

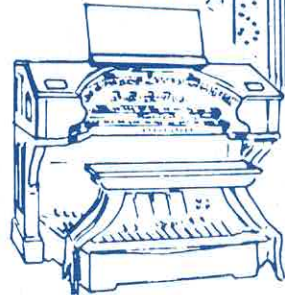
TOSA NEWS

QUEENSLAND'S
THEATRE ORGAN CONVENTION
APRIL 17TH--20TH
HAVE YOU BOOKED YET?

SEE PROGRAMME DETAILS, PAGE 2

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

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TOSA RECORDS currently available FOR SALE
at all Concerts.

Inside this issue is a full list of our specially imported Pipe Organ Records which includes many famous artists from England and the U.S.

These records are a special feature of the N.S.W. Division and are imported for your better appreciation of the Theatre Pipe Organ.

PLEASE NOTE:

Our next Club Night will be held on Wednesday 6th MAY commencing at 7.30 pm.

Dont forget, Do your practise and bring your music!

"THE TREMENDOUS TENTH"

THEATRE ORGAN CONVENTION to be held in Brisbane over the Easter week-end..17th to 20th April, 1981.

Detailed list of events, venues and times etc. (at last!)

- FRIDAY 17th April
6.30 p.m. REGISTRATION AT KELVIN GROVE HIGH SCHOOL
Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove.
- 8.00 p.m. VARIETY REVUE (same venue)
- SATURDAY 18th April
8.45 a.m. GRAND ORGAN RECITAL (Henry Willis Pipe Organ)
Brisbane City Hall, King George Square, City.
Organists: Ashley Miller, Barry Bailey.
- 10.30 a.m. SCENIC COACH TOUR to Sunshine Coast and
Glasshouse Mountains, including tropical
luncheon at "The Big Pineapple" Restaurant,
at Nambour.
- 7.00 p.m. CONVENTION DINNER DANCE at the Greek Club
Restaurant, Edmondstone Street, Sth. Brisbane.
(Organ music from the Baldwin Cinema 3, cameo
spots from Interstate Artists and dancing to
a top-class jazz band led by Maurie Brown)
- SUNDAY 19th April
9.00 a.m. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING at the Conn Organ
Centre, 61 Musgrave Road, Red Hill.
- 10.00 a.m. INSPECTION OF HOME INSTALLATION OF COMPTON
THEATRE PIPE ORGAN. Coaches leave from Ann St.
City, outside City Hall. Boxed lunch
provided at NEW BOTANIC GARDENS, Mnt. Coot-tha.
- 2.30 p.m. ORGAN RECITAL BY JOHN STEHBENS at organ of
UNITING CHURCH of AUSTRALIA, Albert St. City.
- 7.45 p.m. MAIN FEATURE CONCERT Kelvin Grove Auditorium
Christie Theatre Pipe Organ-featuring
ASHLEY MILLER direct from New York, USA.
- MONDAY 20th April
9.00 a.m. ASHLEY MILLER'S EXCLUSIVE WORKSHOP conducted
at Kelvin Grove Auditorium, Victoria Park Rd.,
Kelvin Grove.

NOTE NOTE....ADMISSION TO ASHLEY MILLER WORKSHOP AND TRANSPORTATION
TO AND FROM THE SUNSHINE COAST AND OTHER VENUES IS
ONLY AVAILABLE TO ALL-INCLUSIVE TICKET HOLDERS.

This organisation acknowledges financial assistance from
the N.S.W. Government through the Premier's Department, Division
of Cultural Activities.

DIRECTORY:

PATRON: Ian Davies

President: Alan Misdale (525 5554)

Vice-Presidents: Frank Ellis (649 7011) Doug Smith (7500917)

Secretary: Ernie Vale (798 6816) Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Edna Smith (529 7379) Practise Convenor: Chris Palmer (92 6534)

Research & Archives: Ian Cameron, Recording Engineer: Ray Garret
(869 7247)Address ALL correspondence to: The Secretary, TOSA, NSW Division
P.O. Box A584 Sydney South 2000

C O M I N G E V E N T S*****

SATURDAY 4th April at 2pm. HOME PARTY.

