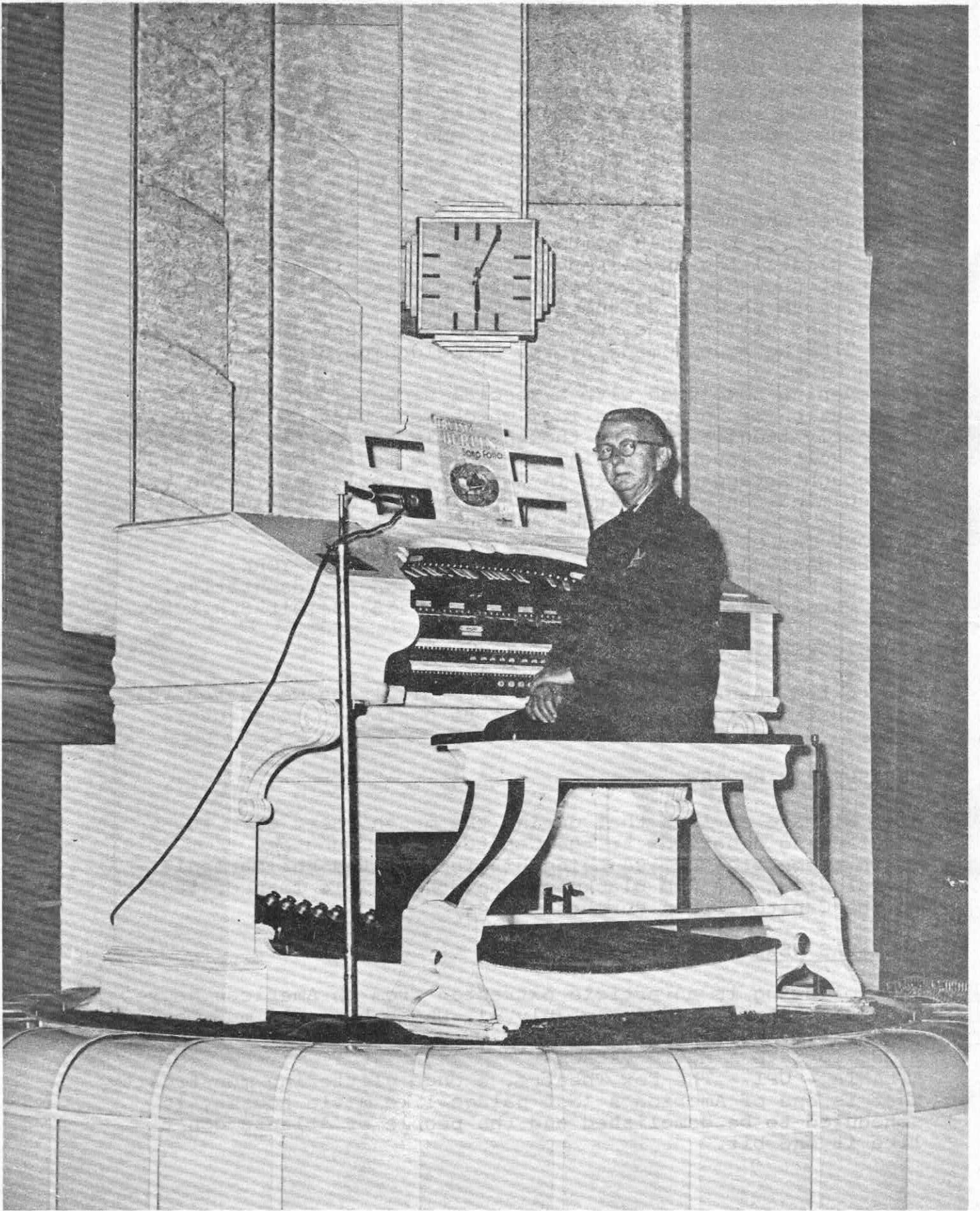
EXTRACTS FROM A CRITIQUE BY GAIL NIXON OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORGAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1974.

#### THE ANTHONY TAYLOR ELECTRO-PNEUMATIC SIGHT & SOUND SHOW

(Would you believe.....)

Well, the Reverend Gentleman has done it again! Anthony Taylor has been wowin them all with his promotional show aptly named "The Anthony Taylor Electro-Pneumatic Sight and Sound Show." Whether it was his friendly personality, and intriguing name of the show, or a combination of both, the fact remains that over 350 people came to Wyatt Hall earlier this month to find out what it was all about.





