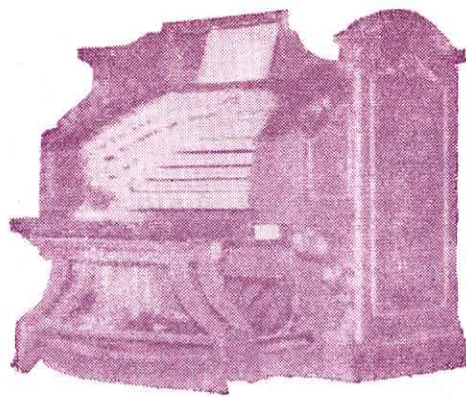


# T.O.S.A. NEWS

10c



PATRON - REGINALD DIXON MBE.

EDITOR - FRANK ELLIS

REGISTERED AT G.P.O. SYDNEY FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A PERIODICAL

TOSA NEWS IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE DIVISIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA & WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

OCTOBER - 1968  
VOLUME 6 No.10

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary  
P.O. Box 108, Wentworthville, N.S.W. 2145, Australia.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW SOUTH WALES IN OCTOBER.

SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER AT 8pm. There will be another Technical lecture in the series being presented by the Technical Sub. Committee. It will be held at the residence of our members, Mr & Mrs Arthur Spring at Henley. The lecture will be given by member Ray Garrett who has chosen as his subject, "Organ Speaker Systems". Those planning to attend the lecture, which is free, please phone Vice-President Des Russell (42-4729) a few days beforehand, to ensure your reservations.

SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER AT 2pm sharp. Our Honorary member CHARLES TUCKWELL will be heard in concert on the John Clancy residence Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. This will be the first time that we have had the chance to hear CHARLES TUCKWELL at the Wurlitzer pipe organ, the other occasion being a Wurlitzer electronic theatre organ. The name of CHARLES TUCKWELL is a famous one in the theatre organ world, so don't miss out on the chance to hear him at a theatre pipe organ. He recently gave a recital on the Sydney Town Hall organ, and he is also well known as the organist of the Pitt Street Congregational Church. His programme will be a popular theatre organ one ending at around 4pm when a cup of tea will be served.

THIS CONCERT IS A FREE ONE AND WILL BE FOR MEMBERS ONLY - MEMBERSHIP CARDS MUST BE SHOWN AT THE DOOR.

IMPORTANT NOTE.....IMPORTANT. As seats will have to be procured for this concert, John Clancy needs to know just how many will be attending, in order to have sufficient seats available. If you plan to attend please telephone Frank Ellis at 649-7011 or Tom Halloran at 523-5077 and reserve your seats. Both Mr Halloran and Mr Ellis will have fifty seats each for allocation. Please telephone after 6.30pm any evening. Seats are FREE to members and their wives - you merely have to telephone either number to secure a reservation and then produce your membership card at the door.

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded of the next two meetings. Monday 7th October at 7.15pm and Monday 4th November at 7.15pm.

## COMING EVENTS.

The Society announces the most important event in our history. The opening of our Prince Edward Theatre Wurlitzer pipe organ now installed in the Marrickville Town Hall. It will take place on Wednesday 27th November 1968. This eagerly awaited event is one that every member should try to attend, for it marks a milestone in our history. Full details of the arrangements for the premiere of our Wurlitzer will be given in next month's TOSA News. Please keep this date free if possible. November 27th.

## A SAD ANNOUNCEMENT.

It grieves us very deeply to inform our members of the sad misfortune which has fallen on our Honorary member, MISS NOREEN HENNESSY. Her devoted husband Roy, suffered a stroke, and was completely paralysed. There is little hope of any improvement for him, and our hearts go out to this great lady in her hour of trial. Although it is almost a year ago, it seems only weeks since a radiantly happy NOREEN played the opening recital on the John Clancy Wurlitzer organ. Today, she is a very sad and unhappy woman, facing the overwhelming change in her life. TOSA members all send their sympathy.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.

