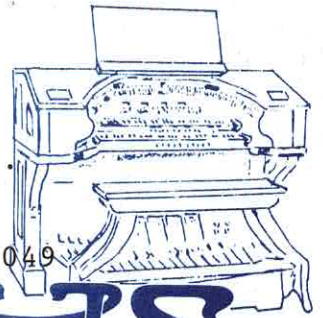


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February, 1977.

EDITOR

Ian Hanson, 4/26 Chester St, Petersham, 2049

# T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

ADDRESS BOX A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

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"An important reward for a job well done is a personal sense of achievement."  
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February Programme: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20th, 2.30PM.  
Australias internationally famous organist, Tony Fenelon will be featured in concert on the 2/10 Wurlitzer at the Marrickville Town Hall. NOTE: THIS IS NOT A FREE RECITAL ! This concert is selling fast, so if you haven't booked yet then hurry and send your \$3.00 to T.O.S.A. BOOKINGS, P.O. Box 150 Epping, 2121. Secure a good seat early and avoid dissapointment.  
Those members who attended the Lynn Larsen and Tony Fenelon concert extravaganza at the Regent Theatre last September will well know that there will only be a few good seats left at Marrickville on this occasion.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1977 YET ? TURN TO BACK PAGE

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Editorial.

I am deeply appreciative of those members who answered my requests for material and sent their items along for publication. It is good to know that there are so many people willing to help.

Sometime last year, I placed a request in the newsheet for some information and photographs of the Capitol Theatre, Sydney. So far I have not yet received anything, nevertheless, Barry Sharp and myself have been digging around in our files and have come up with a considerable amount of material. Unfortunately though, we have been unable to locate suitable close-up shots of our Wurlitzer, so if there is anyone who is able to assist in this regard, we would be most grateful and interested in hearing from you.

Regards, Ian Hanson.

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Deadlines.

The deadlines have been altered slightly as your Editor will be away on leave over the Easter period. The deadline for the March issue is Friday, 18th February, 1977 and for the April issue, Friday, 11th March, 1977.

Photographs must be sent in as soon as possible to enable the plates to be manufactured.

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New Members.

The Society wishes to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. R.Grimwood, Riverwood; Mrs. C.Dolling, Chatswood; Mrs. I.Mandill, Telopea; Mr. and Mrs. Winley, North Mead; Mrs. G.Davis Guildford; Mrs. A.Hore, Rodd Point; Ronald and Jean Bell, Lakemba.

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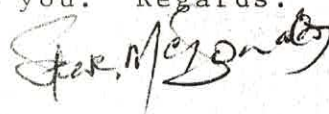
Presidents Message.

Well the festive season out of the way and our first committee meeting over and done with, we can now get down to the task of keeping our interest and involvement alive. Committee have approved proposals submitted for the formation of several sub-committees whose function will be to streamline the business side of our activities. The most significant of these will be the Concert and activities committee whose job it will be to ensure that the aims of the Society are met, that is to maintain the sound and traditions of the Theatre Pipe Organ.

Easter Convention in Queensland, the "Sunshine Sixth", sounds fabulous and details are included in this issue. We have by courtesy of our Secretary, Kevin Eady, some figures on travel expenses which are as follows;

Single fares	\$38.40	Brisbane Express;	\$26.10.	Ansett Pioneer
\$20.00	sit up .	\$45.72	T.A.A.	

I hope the above is of assistance to you. Regards.



President.

The Capitol Organ.

from Ernie Vale.

By the time you read this issue of T.O.S.A. News, the first working bee for 1977 will have taken place at the "Organ Loft". Activities will involve the covering of secondary motors, the facing of pallets, cleaning of chests and preparation of various parts for new felt. The next major task will be the covering of the primary motors and the replacement of the valves.

The next gatherings at the "Organ Loft", 49 Boomerang St., Habberfield commencing at 7.30PM will be as follows:-  
22nd February, and the 16th March.  
Telephone: 798 6816.

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The Marrickville Organ.

Members will be interested to know that this organ is now fitted with a Spencer Blower, which looks very "business-like" and has increased the air pressure in the chests in the chambers by 12.5%. Thanks to member, Joe Ward, the motor is sporting new bearings and is running like a bird.

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Record Review - Frank Ellis.

"Dining and Dancing" Volume 1

Reubert Hayes.