Page 10: T.O.S.A. News, September, 1974

Anthony has been gathering material for this show for some time and has now moulded it into a most entertaining and informative show describing the origins and development of the pipe organ, the modern cinema, and, of course, the evolution of the theatre pipe organ .....

After a bright opening (containing a few musical surprises) he talked and he played for the audience, involving them in guessing games and much laughter, ably assisted by "prizemaster" Ted Lloyd ... For this ramble through the past Anthony described (with slides) the development of the cinema from the days of the tent shows to the magnificent theatres of the western world, even showing us the Adelaide "PAV".

The second half of the show includes a screening of the silent film "The Aquanuts" made by the Enfield High School Theatre Organ Club.

The evening concluded with a special sing-a-long which included a selection of interval slides which were used in New York in the early twenties. Even though people had nearly worn out their voices laughing during the silent movie they summoned up enough strength to join in with the final songs which were the culmination of a most entertaining and enjoyable evening.

Thanks Anthony -- its a great show

ANTHONY TAYLOR USES SLIDES FROM

THE NATIONAL SONG SLIDE SERVICE, INC. of NEW YORK.

He has also been appointed Australian representative.

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#### SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE ORGAN ARTICLE

Due to the quantity of articles for this issue we regret that continuation of this article must be postponed to a future issue.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Alan Misdale advises that during the month there were two outstanding donations to the Capitol Organ Fund one from Eric Smith a donation of \$24 being his fee for the Philharmonia Choral Night and Rod Blackmore who donated his loan of \$50 to the Capitol Organ Purchase Fund.

#### OVERSEAS NEWS

The following is an article extracted from an American newspaper by Robert Gliddon on July 31, which he feels may be of interest to us:-

##### FIGHT TO SAVE A MOVIE PALACE

ATLANTA - UPI - The Fox Theatre, a once glittering monstrosity that is one of America's last palace-like movie houses, is scheduled to be demolished and the people of Atlanta don't like it one bit.

The Fox's marble water fountains, masonry lattice-work, carved chair legs and low archways are all from an era that seems destined for oblivion. The owners of the Theatre announced a month ago that it was no longer "economically feasible" to operate the Fox and said they planned to sell the building to Southern Bell Telephone Co. as the site for a new high-rise headquarters.

Almost immediately "Save the Fox" movement was launched to find an alternative to the destruction of the huge, ornate theatre that is supposedly a replica of the Al Hambra in Granada, Spain.

Organisers of the movement have collected the signatures of 11,000 persons who say the 45 year-old palace should not be torn down, and all manner of public officials plus actress Helen Hays have added their support.

#### FLASHBACKS from Ian Cameron

The following are newspaper advertisement extracts of various cinema's in September, 1930 and 1940. For those lucky enough to be around (and aware) at the time a little bit of nostalgia ...

September, 1930

REGENT "High Society Blues" starring Janet Gaynor  
Eddie Fitch at the 3/15 Wurlitzer

STATE No organist mentioned in Advertisements.

CAPITOL "A Man from Wyoming" starring Gary Cooper  
Fred Scholl at the 3/15 Wurlitzer

Also Ted Henkel and his band with a Clyde Hood  
Stage presentation featuring the Capitol  
Ballet in a musical sketch called "Tulip Time  
in Holland".

PRINCE EDWARD "The Big Pond" starring Maurice Chevalier  
Julia Dawn at the 2/10 Wurlitzer  
Also featuring Albert Cazabon and his  
Orchestra.

PLAZA "Rogue Song" starring Lawrence Tibbett  
Wallace Kotter at the 2/8 Christie.

September, 1940 (the organists featured at various Suburban  
Theatres)

CIVIC AUBURN Knight Barnett at the 2/13 Wurlitzer

PALATIAL BURWOOD Paul Cullen at the 3/10 Christie

SAVOY HURSTVILLE Barrie Brettenor at the 2/10 Wurlitzer

VICTORY KOGARAH Bert Myers at the 2/8 Christie

ROXY PARRAMATTA Denis Palmistra at the 3/10 Christie

STRATHFIELD CINEMA Clarence Black at the 2/8 Christie (this  
organ was formally in the Ritz Concord.)



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### AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY - 1974 CONVENTION

"The Notable Nineteenth" - Detroit, Michigan.

