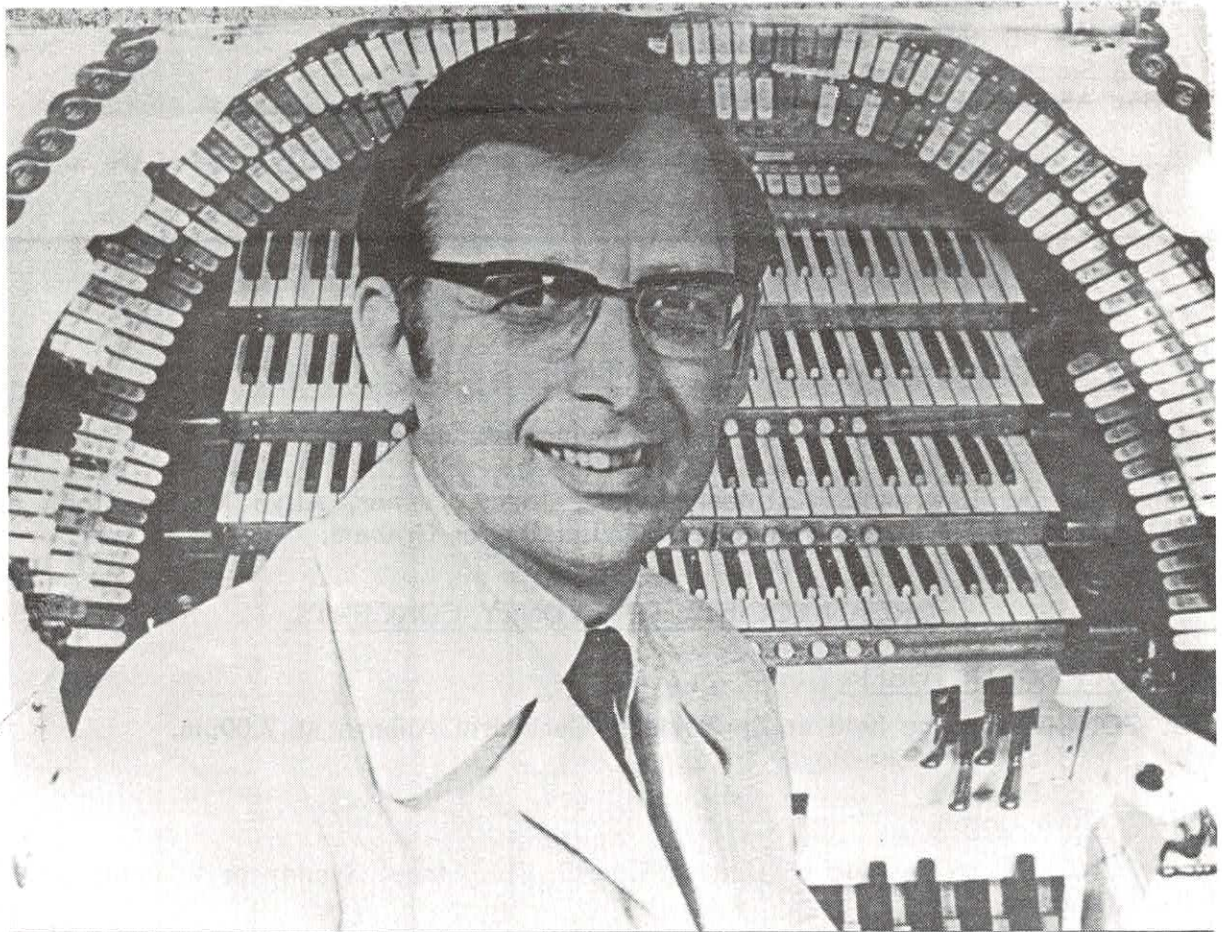


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TOSA NEWS

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LEN RAWLE *DIRECT FROM BRITAIN*



MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER AT 8.00PM. - SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER AT 2.00PM.

DIRECTORY TOSA (N.S.W.Division)

PATRON Ian Davies

PRESIDENT Alan Misdale (525 5554)

VICE PRESIDENTS Frank Ellis (649 7011) Doug Smith (750 0917)

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Neil Palmer, Ron Smith

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Box A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH. 2000.

Opinions expressed in T.O.S.A. NEWS by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor.

NEW MEMBERS

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members.

Mr and Mrs A. Lawrence, Kathleen Lynch, Joyce Tanner, Allyn Martin, John and Win Madsen, Teun and Leni Van Arkel, Phyllis Davies-Graham.

ORGAN SOCIETY OF SYDNEY CONCERTS.

SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER.

FREE CONCERT to be held at St Xavier's Cathedral Auburn at 2.00pm.

Artist: Mrs Heather Moen-Boyd.

SUNDAY 20th October.

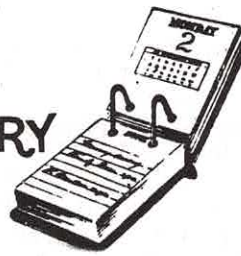
FREE CONCERT to be held at Uniting Church Pitt Street Sydney at 2.30pm.

Artist: Margaret Hall

A series of lunchtime recitals will be held at Pitt street Uniting Church from 12.30pm. to 1.00pm. Admission \$2.00 towards organ restoration.

WEDNESDAY	November	6th	Colleen Loo
"	"	"	13th David Mc Farlane
"	"	"	20th Stephen Hirst
"	"	"	27th Mrs Anne Morgan

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



October

SATURDAY 12th at 7.30pm.

HOME ORGAN PARTY (Northern Suburbs)

Please ring "EDNA" on 487 2121 for Bookings and full details of address.

Admission is \$3 per person which includes supper.

Nice Eminent Organ and Grand piano, so bring your music!

FRIDAY 18th at 7.30pm.

CAPITOL ORGAN FUND RAISING NIGHT.

at Bondi-Waverly RSL Club, Gray St, Bondi-Junction.

PATRON Ian Davies is once again inviting Members to attend a great night of organ and piano music with talented local artists.

Admission is \$4 per person and the Bistro Bar is open for Dinner at 5.30pm.

OCTOBER SPRING FETE

SATURDAY 26th October is the day of our most important Spring Fete which has been specifically convened to raise funds towards the installation of the Capitol WurliTzer at the Orion Centre, Campsie.

Many people have worked hard to make this Fete a success - all we need now is YOU!! and YOUR FRIENDS to come along and help complete the final goal for all of us.

A happy day is assured for all people, with the fascinating Amsterdam Street Organ playing outside for two hours, many many stalls to browse through (and buy of course!) plus the grand sound of our WurliTzer Organ being played by many artists who have volunteered their services for small 'spots' during the day.

DONT FORGET the refreshment bar will be open for tea and coffee etc.

ROLL UP!! ROLL UP!! ROLL UP!!!

November

MONDAY 4th at 7.30pm.

COMMITTEE MEETING at 120 Dennis Street, Lakemba.

WEDNESDAY 6th at 8pm.

LEN RAWLE from the UK in concert at Marrickville Town Hall.

THURSDAY 7th at 7.30pm.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Marrickville Town Hall.

SUNDAY 24th at 2pm.