Dont miss out on the Home Party at Mrs. Myers residence,
82 Rothschild Avenue, Rosebery, where the Special Guest Organist
for the afternoon will be our Patron, Ian Davies.Ring 662 1647 for bookings, the cost is \$2 for gents &
\$1.50 for ladies who are asked to bring a plate. A lucky door
prize and a raffle will be conducted and dont forget to bring
your music and have a play during the afternoon.

Monthly meeting at St. Annes-Strathfield at 7.30 pm Monday 6th April.

WEDNESDAY 6th May at 7.30 pm CLUB NIGHT, MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

NOTICE****NOTICE***NOTICEWould you like to have a Home Party in
your home for the members of the Society?The Committee are anxious to hear from any member who
is willing to have a Home Party towards the latter half of this
year. Please contact the Secretary on 798 6816 and details etc
can be arranged.

GET WELL SOON,

Just to let you know that our Secretary Ernie Vale,
has been off colour for a few weeks and is now recovering. We
wish him the very best and hope to see him back in circulation soon.

I'll SEE YOU AGAIN...

Our talented (and much loved) member, Miss
Margaret Hall left for N.Z. on Friday night 6th March and has
arrived safely. Margaret's happy smile and ready talent will be
sorely missed at our gatherings, and N.Z. is in luck in gaining a
star of the future. We wish Margaret every success during her stay
in N.Z. and look forward to her speedy and safe return.

IAN DAVIES in concertBondi-Waverly R.S.L. Tuesday 3rd March

Some 80 people attended the concert given by IAN DAVIES at the Bondi-Waverly R.S.L., and were well satisfied by what they heard and saw.

Ian Davies is an organist with many years training, starting out when he was six to learn the piano and twelve to learn the classical organ. At a young age he took lessons from Horace Weber at the Capitol Theatre Melbourne, and Arnold Coleman at the State Theatre Melbourne, and he then commenced playing at the Capitol and Plaza and also the Regent Theatre in Melbourne.

After quite a number of years Ian was touring around Australia with Franquin the Great and playing on a Bourne Electronic organ and later Ian was demonstrating the organ at a number of Sydney stores. Such is the wealth of experience and showmanship that Ian has to draw on readily.

The instrument at Bondi-Waverly is a Rogers Trio, a 3 manual electronic theatre organ which speaks through two cabinets mounted at ceiling height on the stage and speak towards the rear of the stage which gives added presence. The Tibia and Flutes speak through the left cabinet and the Reeds, Strings, Toy-Counter and Pedals speak through the right, and the sound of the organ is quite pleasant indeed.

The concert began with the Washington Post March, featured a bracket of Waltzes, an excellent rendition of March of the Toys, The Happy Whistler and a stirring version of Soldiers Chorus from Faust.

After interval came an Improvisation on a Theme, and a bit of the old showman came out with Ian Davies coming out with a T shirt on, showing the words, 'Ian, We love Your Organ', and a wig, and Bill Schumacher was also donning a wig, and an organ & piano duet followed with the J.O'K number, Sing-followed by a disco version of Have you ever been Lonely.

The evening seemed to come to an end too quickly with a beautiful rendition of the Peter Allen number "I Still Call Australia Home".

The accompanying photographs show Ian at the Console of the Rogers, and Bill Schumacher hamming it up and about to don his wig. Mrs. Davies is in the background in the photo.

Chris Palmer

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Laura Hazel (5½) North Ryde, Jean Hutchings, Willoughby
Thomas Lee, Arncliffe Bob & Maria Robinson, Monterey.

PRACTISE AT MARRICKVILLE.

Practise on our Wurlitzer organ will resume as from the first week in April 1981. Please contact the Practise Convenor, Mr. Chris Palmer for any enquiries.



HOME ORGAN PARTY...7th March 1981

by John Clark

SUCH A NIGHT! OH WHAT A NIGHT IT WAS! IT REALLY WAS SUCH A NIGHT!

