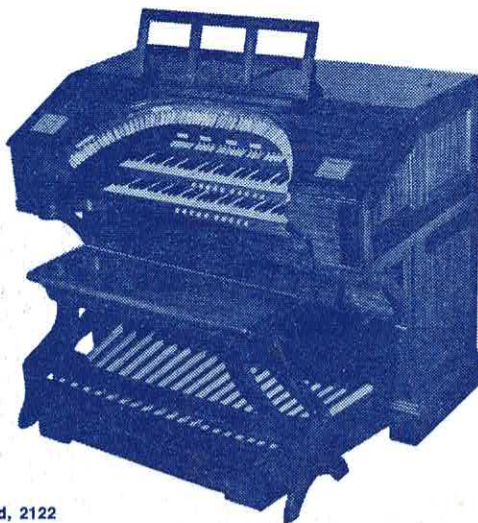


T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

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1st APRIL 1971

David Parsons at Marrickville!

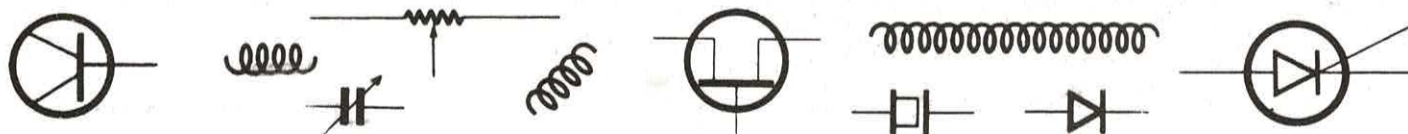
Yes, friends, once again it is with great pleasure that I announce details of our next concert at the "Prince Edward" Wurlitzer; Marrickville Town Hall, Tuesday 27th of April will see the great combination of the organ and Honorary Member, David Parsons.

Timed to start at 8.00 p.m., this will be an evening for all to enjoy. David Parsons' fame has by now spread far and wide. With an almost unlimited repertoire, and a versatility that is staggering, David Parsons is surely one of our most popular recitalists.

David's Associate artist for the evening will be well-known soprano, Elaine Thornborough, who will delight us with a bracket of songs to please everybody.

Admission is \$1.50 to the general public. Members 75c, pensioners and children, 20c.

See you at MARRICKVILLE ----- TUESDAY 27th APRIL ----- 8.00 p.m.



Also this month we have an evening for the Electronic Organ fan. The Electronic Organ Subcommittee have arranged what is expected to be their most interesting event yet.

It will take the form of a round-table discussion on all aspects of electronic design, PLUS a "brains trust" to advise on problems that any TOSA member may be having with his organ.

So if you're not satisfied with some particular aspect of your organ and you want to improve it, come along to member Arthur Spring's home, 22 William Street, Henley, at 8.00 p.m. on Friday 16th APRIL.

Our Honorary Member DAVID PARSONS will also be playing a production model of the new "Vernus II" organ during the evening.

WHAT-EVER YOUR CAPACITY ----- DON'T RESIST ----- BE THERE ----- YOU WILL BE TRANSFORMED

REVIEW OF PAST FUNCTIONSORGAN PARTY AT THE BADMAN RESIDENCE (Notes by Oscar Moen)

On Saturday 20th February, members enjoyed a "players" evening at the Ryde home of Lyn and Dot Badman. Lyn has a Yamaha model E3, and introduced the gathering to its many and varied effects, demonstrated with a selection of items.

Neville Wright, attending his first function in the capacity of President, exercised a persuasive influence on the talent present and enlisted the following performers (ladies first) : Joyce Walker, Shirley Nott, Heather Moen, George Hughes, Lawrence Durk, Jim Birkett and Peter Groves.

The musical part of the evening was rounded off by David Parsons in his usual superb manner, with a bracket of his own choice followed by request items till supper time.

Our thanks to Lyn and Dot for a happy informal evening, a beaut supper, and a welcome \$35.00 towards the pipe organ Fund.

EARLY-MORN CAPITOL (Notes by Rod Blackmore)CAPITOL WURLITZER HEARD AGAIN

Having been haunted by bad luck which resulted in cancellation of two recitals in 1970 at the Capitol Theatre, and following a postponement of a week because the theatre was not available, the Society's early risers were able to relax in the Lounge to the tunes of Peter Groves on Saturday 20th March.

Commencing punctually at 8.00 a.m., Peter presented a pot-pourri of music ranging from the nostalgic to latest hits, a taste of the Classics, to famous melodies. His programme was well chosen, professionally played and thoroughly enjoyed.