LEN RAWLE from the UK in concert at Marrickville Town Hall.

(Please Note: **BOOKING FORMS** for both the LEN RAWLE concerts are included in this issue.

THE DEATH OF A MIGHTY WURLITZER

(from our Patron)

The above heading in this article refers to the original WurliTzer installed in the Hoyts Regent Theatre Melbourne in 1929.

It consisted of a four manual Waterfall polished Mahogany console and twenty one ranks of pipes. The sound of this instrument was truly magnificent in every way and the structure of the building matched it perfectly.

At the opening in 1929, Eddie Fitch an American organist, presided at the Console along with the Orchestra and what a treat it was to listen to all that glorious music, a vast difference from the guitar twanging rubbish that is inflicted on our ear drums today..

I had the privilege of being allowed to practise on the beautiful organ and sitting on its stool, one was transposed away into another world. At that time the organist of St.Pauls Cathedral (one Dr.A.E.Floyd) who was very 'anti' Theatre Organ, was asked to come around and hear this fine WurliTzer and upon doing so admitted he was amazed at the rich sound and in particular the perfect Cathedral tone of the 8ft Diapason when the instrument was played as a Grand Organ. Believe you me, coming from the good Doctor, that was a compliment indeed.

The organ was never recorded but in those early days was regularly heard over the ABC with Lionel Corrick at the Console and George Belmain, a fine Baritone singer a most popular session every Sunday night from 7-7.30pm.

In 1945 tragedy struck. The Theatre and its beautiful WurliTzer Organ were completely destroyed by fire and not one single part of that fine monarch of mighty sound survived, even the little 2 manual 12 rank in the Plaza below the Regent was badly damaged by water but later on, most of it was restored and it continued for years entertaining the public.

As a matter of fact I did all my early ABC broadcasts on the Plaza organ and a Grand little instrument it was too. Later on when the Regent was rebuilt, the organ they installed was part Ambassadors Perth and part old Lyceum Melbourne.

It never sounded anywhere near the rich singing glory of its predecessor that died so tragically by fire.

IAN DAVIES J.P. PATRON.

T.O.S.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY

No doubt you've seen the recent publicity advertising the TOSA Xmas Party to be held on Friday 13th December 1985 at 7.30pm and the most important thing of all it's being held at the **Orion Centre** at Campsie.

We have engaged the Caterers who provided the final meal on the Monday of the Easter Convention (reputed to be the **best** of the lot!), an excellent five piece band plus an electric organ and a popular female vocalist for a guest spot during the evening.

This will be the ideal opportunity to inspect the new home of our Capitol WurliTzer Organ and see the wonderful job Canterbury Council have done in the restoration of the theatre building and the creation of the **Orion Centre** while keeping as many of the theatre's artifacts as possible to retain more than 50% of the original interior design.

The cost for the evening is by no means prohibitive and we are sure that this will be a night to remember with Wining, Dining & Dancing - and all in a luxurious atmosphere all helping to make for a fitting get together to celebrate a rather busy and highly successful year (despite the 'critics') for the Theatre Organ Society.

We have gone to great lengths to make this a good night so please organise your friends for your party as soon as you can and book immediately.

SEE YOU THERE!!!

(Doug Smith - Hon. Vice-President)

AUGUST CONCERT POPULAR

(report by Doug Smith)

The FREE concert on Sunday 25th saw an excellent attendance of 512 people, all very anxious to hear a comparatively new artist at the Marrickville Wurlitzer. He was **David Smith** of Sydney, a well known organ teacher who had not played at Marrickville since 1977. David had two co-artists to assist him on the day, **Sharon Maennl** and **Damien Scott**, both making their third or fourth appearance at Marrickville.

David Smith, an exponent of improvisation, soon had the audience spellbound with a huge introduction number which brought loud applause from all present and particularly from David's own personal 'cheer' squad which apparently was well represented.

Suffice to say for this short report that both younger artists gave an excellent account of themselves with both theatre style and classical presentations, and were well received by the audience.

Later in the programme, David (in my opinion) played his best number of the day, the mildly George Wrightish version of "Toot Toot Tootsie" which had everything in it including the Klaxon Horn, and this was the one that 'brought down the house' for the day.

Two encores were demanded, "Superstar" and "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes", before the delighted yells and applause from the cheer squad finally subsided. I feel that David's popularity calls for his inclusion in our 1986 programme as a must.



David Smith seated at the Marrickville Town Hall Wurlitzer.

The Mastertouch Piano Roll Company

MAKERS OF "MASTERTOUC" AND "BROADWAY" MUSIC ROLLS

P.O. BOX 206, PETERSHAM, N.S.W. 2049.

16th August, 1985

Mr. E.W. Vale,
Hon. Secretary,
Theatre Organ Society of Australia, NSW Division,
P.O. Box A584,
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 2000

Dear Mr. Vale,

Once again we thank the Theatre Organ Society for their very generous donation of \$100 following the visit of your group on the evening of Wednesday, 17th July.

Our apologies for the delay in writing to thank the Society for visiting us again. We are delighted to hear that your members enjoy these evenings with us, and that some of them return each time.

We look forward to the visit from Mr. Lubich in September, and further enjoyable evenings with the Society.

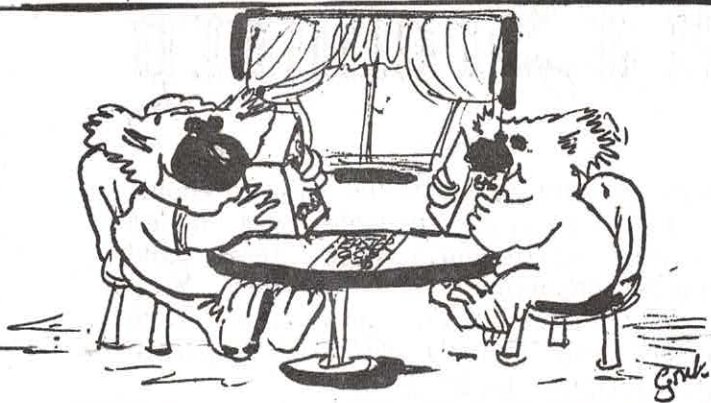
Thank you all once again.

Yours faithfully,



JUDITH BELL
for The Mastertouch Piano Roll Co.

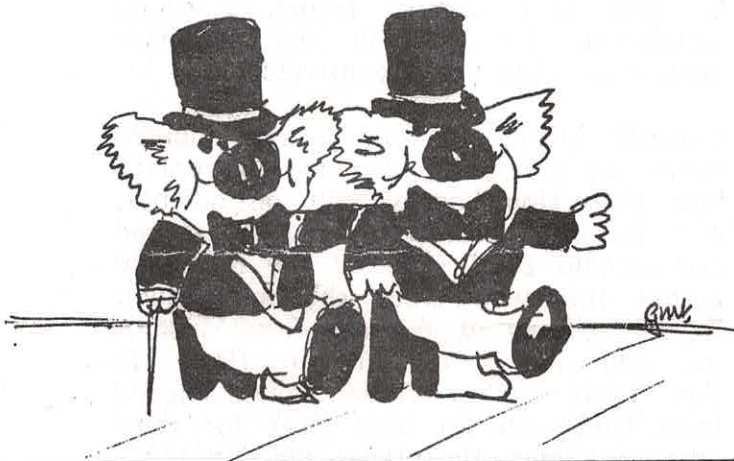
The "Great" Queensland Convention Caper!



