

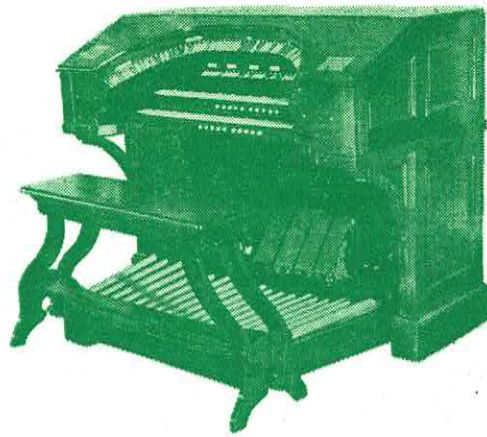
T.O.S.A. NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE DIVISIONS OF N.S.W., QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

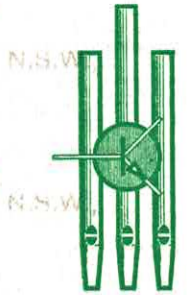
PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: FRANK ELLIS

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Society correspondence to R. Blackmore, 21 Yethonga Ave., Lane Cove. 2066

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS BIG BIRTHDAY MONTH.

EXCITING DENIS PALMISTRA CONCERT. THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER AT 8pm.

To mark the first anniversary of our Wurlitzer's installation in the Marrickville Town Hall, the Society proudly announces it will present the brilliant theatre organist, DENIS PALMISTRA, in a special birthday concert. One of Australia's most talented theatre organists, DENIS has a uniquely different style, and the evening promises to be a memorable not to be missed event. An exciting guest spot has been arranged to further compliment the evening.

In the twelve months since the organ was opened, the Society has presented nine concerts open to the public, as well as a number of functions for members of TOSA only, and the success of this installation is a fact of which members can feel justly proud. This concert will be widely advertised, and every member is urged to be present and to bring as many friends as possible. Admission will be \$1 each - children 50¢ to the general public. TOSA members will be admitted for 75¢ ON PRODUCTION OF THEIR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS at the doors. Children of TOSA members will be FREE. A large crowd is anticipated so be early. All tickets on sale at doors. DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CONCERT BY DENIS PALMISTRA +++++

ORGAN PARTY.

Saturday 8th November at 8pm. As announced last month, there will be an organ party at the home of our members, Mr & Mrs George Walker, whose address is 21 Lyne Road, Cheltenham. A friendly, happy, musical evening is assured and the proceeds will be donated by George and Joyce, to the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund. Donation of \$1 each. If you plan to attend, please phone the Walkers a few days before hand and advise how many will be in your party. Their phone number is 86-5871. The Walkers have a Conn, model 543 organ so there will be loads of music for you to enjoy.

DECEMBER ATTRACTIONS.

Advance notice is here given of the Society's Annual Xmas function which will be held on Wednesday 3rd December at 8pm. It will be held in the Auditorium of the Bondi Junction-Waverley R.S.L. Club where our Honorary member IAN DAVIES is resident at the only three manual Rodgers Theatre organ installed in a Club in Australia. It is planned to make this the most unique as well as the most successful Xmas show we have ever held. This will be a FREE NIGHT to members and you may make your own arrangements at the club for refreshments and supper. A chef will be on duty and you may order from the menu what you wish. Refreshments and supper are at your own expense and you may have as much or as little as you desire. The music is FREE.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS. Committee members are reminded that the November meeting will be on Monday 3rd at 7.15pm. The December meeting is on Monday 1st December.

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER TOSA NEWS. Would all those having copy for the December issue of TOSA News, please note that the closing date will be Friday 21st November. Please ensure that your material reaches here by the due date.

AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, OUR SOCIETY WILL BE TEN YEARS OLD IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW.

LOOKING BACK AT OCTOBER.

DAVID PARSONS IN CONCERT. An audience of around 500 were present at Marrickville Town Hall on Sunday 19th October for the concert by our member DAVID PARSONS. Very obviously the previous concert by DAVID last April had firmly established him as a console personality, and won him a following not only amongst Society members, but with the general public also. Your Editor saw many members present whom he had not seen at our concerts for quite a while, and it was more than pleasing to see so many familiar faces again.

DAVID'S opening number, "Consider Yourself One Of Us" from the show "Oliver" might be considered a prophetic as well as a splendid choice, for during the interval, there was quite a demand for Application Forms to join our Society, and it would seem that DAVID'S musical invitation to "consider themselves one of us" must have carried a strong appeal - we may gain some new members from the show.

