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T.O.S.A. NEWS

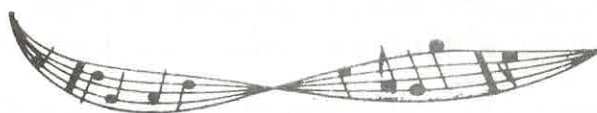
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION

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DANNY McCABE



DAVID PARSONS



SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER at 2p.m.
Marrickville Town Hall Marrickville

TOSA PRESS

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Robert Gliddon, John Weismantel, Neil Palmer
MINUTE SECRETARY: Norm Weismantel
TOSA NEWS EDITING & PRINTING: Ron Wilson & Doug Smith

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

John & Mina Van Oosterum, John McQuain, Patricia Orton.
A most sincere welcome is extended to our new members and we hope
that you will continue to take part in all our meetings and enjoy
our concerts in the future.

NOEL SMITH'S FAMILY ORGAN CLUB.

The FIRST Tuesday night in November will be the date for the
Family Organ Club(which is the 2nd of November) and this is held in
the Terrace Room, Miranda Fair.

Please NOTE, in December this function will be held on the
SECOND Tuesday night (the 14th) and this will be the Annual Xmas
Night.

A very enjoyable evening including Dinner and musical enter-
tainment is provided and bookings can be made with:
JOY STAINER on 529 3390.

(Bookings must be made by the Friday prior to the date of the
function)

A WELCOME HOME TO RON SMITH

A hearty welcome home to Ron Smith who is visiting us again
for a few short weeks. Ron is well remembered by our members as an
active participant for our Society in past years. Ron has been based
mainly at Port Moresby in PNG for the past two years working for the
Wales Travel Dept. and has kept in constant touch with all our
events. We do hope that Ron will be back home permanently in the
near future and once again join us at our concerts and other events.

GET WELL SOON

Don Tyler, long standing member from Newcastle recently had
two minor operations and I understand is recovering quite well now
after a rather rough time last week. Don and Joy Tyler are regular
visitors to most of our concerts at Marrickville and we do hope
Don will get well quickly and be able to travel again soon!

IT IS POSSIBLE there may be mistakes in this issue. This is in line
with our policy of providing something for everybody, including
those people who like looking for mistakes.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



..3

November

MONDAY 1st at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE MEETING at St. Annes Church Hall.

SUNDAY 7th at 4.00pm

SPECIAL HOME PARTY at the Mackay Residence,
21 Inverness Avenue, Peshurst. (57 1303)

Bring your own 'cut' tea and stay as long as you like!
Bring your music..Organ and Piano ready to play..
See and hear an Historic collection of Musical Instruments
and Machines and many many other items of great interest.
Enjoy some hilarious comedy shorts presented on the movie
screen with full sound.

Ring Immediately and book your place..57 1303.
Admission is Gents \$2 and Ladies \$1.50 plus a plate please.

SUNDAY 14th at 2pm

PAID CONCERT at the Marrickville Wurlitzer featuring...

DAVID PARSONS and SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST..
DANNY McCABE..TRUMPETER.
(Booking forms inside this issue)

WEDNESDAY 17th at 7.30pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

December

MONDAY 6th at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE MEETING at St. Annes Church Hall

WEDNESDAY 8th at 6.30pm

*** T.O.S.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY ***

ALL TOSA members are cordially invited to attend our Annual
Christmas Party to be held at the "DEEP SEA TAVERN"

Canterbury-Bankstown Leagues Club
26 Bridge Road, Belmore.

Come along and enjoy a relaxing night with a superb dinner and top
rate organist FREDDIE MACK for dancing. This is the one event when all
of your Executive and Committee can be free to enjoy completely the
company of their fellow members.

Your friends are also most welcome to attend so make up your party
and help make this a most enjoyable evening for all to remember.

(Booking Forms inside this issue)

RAILWAY CABARET

FRIDAY 19th NOVEMBER at 6.45pm

Members of TOSA are most welcome to attend this Cabaret for Railwaymen which
is being run by Mr. Jack Lawson.