Once you read that Queensland T.O.S.A. is "Puttin on the Ritz" for Easter 1986. You won't be able to book your tickets or pack your bag fast enough!!



When you arrive, Brisbanes warm welcome and hospitality, will make you feel right at home. We promise to treat you like VIPs!



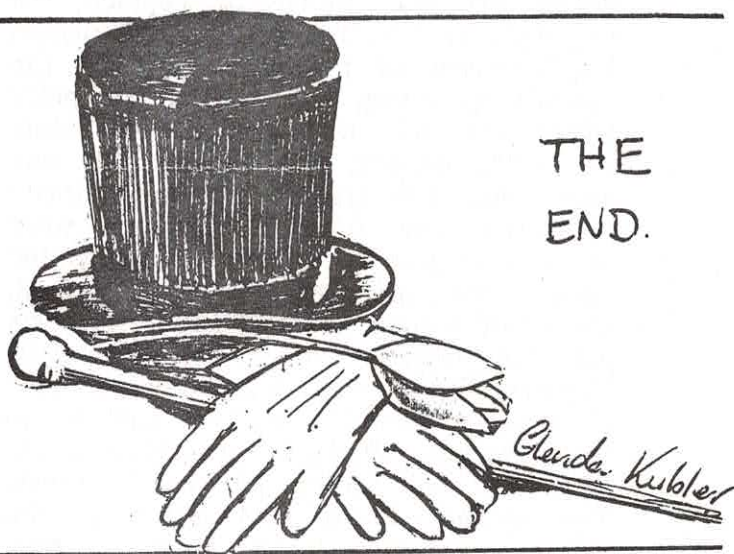
From our Ritzy Opening night and Registration, to the final days festivities The Entertainment will be as usual only **FIRST CLASS** !!



Our feature Artist will put our Christie Theatre pipe organ to work to "pack them in", "lay them in the aisles" and leave them asking for MORE!!



Our Catering Manager, will satisfy all appetites, from the Gourmet to the ordinary AUSSIE. Especially at our Banana Benders Banquet



THE
END.

So BOOK NOW for T.O.S.A. Qld's Fabulous 14th Convention, when Brisbane will be "Puttin on the Ritz for Easter 86" (28th 31st MARCH) THE END.

Theatre Organ in a Seminary

by Bob Boin

One of the highlights of the 1985 ATOS Convention in Chicago was the theatre organ installation located in Mundelein, Illinois. The are 1500 acres of woodlands as well as a 300 acre man-made lake on the grounds of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, built by the late George Cardinal Mundelein, after whom the town is named. Winding roads and spacious lawns lead to a 900-seat auditorium which houses the 4/24 theatre pipe organ. The overall layout of the campus is symmetrical about the chapel, and the architectural style is Colonial, chosen by the Cardinal because it was the "only purely American style".

Upon entering the somewhat plain auditorium, one cannot miss the Wurlitzer console with its ebony finish. It sits on a permanent platform at the left side of the sunken orchestra pit. This console has a unique history complete with pitfalls, literally.

It began life as the original console of the Chicago Theatre's mighty Wurlitzer, Opus 434, a 4/29 Style 285 Special. At some time early in its life, a maintenance man adjusted the organ lift and failed to replace the top limit switch. The relief house organist, unaware of the problem, took the console up during a show. At the point where the lift was supposed to stop, it didn't. Instead, the console fell forward onto the organist, seriously injuring him. The console and lift were quickly repaired; little is recorded about the organist. Jesse Crawford, the chief house organist, had just married the organist from the Roosevelt Theatre down the street and decided to add a second complete console to the Chicago Wurlitzer to play duets with his new bride, Helen Anderson. The second console was added to the left side of the pit along with an orchestra lift. The original organ lift was repositioned under Helen's new console and Jesse's console was placed on the new orchestra lift with sufficient

cable so that it could be moved about. In 1932 a stage console was added to the instrument. With Jesse and Helen's departure for the New York Paramount in 1927, only the stage console and Helen's with its separate lift, continued to be used.

The original console was eventually purchased by Al Carney for his radio studio pipe organ of 14 mostly Gottfried ranks. With the death of Mr. Carney, the organ and the Chicago Theatre console were sold in 1934 to long time family friend, Cardinal Mundelein, for use in his seminary auditorium then under construction.

Cardinal Mundelein was an avid theatre organ and movie fan. He had two complete projection booths built on campus, one in the auditorium and a second one on the third floor of the residence across the lake from the auditorium. Being a friend of William Fox, Mundelein had access to all the first run Fox films. When films were shipped from Hollywood to New York for their grand openings, the planes would normally refuel in Chicago. At this point, the films were rushed out to St. Mary's for a special screening. As a film might arrive at any time of the day or night, the Cardinal's staff was always ready for a small premiere.

The person most called upon for these impromptu screenings was the first "house organist", Reverend Charles N. Meter, a faculty member at the Seminary. Father Meter studied theatre organ with Dr. Eddy Eigenschenk of the Roosevelt Theatre. It was not unusual for the Cardinal to unwind after a long day in Chicago by taking a car from his Chicago residence and driving down Milwaukee Avenue with full police escort to the city limits. From this point it was all open farmland to St. Mary's and reports are that 90 m.p.h. was not an uncommon speed for the Cardinal's car. Once arriving on the grounds, Father Meter would be called to provide organ accompaniment or intermission music for that night's film.



St. Mary of the Lake auditorium.

During the 1960's, with the new emergence of theatre organ interest, John Seng received permission to enlarge and rebuild the instrument. He retained six of the original ranks and added 16 new ranks, bringing the total to 22. All new stop tabs were installed along with a new AGO pedal board and a new combination action. The organ was used extensively for accompaniment of live theatre presentations, including musicals presented by the students. Many CATOE members received their first glimpse of theatre organ attending these open-to-the-public shows.

After John Seng left for California, John Peters and Fred Kruse took over the dual role of maintaining and improving the organ. In 1983, a new Trumpet was added, and in 1984 an English Post Horn, Orchestral Oboe, Krumet Horn and 16' Gamba were purchased to replace pipework that was on loan or provided for but never installed. A two-rank metal Flute Celeste has also been purchased and should be installed by Convention time. Just recently a gift from CATOE member Dennis Fugh has made possible the extension of the Diaphone to 16', adding much-needed weight to the pedal division.

The organ also has a full complement of traps and tuned percussions, includ-

-ing Vibraharp, Metal Harp, Wood Harp, Glockenspiel and Xylophone. The organ is installed in four shallow chambers on either side of the stage. The shallow angle and size of the chambers make the sound projection into this room striking.

Specifications of the organ are as follows:-

Solo Chamber (top right)

English Post Horn
Saxophone
Orchestral Oboe
Violin Diapason
Violin Celeste (II ranks)
Trumpet
Salicional
Tibia Major
Tibia Minor
Vox Humana
Oboe Horn

Foundation Chamber (lower right)

String Celeste
Tuba
Solo Gamba
Metal Flute Celeste (II ranks)
Vox Humana
Diapason

(Continued overleaf).