Full theatre atmosphere with coloured spotlights and the Capitol's famous twinkling stars enhanced the performance. The organ again was in excellent condition and tributes were paid to the maintenance crew. Frank Ellis and Tom Halloran were comperes. The audience was comparable with previous early morn sessions.

Noticed in its midst were Novacastrians Geoff Moore and Don Tyler --- if they can make 100 miles from Newcastle, a few local alarm clocks should help swell future audiences. Another Capitol morning is planned for the near future. BE IN IT.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday 5th April, Monday 3rd May; 7.15 p.m., St. Anne's Church Hall Strathfield.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE ----- FRIDAY 23rd APRIL.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following personages, who have joined the N.S.W. Div. of T.O.S.A. during the past month. We trust that their action will be the go-ahead for a most enjoyable time. Make yourself known at the next function you attend.

Robert Weismantel of Ryde
John Everett of Hornsby
Mr. A. D. Rees of Bexley North
Miss I. V. Leembruggen of Cremorne
Mr. T. P. Irwin of Wahroongah
Mr. John Reed of Hornsby Heights.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONNAIRES

The Committee reports a rather poor response to the questionnaire which was set out in the last issue of TOSA News. Dig out the copy, have a look see and a bit of a think, and by putting a few sensible answers to paper, help us to help you. Send you answers to the Secretary, or hand them to a Committeeman at the next function you attend. Also don't forget those TOSA TELENEWS forms.

HIGH QUALITY RECORDING TAPE AT BARGAIN PRICES

Member Ray Garrett has come up with a deal which I know will appeal to every tape recorder owner in our ranks. He can obtain for members Professional quality E.M.I. tape at remarkably low prices. All material is new and in sealed cartons.



Type 99 Oblique 18: 1800 feet : 7" reel : \$4.50

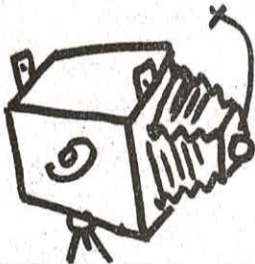
Type 100 Oblique 24: 2400 feet : 7" reel : \$6.00

Type C900: 90 minutes Cassette : : \$2.70

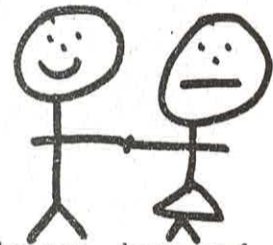
After reading the last three lines I think you will agree that it would be folly to pass by this offer. As well as those listed above, Ray can also quote you on other sizes, e.g. 5" spools or longer tapes. Contact Ray Garrett, for the deal of a lifetime, at 2 Boundary Road Epping 2121, Phone 86 7247. Tapes will also be available for purchase from Ray at major TOSA functions, so keep a look out for the man with the EMITAPE sign.

ARCADIA THEATRE WURLITZER RE-INSTALLATION

This heading seems to always be cropping up. The point is that every time we announce that "work is about to commence", something happens to delay proceedings. Consequently when I now state: "work will commence immediately after Easter" this I hope will be the last word on the subject at least for a while. Therefore, re-leathering crew, prepare thyselfes for work! Incidentally the last hold-up was the loss of the signed contract. It's found again though. Also a bit of very bad luck was the total destruction of the bottom octave of 16 feet tubas in the recent fire at Noad & Sons factory. Don't know yet where a replacement set will come from.



HOLIDAY SNAPS



While in Victoria your Editor went out to Brighton (twice) to see, hear and even play the Dendy Theatre Wurlitzer. This organ is superb. Unfortunately the day I went out there to spend a few 20 cents pieces in the meter, there was a nasty cypher which prevented me from "opening up", and the crescendo pedal was playing up. However the next night we went to the evening session and David Johnson very kindly played from 7 till 8 so we could get some stereo recording done. David concentrated on modern or hit-tune music, mainly to cater for the typical young Dendy Theatre audience, but it sure suited me for his technique was remarkable. We were very impressed with the delightful solo and piano effects he brought forth, not to mention the overpowering rich full organ tone. If you happen to be in Melbourne with a couple of hours to spare, a trip to the Dendy Theatre is a must. Also, coincidentally another must is the original home of the Dendy Wurlitzer, the Melbourne Capitol. The suspended concrete ceiling lit by thousands of hidden coloured lights surely must be one of Walter Burley Griffin's masterpieces. It has to be seen to be believed, and even then it's barely believable.