On Wednesday 11th September at the Wesley Auditorium, TONY FENELON, the brilliant young organist of Hoyt's Regent Theatre Melbourne, presented a splendid concert for the members of the NSW Division of T.O.S.A. Appearing at the console of the WurliTzer electronic Theatre Organ, model 4520, TONY displayed as much assurance as though he were seated at the console of his own familiar WurliTzer pipe organ in the Regent Theatre. Who could have believed that this was the first time he had played this particular organ in concert, after only the briefest of familiarisation periods with it. His choice of programme was a perfect one, and although there were no less than twenty nine items, the audience obviously would have enjoyed hearing more, had time permitted.

The ability of TONY FENELON, both artistically and technically, is so well known that there is little this reviewer can say which would add any further lustre to it. Opening with a very spirited Seventy Six Trombones, he followed on with Misty - Doin' The New Low-down - Jesusita en Chihuahua - South - Spanish Gypsy Dance - Nola (outstandingly registered) San Francisco (wistfully haunting) - Pizzicato Polka - Mame (as flouncey as the lady herself) - Spanish Flea - Cinco de Mayo - Camelot - If Ever I Would Leave You - Chopin Waltz (a gem indeed) - and to end the first half, an up-tempo Everything's Coming Up Roses. The second half of the concert gave us, This Could Be The Start Of Something Big (it was too) - Fly Me To The Moon - Birth Of The Blues - Jeannie With The Light Brown Hair - Beautiful Dreamer (these last two numbers brought the house down) - a bracket of three songs from the film "Carousel" - The Swan (another gem) - a slam-bang Kangaroo - The Dandy March (shades of George Blackmore) - To A Wild Rose and ending with TONY's signature tune Keep Your Sunny Side Up.

The audience, "like two fried eggs" had surely had its "Sunny Side" kept up all evening, thanks to TONY FENELON, Melbourne's Wizard of the WurliTzer. The organ was made available to the Society by the distributors, J. Stanley Johnston's Music Stores, and we thank Mr Johnston for his courtesy and also extend our thanks to CHARLES TUCKWELL for his help.

WORLD FAMOUS VIC HAMMETT WOWS 'EM AT WESLEY AUDITORIUM.

On Wednesday 18th September, the Society once again took over the Wesley Auditorium for an organ concert. We were honored to have the internationally acclaimed English organist VIC HAMMETT in concert for us on the Conn Theatre organ model 645. And what an exciting evening it was too!. Our Honorary member REUBERT HAYES, who supervised the excellent installation of the two organs and their battery of eight speaker boxes, opened the show, and has seldom played better. His contribution to the programme took the form of an "all request one". REUBERT has given many recitals for us over the years, and many members had asked him to play what they considered to be highlights of these past recitals. He condensed these requests to five however, as he felt it was VIC's night and he wanted to give him as much time as possible. His programme consisted of, a Spanish selection titled "Fiesta", then East Hope Martin's "Evensong", "My Fair Lady" selections, "Dance Of The Sugar Plum Fairies" and the Finale of "The Vagabond King". My Fair Lady selections were played on the new model 641 (being heard for the first time), whilst the other items were played on the model 645.

Then came our visiting celebrity VIC HAMMETT. Full of high good humour, allied to a nice line of patter, he had won his audience before he even played a note - a rare accomplishment indeed. The first notes of his opening number "Brazil", immediately revealed that we were to hear an artist whose technique is nothing short of fantastic. Added to this devastating technique, were excitingly imaginative arrangements full of dramatic surprises which had his audience literally gasping at the ease with which everything appeared to be carried off. Last month, TOSA News carried the headline that September was EXCITEMENT MONTH for us - and even allowing for the reports we had heard about VIC HAMMETT, in the light of his performance, that headline now appears to be something of an understatement. The programme continued with "Mambo Jambo", "Tico Tico", "Tune For Flutes", "Merry Widow Waltz" and "Mack The Knife". Then it was interval, during which the audience gathered together in groups to chat about which aspect of VIC HAMMETT's talents had impressed them the most.