Starting time is 6.45pm when sherries and biscuits & cheese will be served.
You will dance to the Wurlitzer Pipe Organ in the capable hands of the Society
Patron, Ian Davies, and there will be a singalong to Theatre Song Slides.

Cost for this enjoyable evening is \$11 per person..Bring your own liquid
refreshment...Dress is optional.

Please arrange your party and book now with Mrs. Pam Tooker
114 Mitchell Street,
CROYDON PARK 2133.

Closing Date is November 11th (Please make cheques payable to J. Lawson and NOT
to TOSA.)

WARRINGAH ORGAN CLUB

(by Doug Smith)

Early in October, my wife and I were guests at the Warringah Organ Club along with Clinton and Libby White from the ACT. The gathering was held at the home of their President, Alf Najar at Clareville. Over 50 people attended and a very entertaining night was had by all.

The Warringah Organ Club are a very happy and most talented group and many of the members played either the big Hammond Elegante or the Grand Piano, and the talent displayed was very good to hear. We also had two ladies who sang plus one lady saxophonist who was very good indeed.

As the evening progressed, Bill Schumacher (also visiting) and Clinton White combined on organ and piano for some duets and these were received with great enthusiasm. The members are so keen that when a few 'goodbye' songs were played, a large group of singers got together and gave a hearty rendition of 'On The Street Where You Live' and 'I'll See You Again', very good to hear, I must say.

Our sincere thanks to the Warringah Organ Club for a marvellous evening (plus the beautiful supper!) and I can only report that, this is not a quiet little Club sitting around and twiddling their thumbs, it is a Club being led by a firm hand in the right direction and yes, they are firing!

CITY OF SYDNEY EISTEDDFOD.

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I can pass on to you the following news.

Junior TOSA member, Damien Scott was awarded prizes in both the piano and organ sections of the recent City of Sydney Eisteddfod. Damien has also just gained an A+ pass in the 7th grade piano examination..quite an achievement for a 12 year old.

Sharon Maennl (11) gained a second place in Popular Organ and her elder sister Brigitte (16) was awarded a first in classical organ.

All of these talented children have now played our Wurlitzer Organ and delighted our audiences with their abilities.

These youngsters will no doubt be our organists in future years and sincerest congratulations are extended to them all, from the Theatre Organ Society as a whole. A note of high praise also to their respective teachers, Valda Lang and Joseph Maennl who must be feeling very proud at this time.

INVITATION TO BONDI JUNCTION-WAVERLY RSL CLUB.

TUESDAY 14th DECEMBER at 8pm

Our PATRON, Ian Davies extends a cordial invitation to all members and their friends to attend a "Night with the Rogers Organ" in the Club auditorium on the 1st floor, Gray St., Bondi Junction.

These nights are always a most pleasant and relaxing time with good music supplied by our Patron and many other artists. The Bar will be open and a special treat will be the RSL Club Choir presenting items for your enjoyment.

NOTE: Please sign the Visitors Book as you enter the Club.

DONT FORGET...DECEMBER IS THE MONTH FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL....

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO TOSA AND SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS

TO: TOSA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

47 HORBURY STREET, SANS SOUCI 2219.

TOSA CAVALCADE .5

1960 - 1982

By Vice-President Frank Ellis

In the June issue of TOSA News, Vice-President Doug Smith presented a two page article entitled, "A Story of TOSA (NSW Div) And Its Organs". This set forth the Society's achievements in acquiring two Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organs, and the vast efforts required in their removal from the respective theatres and the subsequent re-installation of one of them. The first instrument from the Prince Edward Theatre, was purchased only four years after the Society had been formed, and the second one from Sydney's Capitol Theatre, some years later.

The article told of the restoration and installation in the beautiful and spacious old Marrickville Town Hall of the first mentioned of these organs. Artistically and accoustically this has been the ideal location for this organ, and the passing of the years has thoroughly borne out the wisdom of the Society's decision to install it at Marrickville.