(to paraphrase Johnny Ray's hit song of the 50's) at Pat & Mal Mackay's home, come theatre, musical museum come place of one thousand interests.

Many folk walked about for the first half hour with mouths agape at the collection of Toby Jugs, shaving mugs, theatrical advertising posters, hats, railway signs, books, cameras, projectors, juke boxes, radios, record players, player pianos, squeeze box accordians and an Aeolian Orchestrelle player Reed Organ which operates from pianola type rolls and was played for us by Mal Mackay during the evening.

To do justice to what there is to see and marvel at would take this entire magazine and the entertainment proceeded with the Thomas Celebrity being played by many people including Mal Mackay, "Cecilia" Paddy, Frank Hickson, Dorothy Crombie, Doug Smith and John Clark, plus some piano & organ duets and a piano duet! A special mention must be given for Olive Wing's debut (according to Ritchie Willis) who played a few numbers with much clapping, cheering and stamping of feet! The young and the young at heart had a good laugh at some musical cartoons which Mal screened for us featuring Ethel Smith and Donald Duckin a Disney Samba number plus a Tom & Jerry cartoon in Cinemascope which brought the house down.

Pat & Mal were very generous in their sharing of the many aquisitions they own, not only letting us see them, but they went to endless trouble to explain their history and many functions etc of the various facets of their collections.

A beautiful opal pendant personally handcrafted and donated by Mrs. Billy Hickson was raffled and would you believe, was won by 11 year old, Miss Leanne Hyatt who had sold all the tickets!

The night was a great success in every way and netted approx. \$112 towards TOSA funds. Our President, Alan Misdale moved a vote of thanks to our Hosts, Pat & Mal Mackay and the last of the die-hards didn't leave until well after 1.00 am.

To Pat & Mal Mackay, many thanks for a great night.

THEATRE ORGAN FILMS REQUIRED

Mr. David Chandler of 23 Belhaven Avenue, Taroona TAS 7006, is anxious to get hold of any films on the Theatre Organ.

David is from the Tasmanian Division of TOSA and would appreciate any films which will be shown at a film night during October, this year. If you can help David in any way please write immediately and advise him how you can help.

DEAR MEMBERS,

I would like to draw your attention to the amount of work done by your Committee, in their efforts to provide you with the best entertainment available during the coming year.

Some of you may not be aware that all members of the Committee are full-time workers, who give much of their free time at night and during the week-ends to meeting - or 'phoning - to arrange the programmes presented to you throughout the year, monthly Committee meetings, Quarterly meetings, and because of the amount of work involved in arranging for artists, dates available and/or substitute names and dates when others are not available, a series of programme planning meetings to allow for booking ahead which is necessary for Marrickville Town Hall, and with your favourite artists.

The outcome of this work is presented to the full Committee each month, along with the normal business of correspondence, bills, payments and monies received, new members to be welcomed, coming functions, general business such as maintenance, information to be passed on through TOSA News. This is what your Committee is elected for - to organise the best they can for your enjoyment and interest.

Attendance at Club Nights and functions, and the amount of work done in maintenance of the instrument, is also done in the hours outside normal working hours of each member of your Committee, and it is heartening to have members express their thanks and appreciation, and offer their services in various capacities to help with a number of the jobs involved.

Behind the scenes are a number of dedicated members who show their appreciation in many ways of helping. Many thanks to all of these people. This is the way to "make friends and influence people", and get to know your Committee members, who want to know if what they have spent so much time in arranging is what you want in the way of entertainment. The outcome of your casual conversations is a guide for them.

"Communication is a two-way channel"

Signed

Betty Weismantel
Betty Weismantel

MARRICKVILLE CONSOLE APPEARS IN AMERICAN "THEATRE ORGAN" MAGAZINE.

Following Jonas Nordwall's tour of Australia, an article entitled "News From Down Under" was forwarded to the American Theatre Organ Society with comments on the tour and Jonas Nordwall's concert at the Grand Organ in the Sydney Town Hall.