After interval, came "On The Sunny Side Of The Street", "Tiptoe Through The Tulips" as we have never heard it before, then "Charmaine" and "Chloe", both beautifully registered and softly played to show off the organ's most serene voices, and both enthusiastically applauded by the audience. "We'll Meet Again" and finally Noel Coward's "I'll See You Again". And so ended our first VIC HAMMETT concert with his subtle musical invitation for us to see him again very soon. Just four days later in fact, when he appeared in concert at the John Clancy residence WurliTzer pipe organ. In the four days between his two concerts, VIC had been to New Zealand and given two concerts for that country's organ lovers. That these would have been successful, goes without saying.

(continued on page 3.)

VIC HAMMETT REVIEW (cont)

With the knowledge that VIC HAMMETT always used a massive theatre organ to its full capacity, REUBERT HAYES made sure that the Conn equipment contained 160 watts R.M.S. of power dissipating through 18 heavy duty speakers. However, REUBERT must have had a few misgivings now and then as to whether he should have brought more gear down. As REUBERT said to your Editor later, "Boy, he must have thought he was at the Odeon Leicester Square" !!

VIC HAMMETT profusely thanked and congratulated REUBERT on the quality of the equipment - so that put our friend's mind at rest. The Society, too, adds its grateful thanks to R.H. Elvy Pty Ltd., for the use of the instruments and to REUBERT for the meticulous attention to every little detail of the installation.

VICTORIOUS HAMMETT CONCERT.

Sunday 22nd September will long be remembered by those who were present at VIC HAMMETT'S second and final concert, at the John Clancy residence WurliTzer pipe organ. A large and enthusiastic audience, many of whom had been at his first concert, gave VIC a rousing welcome. In the first half of his programme, several numbers which had been played at the previous concert on the Conn organ, were featured by Vic, for the benefit of those who had missed out on the show. This was a splendid idea, because it clearly showed that the same brilliant arrangements he had used on the electronic organ, could be carried out just as brilliantly on the pipe organ.

In every department of theatre organ playing, VIC HAMMETT is the complete master - be it keyboard or pedal board his technique is fantastic to watch, and delightful to hear. Complicated registration changes, without the use of pistons, appeared to happen like magic, and no matter how busy he may get during the changes, he manages to project an image of unruffled calm. VIC very obviously believes that a successful theatre organist should engage the eye as well as the ear, and has developed his showmanship to the point where it matches his musical ability. It is not easy for any artist who works with his back to an audience, thereby lacking the communication that a warm friendly smile can give, to achieve such audience rapport, but VIC HAMMETT surmounts this hurdle with ease. After playing a concert that was 2 hours 20 minutes long, he very generously and graciously offered to play requests for the audience, and this he did for the next thirty minutes. And so, the Australian tour of VIC HAMMETT came to an end - informally and warmly with his fans joining him in a late afternoon tea. He has made a tremendous impression on us, and the Society looks forward to welcoming back to Sydney this brilliant musician who gives so generously of his talents. AU REVOIR....VIC HAMMETT. For the benefit of country, interstate and overseas readers the programme at the last concert is given hereunder.

<u>First Half:</u>	Brazil	<u>Second Half:</u>	Somewhere A Voice Is Calling
	Tune For Flutes		When The Organ Played At Twilight
	I Cover The Waterfront		Somewhere My Love
	Merry Widow Waltz		Marie Elena - Louise
	Chloe		A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody
	Golden Earrings		Mack The Knife
	The Village Band (A real send-up)		Thoroughly Modern Millie
	Danny Boy - Climb Every Mountain		No Other Love - Cherokee
			Swing Low Sweet Chariot & Ivor Novello Selections.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

We welcome the following new members to our Society, and hope to see you all real soon at our functions. Please make yourselves known to an official of the Society the first time you attend a function, so that you may be introduced to as many other members as possible. Committee members all wear badges for easy identification. Please do come forward and meet us. To the N.S.W. Division we welcome: Kerry R. Johnson, John E. Bowman, Mr & Mrs T. Watson, Mr & Mrs A.F. Watson all of Sydney, and to the Gold Coast Chapter of the Queensland Division, Mr J. Purdie.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF P.E. ORGAN FUND.