The restoration of the second organ is of course still proceeding, in order that it shall be ready for re-installation when a suitable home has been found for it.

Doug's article dealt mainly with the physical and mechanical aspects of the Society's ownership of two Wurlitzers and the future plans for the "solid-stating" of them. I propose to deal with the fascinating story of the Society's formation, its steady growth over the years, and its many successes as an entrepreneur in the organ world.

The Society's "beginnings" were indeed quite casual. A Mr John Clancy had tendered for the Wurlitzer organ in Hoyt's Civic Theatre in the Sydney suburb of Auburn. When informed that his bid had been accepted, John asked the management for permission to hold a farewell recital for a few friends. This was granted and about 30 or so friends and interested persons attended. The final concert was played by Roy Williamson and Penn Hughes, although I understand that several others, including the organ's new owner also played an item or two.

When John commenced the task of removing the organ and transporting it to his home, he was assisted by 9 or 10 of the friends who had been present at the final concert. During the many week-ends of working in the theatre removing the organ, their common interest resulted in many discussions about the "golden days" of the theatre organs and their uncertain future at that time, and these talks continued after the removal and storage of the organ had been completed. From these casual talks came the idea of forming a Theatre Organ Society.

On Saturday 9th January 1960, a meeting of the ten friends was held in the residence of the Westmead Post Office. The meeting, convened by John Clancy, decided that, as lovers of the cinema organ were not catered for by the Organ Societies then in existence, a Society catering especially to their needs should

be formed. The name chosen by the meeting was, "Theatre Organ Society of Australia". Later on, when the Society branched out into other States, it became necessary to adopt Divisional names such as "NSW Div", "Vict. Div." etc. Although we are now an Australia wide organisation, each Division conducts its own affairs independently of the others, yet fully cooperative in our common aims of preserving the theatre organ and presenting it to the public in a thoroughly professional manner. This cooperation is very evident in the selection and importation of overseas artists for our concerts, for these artists usually tour Australia appearing for each Division, so close liason is essential.

That first meeting in January 1960, elected Arthur Esgate (a former English cinema organist) as its President, Cec Taylor as its Vice-President, John Clancy as its Secretary/Treasurer, and Peter Pearse as its Public Relations Officer. A Constitution was later drawn up and the Society was launched with high hopes and a lot of enthusiasm but little else, especially money.

The Minutes of that first meeting reveal that the founder members were :- Messrs. Esgate, Clancy, Taylor, Munro, Craigie, Pearse, Kerkenzov, Merlin, Stinson and Mrs Esgate. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Esgates for allowing their residence to be used for the meeting and for providing the supper.

The second meeting took place on Saturday 13th February at the home of Cec Taylor at Harris Park, and Mr Bert Gillette, the Sales Manager of Palings Ltd was admitted as a member.

The third meeting on Saturday 12th March 1960 took place, once again, at the Westmead Post Office residence. Reference was made to future meetings possibly being held at Paling's Concert Hall in the city, and in fact, only 12 days later, a special meeting was held there at which Bert Gillette demonstrated three electronic organs on stage. They were a Compton, A Hammond and a Kinsman organ. Later Arthur Esgate played several items and he was followed by Jean Penhall, a former organist at the Capitol Theatre.

The fourth meeting held at Mr Craigie's home at Oatley, decided that all future meetings would be held at Palings Concert Hall on the third Monday of the month.

At the fifth meeting held on Monday 18th July 1960, an election of officers took place and resulted in Cec Taylor becoming President, Norm Stinson Vice-President, and although the Minutes make no mention of the position of Secretary/Treasurer, John Clancy did, in fact, remain in that position. As Mr Esgate was President from the Society's formation on 9th January until 18th July that same year, he obviously occupied the position for only six months.

On Monday 16th January 1961, the first Annual Business meeting was held, and some amendments to the Constitution were made. Those elected to office in 1961 were:- President - Cec Taylor, Vice-President - Norm Stinson, Publicity Officer - Tom Halloran. The position of Secretary/Treasurer was split into two separate functions with John Clancy retaining the Secretary's post, and Rod Blackmore becoming Treasurer. The Committee was increased from two to three members.

