

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: IAN C. GRIGGS

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

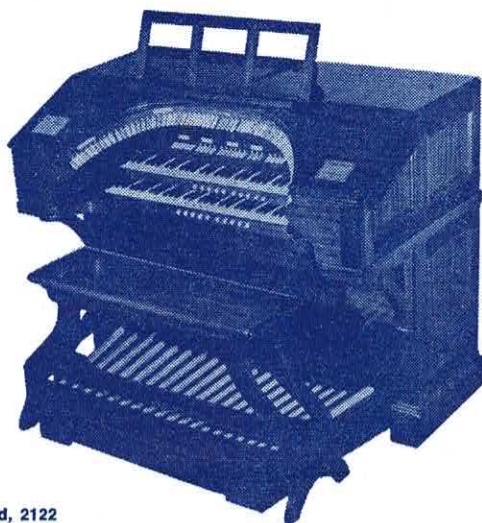
SOCIETY DIRECTORY:

General correspondence to the Secretary, Mrs. PHYLLIS DUNN, 1a Second Avenue, Eastwood, 2122

Financial correspondence to the Treasurer, Mr. OSCAR MOEN, 68 Shepherd Street, Ryde, 2112

TOSA NEWS correspondence to IAN C. GRIGGS, P.O. Box 447, Chatswood, 2067

President: NEVILLE WRIGHT, 67 Clarke Street, Peakhurst, 2210



PRICE
40c



VOL. 9 NO. 7

1ST JULY 1971

Andrew Fenner at*** Marrickville:28 July



AT LAST! THE CELEBRATED ENGLISH ORGANIST EXTRAORDINAIRE ANDREW FENNER HONOURS US WITH A CONCERT ON OUR OWN WURLITZER THEATRE PIPE ORGAN AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

THE DATE; WEDNESDAY 28th JULY. THE TIME: 8.00 p.m.

This is indeed one of the most important events in the life of N.S.W. Division of T.O.S.A. and we cannot too strongly recommend that you bring yourselves along to Marrickville on this night. Your past Editor, in TOSA News of February 1971, made reference to a recent recording of Andrew Fenner's in his possession, and by his complimentary remarks and publication of an extract from the A.T.O.S. Magazine, "Theatre Organ", which reviewed the disc, certainly increased interest and had us looking forward to the day when Mr. Fenner would arrive on these shores and play for us. And almost before we are even conscious of the fact, that day has arrived.

The photograph on the front page is reproduced by courtesy of its suppliers (to me), W.A. Division of T.O.S.A., and hereunder, I am publishing a few details about Andrew Fenner from an article by Stanley R. White, by courtesy of Vic.Div.

" Andrew Fenner was born in Putney, London. His musical training commenced with the piano at the age of 7 years, and at 9 years he graduated to the Church Organ. His most important tutor in the art of organ-playing was none other than George Thalben-Ball. (Ed's note: This remarkable 75 year old Australian-born organist is still giving concert tours, and was heard only last month at Auckland Town Hall.) Andrew Fenner is affectionately known as "Andy" to his countless admirers - people who have been able to follow his career as a Theatre Organist through his many appearances all over the British Isles. He has worked for all of the major circuits and featured the best known organs of each, Gaumont, A.B.C., and Granada. His hundreds of broadcasts have also included the use of the best known instruments, such as Granada's at Tooting and Clapham Junction, the magnificent Compton of the Odeon (Gaumont) Hammersmith, where he was once the resident organist, and many, many memorable broadcasts recitals on the famous B.B.C. 5/27 Moller. Andy did in fact broadcast the original B.B.C. Theatre Organ, the Compton which was tragically destroyed by enemy action over London in the early part of World War II. In those days just before the War, Andy was broadcasting under the direction of Reginald Foort, an organist he admired very much and still does. In his collection, Andy has a recording he made at the B.B.C. Compton in St. George's Hall.

Quentin Maclean was the organist who caught Andy's imagination the most, and, listening to Andy play today, it is not difficult at all to catch more than a glimpse of the Maclean musicianship. Of course, Andrew Fenner has admiration for many other good organists such as Dudley Beaven and Lloyd Thomas. Of the up and coming organists, Andy names Len Rawle as one of the most promising. Andy does, of course live beside the seaside at a place well known through the activities of another organist, Douglas Reeve ; yes, Brighton, Sussex.

