

T.O.S.A. NEWS

incorporating **THE DIAPHONE**

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

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SOCIETY DIRECTORY

December, 1974

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<u>SECRETARY:</u>	John Roberts, 5 Wyleena Pl., Punchbowl, 2196	70 3650
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<u>EDITOR:</u>	John Atkinson, 46 Lily Street, Hurstville 2220	587 3374

Happy Christmas to you all

Well this is the final issue for 1974 and each issue has been so interesting and full of news that one eagerly awaits the arrival of our journal each month.

We are happy that our membership continues to grow and, more importantly we are making new friends, and know each other better. We look forward to bigger, better recitals - quarterly meetings, and above all, inflation, that dirty word, decreasing so that we can all buy bigger models of our favourite musical instrument.

I sincerely wish you all, the Compliments of the Season and Good Health in the New Year. In this wish I am joined by my wife and by all of the Committee members whom, you will have noted worked hard on your behalf all through the year.

Herbert Wyatt
President.

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

15th December, Sunday 2.30 p.m. All Nations Folk Festival at the Marrickville Town Hall. The Theatre Organ Society has been giving assistance to the Marrickville Municipal Council in the arrangements for this afternoon's entertainment which will be staged by some of the many Ethnic Groups centered in the Marrickville area some of the highlights of the afternoon will be Greek, Lebanese and Macedonian young people and dance groups performing traditional songs and dances in their national costumes. One of the featured vocalists will be Stephen Yalouris (who was 3rd in the City of Sydney Eisteddfod and it is anticipated that the organ will be used to play folk songs and traditional music by members of further Ethnic Groups. It seems as if this afternoon will be of great interest to us with its many and varied forms of entertainment plus the use of our Wurlitzer Organ so why come along and join in the fun!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Due to the holiday season and the fact that a great many of you will be away when the January issue of TOSA News arrives in your letter boxes I will give the January dates for your diary in detail here in the hope that you may be lured back to attend these functions if you know about them well before you head for the back-blocks.

7th January, Tuesday 8 p.m. A Home organ party has been arranged by our new Treasurer, Mark Gabriel, featuring the only organist in Sydney who is regularly featured at the present time in a Theatre programme viz: Ray Thornley and he plays on Friday and Saturday nights at Phillip Doyle's Mecca International Theatre at Kogarah and Mark as arranged for Ray to play for the exclusive entertainment of our members at his home at 27 Yarran Road Oatley (off Mimosa Street), A Donation of \$1.00 per person will be asked and the proceeds of the evening will be applied to the Capitol Organ Fund. Mark would like to know the number of people coming so phone him for your early reservation to be sure of a seat on 597 2169.

29th January, Wednesday 7.30 p.m. A visit to Mastertouch Piano Roll Company has been arranged with their Manager, Mr. Wright, where we will have a conducted tour of their factory and see the methods of producing piano rolls of the pianola type and we will also see and hear an organ connected to a roll playing mechanism. Also they have in the past made reproducing piano rolls and can show us an Ampico reproducing piano in action. They no longer make this type of roll in Australia as an American family company have found a method of making this type of roll quickly and cheaply. This should be a very interesting evening's entertainment and those people wishing to attend should phone the Editor on 587 3374 so that we can get some idea of numbers.

WARREN ROBBINS ORGAN PARTY - D.R.

A very successful evening's entertainment was supplied by Warren Robbins on 28th September at his home organ party in aid of the Capitol Organ Fund. Warren has recently added to his Thomas 3-manual Palace Organ a Moog Synthesizer and type 2 Leslie Speaker set up and separate Rhythm Unit.

Warren also has on the organ programmable touch response combination mechanism and this all proved very interesting to all those who attended and played the instrument.

Warren demonstrated very capably the new additions to his organ and Herbert Wyatt opened the programme with a request to play some Bach and other light classical music. George Egri and Warren Robbins played duets between piano and organ - completely unrehearsed and it came off beautifully. Then some piano solos by the Masters, Chopin etc. and Jim Patrick rounded off with music in the Jazz style.

Warren had some well trained young waiters and those present thank him and his sons very much for their hospitality extended to the members of the Society and those who missed out on this night will be happy to know that there is a whisper that Warren will soon be inviting us once again to visit him.

FREEMAN'S WATERHOLES PICNIC DAY - B.T.

Sunday October 20th dawned fine and early just the day for a TOSA picnic at Freeman's Waterholes. Arriving there we met the other Sydney and Newcastle members.

Most of us enjoyed a barbecue lunch accompanied by Organ music emanating from the Miners Memorial Music Shell.

The Memorial situated at Oak Park is the brainchild of Mr. A. Jurd, a former carpenter from Lambton Colliery, to commemorate five miners who lost their lives on October 21st 1966. He organised donations from the miners' unions, BHP, clubs etc. to build a music shell and install a lowrey organ which is played, and available to visiting organists every Sunday and Public Holiday - free of charge. Occasionally a band or singers may be heard.