We are pleased to announce the following donations to our Fund and to sincerely thank those who have helped it this month. From our members in America, Mr Dick Schrumm and Mr Russ Evans, the sum of \$51. This amount is from the sale of records which were donated by Dick and Russ. The records sold were a DICK SCHRUMM release and there are still more copies available for sale through our Secretary. This record was reviewed in last month's TOSA News and is recommended. \$2 was also received from the copying of a tape recording of TONY FENELON'S Concert at the Capitol Theatre earlier this year. Thank you Tony.

# OCTOBER PROFILE THE RAY CHAFFER STORY

Unlike many other organists, whose stories have appeared in our PROFILE feature, RAY CHAFFER did not commence his musical studies with either the piano or the organ. He was born in the Sydney suburb of Summer Hill, where he started to learn the fife at school. It was not long before he became the leader of the fife and drum band, and when the Duke and Duchess of York were in Australia, for the opening of Parliament House Canberra, he played before them at the Maypole dances held at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

His grandparents were both very musical - his grandmother being a church organist, whilst his grandfather was a choirmaster. It was natural enough, therefore, that about the age of nine years, RAY should commence to learn the organ, with full encouragement from his grandmother. At the age of eleven, he was organist at the Leichhardt Baptist Church. Answering an advertisement by an organist who required someone to play for him whilst he conducted the church choir during practise, RAY was later accepted. He received lessons on the pipe organ in return for his services.

When he reached the age of sixteen, he obtained his first professional job as an organist at the Rockdale Methodist Church. About this time, he heard the American theatre organist, FRED SCHOLL at the Wurlitzer of Sydney's Capitol Theatre, and like so many church organists before him, he was completely captivated by the wonder and majesty of the theatre organ. FRED SCHOLL, who came from Grauman's Chinese & Egyptian Theatres in Hollywood, was the opening organist at the Sydney Capitol Theatre. In due course, RAY gained permission to practise on the Wurlitzer of the King's Cross Cinema, where JOSEPH WAYNE was featured at the console.

At the age of twenty one, he secured his first appointment as a theatre organist. He became resident at the two manual Christie organ of the Duke of York Theatre at Eastwood. A strange co-incidence perhaps, that his first theatre should bear the name of the member of the Royal Family, whom he had played for at the Sydney Cricket Ground so many years earlier.

The lot of the theatre organist at the Duke of York Theatre however, was not all roses. A very cost-conscious management permitted the organist to have only one hour practise time each week. Doubtless, this was to reduce the theatre's electricity bill, but it meant that RAY had only sixty minutes in which to arrange and practise his weekly programme. Nevertheless, he remained in residence for about two years, after which he moved to Reg Payne's Astra Theatre at Parramatta, playing afternoons and evenings, with a special midday shopper's session every Friday. The organ was a two manual Christie with a glass console equipped with colored lighting. Mr Payne's partner in the Astra Theatre, Mr Alf Richards, then formed a partnership with his brother, and they opened the Astra Theatre at Drummoyne. Mr Payne did not join in the new venture, however, he later built and operated the Regent Theatre at Wentworthville. It was arranged that RAY CHAFFER would be the organist at the new Astra at Drummoyne, whilst still continuing with his residency at the Astra Parramatta. RAY was at Parramatta for about another two years, appearing afternoons and evenings, with three shows on Fridays, as well as appearing nightly at Drummoyne.

In 1937, he auditioned for Western Suburbs Cinema Circuit and was immediately accepted. The audition was before the circuit's organ manager, Mr Vic Pearson, and was held at the Strathfield Cinema. The item which secured the contract for RAY was, "Softly Awakes My Heart" from Samson & Delilah. He was then appointed to the Savoy Theatre at Enfield, and opened his season a week or so later. The Company's organ policy was for each organist in the circuit to be in residence for about six months, after which time all organists were switched around to other theatres. RAY settled down to the routine of a six monthly season, and during the next few years, appeared at the Palatial Theatre Burwood, Strathfield Cinema, Civic Theatre Auburn, Roxy Theatre Parramatta, Civic Theatre Hurstville, as well as the Astra Theatre at Parramatta. He then started on his "second time around" the circuit.