Convention registration opened 9 a.m. Friday 12th July in one of the many Reception Rooms in the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel. By the time registrations had been completed there were approximately 1,100 people attending, making this by far the largest convention staged by A.T.O.S.

Proceedings were away to a fine start with Friday evening's "No Host" Cocktail Party. The faces of many prominent people in the theatre organ world could be spotted around the room at this function.

The National Board of Directors meeting was scheduled for Saturday morning. Bill Schumacher and myself were invited to attend as representatives from Australia.

First concert was staged early Saturday afternoon and featured John Muri at the Redford Theatre, (in suburban Detroit) playing the 3/10 Barton installed therein. Probably the least impressive sounding of the three Barton installations visited,

nevertheless John Muri played an excellent concert and proved to all what a fine musician he really is. The slide-show - singalong of both conventional and Muri written parodies to popular tunes was enjoyed by all. Vic Hyde, a most capable comedy instrumentalist appeared next on stage. This man proved to be a veritable one man band, it is claimed he owns and plays 65 different musical instruments. Vic received a well deserved standing ovation for his clever playing. Cameo Spots from various chapter representatives then followed, one artist featured was Newcastle's David Pitts who is currently on a working holiday in the U.S.

Dennis and Heidi James were featured at the Detroit Theatre Organ Club's Senate Theatre 4/34 Wurlitzer plus Grand Piano, on Saturday evening. Married only late last year Dennis plays organ whilst Heidi plays piano, both are currently studying for their Master of Music Degree. Features of this concert were Heidi's rendition of the original Gershwin arrangement of "I Got Rhythm" and Dennis' brilliant rendering of "Victory at Sea" suite. The couple received a well deserved standing ovation at the conclusion.

Sunday morning saw a near capacity crowd assembled at the Punch and Judy Theatre, Grosse Pointe Farms, to hear Lowell Ayars play the fine little 2/5 Wurlitzer installed therein. This theatre, although not large or lavishly decorated would be one of the best maintained theatres in the U.S.A. Lowell played a beautiful programme, the feature piece being a novelty number called "Baby's Birthday Party". Another surprise was to hear Lowell sing and accompany himself at the console - he has a very fine baritone voice.

Tours of two home installations followed after lunch and the home our group attended had a 3/11 Wurlitzer installed, members also enjoyed inspecting a miniature model Circus Parade which was set out on display on the back lawn of the home.

The Convention Banquet occupied the evening and what a magnificent meal it was! The newly elected officers for the coming year are President - Dr. Paul Abenaty of North Carolina. Vice President - Russ Evans of Seattle, Washington (a N.S.W. T.O.S.A. Member) Secretary-Treasurer is Jean Lautzenheiser of Virginia.

An audio visual show was presented on Monday morning, this featured rare slides and recordings of Jesse and Helen Crawford. This presentation was of great interest to the many Crawford fans who gathered to see it.

The afternoon session was held at the Senate Theatre and the two artists were Don Baker and Lyn Larsen. Both

artists played superbly and the instrument complemented their artistry - both received standing ovations. If you have been fortunate to hear either or both of these gentlemen play live you know it is difficult to find superlatives to describe their capabilities.

Rex Koury of Los Angeles was featured artist on Monday evening playing the Royal Oak Theatre 3/13 Barton. The entire performance best summed up as good instrument, excellent artist, a very funny silent film called "College" starring Buster Keaton.

The entire day Tuesday was spent at Ann Arbor (approx. 30 miles out) in which is situated the University of Michigan. First concert of the day was in the University's Hill Auditorium on the 4/117 Skinner Concert Organ. Searle Wright was featured on this instrument and whilst his programme was very competently played, the selections were considered by many as being too heavy for a group primarily interested in light music.

Helen Dell presented a delightful concert in the afternoon at the console of the 3/13 Barton in the Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor. Noted for her many performances in the capacity of official organist for the Los Angeles Dodgers Baseball Team, Helen has approximately 6 L.P. recordings to her credit.

After Helen's concert Searle Wright again played, this time showing his talents as a popular organist also.

The evening performance was again scheduled for the DTOC's Senate Theatre, first performer was Lloyd del Castillo - well known Los Angeles area organist. Before Lloyd started his segment we were treated to a preview of next year's A.T.O.S. Convention, scheduled to commence 15th July 1975 in San Francisco. Lloyd then played a programme with wide appeal, spiced with his own particular brand of humor.