Murch to the disappointment of the local Newcastle members, no Sydney organists arrived to display their talents, but we were very fortunate to hear several local young artists - a boy aged 11 another about 16 and a 15 year old girl Kerrie Coban. This very talented young artist could show many professionals a few tricks, with her confident, ever changing style covering oldies to modern pops and classics. For the youngsters there were pony rides, a plane roundabout, kangaroos, ducks, swans and refreshments at the Oak Milk Bar. Mr. Jurd welcomed everybody personally and explained everything about the memorial. Altogether a wonderful TOSA picnic for those who came. Our thanks go to the Weismantel family for the organisation of this day.

HAMMOND NO.1 DIVISION ENTERTAINS TOSA

On 25th October the President and Secretary of the No.1 Division of the Hammond Organ Society invited us to a joint fund raising party with the Hammond Society at their home to assist our Capitol Re-Installation Fund and in spite of the minimal number of TOSA members a most successful and happy night was had by all and the Capitol Organ Fund is \$32 better off after George and Vera Dusting's generous effort.

Bill Schumacher entertained us abundantly and David Sacre, with his spine in a terrible state and his neck in a surgical collar played for the first time for many members. David originally comes from Brisbane and has been responsible for transcribing some of the arrangements we have heard this year from other Theatre organists. Bill and David supplied the bulk of the entertainment very capably and we were also entertained by other members of the Hammond Organ Society.

George and Vera have promised to hold another party on our behalf and next time we must give them our full support.

George tells us that they are holding a Christmas Dinner/Dance on Saturday December, 14th at the Bexley Golf Club, Stoney Creek Road, Bexley and this get together will include members from other Sydney Chapters of the Society and any members of the Theatre Organ Society would be made most welcome. Tickets are available by 'phoning Vera Dusting, 25 Walter Street, Mortdale, 570 1296.

DAVID PARSONS PLEASES EVERYONE - PH

David Parsons free Sunday Afternoon Concert held on the 2/10 Wurlitzer at Marrickville Town Hall was advertised as being a reliable, and popular entertainment and David lived up to his reputation admirably. There was plenty of everything in the programme, that the people like to hear including "fire and brimstone".

David opened with the Impossible Dream and followed with a tour through the percussion section of the organ with Reginald Foort's 'Clock Factory' then came that hackneyed popular piece 'The Entertainer' and 'Seasons in the Sun' featuring a very effective solo tuba followed by some other - tunes of the moment - 'Bill Don't be a Hero' and 'Waterloo'. 'Holiday for Strings' was followed by David's 'Holiday for Everyone' finishing up with a very good arrangement of 'Waltzing Matilda'. David resorted to the Organ's comedy department with Klaxon Horn and Steam Train effects for 'Tijuana Taxi' and 'Chattanooga Choo Choo' and 'Birdsong at Eventide' gave the whistle a workout before 'Our Director' shook down the rafters prior to interval. During the second half some rather nice combinations of tuba and Diapason were used and pieces that come to mind are 'The Allegro from Handel's Water Music', 'Sleeping Beauty Waltz', Selections from 'Kismet', 'The Lords Prayer'. For this reviewer the last piece, the Finale from the 'Dance of the Hours' was the Climax with the tempo FAST the registration FURIOUS and the audience reaction FANTASTIC. David obliged with an encore and left a very well satisfied crowd of fans.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting held on 11th November, 1974 at St. Annes Hall Strathfield the following were elected to executive and Committee:

PRESIDENT	Tom Halloran	523 5077
VICE PRESIDENTS	Herbert Wyatt	48 3427
	Des Russell	42 4729
	Lance Jones	34 7003
SECRETARY	Lance Jones	34 7003
MINUTE SECRETARY	Coralea Jones	34 7003
TREASURER	Mark Gabriel	579 2169
COMMITTEE	Barry Tooker	642 6086
	Ray Garrett	869 7247
	John Weismantel	80 2680
	Alan Misdale	525 5554
	Bill Schumacher	
	Jack Lawson	56 3775
	John Atkinson	587 3374

TOSA NEWS EDITOR

CONCERT REVIEWERS

Barry Tooker - Kevin Eadie

IAN DAVIES WAS RE-ELECTED PATRON:

The treasurers report as detailed in last month's TOSA News (with printers errors corrected) was tabled and accepted and a lengthy discussion regarding the reinstallation of the Capitol Wurlitzer ensued from which no motions were made or passed.