Organ presentations in all Western Suburbs Cinemas, were a specially featured part of the show, and were given the utmost in polished presentation. A few seconds before 8pm, it was usual for the house lights to dim, and from the bottom of the pit, the organist chimed the hour of eight, followed by the roll of the drum to introduce the National Anthem, then finally, a trumpet fanfare heralded the Newsreel. At the end of the Newsreel, the organ rose from the pit for the featured presentation. Arriving at the theatre a little later than usual one night, RAY hurriedly started to change into his

## OCTOBER PROFILE THE RAY CHAFFER STORY (from page 4)

evening suit. He was down to his underwear, when he realised that he just couldn't dress in time. He rushed from his dressing room, started the blower, entered the pit, and seated at the console played the Chimes, Anthem, and Newsreel Fanfare, dressed in his underwear only, and feeling very grateful for the covering darkness at the bottom of the pit. He then finished dressing during the Newsreel, arrived back at the console with a minute to spare, and then rose immaculately attired for his solo spot. RAY recalled, that some time later, when the presentation format was changed to have the console up for the Newsreel Fanfare, he was "playing" in the News one evening, when he became engrossed with the first item of news on the screen that he continued to play whilst watching. He was jolted back to earth by the Chief of Staff who had hurried down to the front stalls and was loudly whispering, "Ray - take the console down for Gawd's sake". As RAY himself puts it, "They were the days".

In 1941 RAY entered the Army and saw service for the next four and a half years. Whilst stationed near Brisbane, he played the Brisbane Town Hall organ, and was invited to give a public recital, however, whilst this was being arranged, the Army saw fit to move him on to New Guinea where he played for Army Concert parties. He also played for concert parties in Bougainville. On his return to civilian life, he opened at the Roxy Theatre at Parramatta again, and also took a course on piano with Marjorie Hesse at the Sydney Conservatorium. Following the season at the Roxy, he then went around the circuit once more, finishing up at the Civic Theatre Auburn. The Company then retrenched all their organists who had been playing twice daily. Shortly afterwards, they re-engaged several of their organists to play evenings only in their larger theatres. This arrangement continued until the eventual shutdown of the organs. The Company then sold all the instruments in their theatres.

RAY, having been twenty years with the Company, then took his long service leave, after which he entered the retail trade with the Sydney firm of David Jones. Between 1949 and 1953, he played the organ of Scots Kirk Mosman, for special Easter and Christmas services. He has also been the organist for the David Jones Staff Xmas Choir, which performs in the store during the festive season, and has become an annual attraction. On one occasion RAY relieved CHARLES TUCKWELL at the organ of the Arcadia Theatre at Chatswood. His favorite theatre and organ was the Savoy at Hurstville, of which he has many happy memories.

He became resident organist of the Manly-Waringah Leagues Club in 1962, and is still happily playing a WurliTzer electronic organ in the Dining room, and a Lowrey organ in the lounge

A friendly and sincere person indeed, he enjoys recalling the many happy years he spent as a theatre organist. This then, is RAY CHAFFER - our PROFILE FOR OCTOBER.

-o-

### QUEENSLAND ORGAN CRAWL.

NSW Division members, Mr & Mrs John Castray recently spent a two week organ crawl in the sun in Queensland. They reported having had a wonderful time meeting and renewing many friendships made during their round Australia tour a couple of years ago. They enjoyed lashings of the famed Queensland hospitality and came back full of praise for all they had seen. They visited Vice-President Gordon Berry and enjoyed playing his Conn Theatre De luxe, called on Warren White and President Bob Smith, who took them on a personally conducted tour of the Remand wing of the Brisbane Gaol of which Bob is the Superintendent. They also saw Stan & Maise Harris who have an E model Hammond, and were taken to Dr Knight's place where they enjoyed one of the Doctor's super color slide shows. They were also entertained by Arthur Roberts on the Doctor's C3 Hammond and Les Hilsden on the grand piano. Les was pianist with the world famous Victor Sylvester Orchestra before coming to live in Brisbane. They visited the newly formed Gold Coast Chapter of the Society, and met many of the members there including former NSW member Arthur Rizzo, who has his ivory and gold three manual Rodgers theatre organ installed in a beautiful home on Chevron island. John also reported that the Queensland Division members are very enthusiastic, and hungry for all the organ news they can get. He said that he found copies of TOSA News everywhere he went and that it was obviously well read by the Queensland members. Your Editor is delighted to hear of this, and to thank all those Queensland members who were kind enough to send goodwill messages. Thank you for your kind thoughts and support. I look forward to the day when I can make a visit to you and have the pleasure of being amongst you at one of your functions.