For many years his signature tune has been "Sussex by the Sea", a gay tune which creates the correct atmosphere for the type of programme which he likes to feature. His vast experience of organs ranging through Cathedral, Concert, Cinema and Electronic, has enabled him to encompass the whole world of music into his recitals; Wagner, Gershwin, Handy, Fats Waller; you get the lot from Andrew Fenner, and in a performance complimentary to the original written score. His classics are a pure straight performance, while his progressive thinking produces arrangements which exploit the full facilities of the Theatre Pipe Organ in lush and colourful performances of the popular items.

He views the electronic organs as musical instruments for "Having fun with", and with his brilliant arranging, the results are very worthwhile; in fact he was the first organist to be engaged for commercial television in the U.K.; and stayed on the job for no less than 12 years; one of his childrens programmes ran for 8 years, during which time Andy composed every note of music used. Some of his compositions have been published, "Jolley Jillet" being the most popular, and a novelty number called "Monkey's Business" has been recorded by him along with other items at the Compton organ of the Odeon, Hammersmith, for eventual use on a long playing Album. Recording is nothing new to Andy; over 200 recordings of background music played by him exist in the music libraries of the T.V. and broadcasting organisations, while he made commercial gramophone records for E.M.I., many years ago using the Compton 3/8 + Melotone, installed in E.M.I.'s studios.

JULY DIARY

READ ON FOR FULL DETAILS OF EACH.

1ST ~ State Theatre**17TH ~ Dogson Party****28TH ~ Andrew Fenner**THE Andrew Fenner Story (Cont.)

On H.M.V. BD 1037 and on BD 1057, he accompanied Master Thomas Criddle, a lad who used to sing with Andy in Accompaniment at some of the organ interludes in the cinemas.

This veteran Theatre Organist has also been responsible for giving the final training to several well known organists, before they struck out on their own.

Although Andy was not responsible for giving any musical training to George Blackmore, he did assist George quite a lot in his early broadcasting days by making sure that the organ would be set up for George's requirements, whenever George would be scheduled to use an organ being featured by Andy. They have remained since, the friendliest of competitors. Andy can of course, recall the earlier days of an organist known to you all, Reginald Dixon, and as Andy has said, " He is always the perfect gentleman; a great entertainer."

Yes, for over thirty years, Andrew Fenner has enjoyed a reputation for all that is best in Theatre Organ Music. "

Well, members, now you know a bit more about our esteemed visitor, and it is obvious that we can look forward to a really wonderful concert at Marrickville on Wednesday 28th July, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Admission charge will be \$1.50, and half price (75c) to children and pensioners.

THURSDAY EVENING THE FIRST OF JULY AT THE STATE THEATRE.....

will be a most important occasion for Sydney's cinema world. That night will be held a special Gala Charity Premiere, with Vice-Regal attendance, of a new film made in Australia, "Nickle Queen", starring Googie Withers, John Laws, and Ed Devereux.

The famous 4/21 WurliTzer Organ will be specially featured during the evening, and what is the best news of all this is the fact that the Theatre Management have most generously agreed to allow two hundred seats to T.O.S.A. members. One hundred of these will be in the Dress Circle, at \$2.00 each, and one hundred in the Front Stalls, gratis (Yes, FREE.)

When you note that tickets for this Premiere are being sold by the Black and White Committee for TEN DOLLARS each, you will see what a fantastic offer this is; something we must be very grateful to Greater Union for indeed.

Attached to T.O.S.A. News or included with this issue, you will receive a further leaflet giving further details, including the identity of the organist, and the means of obtaining tickets. All this information is coming to me in short bursts, almost as if by teleprinter, but as I can't hold up page three, I've decided to give the details IN TOTO separately.

THE DATE TIME AND PLACE: SYDNEY'S PICTURE PALACE MAGNIFICENT, THE STATE THEATRE, THURSDAY THE FIRST OF JULY, COMMENCING 7.00 P.M.
PLEASE CHECK THE CONFIRMATION LEAFLET FOR DETAILS.

ORGAN PARTY AT IAN POGSON'S, SAT 17th JULY, 8.00 p.m.