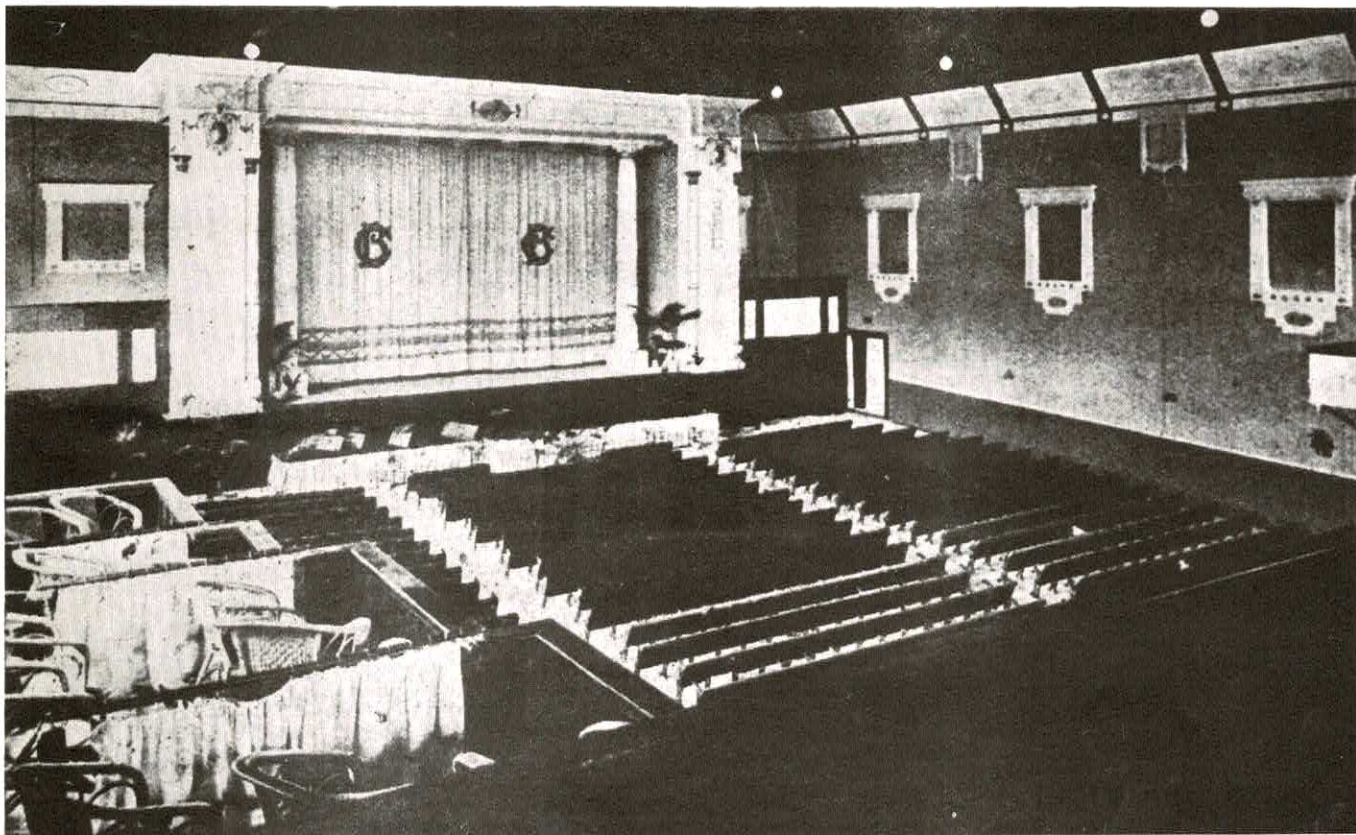
For those people who enjoy dining out (and who doesn't) music is almost as important an ingredient as the food and wine, in making the experience a pleasurable and successful one. Whether it be mere background music, music for dancing, or music for a convivial sing-a-long, it is the music which creates the mood and sets the pace. The organ with its many voices, is an ideal instrument to provide such music, and in the hands of a capable experienced organist, it can do this excellently.

Reubert Hayes is resident organist at the Solamander Hotel/Motel at Port Stephens. And those who reside too far from this holiday resort to be able to enjoy his dining and dancing music in person, may now do so through this record for a modest outlay of less than \$5.00.

There are eight brackets of numbers on the disc, presented and played as he does them at the Solimander Hotel. To name but a few of the tunes - "The Entertainer"- "Mame"- "Chloe"- "I Left My Heart in San Francisco"- "Tonight"- "More"- "C'est Si Bon"- "A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening"- "Games That Lovers Play"- "Love Walked In"- etc.

Played in Reubert Hayes un-mistakable style, it's happy music for parties, or dining and dancing.

(Available on M7 records No.MLX 148.)