The second Annual Business meeting on Monday 15th January 1962 at Paling's Concert Hall decided to increase the Committee to six members and to elect two Vice-Presidents instead of the one. Tom Halloran became President, Norm Stinson and Des Russell were Vice-Presidents, John Clancy Secretary, Rod Blackmore Treasurer, and six members formed the enlarged Committee. .7

Membership fees were increased to 30/- per year (previously £1) and four former theatre organists were elected as Honorary Members for that year. They were:- Cec Cranfield, Reubert Hayes, Owen Holland and Ian Davies. In those days the Society's financial position was such that many organists gave their services voluntarily knowing that artist fees commensurate to their standing could more than likely not be paid by the struggling Society. These generous artists were usually made Honorary Members and although our "honors" would not have helped to pay the grocer (even organists must eat), it did, at least, show that we appreciated their efforts. Perhaps in a way, our "honors" were not such a bad thing after all, for we did pay tribute to our loved theatre organists whilst they were alive and able to be aware of it rather than pay tribute when they were no more.

The third Annual Business meeting was held on Tuesday 22nd January 1963 and resulted in the re-election of all Officers with the exception of one Committee man.

The fourth Annual Business meeting took place at Paling's Concert Hall on Monday 20th January 1964. Tom Halloran was re-elected unopposed as President, Des Russell and Ken Begley became Vice-Presidents, Rod Blackmore as Treasurer and John Clancy as Secretary. It was also in this year that I was first elected to the Committee. 1964 became our most exciting and important year thus far, because of two very different events. Firstly, we bought the Wurlitzer organ from the Prince Edward Theatre and a world famous organist became our Patron. He was, of course, Reginald Dixon for so long the organist of the Blackpool Tower Ballroom where he was known as "Mr Blackpool". He was later to be honored by the Queen with an M.B.E. for his services to the entertainment world.

The Society left its Wurlitzer in the Prince Edward Theatre for some time after we had purchased it as we had no suitable hall in which to place it, and as the theatre remained screening normally there was no immediate pressure to remove it from the auditorium.

At the fifth Annual Business meeting held in January 1965 there was a major change in the Executive and some changes in the Committee. The Executive change was brought about by the transfer to the country of our most capable Treasurer, Rod Blackmore. As Rod was Editor of both TOSA News and The Diaphone this was a great loss to the Society. However, Rod continued to edit The Diaphone from his country address and I became Editor of TOSA News, a position I held for several years.

At the sixth Annual Business meeting on Monday 24th of January 1966 the following were elected to the Executive:- President - Tom Halloran, Vice-Presidents - Des Russell & Frank Ellis, Secretary - John Clancy, Treasurer - Rod Shoebridge. The Society was now six years old and quite solidly established. It was even accepted by the sceptics that we were here to stay. During the next few years there were few changes to the Executive although there were a number of changes to the Committee from year to year. The wise leader-

Continued next month

FREE CONCERT - CLIFF BINGHAM & CLINTON WHITE (Sunday 17/10/82) by Ron Smith.

Well, by the time this goes to press I'll be back 'home' again in Port Moresby..thawing out. I may have struck some unseasonable cold weather, but nevertheless while in Sydney I was fortunate enough to coincide my visit with the Free Concert on 17th October and this gave me the opportunity to renew old acquaintances with people I often think of. I guess for variety of contributors to the TOSA newsheet I was asked to review the concert and it is a task I find most pleasurable.

The music on the day was most enjoyable although different to what I've become used to lately, in that there was a noticeable absence of kundu drums, bamboo instruments, beating of sticks and native chantings.

This was my first opportunity to hear Clinton White in concert and I must say he did live up to all the good things I'd heard about him. His chosen programme was quite diversified, from theatre organ classics like Granada and Another Openin' Another Show, to a quiet and sensitive rendition of White Christmas in which he liberally used the beautiful chrysoglott on our organ.

