

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

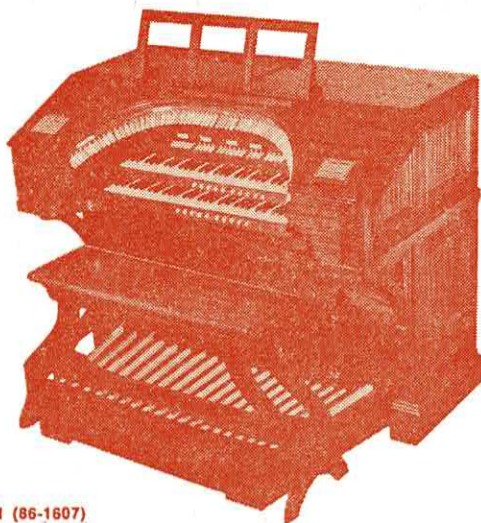
PATRON: IAN DAVIES

EDITOR: ALAN KITLEY

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

SOCIETY DIRECTORY:

General correspondence to the Secretary, Mrs. BETTY RANDALL, 20 Cliff Road, Epping, 2121 (86-1607)
Financial correspondence to the Treasurer, Mr. OSCAR MOEN, 68 Shepherd Street, Ryde, 2112 (80-3896)
TOSA NEWS correspondence to ALAN KITLEY, P.O. Box 447, Chatswood, 2067
President: TOM HALLORAN, 66 Flinders Road, Cronulla, 2230 (523-5077)



PRICE
40c



VOL. 10 NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER '72

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER 4th. STATE THEATRE 8 A.M.
DAVID PARSONS

NOVEMBER 15th. CLIFF BINGHAM
AT MARRICKVILLE - 8 P.M.

DECEMBER 5th. CHRISTMAS PARTY 7 P.M.

DECEMBER 20th. NOMINATIONS CLOSE FOR ELECTION
OF OFFICERS FOR 1973.

JANUARY 31st. A.G.M. 8 P.M.

EASTER 1973 - NATIONAL CONVENTION -

OUR FIRST ANECDOTE THIS YEAR - FROM BRIAN WATERS

"About 15 years ago there was a 2-6 Compton in the Apollo Cinema Birmingham England which the Manager Sidney Perkins used to play from time to time.

One night a burglar broke into the Cinema and, finding nothing that he could steal, he thought he would have a tune on the organ. The pipework was situated under the stage and could be heard quite plainly in the car park. Mr. Perkins was not very pleased to be called out from his slumbers in the early hours to assist the constable in making an arrest by providing the keys to the cinema. It seems that organs can make very good burglar alarms! "

WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER - MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

CLIFF BINGHAM PLAYS THE PRINCE EDWARD WURLITZER.

After CLIFF BINGHAM'S brilliant exposition at the Waratah Festival Organ Spectacular, his concert at MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL on the WURLITZER THEATRE PIPE ORGAN is an occasion which will be eagerly anticipated by those members who appreciate the high musical ability of this talented young man.

In his concert CLIFF will present THREE FEATURE SEGMENTS:

1. THE SHOWS - 1872 to 1972

Cliff will explore the development of the MUSICAL from the early days of the EXTRAVAGANZA, the MUSICAL COMEDY, through to the modern MUSICAL DRAMA of WEST SIDE STORY, and JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR.

This has promise of an interesting and entertaining first half in the hands of this very capable organist who can be expected to fully exploit the potential of the WURLITZER THEATRE ORGAN.

2. GOSPEL MUSIC - FROM WOE TO GO.

In a very short segment CLIFF will compare the modern melodic form as written by Ralph Carmichael, with earlier musically uninteresting items as well as musically interesting items.

3. SONGS I LIKE TO PLAY

For the major part of the second half programme CLIFF will give full rein to "His type of music" playing his own favourites.

This evening is sure to be an exciting experience so make sure that you are present at MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL on WEDNESDAY NIGHT 15th NOVEMBER for ENTERTAINMENT.

Assisting artist - GRAHAM McFARLANE.

ADMISSION \$1.50 MEMBERS \$1.00

Children)
Pensioners) 50¢ Members Children FREE

SILENT SAGA SHOW-STOPPER!!
FABULOUS "FLICKER FINGERS" FIRES FANS FERVOUR !