Next artist was Hector Olivera whose concert had been long awaited by all - we were not disappointed. Hector played a brilliant concert, his long classical training well in evidence, at the conclusion he received two standing ovations!

Wednesday was home tours day and for those not wishing to do this there was an alternate to visit Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum. An extra bonus for museum visitors was a silent Laurel and Hardy feature at the Village Theatre. The accompaniment was played by Lyn Larsen on the newly acquired Rogers Custom Electronic Organ which at that time was having its first public airing in the museum.

Everybody had a chance to unwind on the final Convention venue, this was a delightful Boat Cruise on the river.

Finally good-byes were said and an often heard phrase was "See you in San Francisco next year."

OBITUARIES:

MANNY AARONS: Passed away Thursday 15th August, and so slips away the last surviving link with the silent film era in Australia.

Manny was a leading theatrical personality for over half a century and began his musical career in Melbourne at the Marshall Hall. He became the pit orchestra conductor at the original Tivoli Theatre when it was in Castlereagh Street and orchestra conductor in the Lyceum Theatre where he later opened the organ. He conducted orchestras for a time in New Zealand and in 1927 became organist at the De-Luxe Theatre Wellington. He also conducted orchestras around this time in suburban Cinemas in Sydney.

The next dates we have are February/March, 1930 when he was once again recorded as having played theatre organ - this time at the Capitol Theatre. June 1932 saw him begin the job which was to make him famous and a legend in Theatrical circles - he was almost a part of the decoration at the State. During the years Manny made many broadcasts from the State 4/21 Wurlitzer for the A.B.C. and also in this time he was featured in the film Cinesound Varieties by Ken G. Hall. The Director was O.G. Perry who was presentations director at the Capitol Theatre when it opened. Also in the film was the State Theatre Orchestra conducted by Helen Webber and the segment in which Manny appeared was called "The Evolution of the Waltz". The same year Ken Hall produced another film called the "Silence of Dean Maitland" during the credits of which the State Orchestra and Organ are heard.

In 1954 Manny returned to the Capitol Organ during the visit of the Royal Family. He later returned to the State, retiring in 1957 .. since then the State Giant has slept .....

We sincerely thank John Gardiner for the information supplied here and farewell with deep regret another large slice of the era that we treasure.

VALE MANNY AARONS

AL MASON: It is with deep regret we announce the sudden death on 25th July of Al Mason, Chief organiser (along with his wife, Betty) of the Detroit '74 Convention. Al was National President of A.T.O.S. 1968-1970, at the time of his death publisher of "Theatre Organ" magazine, past chairman of Motor City Chapter A.T.O.S., he was also prominent in the affairs of the Detroit Theatre Organ Club. The loss will be sadly felt in A.T.O.S., few people realize just how much work Al and Betty have done over the years, in the cause of promoting the Theatre Organ. To Betty and her family go our sympathy at this time.

## IN APPRECIATION

Mrs. Pattie Stapleton and sons Glen & Bradley (10 and 6 years) of St. Ives sincerely thank TOSA for mentioning the news of the sudden passing of their dearly loved husband and father, Tom Stapleton on Sunday, June 30 (age 43). Members, Sylvia and Fred Coxhead (Pattie's sister and brother-in-law) of Panania and their family including Barbara and Ralph Dixon are also deeply grieving the passing of a much loved Tommy. He dearly loved music and gave joy and wonderful friendship to all who knew him.

Sylvia Coxhead.

## OVERSEAS RECORDINGS

As a service to members requiring overseas recordings not readily available in Australia there is a list of discs and titles attached to the back of this issue which may be of interest.

## FOR SALE

Leslie Speaker - Model 700  
Walnut cabinet and in as new condition - 1 year old \$575  
Phone John Hanna 47 1526

## CINEMA NORTH OPENING

We have news from Jack Lawson that during Tony Fenelon's recent visit to Sydney, he learned that the Cinema North installation is going to be officially opened by Tony on Saturday 7th December and that a three man concert is planned for the following Sunday. These are the plans, as of the present time, and we trust we will have more news of progress from the Victorians so we can keep you informed. Don't forget that Melbourne is THEATRE ORGAN CONVENTION CITY AT EASTER 1975.

## ALLEN ORGAN CONCERT

For those members anxious to hear the Allen Organ, Theatre Model, in concert, President Herbert Wyatt may be able to supply them with the information of When and Where towards the middle of this month.