*The interior, showing proscenium and other plaster work carried out by the Spriggs Asbestolite Co.*



Opposite this page, we have published an interior view of the Palatial Theatre, Burwood. It will, be like so many other picture theatres, shortly demolished. Burwood Council are to turn the site into a car park. The Palatial has been a landmark in the western suburbs for over half a century. It has rather an unusual history which began in 1921 when it was first opened as the "Burwood Cinema". The new cinema replaced an old open-air show in Burwood Road. Western Suburbs Cinemas engaged a ten piece orchestra to accompany the silent films and Vaudeville acts.

The original Burwood Cinema (see Dec.1975 TOSA News) was for those days a very modern and up-to-date cinema. In the designing and construction of the building, the architect made sure of the complete deleting of unsightly tie-rods which were a common feature of earlier theatres.

The term "Palatial" was hardly appropriate then as there was little decoration in the auditorium, it was basically very plain.

In 1933 Western Suburbs Cinemas decided to up grade the standards of the theatre and subsequently spent thousands of pounds in renovations. It was the first cinema of the Western Suburbs Circuit to feature an organ. This instrument consisted of three manuals and ten ranks of pipes and was often referred to as the "Silver Toned" Christie.

Making its final public appearance late in 1957 when Mr.Ray Chaffer took the console down for the last time, hte 3/10 Christie was later sold to Mr. Penn Hughes who later re sold the instrument minus its percussion section to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Wahroonga.

During its career, the theatre underwent structural changes twice the former being shortly after World War Two, and again in 1954. The Theatre was closed in 1971 and subsequently sold to Burwood Council where it was used as a library with part of the building being leased to the Spastic Centre, and the remainder served as a carpet warehouse.

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#### Visiting Organ Recitalist.

Dr. George Markey, Organ Recitalist, will be visiting N.S.W. in March 1977 and will give three organ recitals whilst here as follows;

Saturday- 5th March, 8.00PM , Organ Society of Sydney.  
Tuesday - 8th March, 8.00PM, St.Marks Church,Darling Point.  
Saturday-12th March, Avondale College,Cooranbong.

Dr. Markey is a director of the Guilmant Organ School and Professor of Organ at Westminster Choir College at Princeton, N.J. Born in Worthington Minesota, Dr. Markey began his piano lessons at the age of 5. Several years later, he began to study organ. At 15 he entered the University of Minesota as a Demitri Mitropoulos Scholarship student and graduated at 18yrs. Currently, he is a member of the American Guild of Organists.

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# WELSON

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LESLIE SPEAKERS  
CONN ELECTRONIC PIPES  
MUSIC - LESSONS

TOSA NEWS readers are referred to part one of this article if they have not already read it (Jan.1976) for the history of the console and the details of its restoration. We now had a magnificent Wurlitzer console shiny bright, and looking as if it had just left the Wurlitzer factory. This console still had one defect; the previous owner had ground off the names of some of the engraved stop tabs, and written over them, with a mapping pen, in indian ink! We did have sufficient Wurlitzer stop tabs from another Wurlitzer console to replace them, but we decided that we might as well replace the whole stop complement, both long and short rail, because in doing this we would be able to re design the stop layout to fit in with our plans to build an eight division theatre organ.

On the pipe front we had in store some 70 ranks of pipes, and then we met up with an organ enthusiast who, like ourselves, had been collecting sets of pipes for about 30 years. Just after the war he had been in Europe and had bought up a treasure trove of pipes from redundant cinema organs by makers such as Welte, Standaart, Dekker, Barbieri, etc, from an organ builder who had gone "baroque" and was anxious to get rid of what, to him, were merely taking up space in his factory. The pipes were shipped to Australia a few ranks at a time over a period of many years. The pride of the collection however was a Trompette en Chamade, of spun brass, built to special order for a French Cathedral, designed for a wind pressure of 50 inches. It proved so loud and brilliant in the Cathedral accoustics, that it could never be used. Another unusual rank was a saxophone of Dutch make with resonators of copper. The owner of the pipe collection had planned to build a cinema type organ using a 4 manual Welte console, but he never seemed to manage either the time or the effort to complete his dream. We decided to join forces and pool our pipe ranks, which gave us a total in excess of 100 ranks. Then we set to work on our specification. We were going to try and include an example of all the ranks used in cinema organs but as well we were going to include some classical ranks never before used on a Wurlitzer console.

Some years back the great cinema organist George Wright released an album called "TIBIA and VOX". While there is room for endless argument as to the most important basic ranks for a cinema organ, it is self evident that these two ranks are basic for any self respecting cinema organ. So we would make the ECHO DIVISION completely of TIBIA ranks. And the CELESTIAL DIVISION would have a foundation of VOX HUMANA ranks.