The programme continued with a selection from the film "Calamity Jane" including "The Deadwood Stage", "Secret Love" etc., and this was followed with "The Policeman's Holiday" played with touches of ponderous humour befitting to a "law man on the loose". The percussions were given free rein in a bracket of songs from the film "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang", including plenty of the "ah-ooga" motor horn to the delight of all the kids in the audience - kids whose ages ranged from 6 to 60 I might add. Each "ah-ooga" brought forth a new batch of smiles all round. The classical number featured, was the famous "Zampa Overture", and this was excellently registered and played.

Following the success of his exciting novelty, "Nightmare In The Mosque" at his previous concert, I expected that DAVID would feature another such item, and I was not to be disappointed. Again it was shades of REGINALD FOORT, and after describing to the audience just what it was all about, he presented the very descriptive "Duststorm", which was the undoubted highlight of the concert. It opened with a serene passage replete with the song of the birds and church bells, and then the music built up to a fantastic cacophony of the fury of the elements - so real, one could almost see the dust swirling across the landscape, until gradually the storm abated and finally died away as the birds resumed their interrupted melody and the chimes continued their call to the faithful. At the conclusion of this item, audience applause rivalled the fury of the storm for sheer volume level. The final item before interval, was a stirringly played "Stars & Stripes"

DAVID resumed by introducing his 18 years old guest organist, our member RAY THORNLEY. Playing with considerable assurance, RAY quickly won his audience with well chosen items, registered with expertise and feeling. He undoubtedly has a great musical future ahead of him, and the warmth of the applause he received left no doubt that his playing had been appreciated - in fact, such a reception can only serve to greatly encourage him at this stage of his career. He is presently featured each weekend at the console of the Christie organ in the Victory Theatre, Kogarah, and is, without doubt, the youngest theatre organist in the country today. RAY'S programme opened with "I Want To Be Happy" and included "Shangrila" "Tea For Two", "Bicycles Of Belsize", "Try To Remember" and "It's Foolish But Its Fun".

DAVID PARSONS then re-appeared to play music from the film "Hans Christian Anderson", and an exciting "Slaughter On Tenth Avenue" followed by a pop item, "Color My World". The final item was "The Battle Hymn Of The Republic" in which DAVID used the arrangement written for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Using distant Trumpet fanfares and majestic full organ passages he created a stirring and moving musical pageant of this page of America's history, and ably demonstrated the organ's orchestral voices in the doing. His theme, "Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye" was to have ended the concert, but in reponse to prolonged applause, DAVID returned to the console to encore with "Spanish Flea". To sum it all up - a splendid concert, played to a large audience who all thoroughly enjoyed the performances of DAVID PARSONS and his talented young guest organist, RAY THORNLEY.

MEMBERS PRACTISE SESSIONS AT MARRICKVILLE.

The November Practise sessions will be held on the dates shown hereunder. You are asked to attend promptly at the hour appointed to you in order to facilitate the smooth running of the session and to ensure that each player receives his full allotted time.

GROUP 1. Saturday 22nd November

GROUP 2. Tuesday 25th November

Keep up that practise, for practise makes perfect - one day you too, might be a star.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members this month, and express the hope that you will all thoroughly enjoy Society concerts, musical evenings etc, as well as the friendship of those you will meet in the Society. Members come from all walks of life and are drawn together by a common interest - the theatre organ and its music and traditions. We look forward to seeing you all at our functions.

NSW NEW MEMBERS:- Mr & Mrs Evan S. Cox of Cronulla - Mr D. E. Burman of Belmore - Mr Charles D. Cohen of Panania - Mr Ian C. Griggs of Epping.

W.A. DIV. NEW MEMBERS:- Mr & Mrs G.B. Wood of Badgingarra - Helen & Tony Formentin of Booragoon - Mr S.R. Chipper of Yokine - Mr Bert Nicholls of Gosnells.

Please DO MAKE YOURSELVES KNOWN to an official of the Society the first time you attend.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS. (From Ray Clements)

On September 17th, members of the W.A. Division were the guests of Mr & Mrs Don Webster. Don has a Conn 641 Theatre organ with pipes, and several of those present played the organ during the evening. JOHN FUHRMAN gave a brief talk on the operation of the Conn, and Doug Miller presented an educational quiz on tape. This was won by Mrs Cook and she received the prize of music donated by JOHN FUHRMAN. Seven VIC HAMMETT records kindly donated by David Cross were sold and the proceedings added to the Pipe Organ Fund. Many thanks to Don & Mrs Webster for their hospitality.