TRACING THE GIANTS - RG

Last month we began with the Sydney City area tracing as much as is known of the original locations and movements since of the Theatre Pipe Organs. This month we continue with the Suburban installations:-

ROXY THEATRE - PARRAMATTA 3/10 Christie. This instrument was the largest Christie to come to this country and was possibly the only one to have a piano originally installed in the theatre. The organ was removed from the building in the late 50's by Mr. Stan Baldwin who installed it in the basement of his home where it remained until it was purchased by a syndicate - The Cinema Organ Group. It is undergoing a complete restoration plus additions, at the time of writing this is nearing completion.

ASTRA THEATRE, PARRAMATTA 2/5 Hill, Norman & Beard (?) Again removed from the cinema in the late 50's from here it was installed in the Roman Catholic Church at Bondi. Removed some years ago from this locale its present whereabouts is unknown, although it is believed to be installed in a church in the western suburbs of Sydney.

PALATIAL THEATRE, BURWOOD 3/10 Christie. Yet another casualty of the great organ sell out, this instrument was purchased by the Seventh Day Adventist Church at Wahroonga where it now sounds forth again.

REGENT THEATRE, WENTWORTHVILLE 2/8 (locally built) mostly Wurlitzer Parts. This instrument was built by Dodd the Wurlitzer Agent and was probably installed in his home, then probably in Romano's Restaurant in Sydney before coming to Wentworthville. After being removed from the theatre it was purchased by Maurice Baldwin of Castle Hill who stored it for quite some years. It was purchased by Phillip Doyle the owner of Kogarah Theatre from where it was sold to George Newell who is now installing part of it in the Belmore Masonic Hall.

KING'S CROSS THEATRE, KING'S CROSS 2/10 Wurlitzer. This organ only remained in its original location for approximately 10 years. In 1938 Hill, Norman and Beard Ltd., removed the instrument and reinstalled it in the newly constructed "Savoy" Theatre at Hurstville, all in the space of three weeks! The organ was removed from the "Savoy" sometime in the late 1950's and reinstalled in the Burwood Congregational Church where it is to this day. It remains in good playable order although the percussions which were originally installed in the church have now been removed with the exception of the chrysoglott, chimes and piano.

RITZ THEATRE, CONCORD 2/5 Christie. We are unable to ascertain exactly when this instrument was first installed, but it is known that it remained only several years in this theatre. Following the construction of the "Melba" Theatre at Strathfield the Christie was enlarged by three ranks and installed in this theatre. After the organ fell silent in the late 1950's it came into the possession of the Christian Broadcasting Association who had it installed in the Fivedock Presbyterian Church where it was heard for some years on numerous religious broadcasts. The Association moved headquarters and the organ was removed from the church and stored. Eventually it was advertised and what had not already been broken up was disposed of as parts.

ARCADIA THEATRE, CHATSWOOD 2/10 Wurlitzer. Following shortly after the installation of the "Prince Edward" was this particular instrument, sometime in 1925. Upon the closing of the theatre the organ was donated to Willoughby Council by the owners the Crispe family. Now installed in the new Civic Hall at Chatswood this Wurlitzer is currently undergoing further restoration before more organ concerts are presented.

KING'S THEATRE, GORDON 2/8 Christie. The other North Shore instrument was only several stations up the line. After falling into disuse "after television" the Christie was purchased by St. Columba's Church West Ryde. Several dedicated parishioners re-installed the organ and it can be truly said that no professional organ man could have laid out the chambers in better fashion. Many hours work have been put into the restoration since this time and the instrument is in excellent condition complete with all percussions except the xylophone and several minor non-tonals--- woodblock, tambourine and castanets.

VICTORY THEATRE, KOGARAH 2/7 Christie. The smallest Christie in the Sydney area and also the first. It remained in the theatre until about four years ago when it was removed by the now owner Alan Tranter. The organ remains in storage awaiting a new home.

DUKE OF YORK THEATRE, EASTWOOD 2/7 Christie. Although having the same number of ranks as the Kogarah Christie this organ had considerably more extension and unification although tonally was never as successful. The organ was purchased by the Epping Baptist Church in 1958 and reinstalled in their new church. The installation was most unusual, one chamber being placed behind the other and speaking through the first!! Following extensions to the church about six or seven years ago the organ was re-located in a more conventional manner. Much of the unification has been removed, also some of the tremulants and most of the percussion -- now a much poorer instrument.

ASTRA THEATRE, DRUMMOYNE 2/8 ?????? Locally built up, we're unable to supply any information except to say that it was finally broken up for spares.

CROWLE RESIDENCE, NO.1 2/7 Wurlitzer. Especially designed and voiced as a residence organ this was used by the Crowles (the then Wurlitzer agents for Australia) to demonstrate their merchandise. Not long after being installed it was purchased by the Hearne family of Geelong Vic. for their large home where it remains in fine playing condition to this day.