We are delighted to report that this article including photograph has been re-printed in this famous magazine which has world-wide distribution.



THE WILBUR KENTWELL STORY.

By Frank Ellis.

On Tuesday 10th February, whilst listening to an ABC news broadcast, I was shocked and saddened to learn of the death in Brisbane, of my good friend Wilbur Kentwell. We were close friends for over forty years, and I dare say that few people knew him better than I, both in regard to his musical career as well as his family and personal life.

Wilbur was born in the Sydney suburb of Castle Hill, and was educated at the Parramatta High School. He studied organ and in his early teens played the organ at his local church. His introduction to the theatre organ took place at the Roxy Theatre Parramatta, and he fell in love with the magnificent 3 manual Christie organ which was such a feature of the theatre in those golden days.

Although he never became a resident organist at the Roxy, he made many appearances there, usually as a featured guest artist in conjunction with the resident organist, Des Tanner. The appearances, usually for a one or two week season, found Wilbur at the console of the Christie, whilst Des Tanner was on stage playing either piano, violin or piano-acçordion, for he was equally expert on all of them. Around 1939 Wilbur became resident at the Hammond organ installation of the Savoy Theatre, New Lambton, Newcastle where his six months contract was renewed several times, culminating in a five year contract.

Called up for wartime service, he was stationed in the Newcastle area, and when the newly built Century Theatre Broadmeadow was opened Wilbur was the organist playing there each weekend plus every night during the week when he could obtain a leave pass. The Hammond organ in this theatre was mounted on a very "art decor" dais which was on rather obvious wheels - it was wheeled onto centre stage whilst the front curtain was closed, a stage manoeuvre carried out by a stage hand in seconds. It was therefore inevitable that Wilbur was affectionately referred to as "Ben Hur and his chariot." During his days at the Savoy Theatre New Lambton, he made no less than eight "live" broadcasts each week - four in the 8.15am time slot and four around 6.30pm before the National news broadcasts, which, during the war years, emanated from the ABC and were relayed to all commercial radio stations who were compelled to accept the relay.

After the war, Wilbur came back to Sydney and became staff organist at Radio 2CH for several years. One of the big shows he did on that station was the high-rating "Stars Of The Services" which was compared by Joan Read. Whilst still with 2CH he became resident organist of the Vogue Theatre Double Bay, on a Hammond organ set half way up the proscenium arch in an elaborately conceived niche, and simultaneously held the position of organist at the huge Trocadero Ballroom. Many times have I been with him at the Vogue Theatre, and as soon as he had finished his 12 minute feature spot, we would dash to the Trocadero Ballroom in George Street City, for Wilbur to play his 20 minutes of dance tempo music, whilst the big stage band took a break. We would then race back to the Vogue Theatre whilst Wilbur played the interval music, followed by another mad rush back to the

Trocadero for him to play his second 20 minutes on the organ there. This usually occurred around 10.30pm. The three engagements of radio, theatre and Sydney's largest Ballroom made Wilbur a very busy boy indeed.

Between his radio 2CH days and the time he joined 2GB as Musical Director, he had many appearances on the ABC (both in solo organ work and with his trio formed for just such broadcasts), as well as a considerable amount of free lance work which took him into the studios of both 2KY and 2UE where he provided suitable eerie music for the spine-chilling episodes of UE's "Inner Sanctum".

It was during his days at Radio 2GB, as Musical Director for the fabulous Jack Davey shows, that Wilbur became a Nationally known artist. His name was a household word and such was his fame that a personal appearance by him was certain of a sell-out house. He toured Australia many times with the Jack Davey shows, which genial Jack liked to periodically record in other cities rather than to always have them emanate from the Macquarie Auditorium.