The October meeting was in the form of a tape night and was held at Dorothy Younes home. Though attendance was below normal, the tapes of concerts presented by TOSA in Perth were well received. Of special interest was an educational tape prepared by Doug Miller. These are becoming an appreciated part of our evenings. The tape played on this occasion demonstrated the sound of various stops on the WurliTzer Pipe organ, and also drew comparisons between English and American organists. Thanks are extended to Dorothy for the use of her home.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th November at Bert Sheppards, 6 Law St. Embleton.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS. (From Vox Newsletter)

Vox announces a "welcome home" concert by TONY FENELON on Sunday 2nd November at 2.30pm. This is TONY'S first appearance at the Dendy Theatre since his return from a most successful American tour.

It is also reported in Vox, that LYN LARSEN will arrive in Melbourne on Thursday 1st January 1970 for a three month season at the Dendy Theatre's WurliTzer. The season is to open on 15th January. Further details are to be announced in the near future. Arrangements are being handled by member Brian Finch who was recently in U.S.A.

A new record by TONY FENELON has been released - this time on Festival (SFL.933,500) Titled "TONY", it is his first L.P. on the Dendy WurliTzer. His two previous discs were recorded on the WurliTzer of the Collins Street Regent Theatre. As this organ was removed from the theatre earlier this year, these two earlier discs should be regarded as collector's items. Best you get them whilst you can.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS. (From Tibia Newsletter)

Tibia reports that over 1,500 people were present in the Brisbane Town Hall for the Warana Festival Organ Spectacular on September 30th. With six electronic organs valued at \$40,000 with their associated equipment, plus the Brisbane Town Hall organ as well, it was indeed a Spectacular in every sense of the word. The profits from this function are expected to be around the \$1,250 mark and this will be added to the Queensland Division's Pipe Organ Fund. TOSA News was given a full report of the event by NSW members John & Elsie Castray who made the trip especially for the event. They also supplied your Editor with a programme, press cuttings etc for which I extend my thanks. On behalf of the Castrays NSW thanks Qld Division members, with special mention of the Harris family, for their kindness and hospitality to our members on tour.

Tibia's Editor, Tom F. Ellis, announces that he has received letters from the Victorian and Western Australian Divisions correcting him concerning his statement about REGINALD DIXON being National Patron of TOSA. Tut, tut, Tom my friend, did you miss the paragraph in October TOSA News which listed all the Division's Patrons? I was hoping to rate a mention of the fact in your pages together with Irene and Doug.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS. (From Fran Searle)

The South Australian Division presented TONY FENELON in concert at the Wurlitzer of St. Peter's College, Adelaide, on Sunday 24th August. (This would have been just before TONY left for his American tour - Ed.) An enthusiastic audience of around 350 fans enjoyed the playing of the Melbourne Regent's former organist. TONY not only played a lot of the old favorites we have come to expect from him, but a variety of new numbers also. His introductions are becoming more imaginative and appropriate for the piece to follow - his endings were likewise. He soloed at length on the Wurlitzer piano on one occasion and it sounded great, in fact, far clearer than it did when in the Regent Cinema, and this was no doubt due to its exposed position where it is placed on the balcony. Judging by the final applause which TONY received, many of the audience must have gone home with tender hands but a song in their hearts. The South Aust. Division raised about \$250 towards its Pipe Organ Fund as a result of the concert on the former Regent Theatre's Wurlitzer.

IMPORTANT POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT.

Faced with rising costs, but hesitating to increase subscriptions, it is intended in 1970 (subject to the sanction of the Annual Meeting) to incorporate "THE DIAPHONE" into "TOSA NEWS". This composite magazine will thus become a news magazine for the N.S.W. Division, with a section for featured material of wider interest. The intended subscription for overseas and interstate subscribers will be notified in next month's "TOSA NEWS". The fourth edition of "THE DIAPHONE" for 1969 will be printed as soon as practicable.

"1001 TUNES" MUSIC BOOKS AVAILABLE.

Our member in Queensland who is able to supply TOSA members with copies of this most elusive music book, has advised TOSA NEWS Editor that all copies ordered have now been despatched per registered mail. He still has a few copies left, and a further supply on order. These should arrive very soon. His charge to TOSA members is only \$8 per copy including registered postage, and this price is little more than half that quoted to TOSA News from some other sources. Black market price is around \$15 copy. Those who would still like to obtain a copy of "1001 Tunes" write to TOSA News Editor, 16 Delhi Street, Lidcombe, NSW 2141, enclosing your remittance (POSTAL NOTES ARE PREFERRED PLEASE). If you must send a cheque DO NOT make it payable to me personally. Please enclose a stamped un-addressed envelope in your letter - this is for onward postage. Your copy will arrive by registered post direct from the supplier.