We next decided that, rather than have 5 tibia ranks all of Wurlitzer make, we would get more interest and variety by using ranks by different organ builders. So on the ECHO DIVISION we have a TIBIA CLAUDIA (Wurlitzer); a TIBIA PLENA (Wurlitzer); a TIBIA REX (Moller); a TIBIA AMOROSA (Welte); these are available on the unit system at various pitches from 16 to 1 3/5 mutations. The fifth TIBIA is on the SOLO DIVISION and is a metal TIBIA by Compton.

The Sydney State Theatre Console (contd.)

On the CELESTIAL DIVISION we have a VOX HUMANA (Wurlitzer); a VOX DIVINA (from St. John's. Parramatta removed during rebuild); a VOX ANGELICA (Foster and Andrews); a VOX MYSTICA (Standart), and the fifth VOX is on the SOLO DIVISION called VOX JUBILANTE (make not certain. Possibly Christie.)

This produces a VOX and TIBIA chorous when coupled together of ten ranks. These are further extended on the PEDAL DIVISION; the TIBIA CLAUSA to a TIBIA PROFUNDA of 32 foot pitch; and the VOX HUMANA to a BUZAINÉ of 32 foot pitch.

In a further article later in the year I will discuss that other fascinating section of cinema organ pipes - the reeds, and in particular the FANFARE DIVISION which consists entirely of high pressure reed pipes, including the French Trompette en Chamade.

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A PRIZE OF \$100.

Allen Organ (Aust.) advise that a competition for an Australian Classical Organ Work suitable for playing on an Allen System 632-3, (a three manual organ similar to the organ at St. Mark's Church, Darling Point) is to be held. The competition will close on 1st March, 1977. and the winner will be chosen by Dr Markey during his visit. Entries are to be lodged with Allen Organs (Aust.) at -

39 Roland Avenue, Wahroonga, 2076,  
32 Woodhouse Road, Doncaster East, 3109, or  
88 Wadley Street, McGregor, 4109.

The works will remain the property of the composers.

The following recordings, amongst others, may be obtained at the above addresses -

George Markey plays the Digital Computer Organ (\$7.60 post free)  
Dwight Beacham plays the Allen Computer Theatre Organ (\$5.00 p.f.)  
Dwight Beacham plays the Allen System 620 Computer Theatre Organ. (\$5.60 post free)

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*Pictured: Shirley Kulz at the 651 CONN.*

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We also stock NATIONAL and WELSON organs, musical instruments, plus a large range of sheet and album music. We'll happily give a discount on music to all T.O.S. members.

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## **FORESTVILLE**

(Gregory Map No. 73 F6)

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Many silent productions of a very high standard were shown at the "PRINCE EDWARD". Do you remember such epic films as "KING OF KINGS", "SCARAMOUCHE", "WHAT PRICE GLORY", "BEN HUR", and "THIEF OF BAGDAD"? It has been said by many that the original version of the "TEN COMMANDMENTS" far exceed it's 1957 remake in technical quality and spectacle.

The 2/10 Wurlitzer Pipe Organ was the theatres drawcard for many years. In it's early days it was the only one of it's type in N.S.W. Originally the organ was to be divided into three different chambers. The "ACCOMPANIMENT" and "SOLO" chambers were located on each side of the Proscenium, whilst the "ECHO" chamber was intended to house the VOX HUMANA rank, and the Chrysoglott. The "ECHO" chamber was located in the ceiling and spoke out from behind the grand dome. however, it was decided that the "ECHO" chamber would prove unsatisfactory and so the two sections of the instrument were placed in the "ACCOMPANIMENT" chambers under very cramped conditions. The soncole was placed in a special alcove on the right hand side of the stage. Directly opposite on the left was situated an upright piano which was connected to the organ. This piano was later removed and placed in the orchestra and was never re-connected to the organ.

On the 9th October 1925. Eddie Horton resigned from the Prince Edward to take up other appearances which included the opening of the "ARCADIA" Wurlitzer at Chatswood and the "CHRISTIE" at the Victory Theatre, Kogarah.

Leslie V. Harvey was appointed organist on the 10th October, 1925. Harvey was also an American and previously had been organist for the West Coast Theatre Circuit in the U.S.A. He continued to entertain the patrons for over two years. His popularity was such, that he was offered the position of opening organist at the "Capitol" Theatre, Perth. Leslie V. Harvey terminated his season with the Carroll Management at the "Prince Edward" on the 18th February, 1928.