While in Tasmania I made recordings on seven organs, the most interesting being the two extremes, namely the single manual, no pedal organ of John Gray, 1823, at Rokeby, reputed to be the oldest organ in Australia, and the great Hill, Norman and Beard achievement of St. John's, Launceston; 3/61. Sydney organ builder Arthur Jones was responsible for the restoration and re-building of both of these instruments, and the results are two of the finest organs, in their respective categories, in the country. Another two musts for the travelling organ fan.

See you next month,

Ian C. Griggs
 Ian C. Griggs
 (Editor.)

NEWS FROM HOLLAND.

TOSA'S correspondent in Holland, GARY VANDERWERP writes:

"We wish all members of the organ society a very good and healthy 1971. Our Christmas was a traditional one with snow. In December we had the pleasure again to hear and see Reg Dixon at a concert in the AVRO Radio Studio, Holland, playing the 4-manual Compton during a broadcast. Harry Kompe, organist at the city theatre, Amsterdam, successor of Cor Steyn, is the originator of midnight organ concerts once a month, with a result that an organ federation is to be formed in Holland, similar to those in Australia and England. We have here on many occasions had the opportunity to hear Reg Dixon's successor, Ernest Broadbent over the B.B.C. playing the Blackpool Tower Ballroom organ. Yoop Walvis (see picture) is one of the few organists of the silent picture era still playing in Holland. Kind regards to my organ society friends."



YOOP WALVIS pictured at the giant ex-B.B.C. Moller organ which is now heard regularly in Holland.



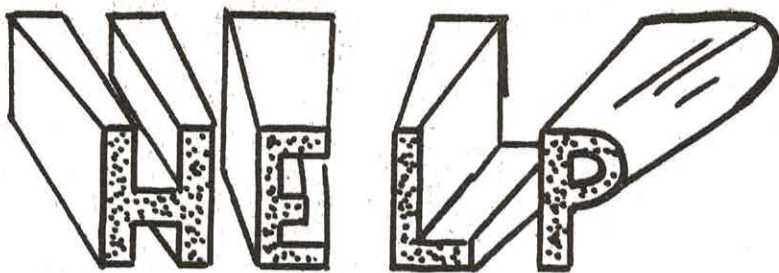
TONY FENELON at the Marrickville Town Hall Wurlitzer following his concert in November last. (Photo. by Bill Schumacher.)



RAY THORNLEY, featured organist at Marrickville in January.



HEATHER MOEN, associate organiste at Ray Thornley's concert.



Remember my notes last month about JOHN CONGERT'S new Wurlitzer Electronic installation out at the "Burning Log" restaurant at Dural? Well, it appears that since then, business has been booming. I hope some of the listeners-in have been TOSA members. In fact business has been so good that the Management have asked John to do MORE nights per week.

This of course would be a great difficulty, so John is seeking an assistant at the console, for two nights a week, preferably female.

If you think you've got what it takes for this task, or know of someone who might just fit the bill, then give John Congert a ring at 632 4522. He will be relieved to hear from you.

"KINGS" THEATRE GORDON 2/8 CHRISTIE MAKES RARE (THEATRE ORGAN) APPEARANCE

The evening of Tuesday 30th March saw the Church of St. Columb, West side absolutely jam-packed with people who had come to see and hear ALAN TRANTER put the Christie through its paces. This organ, usually heard on Sundays playing hymns or Church voluntaries of various types was on this particular occasion, truly a theatre organ in all its original splendour, reminiscent of the days when Lance Wells, Idwal Jenkins, and lady organists Muriel Jeavons and Valda Kersey entertained the audiences of the Gordon Theatre from 1929 to the early fifties.

This is the only Christie in Australia re-installed in its original theatre organ condition, with beautifully voiced tibias, brilliant penetrating reeds, quiet contemplative strings, and all the banging tinkling and crashing of the toy counter. Not to mention the angelic Chrysaglott.

The faultless condition of this fine instrument is due in the main to its regular user and the evening's recitalist, ALAN TRANTER. Well over \$300 were raised for the fund of final restoration and re-installation in the proposed new church building. Such an effort is surely commendable; not only that, but in achieving this end, ALAN presented to us a most interesting programme, designed to show the great variety of moods the typical English Christie Theatre Organ could evoke.