Around the early 1950's, many famous overseas artists were discovering that there was big money to be made appearing in Australia and the "trek" to "down under" began in earnest. Most of these shows were held in boxing stadiums or open air sportsgrounds as the fees demanded by these artists could not be met from conventional theatre's takings, even those with a capacity of 3000 or more. As well as their stadium show profits, huge fees were paid by Radioland for the artists to "guest spot" on the top radio shows of the day - this of course, was before the advent of TV, and in this capacity Wilbur played for the world's top-liners. Among those he played for were, Bob Hope, Larry Adler, Betty Hutton, Nat King Cole, Anne Ziegler & Webster Booth, Peter Dawson, Louis Armstrong, Gladys Moncrief, Donald Peers, George Formby, Joe E. Brown, Allan Jones and Strella Wilson just to name a few.

The advent of TV to Australia found Wilbur moving to Brisbane where he became Musical Director for one of the TV stations. He later joined Channel O Brisbane in the same capacity, and was featured regularly in many shows of all kinds - some of these were seen nationally. He was also featured on a Hammond at a plush Brisbane restaurant providing the most delightful dinner music this writer has heard. It was in Brisbane that he decided that his musical knowledge and vast professional experience should be used to teach the organ as well as to perhaps inspire those whom he taught, and he began accepting pupils, of whom there was no lack. Strangely, it was one of his early morning pupils on the morning of 9th February, who, on being unable to gain admittance to the Kentwell apartment, called the police, who entered and found that Wilbur had been dead for some time.

It was unfortunate that the March edition of TOSA News reported that Wilbur had been resident organist at the Brisbane Regent Theatre for many years, where he became known as "the poet of the organ". From my knowledge, Wilbur was never resident at the Wurlitzer of Hoyt's Regent Theatre Brisbane, nor have I ever heard him described as the "poet of the organ" - this title belongs to Jesse Crawford, and has done so for many years. However, during one of the Warana Festivals in Brisbane, Wilbur did play an electronic organ in the foyer of the Regent Theatre. The following year he played an electronic organ which had been placed on the orchestra lift of the theatre

for some special feature of the year's Warana Festival, but I repeat, Wilbur was never resident organist at the Regent Theatre Brisbane on its mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ.

In 1970, I arranged with Wilbur to come to Sydney and appear in concert on our Marrickville Town Hall Wurlitzer, and I journeyed to Brisbane to finalise arrangements on behalf of TOSA and also to travel back to Sydney with him by car. Wilbur was in an effervescent mood all the way down, and it was a happy and memorable journey - one I shall never forget.

With his usual flair for doing something different, Wilbur had conceived a brilliant idea for his first concert for the NSW Division of TOSA. As our organ came from the lovely old Prince Edward Theatre he decided that he would play some music of a song from every film which had ever been screened at the Prince Edward in its forty-odd years as a cinema. The amount of research done by Wilbur to carry out this mammoth undertaking was astronomical, but the length of the programme became around four hours or more, so the pruning knife had to be produced. Even so, the "ooh's and aah's" of the audience as each nostalgic song evoked happy memories, was something never to be forgotten. This concert was an official part of Sydney's Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Celebrations held that year.

Wilbur had a most remarkable knowledge of the era of the big "Hollywood Musicals", and could tell you who wrote the song, who sang it, who conducted the orchestra, who produced and directed it, and even who arranged the music, such was his utterly fantastic knowledge of film music.

During his long career Wilbur made many LP records and is probably the most recorded Australian artist. Years ago Wilbur gave me many of the Master Test Records (i.e. the first one pressed) that he had kept. These records in plain cardboard covers and just a white label with the title and other credits written on by hand are to me quite priceless, recalling memories of many happy times.

On Friday 13th February, at the funeral service, some 200 friends and fans heard Neil Jensen, one of Wilbur's former pupils play the church organ for this sad occasion. His passing has left us the poorer by the loss of his warm and friendly personality, his great gift of music, and his fierce pride in the talents of Australian musicians. These things we cannot replace.

Alas, THE SONG IS ENDED BUT THE MELODY LINGERS ON,
 AU REVOIR WILBUR.

F.O.S.A. records currently available for sale.. (at concerts)

DORIC RECORDINGS.