GAYLORD CARTER is the undisputed master of that difficult and most demanding of all musical chores - the art of accompanying a silent movie. He created all the moods, accented each piece of screen villainy, and highlighted all the comedy angles as only he can. Moreover, he did it all in a way which ensured that his audience laughed with, and not at, this nostalgic excursion back to the early twenties.

The almost uncanny timing of his sound effects did, on a number of occasions, cause one to think that the sound source emanated from the film itself, rather than from a completely separate live performance by a musician located in the auditorium, and, despite the fact that he must have played for this film on scores of occasions, he managed to positively convey the fact that he, too, was enjoying the movie as much as his audience. The quality of the film print was a surprise to most of the audience, and except for a small amount of tremble during some of the dialogue frames, the picture quality was comparable to many films made in more recent years. Gaylord slyly glossed over the trembling sub-titles etc. by informing his audience that if they were as old as that particular film, then they too would be trembling.

Full marks must be given to the Mecca Theatre's projectionist for perfect cueing in all departments such as lighting, spotlights, film and curtains - it was indeed an excellent piece of work. Owner of the theatre, Mr. Phil Doyle, is to be congratulated for his enterprise in presenting this show, and TOSA sincerely thanks him for his generous supper hospitality which allowed members to meet Gaylord Carter and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Simonton informally after the show. The Society conferred Honorary membership on both Gaylord and Dick Simonton and presented them with their TOSA badges. Gaylord Carter received a tremendous ovation for his superb efforts. To sum up - a great night of fun and games with a bonus of nostalgia for good measure.

(Frank Ellis).

PORTER-BROWN AT MARRICKVILLE

Reginald Porter-Brown, Organist Extraordinary, played for us his one and only concert on the Marrickville WurliTzer on Saturday 7th October, 1972, to a small but warmly responsive audience, for this, his last Sydney recital before his breath-taking extensive tour takes him further afield. Our very best wishes go with him for the continuation and conclusion of what must surely be a most taxing and tiring playing-trip.

The strain of such a tour has rarely if ever been noticeable, for once R P B sets himself at the console, he and the organ springs to life in a whirlwind of weird and wonderful sounds, in all manner of musical treats, and Marrickville was a typical R P B cross-section.

Off to a bright start with drums and cymbals crashing in true Grand-Parade fashion came March Memories - many well-known marches played in the true Theatre-Organist-Showmanship style. The beautiful "Dream of Olwen" by Charles Williams, using the classic Tibia and Vox combination, with the melody on the Tuba, and some light percussionistic arpeggios of a like only that R P B can bring forth, all went to form a lovely effect. A sprightly novelty number "Dance of the Two Old Maids", also with percussion effects followed. The old maids certainly were dancing with glee for some reason! "Harlem" - and what a fabulous Jazz atmosphere. You could almost visualise the pipes melting in their chests. The American Patrol went marching joyfully along, and then that great Grand Organ tour-de-force "Finlandia" by Sibelius. I thought perhaps it sounded better on the 2/10 WurliTzer than on the great Hill 5/127. The orchestral effect was staggering. Finishing part one, Songs from Films and Shows produced well over a dozen favourites, including Smoke Gets In Your Eyes, where R P B used the Chryosglott to good advantage.

Opening part two, a G & S selection included a piece very rarely heard in such short selections, "Sing a Merry Madrigal", from "Mikado" - very nicely played. Next came "Smile", quite a different treatment, not liked by all, and variations on "Red Red Robin" written for Robin Richmond, famous English T.O. star. A very sweet "Chanson" preceded a "no holds barred" Dixieland selection. Just after this the smell of burning became apparent, I was later assured it was only the keyboards overheating! R P B didn't have to look far for the Lost Chord, for our great organ responded as from the depths of a Gothic Cathedral with his masterly treatment of the ageless Sullivan classic. Very few organists have achieved what R P B did in this piece - great rumbling deep-throated marvellous Westminster Abbey sounds. Back to the light-hearted again for the finale, and many and varied Theatre Organ Favourites followed, including "Holiday for Strings" and "Light Cavalry". After a fabulous concert Reg very kindly autographed copies of his record for members. Well done, and good wishes from all.