SEMINARY ORGAN ... cont.

Main Chamber (lower left)

Quintadena
String
Krumet Horn
Concert Flute
Clarinet

Percussions (top left)

Glockenspiel
Vibraharp
Metal Harp (Chrysoglott)
Wood Harp
Xylophone
Traps: Crash Cymbal, Crash Cymbal
Roll, Sizzle Cymbal, Tap Cymbal, Brush
Cymbal, two Snare Drums, Tambourine,
Castanets, Chinese Block and Triangle.

Article reprinted from "Theatre Organ"
Magazine, May/June 1985 issue.

FOR SALE

Schober electronic theatre organ with
horseshoe console in French polish mahog-
any finish. Two by sixty note manuals,
twenty five note radiating pedal board.

Organ specifications include forty three
speaking stops, four couplers, pneumatic
combination action, extra two and one
half octave key switches to solo manual,
pedals lower half of accompaniment
manual to suit external traps, chimes
etc.

Output split between seperate external
Leslie cabinet and main enclosure via
twin 50 WRMS s/state amps and Reverb-
atape unit.

Price \$3,950 ONO

Please ring 046 - 512359 after 7.30pm.



Warren Lubich seated at the console of the 2/11 Wurlitzer Theatre
Organ during his concert at Marrickville Town Hall on the 22nd
September. See review in this issue on page 17.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

No.19 of a Monthly Series by Frank Ellis.

In April 1940 Barrie Brettner was in the news. He had signed a contract with Western Suburbs Cinemas and had opened at the Savoy Theatre Enfield on March 16th.

Reg Maddams at the De Luxe Theatre Wellington N.Z. had been thinking about getting back into the scene in Australia, but had decided to go to Europe instead as a soldier in the N.Z. Army.

Paul Cullen at the Civic Theatre Auburn had featured a song written by two Auburn boys, Kenneth Links and Raymond Donnelly. Its title was, "When I Come Smiling Through" and it was well up to the standard of most of the overseas songs then doing the rounds.

In last months "Down Memory Lane" article, an error occurred accidentally which I would like to correct.

In the second paragraph mention was made about rumours of a new electric organ said to be the invention of a local boy.

The instrument was said to be called "the Australian organ". This should have read "Australlectic" organ and as I said last month nothing further was heard of the new organ and it was probably just a rumour after all.

The Duke Of York Theatre Eastwood had a new organist at that time too - he was Pierre de Closay. In 1985, this organ now fully restored and updated with electronics replacing the relays, is installed in the Epping Baptist Church. It was very recently visited by members of the Theatre Organ Society who heard it played by David Parsons, Neil Palmer, Bill Schumacher and Cliff Bingham.

Reubert Hayes was being featured on 4BH Brisbane every Tuesday morning - before the end of the war Reubert would become the most widely heard theatre organist in the country. His Sunday night live broadcast from the Brisbane Regent was a National program heard in all States and in many parts of the South Pacific war zone.

On March 15th that year, Jim Williams relieved Manny Aarons at the Sydney State Theatre for two weeks. Several records of the Victor Sylvester orchestra heard on the air waves around this time, featured a theatre organ sound although some of the un-informed said it was an electronic organ. They were wrong of course - it was a theatre pipe organ they heard on the records and Robinson Cleaver was the organist.

Barrie Brettner's opening presentation at the Savoy Enfield was a medley consisting of Rhapsody In Blue, Light Cavalry Overture plus a mix of Over The Rainbow and Roll Out The Barrel thrown in for good measure. It went down very well with a packed Saturday night audience.

Jim Williams was reported as having done an excellent job during his two weeks relieving Manny Aarons at the State. He featured A Tisket A Tasket which was one of Sydney Torch's popular records then on sale. Jim Williams and Des Tanner were very possibly the only two organists on the Sydney scene who really understood jazz and how to play it on a theatre organ - I guess I should also include Idwall Jenkins in that category. These three made an outstanding trio of organists really able to exploit the jazz idiom in a theatre organ situation. Well, that's it for this month - more bits and pieces for you in the next issue.

HOME ORGAN PARTY.

Commencing at 3.30pm

Our good friends Betty and Sam Brud-erlin have kindly offered their home for a TOSA get together afternoon and evening on SATURDAY 16th November. There will be a Bar'B'Cue dinner and guests are asked to please BRING THEIR OWN steaks or sausages etc plus drinks and a plate. Salads will be provided for us. You can also bring your swimmers if it is a nice day as Betty has suggested we could use their small pool if we wish.

Cost will be Gents: \$3 and Ladies \$2 plus a plate please. The address is 69 Isaac Street, PEAKHURST, and please book EARLY on 534 1753 if you are able to attend. It will be a good time for all, be assured!

THE CHICAGO STADIUM BARTON

BY DAN BARTON - ORGAN BUILDER

The Chicago Stadium was opened on March 30, 1929, billed as the "World's Greatest Indoor Arena," occupying an entire city block at 1800 West Madison Street. The seating capacity is 25,000 with 18,000 permanent seats in three balconies and 7,000 main floor seats which are removable when the entire floor is used for circuses, ice hockey, basketball or other attractions. This huge enterprise originated with Mr. Patrick T. Harmon, who became president and managing director of the Chicago Stadium Corporation.

One of the features was to be a giant pipe organ, to be spectacular in both console appearance and musical sounds, designed to fill this great auditorium when filled with 25,000 people and with instrumentation that could follow all the action of the sports events to be presented. An organ in size and sound the like of which had never before been built.

Many big organ companies were bidding for the installation, organ companies famous for great church and cathedral organs, others for concert organs and for organs in super deluxe motion picture theatres. The contract was awarded to the Barton Organ Company. Factors in this decision were the specially designed Barton organs in two of Mr. Harmon's Chicago Ballrooms, installations made six years before the stadium was built. Both solved music problems for Mr. Harmon.

At the Dreamland, on Chicago's west side, the elevated tracks ran right across the top of the building and every time a train went past the noise drowned out the orchestra. We installed a two-manual organ on 25-inch wind pressure, two sets of Diapasons, Tuba, Posthorn, a large scale Bourdon and Tibia, a big String and a big Flute. The organ was used with the orchestra only when the trains went over. At the high point the music was more organ than orchestra, but no one stopped dancing.

At the Arcadia, on the north side, the dance floor was so large and the acoustics so bad that when the crowd was large they crowded around the orchestra in the centre with no dancers at either end. Twin organs installed at each end of the building and played with the orchestra solved this problem. The Dreamland and Arcadia installations made money for Paddy Harmon, and the Barton Organ Company gained a good friend.

A few short years after the stadium opened Mr. Harmon died as a result of an automobile accident. The Chicago Stadium Corporation has since been operated by its two owners, James D. Norris, chairman, and Arthur Wirtz, president.