Some of the more spectacular items ALAN played were, a selection from Bizet's Carmen, von Suppe's Light Cavalry Overture, Ketelby's In a Persian Market, Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D Minor, Schubert's Serenade, Fibisch's Poem, Chaplin's Limelight, and a couple of brilliant pieces by Sidney Torch, "Shooting Stars" and "All strings and fancy free."

This concert, although not a TOSA function, was well attended by members, and was indeed most enjoyable, and I cannot help wondering if some of the other organs re-installed in similar situations in Sydney could sometimes make a rare appearance in their theatre capacity. Maybe one day.

Congratulations to ALAN TRANTER for bringing this interesting recital, so very capably and entertainingly played, to the people of Sydney.

A FRIEND PASSES

Members are indeed saddened by the passing of one John Castray, on 27th March. John Castray, one of our most respected members, was a fine musician, and music as well as "making music" was one of his great loves. I remember him playing at our recent "Meet your organ" night, when his love for the music of the cinema organ was evident in his rendering of the numbers he chose to play. A thorough gentleman, all those who knew John Castray will agree that he will indeed be sadly missed.

NEWS FROM ROUND ABOUTS.A. CONVENTION

By the look of the programme of S.A. Division's 1971 Convention, members over there will sure have a great time with the T.O.s over Easter. I hope the Lawsons bring back some first hand reports so we can share a little of their joy at being able to be present. Scheduled for Saturday 10th: 2.00 - 2.30: Registration at Wyatt Hall, followed by a conducted tour of Geoff Smith's residence organ; 8.00 p.m., Wyatt Hall Pulteney Grammar School, (2/12 WurliTzer), concert starring none other than TONY FENELON, with associates including saxophonist Kel McMillan; Sunday 11th: 2.30: St. Peter's College (3/15 WurliTzer) Concert in the form of an Organ Pot Pourri, featuring local and interstate artists, including Tony Fenelon; evening, Convention tea, with various artists entertaining on a Conn; later a Jam Session, similar to our "Meet your Organ" night, at Wyatt Hall. Anyone planning on going over should arrive for registration.

Also, on 3rd May, 8.00 p.m. at Wyatt Hall, there will be a concert by DON KINGSTON, who will be featured on the WurliTzer PLUS two large Conn Electronics. With such a feast of T.O. music, who wouldn't live in S.A.?

NEWCASTLE HAMMOND ORGAN SOCIETY No. 1 CHAPTER

If all goes well at the next meeting, this rather unwieldy title will very sensibly be changed to "Newcastle Organ Society." Fingers crossed. Forthcoming concerts are: Saturday 17th April: Dungog; 30th April, Charles-town Presbyterian; Saturday 8th May, Gloucester.

ACROSS THE WAVES

AN exciting piece of news this week from the Denver Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Remember our pars about the recording that member BILLY NALLE made in four channel (Quadrasonic) stereo sound? This was on the 4/26 WurliTzer of Long Island University. Well it was only an experiment, but created such a sensation that now a disc and tapes will be released commercially.

" In previews at the major High Fidelity shows and at the NARAS Convention recently it brought thunderous response and "stopped the show" at every exposure. It was the subject of two lead articles in AUDIO magazine for October and November, 1970. It will be given worldwide release in the most extensive distribution ever given any single theatre organ album to date. It will come in both two and four channel stereo editions on tape, disc and cassette, and be released by Enoch Light on the PROJECT 3 label. Enoch Light is one of the most famous and respected producers in the recording field, and noted for his distinguished instrumental releases in the popular music field. The album will carry three major firsts: It will be the first theatre organ album released on the Project 3 label; the first release on the Long Island University WurliTzer; and the first theatre organ album in the world to become available in four channel (QUADRASONIC) stereo sound."

AS you know, BILLY NALLE is a member of N.S.W. T.O.S.A. TOSA News congratulates Billy on this achievement and expresses with him the joy at his part in this venture, which is sure to be one of the milestones in the history of Recording Engineering development.

"DIS IS
DE
A.B.C."

This is 2BL's new tower at Penrith; just enlarged to carry waves of 32 ft Diaphones!



What? Not another Theatre Organ Music program? Happy Days! Well not exactly, but 2BL's new session on Monday nights at 8.00 p.m. does feature some interesting Australian T.O. recordings. Last Monday Knight Barnett was playing (I think) the Adelaide Regent 3/15 WurliTzer. I am awaiting a letter from Auntie A.B.C. with details, so as soon as I have them I'll let you know. In the meantime though, tune in to "A Century of Song": on 2BL, Monday nights at 8.00p.m., and you might hear something interesting.