CROWLE RESIDENCE, NO.2 2/10 Wurlitzer. This organ was installed to replace the one mentioned above and remained until Mr. Crowle's death. Removed and enlarged by three ranks it was re-installed in the "Civic" Theatre Auburn. Purchased in the late 1950's by John Clancy who located it in his home, where it is to-day.

PRINTING OUR OWN T.O.S.A. NEWS

This month and this actual page are our first attempt at "Do-it-yourself" printing of our news-sheet.

The cost of the second hand Rotoprint machine is about the cost of one issue of our monthly sheet - added to that we have the cost of chemicals and ink for Lithographic Offset-printing which are not regularly repetitive..... so - all in all apart from making it very difficult time-wise for your editor and helpers we should more than halve our printing bill for our sheet in future.

My thanks to the newly formed printing committee for its help and please excuse any ink marks ---- we should improve the technology, with experience.

DEADLINE

As we will be preparing your January issue over the festive season we would ask you to spare us a thought and try to meet our deadline on 16th December so that we can eat Christmas Dinner without a pen and pad beside the plate. Remember it is the season for "Loving and Giving" so give with the information please fellows and we will just struggle on without the loving.

THE LAST OF THE THEATRE ORGAN BUILDERS

We learnt from the October issue of "VOX" that Dan Barton, the last of the great theatre organ builders in America, died on Friday, April 26th in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Death was attributed to a stroke, although he had been in failing health for several years.

Barton would have been 90 years old on May 30th; he was born in 1884.

"1975 IS CONVENTION YEAR FOR TOSA VICTORIAN DIVISION"

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Dear Sir,

Ian Cameron's Flashbacks about the "Capitol" Theatre and it's organists (TOSA News, Nov. '74) brings back nostalgic memories to me, I spent many happy hours listening to the "Capitol" organ, particularly in relation to their accompaniment to the showing of the silent films. I have enjoyed listening to all the Theatre organs in our city but I heard the "Capitol" organ more than the others, for the reason that this Theatre was the only one (with an organ) that had a weekly change of programme. Although I often went to the main sessions to hear Fred Scholl at the organ, Ted Henkel and his very fine orchestra of 20 players and the 30 minute Stage presentation, featuring the orchestra and the "Capitol" Ballet of 12 Chorus Girls, I frequently went to the intermediate sessions to hear the organ playing right through those sessions.

The three most prominent organists I heard at these sessions were, Knight Barnett, Leslie Waldron and Billy Dick. At this period of time, two reel comedies were featured and the organists played light numbers to them, I remember that at one period of six weeks of my attendance to these sessions, Billy Dick played a popular number of the time, "Side by Side" each week for the six weeks, with an entirely different stop registration each time. Incidentally, in all the hundreds of times I heard the organs in the Theatres over the years, I only heard one Cypher in the Great organ Chamber at the "Capitol" when Fred Scholl was playing to a silent Picture, a big Tuba cyphered and the organ had to be closed down for the rest of the evening and this was only six weeks after the organ was installed - this is indeed a tribute to the maintenance of the organs at that time. A few months after the "Capitol" Theatre was opened, the depression came on and it was closed for a few months, I was walking past the Theatre one day during this time and saw a huge poster on the Parker Street side wall of the Theatre, reading "The Theatre will open on -----date, featuring the £20,000 orchestral organ", needless to say, I was there at this date.

Yours truly,

Fred A. Wallis.

Dear Sir,

I was very interested in the article under the heading "Flashbacks from Ian Cameron" in November TOSA News, and I think I can assist with some filling-in information concerning early organists of our Capitol Theatre instrument.

When the Theatre opened in 1928 silent films only were showing. The Capitol ran 4 shows per day - morning and intermediate sessions at approx. 11a.m. and 5p.m., and so-called deluxe sessions at 2 and 8p.m. The latter comprised an Overture by Ted Henkel and orchestra, a newsreel, featured organ segment (by Fred Scholl - a big man with a huge pair of hands), another 1 or 2 reel film, then elaborate stage presentation which took in Ted Henkel's band and excellent Capitol Ballet, rounded off at curtain fall by Fred Scholl. Then followed Interval with the orchestra playing in the pit, after which came the feature film. I'm almost certain the organist who did all the music accompanying the films on the 1st and 3rd shows was (Jack) Knight Barnett. When in 1930 Mr. Nash, the theatre owner installed the small Christie in the Ritz at Concord, Knight Barnett took the position of first featured resident organist.

I received my tuition from him, initially on the Christie in 1930, and when he moved from the Ritz to take over from Julia Dawn at the Prince Edward I followed and continued receiving tuition from Jack until his departure for an engagement in New Zealand in mid-1931. That engagement incidentally was to have been for a few weeks only, but so well was he received in the sister-Dominion that his stay there lasted many months. (Of present TOSA Members I might be the first one to have played our Marrickville Wurlitzer - 43 years ago.)