This news created some surprise in Sydney Film circles, although Harvey's intention to resign was known in America early in December 1927. Many Californian organists had applied to Dan Carroll by cable and letter for the berth, but the choice had already fallen on Eddie Horton, who was the Prince Edward's first organist. Eddie Horton returned from an engagement at Hoyts Regent Theatre, Perth, and recommenced at the Prince Edward on February 20th, 1928. just in time for the opening weeks of "THE SCARLET LETTER".

Meanwhile, Leslie V. Harvey was taking a holiday before going across to Perth. During this period the 3/15 Wurlitzer for the "Capitol" Theatre, Perth, was redirected to Sydney, as the then 2/8 Wurlitzer in the "Regent" Theatre, Sydney was found to be unsuitable for this large theatre and was replaced by the 3/15 Wurlitzer.

"Showcases of the past" Continued.

Upon arriving in Perth, Leslie V. Harvey was sent to the "Regent" Theatre, where he remained until 1929.

The Carroll Management were faced with a problem in 1929, when the theatre manager Hal Carleton, together with Eddie Horton, Fred Burr and Terry O'Shea resigned to take up a new venture. This new business venture was the operation of the then new "Roxy" Theatre in Parramatta which opened in 1930.

Following the resignations, the directors of the "Prince Edward" had the task of filling the vacancies. Dan Carroll approached one of Australia's best known exploiters, Melford G. Lawton to take over the position of manager. Mel accepted and commenced duties from, Friday 12th December 1929, he continued to occupy same for 36 years until the theatres closure.

Mel entered legitimate business as an actor in England in 1919, returning to Australia and joining the cinema business in 1923 with the Paramount as assistant to John Kennebeck in publicity as special exploiter for "Ten Commandments". In 1925 he was publicity and sales representative for New Zealand. Leaving Paramount in 1927, Mel opened the first "Regent" Theatre to be built in New Zealand at Wellington for J.C. Williamson Films.

Mel subsequently returned to Australia at the request of the Paramount Organisation. He then rejoined as assistant in Sales Promotion, from there he was appointed publicity manager and handled special assignments all over Australia. Mel introduced at the "Prince Edward", a permanent Ballet de Corps of sixteen girls, a highlight of the theatre for many years. They were trained by ballet master the late Dick White and as Mel once remarked "They were terrific- as good as anything in the world".

In January 1929, the first sound film to be screened at the "Prince Edward" was "STREET ANGEL". With the introduction of sound features in most theatres the orchestra's that had given years of enjoyment to moviegoers were disbanded. However this was not the case at the "Prince Edward" and the orchestra still continued to play musical items before the commencement of the main feature.

Up to this time there had been only one major change in the "Prince Edward" Concert Orchestra". This change occurred in 1927. on September 2nd. Will Prior made his final appearance to be replaced on the following day by Albert Cazabon-Fomer a member of London's Drury Lane Theatre Orchestra.

On the 18th December 1929, following the resignation of Eddie Horton once again, the management were instrumental in securing Miss Julia Dawn. Prior coming to Australia, Miss Dawn had been organist on the "Publix Theatres Circuit" in the U.S.A. She came direct to Sydney from the "Rivioli" Theatre, New York.

Miss Dawn came to Australia as the first female singing organist and proved a popular attraction amongst the patrons.

"Showcases of the past".      Continued.

It was during Miss Dawn's season at the "Prince Edward" that the very first all talking Australian Travelogue was shown. This was entitled "SO THIS IS SYDNEY". Although "THIS IS AUSTRALIA" was billed as the first official all talking picture, "SO THIS IS SYDNEY" claimed the distinction of being Australia's first all talking travelogue with sound effects, it was produced by Alfred Spence and was shown at the "Prince Edward" in April 1930.

A typical "Prince Edward" presentation of the day was arranged as follows; this one was for the "VAGABOND KING" season which commenced on Wednesday, 9th April 1930.

At the 2.30 & 8 p.m. sessions only Albert Cazabon-Fomer and his Orchestra presented special numbers before the commencement of the show.

At the other seasons, the travelogue "SO THIS IS SYDNEY" was presented first, to be followed by Miss Julia Dawn with her presentation "A BOUQUET OF ROSES" which featured "ROSES IN JUNE". Then came "Mountain Melodies" in Paramount Singing Scenic. For the 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. sessions only, Albert Cazabon-Fomer and his Orchestra assisted by Julia Dawn at the Organ presented "The Londonderry Air" and "Shepherds Hey" by Grainger. This was then followed by a Paramount Talkartoon, then the Main Feature "THE VAGABOND KING" an all colour musical starring Dennis King, Jeanette McDonald and Walter Oland.

to be continued.