MEMBER RETURNS FROM U.S.A. Our member Allan Tarrant, distributor of Schober organs, has recently returned after several months in the USA. Allan has visited all the major organ producers over there, and will be giving TOSA News his impressions shortly.

RECORD REVIEWS.

TITLE OF RECORD "THOROUGHLY MODERN MORTON" RECORD NUMBER IS CR-0027  
THE ORGANIST DALTON McALPIN  
THE ORGAN ROBERT MORTON THEATRE PIPE ORGAN OPUS 2412  
THE PROGRAMME Up Up And Away - I May Be Wrong - I Won't Dance - I Got Plenty of Nuthin' - Quiet Village - Blue Moon - Tea For Two Cha Cha - A Taste Of Honey - Love Is The Sweetest Thing - The Moon Is Low - Spring Is Here - Goldfinger - Michelle - On A Clear Day - Our Day Will Come - On Green Dolphin Street.

Concert Recording's "Thoroughly Modern Morton" features the talents of a young and quite imaginative organist, who shows a great deal of promise indeed. DALTON McALPIN was appointed staff organist of the Paramount Theatre in Baton Rouge in May 1966, and has been in residence since then. He obviously knows his way around this unusually voiced two manual Robert Morton instrument, getting the best out of it in many ways, for most of the time. His version of Quiet Village is good - serene and unhurried, and together with, I May Be Wrong, showing good use of percussions, were the highlights of the record for this reviewer. His arrangements of most of the numbers are modern in concept, and he pushes them along with driving rhythms, and, at times, quite surprising use of the percussions. His style is imaginative and generally pleasing. It could be argued that he relies too much on the toy counter, but this is a matter of individual taste - in fairness, it must be said that when percussion is used, it is expertly used.

I did not care for the slow tempo of I Won't Dance however, and felt that this number could have been given a more light hearted treatment. Changes of registration are frequent and DALTON McALPIN blends them quite well, making the most of the available pipe voices. The organ has been fully restored, and has received some additions and alterations - it is in constant use in the theatre. To Australian ears, the tremulants sound rather slow, yet they seem to suit this particular instrument. To sum up - a young organist with a good deal of ability and originality, playing an unusual sounding Robert Morton Theatre organ.

THIS MONTH'S ALTERNATE RELEASE

TITLE OF RECORD THE FANTASTIC JAZZ ORCHESTRA RECORD NUMBER IS CR-MO30  
THE PROGRAMME Medley of Marches - Petite Waltz - Never On Sunday - Yellow Rose Of Texas - Wichester Cathedral - Merry Widow Waltz Medley - Hits From The 1950's - Mona Lisa - Waltz-Polka Medley - Music Music Music - Valencia.

Described as the "world's most marvellous mechanical invention", the instrument on this record is midway between a Dutch street organ and a theatre organ, and comes from the firm of Hathaway & Bowers, a leading Company in the field of automatic music. The full Stereo sound of the recording is, in keeping with the title of the record, quite fantastic. Each sound, be it percussion or pipe, has living presence. The accordeon is a real one, opening and closing as it plays. For those who like the merry go round sound, this is a beauty for your collection.

LOCAL RELEASE OF VIC HAMMETT AT THE DENDY WURLITZER.

TITLE OF RECORD WURLITZER 68.  
THE ORGANIST VIC HAMMETT  
THE ORGAN WURLITZER OF DENDY CINEMA, MELBOURNE.  
THE PROGRAMME Cabaret - Somewhere My Love - Makin' Whoopee - Live For Life - I Love To Hear You Singing - If He Walked Into My Life - Georgy Girl - Exodus - Cherokee - Never On Sunday - Bonnie & Clyde - A Man And A Woman - Mack The Knife - Body & Soul - Five Foot Two - Impossible Dream.