Come along and have an enjoyable evening at the home of our member IAN POGSON, who resides at 30 HANOVER AVENUE EPPING.

Ian has a Hammond H 111 Organ, worth about \$3000, so it looks like we ^{are for} in some good "rich" sound from this fine instrument. ^ ^

As Ian is limited to a roll-up of 25, I suggest you get in early and give him a ring at 86 3199 to make your reservation. As usual with T.O.S.A. Organ Parties, supper will be provided, and the charge of \$1.00 will go to a selected T.O.S.A. Fund. See you there....

IAN POGSON....30 HANOVER AVENUE EPPING....SAT 17th JULY 8.00 p.m.

By the way, how would YOU like to hold an organ party for T.O.S.A. in YOUR home? You haven't got an organ? Well, that's no problem; if you've got a nice big lounge with plenty of chairs to go around, and there's a power point handy, let one of your Committee know, for we can usually arrange the loan of an instrument for that purpose.

Another interesting Organ Party coming up in the future will be held at the home of Col Tringham, 27 Arthur Street, Dee Why, where he will be using the big Gulbransen "Rialto" organ. Details when the time comes, but meanwhile make a note of the date::::: 24th SEPTEMBER.

T.O.S.A. COMES TO SUMMERLAND

On Sunday 13th June, 1971, a happy event of the greatest importance to N.S.W. members of T.O.S.A. took place, in the beautiful Auditorium of the Ballina R.S.L. Club, on the banks of the Richmond River. It was the official opening of the newest branch, (and N.S.W.'s Division's first Branch) of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia. Several interested organ-enthusiasts, in what is known as the "Summerland" area of the State, headed by Mr. Jim Morris, (A playing and teaching organist in Ballina and surrounding districts) got together, and enlisted the support of the Ballina R.S.L. Club, who, once their interest was aroused, showed just what country generosity can mean! The Club met all the expenses of accomodating the organists and other guests in Ballina, including one whom they generously termed Guest of Honour, your N.S.W. Honorary Secretary, Phyllis Dunn, who was there with her husband and fellow-member, Alex. In responding to the Mayors opening remarks, Phyllis told the audience of 600 organ enthusiasts as much as she could in a short speech, of the aims and interests of T.O.S.A., and of course passed on the thanks of all concerned to the organisers of the Organ Festival, and the President and Committee of the Club.

And then it was "on with the music"! And what a feast it was. No less than seven organists and their respective organs gave us a veritable evening of melody. Our own Pat Quinn of Sydney T.O.S.A. played the New Wurlitzer, David Kohler of Toowoomba played the Hammond, Clarrie Hall of Coff's Harbour played the Lowrey, Jim Morris and Ken Pitcher played the Hammond, Sue Whitehouse, the daughter of Howell Whitehouse, Queensland's TOSA President, played the Yamaha AND the 3 manual Conn; and also Barrie Bailey of Brisbane played the big Conn,

They all played a wide range of tunes, from novelty numbers to marches, and finished up with six of them, in unison on the six organs, playing an exciting version of Duke Ellington's "Caravan" which had the whole 600-audience giving them a deafening round of applause. And no wonder, their synchronisation was amazing, and really thrilling. Our thanks go to them all, and to Howell Whitehouse, who compered the evening with his usual capable charm in such tasks. The thanks of the N.S.W. Division of TOSA are once more expressed to the R.S.L. Club at Ballina, to Mr. Jim Morris, and to the first members of the Summerland Branch, who put so much in to the organisation of the Festival - which the Club President assured us, will be an Annual event now in Ballina. And finally we issue a warm welcome to our newest members, who are listed below; I think we can safely say that with an initial membership of 15, the Summerland branch of TOSA is a very healthy infant! Long may it thrive, and grow apace;

Mr. Jim Morris; Mr. & Mrs. Russ Wild; Mrs Fernace and Leigh Fernace; Mrs "Mickie" Schreiber; Mr & Mrs Reg McNeice; Mr & Mrs Brian Gardner; Robert Atcheson; Miss Boyes; Mr Leohard McDonnell, and Mr & Mrs White.

PLEASE HAVE A READ OF THIS "LETTER TO THE EDITOR" AND SEE IF YOU CAN HELP....