As you are aware, Knight Barnett now lives in Adelaide (we still correspond) his charming wife, up to the time of moving to South Australia was the longest serving member of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (violiniste). Knight Barnett is of course Patron of TOSA S.A. Division, and it should therefore be easy to verify from him particulars about Sydney organists at the Capitol in those early days, and possibly to be able to supply further useful information.

May I take this opportunity of saying how gratified I was to note Frank Ellis' offering in the July TOSA issue. Knight Barnett is one of those "pioneer" featured theatre-organists still going strong, was most likely on the scene before those mentioned by Mr. Ellis and must be one of those whose name eluded him at time of writing. Knight Barnett surely holds the record for continuous playing in the theatres being the last resident organist at the Regent Adelaide right up to the time the building passed into the hands of the developers.

Yours truly,
Sydney F. Spence

P.S. In view of Knight Barnett's early cinema organ playing days, the regrettable passing of Manny Aarons - reported in September, TOSA News - might not have removed "the last surviving link with the silent film era in Australia." SFS.

Dear Sir,

I was rather appalled to note that, at last, we have acquired our first anonymous letter writer in the pages of the most recent TOSA News. However, it does not come as a surprise, for it's purely a reflection of the general overall apathy which seems to plague the NSW Division and to a lesser extent interstate divisions. The comments made by the writer confirm this apathy which in the present case broadly means "Don't bother doing anything - leave it to some other silly fool." What our anonymous colleague does not realise is that by blindly "following the leader" he can be led up the garden path! Don't be frightened to speak up & be known. The more interest members take in the activities of their executive and committee, the stronger the society becomes. As one of the six members who salvaged our backsides off for eighteen hours a day for over two weeks to remove the Capitol organ, I feel very strongly about the selection of the best location for the reinstallation of the machine. Yes, acknowledgement is given to the few extra weekend helpers, but not to the hordes of people who just stood around sightseeing. It wouldnt surprise me if our anonymous letter writer was one of those actually taking photographs of us working. Don't bother getting out the cameras for the re-installation - like always it will probably be the same cast. It may be timely to point out to members with a similar attitude to anonymous "HD" that out of a total membership in excess of 300, less than 20 people donate their time for your pleasure.

In the long run, nothing comes to those who sit on their hands and bury their heads. Don't just leave everything to the few, including the executive, give us your assistance, ideas and a little honest work to make a stronger, better society for all.

F. I. Somerville.

Dear Sir,

I would like to point out for the information of those who were not at the AGM held 11.11.74 some of the details that I have negotiated with the party who is at present completely redecorating the Balmain Theatre. The negotiation revealed that the theatre would be opened as the Bijou decorated to represent the gas-light era even with gas lighting on the front and the plans include the installation of an organ. My suggestion of the Pipe organ was very readily accepted as the proprietor is the person who was prepared to re-open the Drummoyne Theatre some time ago and it was with this person that the President Mr. Halloran had negotiated to install the organ at this site.

The Theatre has an area both sides of the proscenium which could be used for chambers - it already has plaster grills in front thereof. The concrete floors will be built for these chambers by the Theatre - so far there has been clear indication that we will not have to spend any money for construction only the cost of rebuilding the organ. The management are prepared to allow us 6 concert nights a year when they will discontinue their programme and advertise our concert for us. The above I feel will more than cover our needs for night concerts, also we can have Saturday and Sunday morning concerts at 10a.m. not 7.30 - 8a.m. as we have to do in the City Theatres. A brick room exists under stage for blower and the 32ft. diaphones can be placed in an area under circle floor on beams already there. Member practice can be all day week days till 7 p.m. except Wednesday Matinee; Saturday till 12 p.m. Sunday till Matinee not yet decided either 1.30 or 4.30 p.m. start.

The Management are at present leasing the Building but intend to buy same soon and are going to use stalls area for Restaurant possibly 1 hour before movies and after. At this time the organ could be used for dinner music. The Theatre intend to use the organ at least Friday and Saturday nights so it can be seen that in this location our organ will get a better exposure to the Public than it could get at Hurstville Civic Centre.

The Theatre is quite a large building originally seated over 1800, has large stage and full fly gallery, which it is intended to use for stage presentations. These details I set out here are a basic idea of what we could gain from this offer and I can assure you the management are very keen to have the organ. They will put in an electronic if the Pipe Organ is not available.

Hoping these facts have been some assistance to you in helping you to make the decision re the installation of the Ex Capitol Wurlitzer.

Organically yours
Jack Lawson.

THE OPENING OF CINEMA NORTH

During the Annual General Meeting Jack Lawson announced that he has received a letter from John McLennan in Melbourne stating that the opening of the organ in Cinema North, originally planned for the 7th and 8th December, has had to be postponed to a later time and we hope to have another date soon to announce to you.