This special souvenir record has been issued to commemorate the visit to Australia of the famous English organist, VIC HAMMETT. Recorded in the Dendy Cinema at Brighton, it features the Wurlitzer organ, owned by the Victorian Division of T.O.S.A. which was formerly in the Capitol Theatre Melbourne. All those members of NSW Division, who have attended the two VIC HAMMETT concerts in Sydney will want to have this one in their own record collections. Order it direct from June Productions, 8 Francis Street, Heathmont, Victoria 3135 Australia. The price is \$4.50 (Aust)

"WURLITZER 68 - SOUVENIR OF VIC HAMMETT IN AUSTRALIA

WATCH FOR MORE WONDERFUL ORGAN RECORDS FROM CONCERT RECORDING IN THE MONTHS TO COME.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS (Reported by President Bob Smith)

The August meeting of the Queensland Division was held at the residence of Drs. Ron & Patricia Knight, at Nundah. Ron had prepared an excellent programme, firstly playing a tape of LES RICHMOND at the console of the Regent Wurlitzer Brisbane in November 1963. This brought back memories of the last time this organ was played to an audience in Brisbane, and it consisted of T.O.S.A. members.

Then followed the screening of colour transparencies prepared by Ron, which included the description of the Hammond organ generator etc, drawbars and other interesting points. Other organs illustrated included Wurlitzer, Thomas and Conn. The musical programme that followed was a delight to the ear, LES HILSDEN grand piano and WILBUR KENTWELL on the Hammond C3. WILBUR had just suffered a bereavement by the loss of his wife, and this meeting date would have been her birthday. All present agreed that WILBUR, in his playing and choice of numbers, was paying tribute, as only he could do. LES HILSDEN was a well known pianist in England, before coming to Australia, and he is certainly an artist. Finally LES and WILBUR played duets on the grand piano, no comment needed here, you can imagine what happened when these two "got together".

The September meeting is to be held at the residence of member Ted Badger. Have just heard that Queensland now has its first Conn Theatre De-Luxe in a home. It has gone many miles from Brisbane, too far for even a weekend jaunt to hear it. However, it is interesting to note that organ music is not confined to the cities and suburbs, and I'm sure that we will gain many new country members this way.

HISTORY OF THE MERRY GO ROUND PIPE ORGAN MENTIONED LAST MONTH BY BOB SMITH.

Due to the lack of space last month this history had to be omitted.

It was made in Germany, and was first exposed in Paris in 1876. It was then bought by a German named Rudalli, who died on the boat bringing the organ to Australia. The organ was then placed with the merry-go-round in White City in Sydney. Next owner was Bob Hunter of Hunter Bros. who bought it during the depression. It was resold in 1932 and purchased by Mr Spry who placed it at Manly NSW. (It was in the Luna Park Manly if my memory serves me correctly - Ed.) Its next owner was Coochinoffer ? or so it is thought. The Far West Children's Home bought the land on which stood the merry-go-round and the organ, and they were auctioned. Mr Les Short bid for same and was the new owner. The cost to him was £3,250 or \$6,500. Mr Short bought the organ and merry-go-round in 1952, and is still the owner. The organ has 500 pipes.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS (Reported by Secretary Ray Clements)

On August 27th, there was a musical evening at Mrs L. Cook's residence, and a most enjoyable time was had by one and all. Mrs Cook has a Gulbranson organ which has a delightful tone and is different to other machines due to its simulated pipe organ delay and mechanical voice couplers. Those taking a turn at the console were, Mr Twells, Max Bell and Ray Clements. Grateful thanks are extended to Mrs Cook for a most enjoyable time and a very delicious supper.

On September 17th, Mr & Mrs Boxall were our hosts for a most enjoyable organ party. Once again, the Thomas was installed for the evening and Ray Clements entertained for the first hour or so, after which, Mrs Cook eagerly dashed to the console with her music at the ready, and rendered us a few tunes. Max Bell played for us whilst Mrs Boxall was preparing supper, and was followed by our President Jim Thompson, who played very nicely. Thanks are extended to the Boxalls for a very enjoyable "night out".