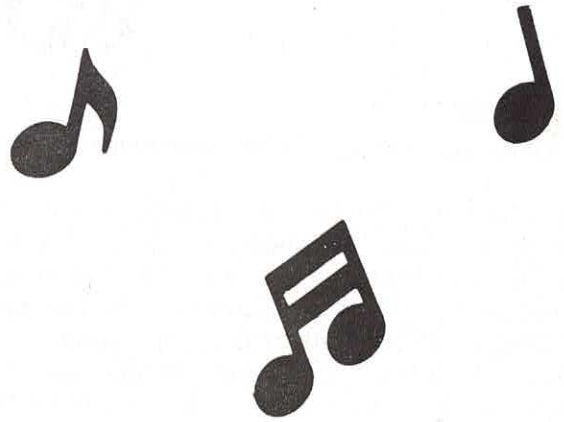
The Chicago Stadium organ is the largest unit organ in the United States, and, so far as I know, the largest in the World. The console has six manuals and 883 stop tablets and controls. The organ is installed in five organ lofts, which are hung from the ceiling in the centre of the arena. Four lofts contain the chests, pipes, regulators and tremulants. One side of each loft forms the sides of a mixing chamber which is the size of one of the organ lofts. It has a dome ceiling and is open at the bottom. The mixing chamber forces the sound downward into the big arena. Each loft has a set of swell shutters which can be operated from the console, one set at a time or in any combination. The fifth loft contains the relays and blower.

The Spencer Orgoblo Company of Hartford, Connecticut, who made the blower stated at the time of installation that it was the largest organ blower in the United States. The blower is 16 feet long and is operated by a 100-h.p. motor. The air leaves the blower at four stages, starting at 15" pressure, 22" pressure, 50" pressure and the last stage producing the very high pressure used on the large-scale stops. The console is located on a platform

THE CHICAGO STADIUM BARTON
... cont.

below the lower balcony at one end of the arena and is mounted on a lift with left or right turntable.

... Article reprinted from "Posthorn" magazine, October 1962, and "Theatre Organ Magazine" May/June 1985.



Al Melgard at the Chicago Stadium Barton console.

OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY ON FM RADIO

Members are reminded that on Monday 14th October at 9pm our 52nd radio programme goes to air on 2CBA FM Stereo 103.

To mark our first birthday, Frank Ellis has promised a couple of items which will re-create the golden days when orchestras and organs combined to entertain audiences in such theatres as the State, Capitol, Prince Edward, Regent and Plaza.

Let yourself wallow in a few moments of pure nostalgia as you hear a large theatre orchestra accompanied by a great Wurlitzer on our show at 9pm on Monday 14th October.



Home Set for S.F. Fox Wurlitzer.

A bright future is assured for the former San Francisco Fox Theatre 4/36 Wurlitzer organ in the Lanterman mansion at La Canada (pronounced "Canyarda"), California, a suburb of Los Angeles. The big residence will eventually become the combination city hall and community centre of the City of La Canada Flintridge under terms of a recent redistribution of the property by Lloyd Lanterman, last descendant of the community's founding family.

City officials, who now conduct their business in two rented suites at the Villa Real professional building on nearby Foothill Boulevard, envision the community centre and city hall with the Wurlitzer as the centrepiece for musical recitals and other social events to be held there. The large ballroom on the second floor will also be a perfect place for conducting City Council meetings that are now held in the La Canada High School library. They are also seeking to have the mansion entered on preservation books and declared an historical monument. It is expected some of the rooms of the big home will be turned into exhibit areas. In this regard, it is possible the American Theatre Organ Society may be represented.

Originally the largest share of the estate was to have been given to the University of Southern California, alma mater of Lloyd and his late brother Frank. The remainder of the property was willed to a local church. Frank had purchased the big Wurlitzer in 1963 and Lloyd engineered its installation in the residence.

Not long after Frank's death in 1981, Lloyd began to wonder what would happen to the home after his demise. It was built in 1914 and constructed of cement hand-mixed on the site, using gravel scooped from the surrounding hills. The university was not interested in the structure, and the local church officials declared they would be unable to afford to preserve the

property. This indicated to Lloyd the house would probably be destroyed. It was at this point Lloyd and his attorney, Harcourt Harvey, restructured distribution of the estate. Lloyd transferred his interest in the residence to the city, with the stipulation that he be allowed to live out the rest of his days there.

Lloyd, who is a spry and wiry 88, enjoys hearing the Wurlitzer whenever anyone stops by and asks to play it. Although it isn't heard too frequently these days, it is well cared for and will be a great asset to the city.

Communications between ATOS and La Canada Flintridge city officials is currently maintained by Stephen Ross of Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society. Just what part the organ society will play in the community centre, once it becomes developed, is not clearly outlined. Talks cannot take place until the city takes possession.

Frank Lanterman, who was responsible for purchasing the Wurlitzer from Fox West Coast Theatres in 1963, was a retired California State legislator at the time of his death, and had been a professional theatre organist for the West Coast Theatre chain during the silent film era. He was chief organist for the circuit and resident artist at their Alex Theatre in Glendale. He was also engaged by one of the large Australian Theatre Circuits (Union Theatres - Ed.) to open a large four-manual Wurlitzer in one of their new deluxe movie palaces. (State Theatre, Melbourne, 21-ranks, opened in 1929, the instrument is now installed in the Moorabbin Town Hall - Ed.) He subsequently returned to his West Coast Theatres position.

While head of the chain's organ department, Lanterman was responsible for getting Wurlitzer to build their 2/10 Style 216 organ, many of which were installed in the West Coast houses. (Including the instrument once in the Rialto Theatre, Pasadena, recorded and made famous in later years by

OVERSEAS NEWS ... cont.

George Wright in his record album "Live in Concert".) Frank once recalled that he drafted specification that ultimately became the Style 216 to provide organists greater flexibility over the 2/9 Style 215 instruments which West Coast Theatres had been ordering for their houses. "Farney (Wurlitzer) wasn't at all enthused about building this model until I casually mentioned that Van Nuys, California, was just half an hour drive from my office. He knew I would get the Robert-Morton Organ Company (in Van Nuys) to build such an organ and they would receive contracts to install them for us!"

During his tenure at the Alex Theatre, Lanterman was also designated by Jack Warner to accompany all previous showings of Warner Brothers new releases. Warner would bring the films to the Alex from the Hollywood Boulevard studio after matinee performances and Frank would run them through a single time, then play them at the special evening showing. On several occasions Warner would arrive too late for Frank to run through a feature and he had to play them "cold" for the special showing.

(The TOSATOUR group who toured the West Coast just two years ago were privileged to be the guests of Mr. Lloyd Lanterman and to hear this famous Wurlitzer played by none other than our recent Convention artist Candi Carley) ... Ed.

... News source
Theatre Organ Magazine, May/June
1985.

HAVE YOU BOOKED FOR THE
TOSA CHRISTMAS PARTY ?
JOIN IN THE FUN AND
ORGANISE YOUR TABLE NOW.

DAVID PARSONS O.A.M.

"In the Hills District of Beecroft, some 25 kms north west of Sydney, the beautiful tree-lined Hannah Street comes alive each week-end with the sound of music."

David Parsons is well known to TOSA members for his numerous concerts on our Marrickville Wurlitzer and as Patron and friend of the Selwyn Theatre Club. In addition to his theatre organ activities he has for many years been a church organist and choirmaster, but very few people outside his immediate family have any idea of the extent of his involvement with his music, or of his generosity in sharing his time and his God-given gifts.