Our next organist was our own and ever willing Cliff Bingham whose musicianship is well known to our patrons. I have always admired Cliff's approach to what he plays, his expression of the music and his textbook fingering. He began his part of the programme with Knightsbridge March, a request from yours truly and included in the rest of the programme were Onward Christian Soldiers, a fine rendition of Dance of the Comedians and a sixteen minute selection of the music of John Williams featuring movie themes from 'Star Wars', 'Close encounters of the Third Kind' and 'Raiders of the Lost Arc'.

To the audiences delight, we were introduced to two new artistes on the day, Sharon and Brigitte Maennl. Sharon is only 11 years old and played 'Real Live Girl' in true theatre style while her elder sister Brigitte after interval, gave us her arrangement of 'Mame'. Both girls played commendably and with no visible nervousness and I'm sure we'll be hearing more from them in the future.

All told, it was a great afternoon's entertainment with good music and fellowship and thanks to all the organisers once again for their efforts.

Likim yu bihain taim
(See ya later..that is!)

Ron Smith.

INTERSTATE NEWS

VICTORIAN DIVISION.

November...Sunday 14th 2pm Dendy Theatre, Brighton.
Concert by Tony Fenelon.

Sunday 21st 2pm Memorial Theatre, Ballarat. Gala "End of Year" Concert. Organists Leon Firestone and Gordon Hamilton, playing the Compton Theatre Pipe Organ and Steinway Grand Piano, Carole Oliver's Ballet, Concert Orchestra.

NORFOLK ISLAND ORGAN SOCIETY

Beverly Harrison, Vice-President of TOSA (ACT) will be giving Two concerts in the Rawson Hall on 10th and 11th December.



SAN SYLMAR REDUCES WEEKLY TOURS.

Weekly tour schedules at San Sylmar Museum have been reduced from 27 to 10 each week for the balance of the year, it was announced this month. The curtailment was put into effect to facilitate remodeling work that will result in better accomodating visitors to the famed antique car, musical instrument museum.

KIMBALL CRUSH PART OF THEATRE DEMOLITION.

When the ornate Earle Theatre in Philadelphia was demolished, there were no takers for the large 3/29 Kimball theatre pipe organ that was installed in the house. It is reported the organ went out in dump trucks as the big house was steelballed and hauled away as debris. (Fortunately one seldom hears stories such as this these days though in years gone by more specifically in U.S.A. the U.K. they were commonplace - Ed.)

WALL STREET JOURNAL TELLS ALL ABOUT PIZZA.

Wurlitzer and pizza parlors garnered front page space in the July 2 issue of "The Wall Street Journal". 'The bill of fare here at the Roaring Twenties Pizza Restaurant is strictly organic', reads the lead paragraph. Then the article delves into the Ron Walls' operation stating that the pizza and beer are staples, but the big draw - - the entertainment that attracts as many as 2,500 patrons on a busy Saturday night - - is a vintage Wurlitzer pipe organ, played loudly, flamboyantly and continuously. A run-down on the history of theatre organs and how pipes became entangled with pizza in California at "Ye Olde Pizza Joynt" is given, along with figures such as 'over the course of a year, the crowds devour \$1 million of pizza and trimmings; 70 tons of pizza; 31,000 gallons of beer and 34,000 gallons of soda. Walls gave full credit to his success to the Wurlitzer, which cost close to \$250,000 to renovate and install five years ago, but since then has paid for itself many times over. 'It does its job,' Walls said, 'and that is selling pizza!'

OREGON/PUGET SOUND CHAPTERS OF A.T.O.S. CO-OPERATE.

Latest manifestation of the new era in the national theatre organ hobby club is the recent offer made by Puget Sound Chapter to its smaller cousin, Portland Chapter, in the Pacific Northwest (U.S.A.) Puget Sound members and officers are coming to Portland on Sept. 18th. They will lunch with members and officers of Portland Chapter at Uncle Milt's Pizza Parlor in Vancouver, Washington, just across the river from Portland. From there the entire group is slated to attend the Roseway Theatre where they will hear Dan Lemire playing the 3/8 Robert-Morton organ. Remaining overnight, the two clubs on Sunday, Sept. 19th, will go to the Oaks Park Skating Rink in Portland to hear Don Simmons at the console of the 4/18 Wurlitzer-Woods organ.