FLASHBACKS FROM IAN CAMERON

In the heyday of the Theatre Organ, many of the organists, as well as rendering live performances to the theatre-goers of the day; regularly broadcast direct from the Theatres over the local Radio Stations. As the quality of sound recording techniques improve, many of the organists cut 'hot wax' discs which were recorded at a speed of 78 rpm. During the 30's and 40's, such recordings were obtainable in some abundance, but today have become extremely difficult to obtain. As radio stations have disposed of collections, these recordings have become eagerly sought by collectors. Fellow member, Colin Robertson, and myself, have scrounged radio stations and other outlets over a considerable number of years for such recordings, and have built up quite a collection containing over 1,000 discs featuring Australian, British and American Theatre Organists. It was therefore felt that some details of this link with the past should be shared with Members, and in this month's FLASHBACK, I am listing the details of the Australian recordings produced during the 1930/1940 era. This list, whilst somewhat incomplete, will nevertheless illustrate the popularity of the Theatre Organ in this bygone era. In time members may be able to add to this information, which will be updated and placed in the Society's archives.

Newell ALTON

'Look for the Silver Lining & If I'm Dreaming'
Vocal By Robert Nicholson
Vocallion 556
recorded Melbourne 'Capitol'
3/15 Wurlitzer

Knight BARNETT

'Songs by Australian Composers'
No. 1 & 2 May Brahe
Incl. "Listen Mary, Bless This House,
Spring is on the Way, Close Thine Eyes,
Evening shadows, Keep Thou My Heart"
Regal-Zonophone CT 2415/6
(i)
'Songs by Australian Composers'
No. 3 & 4 - Alfred Hill & Emmet Adams
Incl. "Pro Patria Australia, A Maori
Lullaby, Waiata Poi, Life's Great Sunset,
God send you back to me, Bells of St. Mary's"
Regal-Zonophone CT 2361/2
(i)
'Songs by Australian Composers'
No. 5 & 6 - Henry Krips & Fred Whaite
Incl. "Shall I be Weary, One Song is in
my Heart, Where the Mountains go down to
the Sea, I'm Dreaming again of Castles in
Spain"
Regal-Zonophone CT 2363/4
(i)

Knight BARNETT cont.

'Smiley & Where the Blue Gums
Turn Red in the Sunset'
Vocal by Michael O'Regan
Regal-Zonophone CT 2415/6
(i)
'The Silver in My Mother's Hair,
When I was one year old'
Vocal by Michael O'Regan
Regal Zonophone CT 2419/20

(i) In each instance, "Wurlitzer"
is mentioned on the label. It
is thought that the Auburn 'Civic'
2/13 Wurlitzer was the instrument
used.

Leslie V. HARVEY

(Whilst on Australian Tour)
'Abset & Until'
Parlophone A.366/7

Eddie HORTON

(Whilst on Australian Tour)
'Ramona & Sunrise' with vocal
Parlophone A.303/4 Recorded
Sydney 'Prince Edward' 2/10
Wurlitzer

Nicholas ROBINS

'Bless His Heart & When It's
Springtime in the Valley'

Vocal by Al Royal

Regal - Zonophone CT 2012/6

(i)

'Polynesian Moon & There'll Always
be a Lovers Lane'. Vocal by Al Royal

Regal-Zonophone CT 2013/5

(i)

'When I return to You and What'll we
Do when this is Over' Vocal by Al Royal

Regal-Zonophone CT 2014/7

(i)

'Medley of Jack Lumsdaine's Songs'
Incl. 'Don't worry, Wait Till the
Sun Comes Over the Hill, Digger, Where
the Shannon Flows Down to the Sea,
Guilding Star, Tipperary Days'

Regal-Zonophone CT 2069/70

(ii)

'Medley of Mason & Saunders Songs'

Incl. 'I took a Million to one on my
Chances, Calling You Home, The Land at
the End of the Lane, What's it Matter,
Farewell to Goodbye, It Wasn't a Star.'

Regal-Zonophone CT 2071/2

(ii)

SIDNEY TORCH

A lot of people after listening to the Doric recordings of Sidney Torch originally recorded during the 30's have asked if there is any chance of a return by him to the Theatre Organ console as they feel if he was playing in this way so long ago what must he be like today. Well that was 40 years ago and although the interview recorded on the disc cover didn't exactly state definitely - no more theatre organs - this is as it has transpired. The American Theatre Organ magazine ran the complete interview and the last part of that interview appeared in the April 1973 Edition kindly lent to me by Mark Gabriel. One of the interviewers was Judd Walton who included the following addenda to their discussion:-

"Since the above interview, a letter from Mr. Torch tells of his decision to retire from his post after conducting, arranging and playing for over 50 years. He states '-the orchestra gave me a silver salver and two verses of 'For he's a jolly good fellow', all of which was rather warming.' He plans to retire to a place by the sea near the south coast of England. The effect of Sidney Torch's music on the Theatre organ has proven to be just as electric today as when it was first heard. Many, especially in this country (America) are hearing him for the first time. English organ enthusiasts have been unanimous in their pleasure and praise, even those who were fortunate enough to have been involved with his playing in the in-theatre days. A new wave of 'Torchiana' is sweeping the British Isles as can scarcely be belived, as one recently wrote.