ORGAN WANTED BY MEMBER?

Our member David Nourse of Armidale is looking for a good portable electronic organ. He seeks a two manual + pedals unit without built-in speakers as he intends to use an external amplifier. He wishes to use the instrument for a wide variety of music, such as jazz, pop, latin and standard dance, so the organ should be capable of wide tonal variations. He further states that it is vital that the instrument must be capable of being carried in an ordinary car (weight is of less importance than bulk). He is prepared to spend up to \$1,200 for the right instrument. He is also interested in an amplifier of about 60watts RMS power. Can any member help with either of these two items?? Write to:- David J. Nourse, Wright College, University of New England, Armidale N.S.W. 2351. He does not mind a good second hand organ or even a new one.

WILBUR KENTWELL CONCERT AT NEWCASTLE.

As already announced in last month's TOSA News, WILBUR KENTWELL will be presented in concert at the Hunter Theatre Newcastle on Saturday 29th November next at 8pm. He will be playing a three manual Conn Theatre Organ, and the concert is in aid of a local charity. Tickets are \$2 each and are obtainable through Mr Keith Joice, whose address is 6 Errington Avenue, New Lambton 2305. His telephone number is 57-2515. Keith Joice is Publicity Officer for the Newcastle Hammond Organ Society as well as being a member of the NSW Division of TOSA. The success of the previous concert by our member WILBUR KENTWELL in this theatre last May, when he was presented by the local Hammond Society, was such, that a full house is assured for this function. It has been reported to TOSA News that already half of the tickets have been sold. If you plan to attend this function, we suggest you contact Keith Joice immediately.

PLEASE BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS (AND THEIR FRIENDS TOO) TO THE MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL FOR THE FIRST BIRTHDAY CONCERT SPECTACULAR BY D E N I S P A L M I S T R A ON THE NIGHT OF THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER AT 8pm. AN EXCITING NIGHT FOR ALL OF US.

A MOST GENEROUS DONATION.

The Society gratefully acknowledges a most generous donation by our member Mr Stan Holland. Stan, a former Committee man, paid for a high quality microphone for use with the Society's amplifier at our concerts. This fine acquisition enables you to hear announcements, as well as vocals, so much more clearly than before. The Society extends its grateful thanks to Stan for yet another service to us - just one of many such gestures he has extended over the years.

NEW AUDIENCE FOR POPULAR ORGAN MUSIC.

Our member, Mr Clive Cooper is actively associated with the doings of the Ukrainian people in the Lidcombe-Regent's Park-Berala areas. In a letter to TOSA News, Clive says that these friendly folk hear little of our kind of music, and know virtually nothing of the theatre organ. He feels that this state of affairs should be remedied at the earliest possible moment. The Ukrainian people are passionately fond of music he says, and it is his belief that they would take to the theatre organ like a duck to water. These being his sentiments, he has decided to do something about it. Accordingly, arrangements have been made for our Honorary member CHARLES TUCKWELL to present a 45 minute concert of theatre organ as part of a musical evening of singing, instrumental items and folk dancing, which will take place at the Ukrainian Hall, 59 Joseph Street Lidcombe on Friday 28th November at 7.30pm

The purpose behind Clive Cooper's good work is to introduce organ music to the members of the Ukrainian community, whom Clive describes as a shy but warm hearted people. CHARLES TUCKWELL will be playing a Baldwin theatre organ for this occasion, and Clive says several other similar concerts are planned. It is expected that DAVID PARSONS will be another organist to give a concert for these people at a later date.

A warm invitation is extended to all TOSA members who would like to attend. Tickets are \$1 each and will be on sale at the doors. There will be refreshments during the evening. FOLK ITEMS - SINGING - AND CHARLES TUCKWELL AT THE BALDWIN ORGAN.....

TAPE RECORDING OF CONCERTS.

Member Geoff Rowston has been appointed the official recording engineer of the NSW Division of TOSA. He will record concerts for the Society, where permission has been given by the artist, and copies of these tapes will be available to members at a charge of \$2 plus cost of the tape. Mr Rowston uses top quality equipment for his recordings and members are assured of receiving excellent copies of concerts. Members are reminded that private tape recordings cannot be made at Society functions.