BRITISHERS PLAN FIGHT TO SAVE GAUMONT STATE THEATRE AT KILBURN.

An action group by the name of "Kilsac" has been formed to try and save the huge Gaumont State Cinema in the Kilburn District of Northwest London from being demolished. Ways to return the huge house to use as a theatre or concert hall are being investigated by the group and the local Brent Council. The Rank Organisation owns the 4,000 seat house.

GAYLORD CARTER PLAYS 'NEW' OLD FILM AT PASADENA CIVIC AUDITORIUM.

For the first time in several years, Gaylord Carter will have a new, old hilarious Harold Lloyd comedy to accompany when he appears at Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Sat. September 25th at 8.30. p.m. The feature comedy, "For Heaven's Sake", was premiered at Grauman's Million Dollar Theatre in Los Angeles fifty-six years ago, and Gaylord played the accompaniment of the film at that opening. The Pasadena performance will be Carter's 60th anniversary as a theatre organist and he plans to present in addition to the main film a short excursion back in time depicting his sixty years of "chasing" - - getting cowboys and indians through the passes, cops after robbers, hair raising plane, auto and train episodes. He will exhibit how an organist goes about his chasing. Pasadena Civic's five-manual monster offers Carter every opportunity to bring every trick out of his bag of specialty organ craft adornment to accompany the films that will be seen. Following the performance Carter will be honored at a reception in the Gold Room of Civic Auditorium that will be open to the public. He will autograph records, pose for pictures and talk with the patrons. Champagne will be served at one dollar per glass. Proceeds from its sale will benefit the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society Scholarship Fund. Tickets for the one-night performance are priced at \$6.00, balcony; \$7.00, orchestra; and \$8.50 for loge seating.

- - - News source July 1982 issue "The Console" magazine.

News from New Zealand

HOLLYWOOD CINEMA, AVONDALE - AUCKLAND.

The Official Opening of the Mighty WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ will take place on Saturday 6th November 1982 and the Guest Artist is TONY FENELON from Australia and associate Artist will be Margaret Hall.

I have had word that this event is already fully sold out, necessitating an extra Matinee Concert to be held on the next afternoon at 2pm.

T.O.S.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY



WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER Commencing at 6.30p.m.

"THE DEEP SEA TAVERN"

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN LEAGUE CLUB LTD.

26 Bridge Road, Belmore,



DINING & DANCING.

COST \$15 PER PERSON

Special Menu

Entree

Prawns
Oysters
Calamari

Main Course

Schnapper Fillets
Rump Steak

Sweets

Pavlova
Cheese Platter



Featuring the Ever Popular

FREDDIE MACK

as

RESIDENT ORGANIST/VOCALIST

BOOKING FORM IN THIS ISSUE

12..

THE SELWYN GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS

A CHARITY CONCERT

in aid of

THE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S CENTRE OF N.S.W.

at

EARLWOOD-BARDWELL PARK R.S.L. AUDITORIUM

on

SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER at 2.30pm.

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS....

VALDA LANG	ORGANIST
MARIE TYSOE	MEZZO SOPRANO
GINO ZANCANARO	TENOR
BERNARD WALZ	PIANIST
PATRICIA WOOLDRIDGE	SOPRANO
DAMIEN SCOTT	ORGANIST

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3

CONCESSION \$2

ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.

ORGAN: Courtesy of FAMILY MUSIC CENTRE..BANKSTOWN SQUARE

Dining facilities of the Club will be available to the Concert Audience.

FOR SALE

Thomas Celebrity Organ, Model 821C in excellent condition.
 Suitable for home or club. Please ring Mr. Honeyman on 524 9970.
 Price \$3,500.00.

To all members.

Another successful year is drawing to a close and we look forward to your continued support next year. For your convenience a membership renewal form is enclosed with this issue.