(Ian Griggs).

XMAS FUNCTION - TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER.

"ELIM" Reception Centre, 83 Shaftsbury Road, BURWOOD.

7 P.M. - DINNER

ENTERTAINMENT - Compere - IAN DAVIES

ORGANISTS - CLIFF BINGHAM)
IAN DAVIES) Mini-Concerts
DAVID PARSONS) with
ERIC SMITH) FEATURE ITEMS

GUEST ARTISTS - ANNE SALISBURY - Entertainer.
SID DALGLEAGH - Magician.
PETER EGRI - Violinist.
SUSAN EGRI - Piano, accompaniment.

10.30 P.M. - DANCE MUSIC.

The evening promises to be a lot of fun, so ORGANISE your party - FRIENDS of MEMBERS are also welcome - but BOOK YOUR TABLE EARLY since seating capacity is LIMITED TO 180.

BOOKINGS - accompanied by payment in full.
must be with the TREASURER BY NOVEMBER 15th. - \$4.50 per person.

The Bar at the Centre will be open for the convenience of those who desire drinks.

For a fast moving, non-stop night of fun and entertainment for everyone - TOSA XMAS PARTY 1972 -

ELIM RECEPTION CENTRE - 5th DECEMBER.
BURWOOD.

The tour of a lifetime.

Inter-group travel (S.A.) of 12 Peel Street, Adelaide, propose a special holiday tour next July, to include the ATOS Convention in Portland, OREGON, some of the great U.S. t.o. installations, and an optional extension to England and Europe. Details not yet complete but interested readers should contact Mr. Wal. Golding at the above address. Details will appear in TOSA News when known.

News from England.

SA TOSA News states that Reg. Foort's old Moller is to be sold by Radio Hilversum as they now own three theatre organs but have few performers.

Our member Paul McCloude reports that Robin Richmond's BBC radio show "The Organist Entertains" has top ratings. Many theatres now used as Bingo halls have their restored organs featured between games.

Paul is now off to Japan but will be back home on November 16th. He sends his regards to his TOSA friends, and advises he has for sale a set of Orchestral Chimes - 19 notes from t.c. Wind pressure 3" (???Ed.)

Pauls phone number is 528.9575.

FOR SALE:

All-electric pipe organ console by Eagles. 2 x 61-note manuals 32-note R & C pedalboard, 28 stops including six couplers with action and three adjustable thumb pistons per manual with setter-board. In perfect condition and priced at \$350.00 including bench. Contact Cliff Bingham; 798-3127 during office hours.

From the committee

The 1973 AGM will be held at St. Ann's Church Hall, Strathfield, at 8 P.M. on 31st JANUARY, 1973.

Nominations for officers and committee will close six weeks before - on DECEMBER 20th.

Nominations must be signed by two financial members as proposer and seconder. Forms will appear in the December issue of TOSA News. Nominees must also be financial members. The appointment of office bearers is extremely important in a society such as ours so cast around now for willing and capable workers.

A fragment of yesteryear

An interesting moment was revealed following the Parker Street bomb outrage on September 16th.

The explosion shattered a wooden panel on the wall of a nearby building and exposed a poster advertising the show at the Capitol more than forty years ago.

The film, "On with the Show" ran from December 28th, 1929 until 31st January, 1930. It was during the run of this film that Billy Dick was appointed assistant organist for the morning and intermediate sessions. The main featured organist was Knight Barnett who presented an interlude entitled "An organistic cocktail". Also on the bill was British conductor Horace Sheldon, the Frances Scully Ballet, and the Capitol Stage Band.

Alas, human nature being what it is, most of this relic had been mutilated by Thursday October 12th.

(Condensed from copy submitted by John Gardiner).

NOVEMBER 4th.

David Parsons at "The State" (postponed from October 7th.)
at 8 a.m.

Please note that admission is for members and friends only, price 50 cents. Only the dress circle will be in use and members are asked to use the entrance in the lane beside the theatre. Children of members will be admitted free. This is a rare occasion on which the fine 4/21 Wurlitzer can be heard fully exploited...
DON'T MISS IT!!