ENGLISH THEATRE ORGANIST INJURED.

The Console Magazine reports that famous English theatre organist SANDY MACPHERSON was injured after taping a broadcast session at London's State Kilburn Wurlitzer. "It all happened through a button mix up as he was taking the console down into the pit. The wrong button got pressed and the large keydesk started revolving. A special bench, which cannot be used when the elevator revolves, was forced into the console, putting "the squeeze" on the organist. Quick action in stopping the lift kept the artist's injury from becoming serious. Only a Howard seat can be used when the revolving mechanism is used. There is also a carpeted sliding roof that moves into place as the console is lowered".

REGINALD STONE LOOKS BACK.

Formerly a theatre organist in Great Britain during the silent era, REGINALD STONE, in an article in The Console, reminisced in a somewhat humorous vein on incidents he recalled from the "golden days". One of the highlights of his article is quoted here. "The famous home of vaudeville in London, namely, the Palladium, flirted with a policy of silent movies and stage shows in the twenties, for a short period. This theatre is the equivalent of the Palace New York. A Style 'F' Wurlitzer was installed. The chambers (wooden ones) were backstage and the organ was heard to better advantage in the police court next door, than in the theatre"

TOSA News thinks that the addition of Wurlitzer organ music wafting in from the back of the Palladium Theatre, could only have had a beneficial result in the dispensing of British justice. Perhaps some research on the old Court files of the period, may reveal that penalties handed down by the magistrates were lighter in this Court than the same offence would have brought in a less fortunate courtroom. If such should be the case, criminals would welcome the installation of Wurlitzers in courtrooms throughout the land. The organist of course should wear a wig & gown.

FURTHER NEWS FROM AMERICA.

ORGAN PRICES ARE OUT OF REASON, BUFF STATES.

Current prices being paid for theatre pipe organs (in the U.S.A. - Ed) are out of reason, according to R.C. Simonton, well known organ buff. On his return from a four month tour of Europe and the Middle East, he learned of the prices being paid recently for instruments, and cited his own experience in purchasing the BUDDY COLE organ which is now stored in Cincinnati. The 3m/26r Wurlitzer/Morton was purchased for around \$8,000. Of this amount, \$3,000 went for storage charges, he noted. Organ enthusiasts are creating a monstrous situation by bidding such high prices, he believes, and many already are regretting their actions when they realise they may not be able to sell their instruments at a comparable price in an emergency.

BROADBENT MAY SUCCEED DIXON.

ERNEST BROADBENT may be successor to REGINALD DIXON when the famed organist leaves the Wurlitzer bench for the last time at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool. His name is most frequently heard in organ circles in London when discussion comes up about the one to take over after Easter of next year. BROADBENT is DIXON'S deputy organist.

The two items above are reprinted from the latest issue of The Console to arrive in this country. (Editor)

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

Finally, a further most interesting piece from the article "REGINALD STONE LOOKS BACK", which appears on page 5. Referring to the "golden days" REGINALD says, "In those days organs were advertised as mammoth, golden throated, mighty, giant etc.", but when ordinary folk talked about theatre organ, the household word for them was "Wurlitzer", because they all thought every theatre had one.

Its a funny thing how history repeats itself. Today there are many folk who think only of a single instrument in the electronic field when talking about the plug-ins - they refer to the one instrument because it, like "Wurlitzer" was first on the scene and heavily advertised - they say "Hammond".

LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND.

An Air-mail letter from our member MAURICE CARBINES in New Zealand arrived yesterday with the news that Maurice will be arriving in Sydney on November 15th for a two week visit. He says he had been thinking about a trip to Sydney for some time, but when he read in TOSA News, that DENIS PALMISTRA would be playing the first birthday concert on the Society organ, he decided immediately that he just had to be present. Those of us who met Maurice when he was here three or four years ago, remember a very friendly and charming gentleman, and we look forward to seeing him again. He is a former organist of the Civic Theatre in Auckland and its Wurlitzer.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS *****

Time is 6.15pm Sunday 26th October. TOSA News has just received a telephone call from Mrs Parsons, mother of DAVID PARSONS to announce that DAVID has WON the NATIONAL GRAND FINAL of the Yamaha Organ Playing Contest held at the Dandy Cinema Melbourne just a few hours ago. DAVID will remain in Melbourne for an extra day to appear on T.V. It is expected that he will leave for Japan within the next couple of weeks to appear in that country. On behalf of all the members of the N.S.W. Division of the Society TOSA NEWS extends its warmest congratulations to DAVID.

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