Fifteen years ago, with four young children and a full time job, plus all the above responsibilities, Beverly and David Parsons began a project which has brought joy to many thousands of people.

Each week their home is opened to about seventy people from community fund raising groups ranging in age from Cub Scouts to Bowling Clubs. Many come with scepticism, even apprehension, at the prospect of sitting through a concert of Organ music. Later, these same people, now converted, can be seen with smiling faces, tapping feet and a look of sheer relief that the trial by ordeal turned out to be a "good night out."

While David entertains their guests on his beautiful Conn 651 Theatre Organ, Beverly (his other love) wields kettles in the kitchen, organises the supper and doubtless, cleans up the crumbs after the guests depart.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours List, it was announced that David was to be awarded the Order Of Australia Medal for services to charitable organisations. The investiture was at Government House on Friday 6th September.

A friend summed up David's reaction when he commented, "He's not a bit big-headed about it, he's just tickled pink." Presumably Beverly is tickled pink too!

Well done, Mr. and Mrs. Parsons!

FOR SALE: Church Pipe Organ - tubular pneumatic built by Roberts Ltd., Sydney, probably during the early 1920's. The instrument is in **very poor** mechanical condition and would require **much** rebuilding and modification before being playable again, some of the ranks, however, would make an excellent basis on which to start another instrument.

Pedal:

Sub Bass 16'
 Bass Flute 8'
 (Unit of 42 pipes)

Great:

Open Diapason 8'
 Stopped Diapason 8'
 Dulciana 8' (9 top pipes missing)
 Octave 4' (12 top pipes missing)
 Harmonic Flute 4'

Swell:

Hohl Flute 8'
 Gamba 8'
 Voix Celeste 8' (top note missing)
 Lieblich Flute 4'
 Cornopean 8' (whole rank missing)
 Tremulant

Couplers:

Swell to Great
 Swell Sub Octave
 Swell Octave

The entire instrument is for sale as one unit for Best Offer. Please contact Eric Knight on 810.7244 during business hours.

FOR SALE.

Theatre organ records - 12" L.P's
 George Wright, Tony Fenelon, Reginald Dixon, Reginald Foort, Ernest Broadbent, Don Baker, Jon Ledwon, Dick Leibert, Jesse Crawford, Eddie Layton and many more.

ALL \$5.00 EACH.

Cliff Bingham says he has run out of storage space, so why not give Cliff a ring now on 476 2363 (after hours).

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Member Cec Paddy requires wire coat hangers and plastic bags for the TOSA SPRING FETE to be held at Marrickville Town Hall on Saturday 26th October. If you can help Cec, please give her a ring on 570 7525.

HELP!! HELP!!

Our Spring Fete now is just around the corner and we definitely need **YOUR** help. How can you help you ask? First and foremost, we would really like to see your attendance at least for some time during the day (10am - 4pm) on 26th October.

We still need more saleable 'bits and pieces' and in particular any unwanted sheet music, records or cassettes, wire coat-hangers, plastic bags, electric odds and ends, hand tools, In fact just about anything you can think of.

If you have something you wish to contribute, please contact any of the following people:-

White Elephant Stall, Colletta Misdale, 525 5554: Dolls & Fancy Goods, Jean Tomlin, 74 9403: Gardening Stall, Pat & Mal Mackay, 57 1303: Cakes & Biscuits, Betty Bruderlin, 534 1753: Music, Records & Cassettes, Merv Palmer, 798 6742: Food & Beverage Counter, Phyl Wilson, 759 6050: Electronic Components and Hand Tools, Tom Halloran: 523 5077: Dried Floral Arrangements, Norma Smith, 750 0917: 2nd Hand Clothing Stall, John Clark, 649 7497.

If you cant classify into any of the above, then call Ron Smith on 529 7379 and advise him of what you can assist with. We will also need some more help in setting up stalls and that would mean being available at Marrickville Town Hall by 8.15am on the morning of the Fete. Maybe you could be available in that capacity?

For those kind folk who have already offered merchandise we would ask that you place a "recommended price" on each item donated, and this can be done on self adhesive labels readily available from newsagents etc. All items will need to be delivered to MTH on early morning of the Fete day. Should you need assistance with delivery please ring Ron Smith.

This will be a FUN day and certainly a Fete with a difference, so help us by entering into the "spirit of the day".

Thank you and see you there!!

WARREN LUBICH CONCERT

Sunday 22nd September, by John Giacchi.

Just over 300 people attended this concert which was the second appearance at Marrickville for San Francisco Guest Artist, Warren Lubich.

Following the opening number Keep Your Sunny Side Up, we heard a superb arrangement of Here's That Rainy Day then a novelty piece, Sam's Song. I Just Called To Say I Love You by blind composer Stevie Wonder was a perfect choice for Warren to show off the WurliTzer's capabilities for ballads and his registration was ideal for this popular number.

Among many favourites we heard Duke Ellington's Dont Get Around Much Anymore, then a very different operetta by Emerich Kalman, The Countess Of Maritza which was I think a first for Marrickville. The first half ended with a combination of middle of the road favourites, When Golden Daffodils Grow, Basin Street Blues, the famous Jolson number Sunny Boy, then Repaz Band, which served to bring us all back to life for a cuppa at interval.

Warren's music is pleasant to hear and very easy to listen to and he seems to come up with some surprising 'oldies' and the second half included the excellent Laura, I've Got A Feeling I'm Falling, and would you believe it? Just A Bird's Eye View (of my Old Kentucky Home). A Jerry Hermin selection including Fernando, My Beautiful Lady and the number dedicated to the fire-fighters during the disastrous San Francisco earthquake in 1906, The Fireman's March.

When You Wish Upon A Star was very well received then The Burning Of Rome was his final piece. The audience was so pleased Warren was called back for two encores On The Road To Mandalay and that evergreen I Left My Heart In San Francisco. Warren was given a perfect 'score' and we hope it wont be too long before we hear him again at Marrickville.



Warren Lubich has reason to smile after his successful concert at Marrickville Town Hall.



Warren Lubich autographing his latest record.



HOME PARTY at the Maennls, Oyster Bay. **SATURDAY 21st September.**

I can never even start to describe just how enjoyable and rewarding it is when we have yet another Home Party at the Maennl's residence. The talent seems to be never ending with a definite lean towards the younger generation who always seem to be relaxed when playing the Hammond Elegante.

We had a good line up of parents having a go as well and this was good to see, and many of them are coming along 'quite well', to quote one young girl I spoke to! We had twelve organists, two pianists including a 'boogie' expert, plus a good quartette with 1 sax, 2 guitars and our Host Joseph Maennl playing his set of vibes, altogether a great combination.

The tidy sum of \$108:10 was raised towards TOSA funds and during the usual excellent supper break President Alan Misdale thanked our Hosts for their generosity in opening their lovely music room once again to TOSA members and a sincere thanks to all those brave people who played.

NORFOLK ISLAND A HUGE SUCCESS.

by Doug Smith.

Tuesday 17th September at about 5.30pm saw a group of nine TOSA members arriving home from a very pleasant stay of 14 days on Norfolk Island. Being one of them, I will say that the trip would have to be one of the most relaxing and enjoyable holidays I've ever had.