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

ABD 969

COMMONWEALTH FILM UNITNEWS AND INFORMATION BUREAU
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FP.22-028

17th June, 1971.

Mr. Ian Griggs,
Editor,
Journal of the Theatre Organ Society,
C/o Willoughby Municipal Council,
409 Victoria Avenue,
Chatswood, 2067.

Dear Sir,

I wonder if I may seek the assistance of you and your readers in connection with some photographic material we are trying to find for a film the Commonwealth Film Unit will shortly be producing.

The film is the second part of our film history of Australian Cinema, covering the period from 1921-1930. (The first part of the film history was made a few years ago, THE PICTURES THAT MOVED, and covered the period of 1896-1920.

The film will include a sequence on picture theatres, large and small. We will be shooting inside some of the remaining large picture palaces, but we are looking for old still photographs of smaller suburban and country town theatres taken in the 1920's, give or take a few years.

We are also interested in photographs from that period of theatre organists at the organ, of stage productions in picture theatres, and of exploitation stunts.

It occurred to us that some of your readers may have collected such photographs. We would be most grateful if we could borrow them for copying. We would reimburse the sender for the postage, and return them by registered post. We would later seek the permission of the owner to use any photographs selected for the film. The photographs would not be used for any other purpose.

Photographs or letters should be addressed to:-

Mrs. Joan Long,
Commonwealth Film Unit,
P.O. Box 46,
Lindfield, N.S.W.2070.

We would be very appreciative of any assistance you could give us in this matter, by publishing this letter or a brief news item.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Long".

(Joan Long)
for Producer-in-Chief.

EARLY MORN CAPITOL ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY SATURDAY 19th JUNE .

Well the foggy morning didn't seem to deter those early risers who were determined to do so, from getting to the Capitol in plenty of time to hear one of the most interesting functions yet....a Jam Session of three organists, playing the 3/15 WurliTzer.

Neither were they disturbed when great clouds of pungent-smelling smoke descended down the Lounge from the bio box to squeals of "Eek, we're on fire! Etc.Etc."

We were very pleased that so many members and friends managed to come along; it 's not easy to get up at 3.15 a.m. these mornings. Yes, I DID say 3.15 a.m., for that is when our contingent of friends from Newcastle had to arise. What a pleasant surprise that so many from so far came along. From Newcastle we welcomed Don and Joy Tyler, Keith, June, Allan, Colin, Jeanette and Roslyn Pavey, Mervyn Pope, David Pitts, Geoff Moore and John Fraser. Nice to see you there, people. Not only these folk from Novascastria, but as well, a visitor from Victoria, and two from Wagga, who, during the morning signed up as members of T.O.S.A.

Now to the music. And the identity of the three organists, who up to the last minute were not all known, even to me.

First off we heard Rod Blackmore, one of our Committee members and past treasurer, who played an interesting selection of popular tunes from the last few years, mingled with a couple of light classics, a march, and music from the Shows. I remember especially, his rendition of several love songs of recent times, including the song from the current box office success, "Love Story," songs from Man of la Mancha, Elizabethan Serenade, and la Danza.

Next on the bill was member Bert Wyatt, no stranger to the world of music, having been associated with the Mosman Musical Society for many years. Bert started off with some hit tunes of the twenties, and followed with several pieces in highly contrasting style, including some brilliant numbers from Paint your Wagon, Ketelby's In a Chinese Temple Garden, Schubert's Serenade, the gavotæ from Mignon, and two beautifully played Bach Chorale Preludes from the Orgelbuchlein.

The third course in this musical banquet came in the form of Bill Schumacher, and I always think Bill and the Capitol 3/15 go together like "Horse and Carriage" which reminds me of one of his first pieces, Love and Marriage. Bill as usual played a fine programme; I particularly remember his bracket of songs associated with Australian broadcasting Theatre Organists, and his finale, three pieces composed by the American Lyn Larsen.

Thanks to each of our three organists at this Jam Session. Each of you had a style especially your own, and it was a joy to sit back and savour each in turn.

A special thanks also to those behind the scenes; the Capitol Organ Sub-committee, who had the WurliTzer in tip-top playing condition: it sounded great. Also to those in the box who provided us with some delightful coloured spots and lighting changes to suit the mood of the music. Even the stars were twinkling. In all, a fine show; there could be no better way to start a winter's Saturday morning.