Enough has been written since last May when the memorable meeting with Mr. Torch occurred, regarding his music and its recent re-issue. More important is the man, his ideals, standards of performance, maintained throughout the years without compromise!

Nicholas ROBINS cont.

(ii) 'Cinema Organ' specified
By its sound, could have been
the Roxy Parramatta, 3/10
Christie.

'My Song of the Nile & A Wee
Bit of Love'

Columbia T. 822/5

Recorded Chatswood 'Arcadia'

2/10 Wurlitzer

Joseph WAYNE

'The Pagan Love Song & When
my Dreams Come True'

Columbia 0-1725

Recorded 'King's Cross'

Theatre, Sydney 2/10

Wurlitzer.

UNNAMED ORGANIST

'Tell Me Tonight & You Loving
Me'

Vocal by Birrel O'Malley

Regal-Zonophone 3481/2

Organ location not specified.

His contribution to contemporary music and its performance may not be fully realised in our time. Be that as it may, we who profess to know and who certainly endear the theatre organ, are fortunate to again have contact with Mr. Torch - a musical giant of his time and a colossus of that wonderful art form -- the theatre organ.

J.W. March, 1973.

THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SCENE - Bill Schumacher

During July, 1975 the American Theatre Organ Convention will be held in San Francisco on the West coast of America and probably it will not be as conveniently located for Australians wishing to attend for a long time to come. If you are thinking of a visit to the States then to wet your appetite ask Rob Gliddon or Bill Schumacher about their visit this year to Detroit for the 'Noteable Nineteenth Convention' and you too may decide to be in San Francisco next year for the 20th. Bill has prepared his American impressions for us and they begin this month:-

Having spent four weeks in the United States earlier this year our Editor thought that maybe our members would like to know about some of the things that are hapening in the Theatre Organ World over there. The first thing that is noticed is the tremendous hospitality of the American people.

During my short stay in Seattle I was taken out to dinner at the Pipes and Pizza Restaurant which was opened earlier this year and a 3/16 Wurlitzer installed in chambers with glass walls so that the visitors can see all the pipework. The percussion units are placed around the side walls and are all wired with little lights so that as each note of each unit is played a tiny light comes on. The effect is really great. The whole installation is a credit to the few people who work on it.

Tom Sheen and Dick Schrumm are two of the organists who are heard nightly. I was asked by Dick Schrumm if I would play a guest spot during the night. This turned out to be two spots lasting well over an hour and consisted of mainly playing the audiences requests which they write on paper and place on the organ bench while you are playing. It was quite a thrill to play a Wurlitzer that is beautifully installed, regulated and tuned and I hope someday we will have one in Australia.

While in Seattle I visited the Paramount Theatre along with Rus Evans one of our overseas members. This theatre houses one of the famous public 4/20 Wurlitzers. The main reason for the visit was to replace the locks on the organ chambers. These had been broken by vandals but no damage had been done to the pipes. The Wurlitzer is in very good condition even though it doesn't get a lot of use. The theatre was being made ready for a concert by the English rock group Procol Harum, and when their organist (B3 Hammond plus Leslies) heard the Wurlitzer he asked if he could have a play. You should have heard the racket. It was obvious he had never played a Wurlitzer before. The next city visited was Detroit, the venue for the ATOS 19th Convention (covered in an earlier TOSA News) I can only add that it was top class organisation which is not easy to have with over 1100 people, 1st class organs and organists.

After Detroit Rob Gliddon and I moved on to New York for a few days to find a smog free city which is very unusual in Summer. No visit to New York would be complete without a visit to Radio City Music Hall where we found the only thing below the usual high standard was the organists performances (we heard two) at the famous 4 manual Wurlitzer.

In both cases they sounded as if they couldn't care less, which is a pity because the Symphony Orchestra and stage show is always of very high standard. The Wurlitzer itself has a beautiful sound in the huge theatre. The only recordings that have done it justice where those cut by Ashley Miller some years back.

Continued next month's issue when we visit Phoenix Arizona, Los Angeles and Portland.

FOR SALE

Conn Theatre De Luxe Model 645 two 61 note manuals full 32 note pedal board. Tibias 16 ft to 1 ft all other stops available separately 16 ft 8 ft and 4 ft. Rhythm Unit and Stereo control - as new condition. No reasonable offer refused - for further details phone Herbert Wyatt 48 3427.