The sight-seeing trips were never ending and we travelled in small, hired, 2 cyl. cars, exploring the ruins of Historic buildings connected with the rather turbulent past of Norfolk Island which was used as a convict settlement in earlier years. We explored many grand sights from various lookouts and cliff tops and of course the never ending trips through the duty free shops, all helped to make each day go without any time for resting.

Apart from all this activity, we all virtually "ATE!" our way through the two weeks, being provided with huge three or four course dinners each night and large breakfasts each morning. We had barbecues held in glorious cliff-top settings plus one outside breakfast, and these were just some of the pleasant surprises created by our wonderful Hosts at Highlands.

We went on a 'mystery' dinner outing, with each course being served at a different venue, giving us a chance to see some of the restaurants, and some went on a spooky 'light and sound' night-time re-enactment of Historic events including the 'flogging' of the convicts etc.

We all attended a barbecue dinner at the home of the Norfolk Island Organ Society's President, Peter Irwin. This was another glorious cliff-top setting with spectacular views and was most enjoyable. Organ clubs represented at this event were: NSW (9), QLD (1), AUCKLAND (1), HOWICK NZ (5), TAURANGA NZ (2), and NORFOLK ISLAND (7).

We attended the St.Barnabas' Chapel and heard the famous 103 year old Willis Organ (recently restored) during the service.

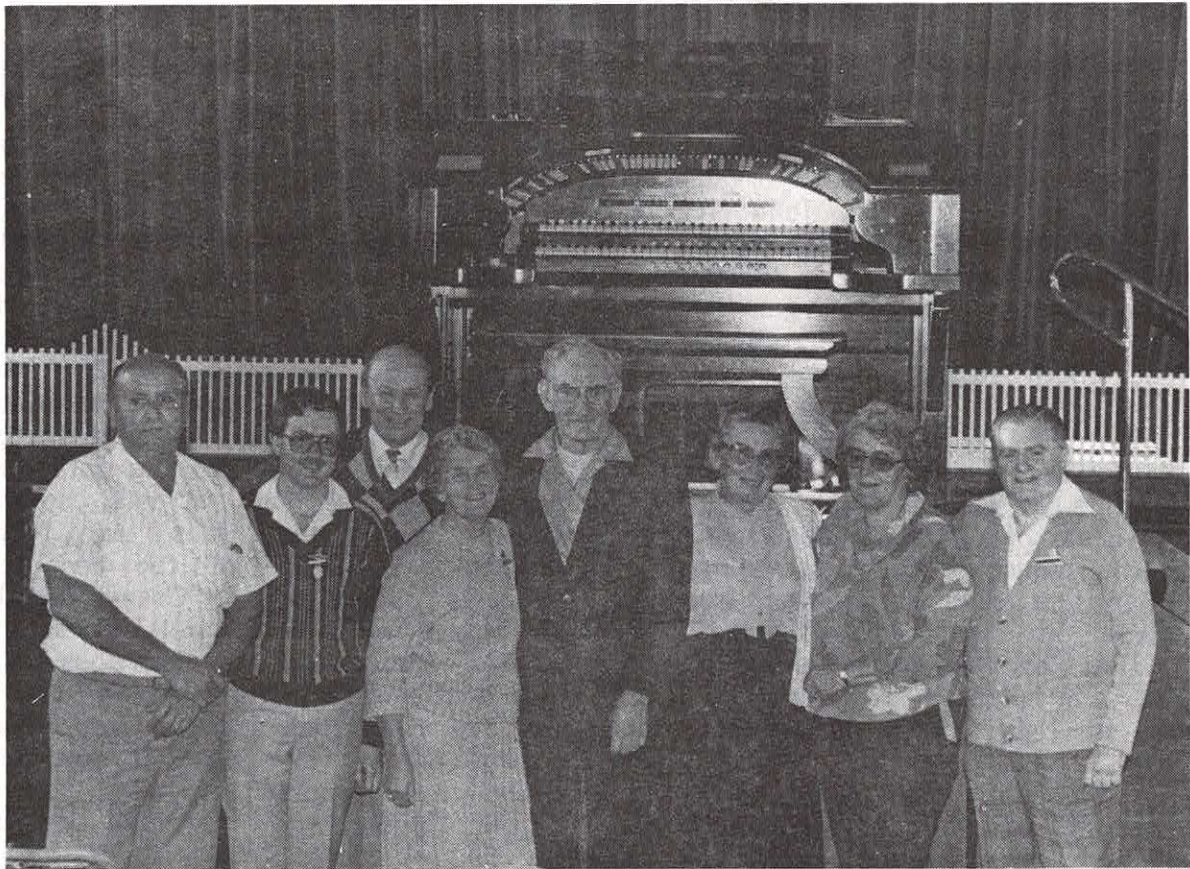
The weather held good for nearly all the 2 weeks except for the last Sunday night when we experienced a rather frightening night when a huge rain depression with gale force winds dumped 6" of rain on the Island in about 7 hours.

The storm created minor floodings and washaways and was reputed as being the worst in 12 years! We all came through it OK with only a slight loss of sleep by most of us.

The following day everyone was back to normal and the time flew past till it was time to pack and sadly prepare for departure. Our Host and Hostess at Highlands, Hamish and Mera, gave us a wonderful send-off dinner on the Monday night and our thanks is extended to these two gracious people who went out of their way to make our stay a happy (and well fed!) one. I feel sure that we'll return again sometime in the not too far distant future.

FOR SALE

One only CONN Martinique 644 Theatre Style Organ.
Full Keyboards and Pedals. Presets, Couplers, and Rhythm section.
Tuned percussion section..
As new condition.
Price: \$6.500
ALL enquiries please ring:
524 5917.



Members of New South Wales division of TOSA who visited Norfolk Island during the month of September finally meet up with Norfolk Organ Society Vice President Jim Anderson. Photo was taken after Warren Lubich concert at Marrickville Town Hall on Sunday 22nd September.

From left to right: Ron Wilson, Neil Palmer, Doug Smith, Eunice Palmer, Jim Anderson, Norma Smith, Phyllis Wilson and Merv Palmer.

HOME ORGAN PARTY

Barry and Roslyn Porter's Home:
No.6 Waterside Parade, Peakhurst.

This will be a further summer Home Organ and Pool Party which includes a B'B'Cue Dinner and commences at 1pm.

Members are asked to bring their own steak etc and BYO. Ladies are asked to bring a plate towards sweets please. **Salads will be supplied.**

Admission is Gents:\$5 and Ladies \$4.
Please book early on 533 1198.

NOTE: Parking is readily available in Waterside Parade but NOT in Bayview Street.

FOR SALE: Pipe Organ Parts..

Christie Theatre Organ Relay/Switch Stack for 2 manuals and seven ranks with 44 Stop Switches.

Christie horseshoe Stop Rail to accommodate 55 Stops plus full electro-pneumatic combination action to suit above.

One Five Rank pneumatic slider chest ex Church Organ.

Best offer:

Please phone 84 6416 after hours.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Brenda and Robert Weismantel on the birth of their first child, Kara Jayde, and like all babies, she is strong, healthy and beautiful.