It should have been reported in the September issue of TOSA News, that Jim Thompson was voted to be our President. However, as Jim was absent on a business trip and did not know the results of the election, it was thought best to let him know personally, rather than give him the shock through the media of these pages. Jim is a frequent interstate traveller, and will be a good ambassador for the West Australian Division.

October attractions for the Western Australian Division are. Tuesday 8th October, there will be a record night at Doug Miller's residence. Doug has superb hi-fi equipment and an extensive collection of organ recordings, so this is a night to look forward to. The address is 11 Delamere Avenue, South Perth. Wednesday 30th October, there will be an organ party at the Thompsons 14 Leverburgh Street ? Ardress. Jim has a Hammond L100, and this will be the first time we have had a Hammond at our meetings. (The question mark in Jim's address is by courtesy of TOSA News Editor, who wasn't sure if he had read Ray's writing correctly. That's what it looks like anyway.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS (from S.A. Division's Newsletter)

It is reported in this month's Newsletter, that they have an option of purchase over the 3/10 Christie organ ex the Roxy Theatre Parramatta for \$3,000. If the deal goes well for the S.A. Division, this will give them a real theatre pipe organ around which to build and expand their activities, and will be a wonderful asset to them. The best wishes of the NSW Division for their acquisition of this very fine organ are extended.

The first concert for the S.A. Division on the ex Regent Theatre Adelaide WurliTzer, now installed in St Peter's College Adelaide, took place on September 15th with an attendance of more than 170 persons. The Sth Aust. Division are holding an organ weekend at Port Pirie, in association with the Port Pirie Electronic organ Club. This is set down for the weekend of October 12th-13th.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS (From Vox TOSA News)

The Victorian Division has announced that the Moorabbin City Council has purchased from Mr Gordon Hamilton, the 4/21 WurliTzer Pipe Organ formerly in the Melbourne State Theatre and will install it in their Town Hall. Another theatre pipe organ has been saved for posterity by the actions of The Theatre Organ Society. (If only the Society had been formed a few years earlier perhaps other fine theatre organs would have been saved from the dreadful fate of ending their days in places where they are not permitted to play the kind of music for which they were created) Ed.

LOCAL NEWS

Secretary John Clancy visited Parramatta Music Centre to personally welcome new member Mr T. Watson to the Society. He was invited to try the new model Thomas 145B, known as the Sierra De-luxe. John was impressed by the variety of special effects available on the instrument. Mr Watson sponsors a one hour broadcast over Radio 2KA Katoomba every Sunday between 8.45pm and 9.45pm which features organ music prominently with a sprinkling of strings thrown in. He also sponsors a half hour of the same type of programme between 3.30pm and 4pm Sunday afternoons on the same station. 2KA is to be found on your radio dial between 2BL and 2GB.

TOSA News offers congratulations to our recently joined member Ashley King on being awarded the distinction of being the top apprentice of the year in his trade. Nice work Ashley and all the best for this year.

JEAN PENHALL TO GIVE CONCERT.

Mammond Organ No 3 Chapter - Northside will present JEAN PENHALL in concert at the Cammeray Community Hall, Warwick Ave Cammeray, on Tuesday 15th October at 8pm. JEAN will appear at the console of a C3 Hammond. TOSA member Colin Tringham will play the overture from 8pm - 8.15pm. Charge will be 50cents. Further details from Miss Elsie Jewell at phone 949-2502.

The Organ Institute of NSW will hold a recital for organ and violin at Christ Church St Lawrence at 5.55pm on Tuesday 8th October.

WEST AUSTRALIAN VISITOR.

Your Editor learned, from a letter he received from Ray Clements, that the Secretary of the West Australian Division will be in Sydney over the Xmas - New Year period and that he is looking forward to seeing and hearing some organs whilst he is over here. NSW Division will be very pleased to welcome you Ray, the period you will be in Sydney is a lean time for organ concerts due to the Xmas recess, but we'll certainly see that you get some "organised" outings whilst you are here.

Well that's it for this month folks,  
Until the next issue,  
Organically yours  
THE EDITOR.

ORGAN RECORDS MAKE GREAT XMAS  
GIFTS THEY GIVE PLEASURE ALL YEAR LONG