ORGANS FOR HIRE

Paul McCloude has numerous organs, plus a Steck Grand Piano, Leslies, Organ tone cabinets etc. FOR HIRE.

Paul may be contacted through the kind courtesy of the Lowrey Organ Company (Rees Wills Pty. Ltd.), by telephoning 25 2956.

FOR THE OUT-OF-TOWN DINER WITH A "THING" ON ORGAN MUSIC

I highly recommend two fine eating houses where you can dine to the music of magnificent large electronic organs. Way out west, at the Burning Log Restaurant at Dural, you can hear Joh Congert at the big WurliTzer, and in the other direction, at Avalon, you can hear Art and Helene Kaub on the Thomas Palace III at the Pizza Playhouse, Barefoot Boulevard, Avalon. An evening at either will provide you with a feast for the mouths and the ears.

(PLEASE NOTE YOUR PRESIDENT'S NEW PHONE NUMBER: Neville Wright, 533 5516 (a.h.))

Special announcement regarding the Gala Charity Vice-Regal Premiere

S T A T E T H E A T R E

THURSDAY 1st of JULY 1971

Advance Premiere

of

"Nickel Queen"

Starring: Google Withers
John Laws
Ed Devereux
and other well known Australians

These artists to appear in person.

Mr. Buddy Scott, Manager of the State Theatre, informed T.O.S.A. News today (21st June) that seats will be available for T.O.S.A. Members and their friends.

This is one of the very rare occasions when the 4/21 Wurlitzer Organ will be heard during a screening at the State Theatre. Our good friend IAN DAVIES has at this date been asked by the Management to play during the evening, commencing about 7.00 p.m. While we cannot at this stage say that he definitely will be playing, information leads us to believe that this will be the case.

Mr. Scott also informed us that the matter of booking for the evening is in the hands of the Charity concerned, the Black and White Committee, and it will not be known till a few days beforehand, how many seats will be available to T.O.S.A., where they will be, and whether they will be \$2.00, Dress Circle, or gratis, Front Stalls.

The instructions are that intending patrons from within our ranks telephone the State Theatre direct, at 26 2431 from MONDAY 28th JULY onward, to make a reservation. The booking office will be advised that Society Members will be making bookings and shall advise the caller of the type of reservation made.

T.O.S.A. News apologises for the vagueness of these arrangements, but you will appreciate that there is an urgency to have T.O.S.A. News in your letterboxes several days before the event. However, if you have any queries, please ring your Editor at 412 3333, 9am to 4.30pm and further details will most probably be known.

THIS IS A WONDERFUL OFFER BY GREATER UNION THEATRES, AND I HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO FILL ALL THE SEATS ALLOTTED TO US THAT EVENING. THE WURLITZER ORGAN WILL BE FEATURED FOR APPROX ONE HOUR BEFORE THE FEATURE, AND ALSO DURING THE COURSE OF THE EVENING. DO YOUR UTMOST TO BE THERE.

DATES TO MAKE A NOTE OF

AN ORGAN PARTY AT THE HOME OF OUR HONORARY MEMBER DAVID PARSONS
104 Hannah Street Beecroft, Saturday 7th August at 8.00 p.m.

ERIC SMITH AND THE FORT STREET BOYS' CHOIR IN CONCERT AT MARRICKVILLE
Wednesday 25th August at 8.00 p.m.

FREE CONCERT AT MARRICKVILLE
Sunday 19th September at 2.30 p.m. *David Parsons*

ORGAN PARTY AT COL TRINGHAM'S (See earlier)
SAT 24th September at 8.00 p.m.

ORGAN SPECTACULAR SYDNEY TOWN HALL)
6th October at 8.00 p.m.

N.S.W. DIVISION'S ANNUAL CONVENTION
Weekend of 15th/16th October....Chatswood, Capitol, Lyceum, and Marrickville:::::
(pipes,) and some electronics. Keep you posted on details. Dont go away that weekend.