"FIVE ALIVE" - featuring five of Australia's best known popular organists:- Tony Fenelon, Neil Jensen, John Atwell, David Johnston and Ray Thornley, at the 4-manual, now 15-rank Wurlitzer-Christie-Conacher Theatre Organ installed at the Capri Theatre, Goodwood, Adelaide, South Australia.

This recording is a real landmark in the history of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia. It is now some years since any Division of T.O.S.A. has sponsored a record release - the last being the somewhat less than satisfactory recording made on the organ of Moorabbin Town Hall by Melbourne organist Ian Thomas. I'm pleased to say that this release is light years ahead of that one.

The history of this instrument would require a series of articles to give its full background so we'll just briefly discuss it here. The organ was assembled by the late Penn Hughes of pipework gathered from Sydney, Dunedin, N.Z. and Southampton, England, plus the slave console from the 4/21 Wurlitzer originally installed in the State Theatre, Melbourne. This compilation of parts of various instruments was installed in the Hughes residence in Forest Road, Bexley for many years. Around 1968-1969 the organ was sold to Darwin music store owner Mike Pfitzner. Mike transported the dissembled instrument to Darwin in a second-hand former Sydney double decker bus. The organ was never fully assembled whilst in Darwin and was removed only several weeks before the notorious Cyclone Tracey ravaged not only Darwin but the Pfitzner home.

Since its move to Adelaide remarkable things have happened not only to the organ but to the Society as well. The purchase of a theatre in which to house the instrument has been a remarkable achievement by the South Australian Division.

And so back to the record:-
SIDE ONE opens with an up-tempo arrangement of "Anything Goes" played

by Tony Fenelon. The record jacket states that it's "Based on Temple of Doom arr." which gives Tony a chance to use some way out sound effects but I personally would have preferred a straight rendition of this old favourite. Neil Jensen's first contribution to this recording is "Georgia On My Mind"- sensitively played and controlled - would be the best description, every type of sound from the big full theatre organ sound through strings, solo and chorus reeds and flues are featured in their turn. One of the best tracks on this recording is "Crazy Rhythm" as played by John Atwell which makes a nice contrast to the previous number but better is to come from John later on. The first time I heard Ray Thornley play "Taming The Tenor" I thought the piece was original material, and the British Novelty style in which this number is performed still makes it good listening. This track, though, exposes one flaw in the organ, that of the unenclosed xylophone and glockenspiel. Another unit of each is desperately needed inside the chambers especially for recording sessions - unenclosed percussions seldom record well!

"Wind Beneath My Wings" - John Atwell here demonstrates the big lush sounds of the Capri organ just as Neil did a few tracks back. The sounds are most reminiscent of the Organ Grinder, Portland Oregon U.S.A. Full combinations seem to suit this instrument and John's interpretation of this super piece is just right.

David Johnston's "Syncopated Clock" displays some of the novelty sounds available including the glockenspiel, xylophone, sleigh bells, chimes, klaxon horn and woodblock - this rendition is clever but sometimes wanders too far away from the melody. "When Love Is Gone" a beautiful ballad with Tony playing at his sensitive best - a great track. "Fame" may not be everyone's idea of a good track for a theatre organ recording. It is, however, most important as it is the type of music which should feature prominently during intermissions at the Capri. It is after all what young listeners are demanding.

"FIVE ALIVE"cnt'd.

SIDE TWO opens with "Mack & Mabel Overture" - the stuff which silent movie accompaniments are made. David Johnston again doing what he does best. From the film "Victor Victoria" comes "Le Jazz Hot", in Neil's hands the title describes it well.

A nice "Buddy Cole" style introduction to "Here, There and Everywhere" from Ray. The glock tends to marr the quiet mood of this ballad. "The Match Parade" just has to be my favourite on this record. Pure Sidney Torch - that great English novelty sound but with some passages of the American big theatre sound thrown in for good measure, Top work from John Atwell!

Neil's version of "Nobody Does It Better" solos the beautiful WurliTzer Tuba to good effect together also with some interesting string, tibia and vox combinations. Good sounds here.

In the last track on this recording "On a Clear Day" - Tony's intro features massed Tibias then swings into an upbeat version of this very familiar piece - also liked the jazz improvisation in the middle. To sum up, this first commercial recording of the Capri Theatre Organ reveals the fine sound this instrument already possesses. As explained on the cover notes the organ has been professionally regulated but some tonal balancing has yet to be done. To my ears the Conacher English Horn is still a little too prominent and requires softening to fit with the full organ ensemble. Several other minor tonal problems reveal themselves to the critical listener but most will not even detect them unless they are pointed out. Alone for its Historic significance any member who owns a record player should buy this record, however more importantly I'm pleased to say that you should buy this record for the music, the artistry and great sound of this instrument.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALIA NSW DIVISION.

for the year 1985-86.

Unopposed nominations have been received for the following positions for which a Ballot is NOT required:-

President: Alan Misdale

Vice-Presidents: Frank Ellis
Ernest Vale

Treasurer: Edna Smith

Assistant Treasurer: Ron Smith

Minute Secretary: R.Robertson

There have been no nominations received for the following positions:

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

It is proposed to call for nominations for the vacant positions from the floor of the Annual General Meeting.

Should there be more than the required number of nominations a Ballot will be conducted at the meeting.

There have been seven nominations for the positions of Committee; which requires a Ballot to be conducted in accordance with paragraphs 12(b) (3) and (4) of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.

A **Ballot Paper** has been forwarded to you for this purpose.

Your completed Ballot Paper may be handed to the Returning Officer (Mr. R.D.Blackmore) at the Orion Centre on Thursday 7th November 1985, before 7:30pm.

If you are unable to attend the meeting your Ballot Paper may be posted to the Returning Officer, Mr.R.D.Blackmore, P.O.Box 124 Pennant Hills 2120. It must reach him in time to be placed in the Ballot by 7:30pm on 7th November 1985.

POSTAL VOTING

Place your completed Ballot Paper inside a **plain** envelope and seal it. **Then** place that envelope inside another envelope addressed to the Returning Officer making sure that you **print** your name and address on the back of this envelope to enable your name to be checked off the membership list.

Theatre Organ Society

of australia

LOOK!



WILL HOLD A MAMMOTH

Spring
FETE



SATURDAY 26th. OCTOBER
IN MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL
MARRICKVILLE

From 10.00am. to 4.00pm.

PLANTS, SECOND HAND TOYS
DRIED FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS
ELECTRONIC PARTS
FANCY GOODS
SECOND HAND CLOTHES

CAKES, HAND TOOLS
CHINA PAINTING
RECORDS AND TAPES
DOLLS AND SOFT TOYS
WHITE ELEPHANT

MORNING TEAS AND LIGHT LUNCHEONS AVAILABLE

THERE WILL BE INTERLUDES OF MUSIC PLAYED
ON THE WURLITZER THEATRE ORGAN THROUGHOUT
THE DAY.

COME AND HEAR THE 90 YEAR OLD "AMSTERDAM"
STREET ORGAN PLAYING OUTSIDE THE HALL UP
TILL 1.00PM.



PROCEEDS IN AID OF CAPITOL ORGAN RESTORATION FUND

COME ALONG AND HAVE A FUN DAY