FOR SALE

Yamaha E3 (with our without mini-pops rhythm unit) it has 2 manuals which are 61 note and a 25 note pedal board and is only 2 years old in very good condition and the finish is American Walnut. For any further particulars phone Carl McLardy - Newcastle 045 72977

AN INVITATION

Members living in the Bankstown area are invited to contact Mr. Ern Mansell - Bankstown - Phone 709 1963.

Ern has a Lowrey Citation Organ and would be pleased to hear from fellow members who may like to visit his home for a practice or arrange a get-together of members living around about.

INTERSTATE NEWS

In the latest South Australian News-sheet the work teams for the dismantling removal and packing of their newly acquired pipe organ from Mike Pfitzner's residence, has been planned and the team was to leave Adelaide on 15th November and we wish them every success with their venture.

Also they announce that Geoffry Smith, a foundation member of S.A. Division has recently purchased a complete 2/8 Christie Pipe Organ. The Organ was originally installed in the Regent Theatre Perth, was then transferred to the DeLuxe Theatre Bourke Street, Melbourne then spent some time in the Plaza Sydney where it had it's longest stay and was finally installed in the Savoy Theatre, Enfield, N.S.W. After which it became disused and was purchased by a member of the Baldwin family at Castle Hill where it lay in storage for many years. Now it has arrived in Adelaide and Geoff Smith hopes to have it playing again by next Easter - good luck to Geoff from Sydney Division.

NOTES FROM RECENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During a recent visit by the Brisbane Organist, Neil Jensen, to Sydney the possibility of a Sunday Afternoon Concert was discussed and this is at present being considered and arranged by the Committee for the New Year.

Another highlight of the New Year's activity will be a visit to Australia of the husband and wife-organ and piano team, Dennis and Heidi James.

You may recall that Rob Gliddon reported in his review of the American Detroit Convention that Dennis and Heidi James really stole the show. It is anticipated that their visit will take place some time in April ----- so already the planning for your enjoyment and entertainment for next year has begun - please give us all the support you can in 1975.

CONTINUING SAGA OF THE SAVOY-HURSTVILLE

During the month it was announced in the Sydney press that the Silverton Construction Company have abandoned their plans for the demolition and reconstruction of an office block on the site presently covered by the Savoy Theatre in Hurstville.

Subsequently Philip Doyle has announced that he has purchased the freehold and will reopen in December with an organ.

Philip Doyle is the only Theatre operator in Sydney regularly advertising and using the services of an organ and organist and also holds the distinction of being the last operator to regularly feature a pipe organ - this was of course the Victory, Kogarah which is now in storage.

ENGLAND REVIEWS AUSTRALIAN ORGANIST

In a copy of the August, 1974 News letter of the Cinema Organ Society of the United Kingdom mention is made of Eric Smith's recording on the Sydney Town Hall Organ "The Beautiful Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein". It is said that the record has been used on the programme "The Organist Entertains". Congratulations to Eric its nice to think we have a Sydney expert and wish you every success.

H E L P !

As you will have read on page 6 of this Newsheet we are endeavouring to print our own and this is the first from TOSA PRESS. As you can imagine costs on paper, ink etc. are very costly and we are endeavouring to cut a lot of cost by having our own press but don't wish to have to pay out more than is necessary for stationery. If there lurks amongst you a member who could assist in defraying these costs we would like very much to hear from you the process being used is a Lithographic Rotoprint Machine Model R 70 and the paper a heavy duty Quarto Bond. --- Looking forward to hearing the phone ringing Your Editor 587 3374

JESSE CRAWFORD - POET OF THE ORGAN

We have been sent, from America, a copy of the book "Jesse Crawford - Poet of the Organ; Wizard of the Mighty WurliTzer" by John W. Landon but due to the amount of information received for this month's newsheet we are unable to give you the type of review this book would require.

We will therefore save it for a future issue.

"REGINALD PORTER-BROWN IN AUSTRALIA"

In a Newsheet from England kindly lent to us by Mark Gabriel, a review of the Reginald Porter-Brown Records is included and mention is made of the installation at Marrickville which we thought we should pass on:-

"The two previous volumes (25 & 26) in this series were recorded 'live' at Reg's Concert in Marrickville Town Hall, but these two were specially recorded at a private session the following day. The organ belongs to the N.S.W. Division of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (formerly in the Prince Edward Theatre Sydney) and sounds magnificent - except for a rather 'bleaty' Vox - and the TOSA boys are to be congratulated on the excellence of the installation. (There is a console photo on the sleeve). The hall acoustics are very fine and the stereo separation is excellent." Interesting to hear comments from so far away. Isn't it.....