NEW MEMBERS

Besides the members listed under the Summerland article, we have pleasure in also welcoming to our "Ranks"; Eric C. West of Auburn; Christopher J. Styles of Kirribilli; Mrs Nell Hall of Epping and Mr & Mrs Frank Dohrn of Sutherland.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE

Deadline for August issue will be Friday 23rd July. If posting stuff to the P.O. Box at Chatswood, please make sure you send it away at least by Wed. 21st. Late -ly I have been receiving things in the box just after I have sent the finished copy to the printer.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Next meetings will be held at St Annes Church Hall Strathfield at 7.15 p.m., on MONDAYS 5th July and 2nd August.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE EX KINGS CROSS/HURSTVILLE 2/10 WURLITZER ORGAN.

Rumours are flying around, and I notice that articles have been printed in two interstate Divisions' magazines, that the abovementioned organ is "For Sale." It is not quite as simple as this. Some of you may know that when the Burwood Methodist and Congregational Churches combined, they gave over the Methodist Church building to the Greek Church, who in turn did not want the old Hunter tracker action organ installed therein. Consequently, the Church authorities had the Hunter (a very fine old instrument, but in need of renovation), taken down and stored. They wish to re-install it in the Congregational building, but this at present contains the aforementioned 2/10 Wurlitzer.

The thing is, that if they can get enough for the Wurlitzer to do up the Hunter, then it's a deal, however the quotation for work to be done, including electrification of the console, on the Hunter is staggering, and it seems unlikely that they will be successful. The price quoted in Vox and Tremulant was \$5000, but the Church treasurer assures me that this would nowhere near cover the expenses.

So it's up to you folks; if you feel like entering into private negotiation for the purchase of this Sydney Theatre Organ, which incidentally is in very good condition, then the contact is Mr. Keith Falconer, at 642 7697

Another bit of info on old Sydney organs which might interest you. The large Hunter Organ from Waverley Bondi Junction Church which went up for auction recently, was not sold, as apparently the reserve was not reached. Sidney Noad informs me that the Church has requested Noads to dismantle and store until such time as a new home or buyer arrives on the scene.

NEWS OF TWO FANTASTIC RECORDINGS

Almost two years ago, B.B.C. Radio and Television Enterprises released an L.P. theatre organ record entitled "Dudley Savage"-- this was a selection of melodies played by Dudley Savage in the B.B.C. Radio series "As Prescribed", and featured the superb 3 manual Compton organ of the A.B.C. Theatre in Plymouth. The Feb. 1970 T.O.S.A. News carried a "rare" review of this disc written by the then Editor, Frank Ellis, the only trouble was that members had to write to the B.B.C. London and send their money in order to buy the record. As well, of course, there was a long wait for the record to arrive. The B.B.C. have advised Frank that they have now released three more theatre organ broadcasts records, especially for lovers of the "King of Instruments", and as they have now appointed a distributor in Australia, records can be more easily and readily purchased. The three new LP releases are "The Organist Entertains" (REC 72M), "The Plymouth Sound" (REC 79M), and "More hits from The Organist Entertains" (REC 110M).

The Australian agent has advised Frank that 72M and 79M will be available in early July, and 110M a little later on. The first record (72M "The Organist Entertains") is a real dazzler -- eight organists and eight different theatre pipe organs. The organists are: Ernest Broadbent, Jackie Brown, Robinson Cleaver, William Davies, Vic Hammett, Reginald Porter-Brown, Robin Richmond and Charles Smitton. Organs include the Empress Ballroom WurliTzer Blackpool, Granada Theatre Tooting WurliTzer, Christie Organs in the Astra Theatre Llandudno, Granada Theatre WurliTzer in Harrow's Granada Theatre, Compton organ A.B.C. Theatre, Torquay, Forum Cinema in Jersey, Channell Islands, on a Compton, Christie in the Gaumont Palace Cinema, Paris, France; and the Queen WurliTzer of the Odeon Theatre Manchester. This is about the most fantastic collection of organs and organists possible to get on one record. As the material from these B.B.C. Records are taken from radio programmes, the discs are MONO only but the quality is so that you will never miss the stereo sound at all. Playing and programmes is so superb throughout, and you'll never forgive yourself if you miss out on this first class collector's item. The cover depicts a four manual mint condition WurliTzer console in CLOSE UP. The Australian agent had advised Frank that the price of \$5.95 can be reduced to \$5.35 if some responsible official of T.O.S.A. will collect money and orders and send them all in together so that a bulk issue can be sent to Sydney for distribution to T.O.S.A. members. Frank has offered to take charge of this for the Society, so place your orders with him as quickly as possible for the first shipment in early July. For those who wish to telephone Frank and place an order, his phone number is 649 7011, AFTER 7PM ONLY PLEASE.