DO 1401 Pipin' Hot from the Cap'ns Galley (Vic Hammett)
 (\$8.00)

DO 1409 That Will Be 2/6 Extra (Vic Hammett)
 (\$8.00)

DO 1410 On The Avenue (Warren Lubich)
 (\$7.00)

DO 1414 Live in concert at the Orpheum's Majestic Pipe Organ
 (\$8.00) (Ann Leaf)

DO 1505 Paul Quarino heads the bill at the Orpheum
 (\$7.00) (Paul Quarino)

LANCASTRIAN THEATRE ORGAN TRUST RECORDINGS.

CF 245 Len Rawle goes North (Double Album) -(Len Rawle)
 (\$15.00)

CF 250 Every Night is Music Night (William Davies)
 (\$9.00)

CF 255 Pack up your Troubles (Douglas Reeve)
 (\$9.00)

CF 265 From a Seat in the Stalls (Robin Richmond)
 (\$9.00)

CF 270 A Paramount Performance (Henry Croudson)
 (\$9.00)

CF 275 The Mighty Sound of Music (Nigel Ogden)
 (\$9.00)

CF 280 Peter Street Parade (Doreen Chadwick)
 (\$9.00)

WR 5144 Just Playin' Jane (Jane McKee Johnson)
 (\$7.00)

MAS 2021 Shirley (Shirley Hannum)
 (\$7.00)

GAMBA D-102-S A Session with Simmons (Don Simmons)
 (\$7.00)

GAMBA Swingin' Pipes (Don Simmons)
 (\$7.00)

TOSA Vol.1 Ian Thomas in Concert (Ian Thomas)
 (\$5.00)

DEROY 1022 Ronald Curtis plays the Empress Wurlitzer
 (\$5.00)

DEROY 1060 Noel Briggs plays the Empress Wurlitzer
 (\$5.00)

DEROY 1140 A Wandering Minstrel (John Madin)
 (\$5.00)

 (New Titles are on order, and will be published when
 they come to hand)

COACH TOUR

BUNDANOON AND SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS.

A Coach Tour has been planned for the week-end 24th-25th October. The following is an itinerary of the tour and details of Costs and Booking will be advised as soon as they are finalised.

DAY 1. Depart Sydney 8.00 am and travel to Mnt.Keira with its panoramic views for morning tea stop. Descend the Illawarra Range, through Wollongong and on to the famous blowhole at Kiama. Continue on via the Princes Highway to Nowra for lunch. In the afternoon travel via the Cambewarra Mountain and in to Kangaroo Valley. Time permitting visit the Museum, then on to Moss Vale and through Sutton Forest to Bundanoon. This evening we enjoy a comedy drama show with dinner at the Bundanoon Olde Time Music Hall, part of the Motel where we stay.

Overnight; Bundanoon.

DAY 2. After a leisurely breakfast we spend the morning in Historic Berrima, then travel to Sutton Forest to a local sheep station to enjoy a BBQ lunch and tour of the property, including sheep shearing and mustering demonstrations before returning to Sydney in the afternoon.

This sounds like a week-end of fun, so mark it down in your diary and watch for final detail and booking announcements.

JACK PENN HUGHES.

Noted organist, Mr. Jack Penn Hughes passed away on March 11th, 1981 at St. George Hospital.

Jack Penn Hughes had been an organist, choirmaster and pianist from the early age of 14 years. He had lived in Sydney all his life with the exception of 3yrs in Adelaide and 1 yr in London, where he played in Brickstone, Wolverhampton and Liverpool. On his return to Sydney in 1948 he joined Hoyts Theatres playing in many of Sydney's well known Theatres. He built a pipe organ in his home at Bexley where he regularly held musical evenings. He sold the organ to a person in Darwin from which it was removed one month prior to the event of cyclone Tracy, and now belongs to the South Australian Division of TOSA and is presently being restored. Jack Penn Hughes will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

DONT FORGET, MEMBERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND ANY OF OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT ST. ANNES CHURCH HALL, CNR. HOMEBUSH ROAD AND BERESFORD ROAD, STRATHFIELD, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM.