The second record, "The Plymouth Sound" (79M) will also be arriving at the same time as the abovementioned disc, and this features Dudley Savage at the Compton organ of the A.B.C. Theatre, Plymouth. This too, is a winner, and as the talented Mr. Savage has already received acclaim from T.O.S.A. News for his previous record, we do not propose to say any more here, due to a lack of space. Suffice to say it is even better than his "As Prescribed". The price of this disc is also \$5.35 if ordered through the Society in bulk, so ring Frank and order your records now --- you'll save 60 cents per records. The third record for release later on will have eight different organists and six different instruments, and news of this will be given when details are known. With the present dearth of theatre organ recordings on the commercial labels, the B.B.C.'s three releases are indeed timely. Members records will not be posted but will be collected from Frank personally, at T.O.S.A. Functions, thus avoiding damage in the mails.

NEWS FROM INTERSTATE

South Australia::: 3rd July at 8pm; Andrew Fenner in concert at the 2/12 WurliTzer of Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School. All bookings are at Allens, Gawler Place, Adelaide. 6th July at 8pm; Wyatt Hall; well-known Adelaide organists will be presenting a demonstration night of the Yamaha E3 with Leslie. 18th July at 2pm; Wyatt Hall: the Yamaha Electobe Festival, with talented young female organist, Yuri Nishimura

Queensland::: 6th July 7.45pm; Committee Meeting 3 Empress Terrace, Bardon.

Victoria::: Work sessions on the Society's Christie/Vincent Theatre Organ really got under way a short time ago when Bill Worley and his team of workers transported the chests, shutters and xylophone to storage at Coburg, where it is handy to the workshop. Intending helpers can ring 35 6266 or 489 1659 to make arrangements as to where to go and what to do for the restoration. →

NEWS FROM INTERSTATE (CONT)

Victoria::: 11th July 2.30pm; Dendy Theatre...Andrew Fenner
 20th July 8pm; Wilson Hall, Melbourne University....Andrew Fenner
 8th August 2.30pm; Moorabbin Town Hall....Andrew Fenner.
 30th July....Society Dinner Dance at "Arleigh" receptions.

Western Australia::: W.A. Division's Organ Site: Fremantle Town Hall is a large well-kept hall in the heart of the city of Fremantle, with a large spacious stage complete with ample flying space above, and an ideal amount of room for organ chambers. Negotiations with the city council are still in hand. The organ itself is still being held at the docks owing to a dispute with the Dept. of Customs and Excise. It has been there since it arrived in January, but it is hoped that the dispute with the Customs Dept. will be settled soon.

NEWS FROM ROUND ABOUT

From "Console"::: Purchase of the estate of the late Ben Hall for a price slightly under \$5000 has been negotiated by the American Theatre Organ Society. Everything included in the estate; the two manual WurliTzer Pipe Organ, player piano and rolls, glass slides, 35mm transparencies, photos and Hall's extensive research files have now been crated and removed from the Greenwich Village apartment. A.T.O.S. officials decided to make the purchase so that the collection would not be broken up.

A short article on American Picture Palaces, written by the late Ben M. Hall appeared in the February 1971 issue of LIFE, as part of the very large section entitled "Nostalgia". The whole issue is most interesting for those with a romantic or sentimental frame of mind, and Hall's article on Picture Palaces contains some magnificent colour shots of various cinema interiors. I had no trouble in getting a back issue a few weeks back, and I think it would be well worth the search to try and find one.

The Cinema Organ Society (England) Journal informs us that the A.B.C. Cinemas are now under control of E.M.I.. An E.M.I. spokesman has confirmed that it has become necessary to cancel the service contracts on quite a number of organs in the A.B.C. circuit. As a result, several "Resident" organists have been sacked. Among these is the famous British organist Reginald Porter-Brown, who played at the recent opening of the new B.B.C. organ. (All English organists seem to be called Reg.) The Plaza Worthing, late home of the 3/10 Compton purchased by the W.A. Division of T.O.S.A. was an A.B.C. house. One is left wondering as to the fate of the WurliTzer at Kingston-Upon-Thames, which is an A.B.C. cinema. This is the organ used for the many recordings made by Joseph Seal.

Interesting to note, also in London, that conservationists are trying to save the famous Alexander Palace and its huge organ from the threat of destruction. Thankfully the organ, which has a history remarkable, being involved in Wars, weather and vandals, has been bought by Henry Willis, grandson of the man who built the 4/100 instrument nearly a century ago. \$1000 was paid and the organ is to be completely restored. Your editor is in possession of a recording of this organ featuring all the legendary names of those who played it, and the tracks, all transcribed from 78's dating back to the twenties, are remarkable.

(Thanks to W.A. "Tremulant" for last two items.)

I'VE GOT MUSIC

This is the title of a recently released album of George Blackmore, playing at two famous English instruments, the Southampton Guildhall 4/50 Compton Concert/Theatre Organ, and the 4/16 WurliTzer of the Gaumont State Theatre, Kilburn.. Available at Winton Music Centre, 83 York Street, City:::\$2.50

Selections include: Rag-a-ma-tazz, Estrellita, I got rhythm, Flamingo, Latin Lady, Butterfloe in the rain, One of those songs, Bond Street, Rag, Cecilia, Jenny, Porto Rico, Stranger on the Shore, America Marches (selection.)

This recording is of particular interest as it features two entirely different sounding theatre organs. The Gaumont WurliTzer is famous as a particularly fine sounding instrument, and this is in evidence in this recording. The Guildhall Southampton Compton has some magnificent reed ranks which are used to

P.T.O.

advantage by George Blackmore.

Arrangements on this record are interesting and varied and George Blackmore's performance is the usual high standard. The only criticism I could offer is there is some noise from the chambers, tremulants etc., however recording standard is reasonable.

The record is a worthwhile addition to your collection, particularly at the low price of \$2.50

ERIC SMITH IN FIRST CONCERT FOR MUSIC CENTRE

Honorary Member Eric Smith recently had the privilege of playing the inaugural concert of the Phildemar Music Centre, at Penrith.

Eric played the new Yamaha EX 42, which is regarded as being the most advanced electronic organ in the world today.

Eric was assisted by Brian Fletcher, a young man with tremendous talent, and the concert was highly successful, the music ranging through latest hits, Elgar, Bahh, Gershwin, Herbert, Strauss etc. etc., and three songs by Burt Bacharach.

LAST PAGE LAUGH

CIPHER: This is when a note on the organ refuses to stop. Organists of many years' experience vouch that the only thing to do is switch off, write a note to the tuner, and go home. This is the quickest way to (a) a rebuild, (b) lunch.

JULY DIARY FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO READ THE LAST PAGE FIRST OR FOR THOSE WHO FORGET WHAT WAS ON THE FIRST BY THE TIME THEY REACH THE LAST

THURSDAY 1st JULY 7pm STATE THEATRE
Gala Charity Vice-Regal Premiere of "Nickel Queen"
The 4/21 Wurlitzer to be specially featured. Two hundred tickets allotted to T.O.S.A. members. See the attached or separate news bulletin for details of how and where to get tickets, and who is playing. Let's make a big effort to fill these seats, most generously offered by Greater Union Theatres.

SATURDAY 17th July 8pm. IAN POGSON'S ORGAN PARTY
30 Hanover Avenue, Epping.

WEDNESDAY 28th July 8pm. MARRICKVILLIE TOWN HALL
THE FABULOUS ANDREW FENNER IN CONCERT AT
THE WURLITZER PIPE ORGAN.

ADVANCE NOTICE

ORGAN PARTY TO BE HELD IN DAVID PARSON'S NEW MUSIC ROOM
Saturday 7th AUGUST 8pm 104 HANNAH STREET BEECROFT.
Ring David at 84 4007 to make your reservation for this exciting night with the big Conn.

Happy listening,

Lawrence
Editor.

(New phone No. 412 3333
during office hrs.)