

T.O.S.A. NEWS

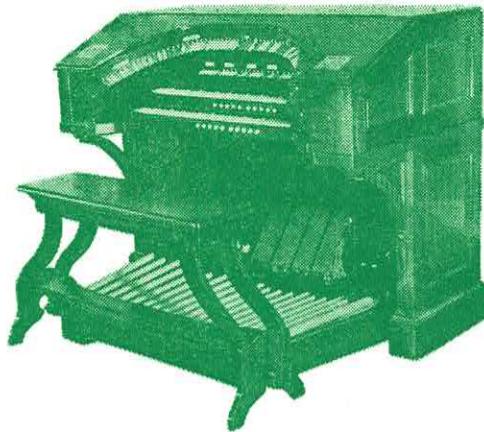
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE DIVISIONS OF N.S.W., QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: FRANK ELLIS

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

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



PRICE
10c



VOLUME 7 NUMBER 6

1st JUNE 1969

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH.

The second part of the lecture by our member Eric Mirovitch will be given on Saturday 14th June at 8pm at the home of our members, Mr & Mrs Arthur Spring. The lecture will be of special interest to those who wish to tune their own organs. The usual practise will apply - that is those who plan to attend should telephone Vice-President Des Russell at 42-4729 a few days beforehand and make their reservations.

SUNDAY 15th JUNE AT 2.30pm.

The second FREE public concert on our Wurlitzer at Marrickville Town Hall will take place on this date. The organist will be our member CLIFF BINGHAM who has given a number of concerts for the Society over the last few years. A very talented young organist indeed CLIFF is sure to play a programme which will please all tastes, so plan now to attend this function and bring as many of your friends, neighbours and relatives as you can. Why not tell those with whom you work that there is a FREE public concert on our Wurlitzer - you'll be doing them a favour and helping to see that we achieve a full or near full house for the occasion.

SATURDAY 21st JUNE AT 8pm.

There is to be another organ party at the home of our members Mr & Mrs Don McDonald of 6 Bligh Street Kirrawe. Those who attended the last one were loud in their praises of the evening's varied attractions and Don has made further alterations and improvements to his set-up. New speaker boxes with a capacity of twelve cubic feet each have been added, one to either side of his movie screen which is flanked by columns individually lit with colored lighting. A grand piano is connected to the organ and is playable from the console. A short sound film will be screened during the evening to add variety and a first class night is assured. Admission will be \$1 each and the proceeds of the evening go to the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund. Follow these directions for the most direct route to Don's place. Turn off Princes Highway at Oak Road which is the first street on the Sutherland side of the brickworks. Continue on to the end of Oak Road turn left into Forest Road and continue on to the end where a right turn is made into Hunter Street. Bligh Street is at the end of Hunter Street and Don's place is the second house on the left. Phone Don a few days beforehand if you are going. Telephone 521-4136.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

In July it is anticipated that there will be a Saturday morning concert at the Capitol Theatre Sydney, on the 3/15 Mighty Wurlitzer which has not been heard for the last fifteen months or so. During that time extensive work has been carried out on the instrument by the maintenance crew, and unless unforeseen difficulties crop up, we expect to present a leading theatre organist in concert during next month. Full details will be given in the July TOSA News.

Consideration is also being given by the Committee to the presentation of a tape and slide night during July. There are many tapes in our possession which members have not had the opportunity to hear and whilst listening to these we could be viewing slides of theatre organ consoles, or events which have taken place. Full details will be announced if it is decided to proceed with this function.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee please note that the July meeting will be on Monday 7th July at 7.15pm and the August meeting on Monday August 4th at 7.15pm.

DEADLINE FOR JULY TOSA NEWS.

Please note that the deadline for news items for July TOSA News will be Friday 20th June, and the issue will be prepared on June 21st and 22nd. Send your copy early.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

This month we welcome the following new members and hope that you will enjoy your many evenings of organ music in the company of your new friends.

NSW Division Members:- Warren Wood and Keith Simpson, both of Sydney.

West. Aust. Division:- Colin Lovelady - Trevor Carnaby - John Larner - Alan Doodson.

PIPE ORGAN PURCHASE FUND.

We gratefully acknowledge the sum of \$10.40 this month. This was the proceeds of a record raffle conducted during the "Meet Your Organ" night at Marrickville Town Hall last month. The record was donated by our member Mrs Leedom of USA and we do extend our thanks to her for this valuable assistance. For the benefit of recently joined members, the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund is being built up to enable the Society to purchase any Sydney Theatre Pipe organ which might become available in the future.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.

Our member Don McDonald wishes to purchase a copy of "1,001 Tunes" songbook. Any member who has a copy for sale or who knows of one available please phone Don at 521-4136. Don is a well known teacher of the organ.

IN NEXT MONTH'S TOSA NEWS.

Reports on the recital by Ronald Marston at the St. John's Church of England Rockdale and the JACK MALMSTEN concert at the Teachers Federation Hall will appear next month. Both of these functions occurred too late for this edition.

OUR PICTORIAL PAGES.

The photographs which appear on the following two pages were taken by the Society's official photographer, Bill Schmitger and Secretary John Clancy, and we thank these two gentlemen for making possible a pictorial record of our activities. The page of technical notes from Society lecture nights are always prepared by Vice-President Des Russell and typed by Treasurer Rod Blackmore, and your Editor appreciates very much this assistance.

Watch
for it.!

Wait
for it.!

PLAN
TO
ATTEND!

ADVANCE NOTICE OF
T.O.S.A.'s 1969
CONVENTION
TO BE HELD OVER 3 DAYS
IN SEPTEMBER
FRID. 12TH OPENING CONCERT (EVENING)
SAT. 13TH FULL DAY OF EVENTS
SUN. 14TH FINAL CONCERT

PLANNED
FOR
YOUR
FULL
ENJOYMENT!

OUR BIGGEST AND BEST EVER CONVENTION!



BERT WYATT



VIC LEON



RAY THORNLEIGH



CHAMBER INSPECTION



SNAPPING A TAPE



JOHN CASTRAY



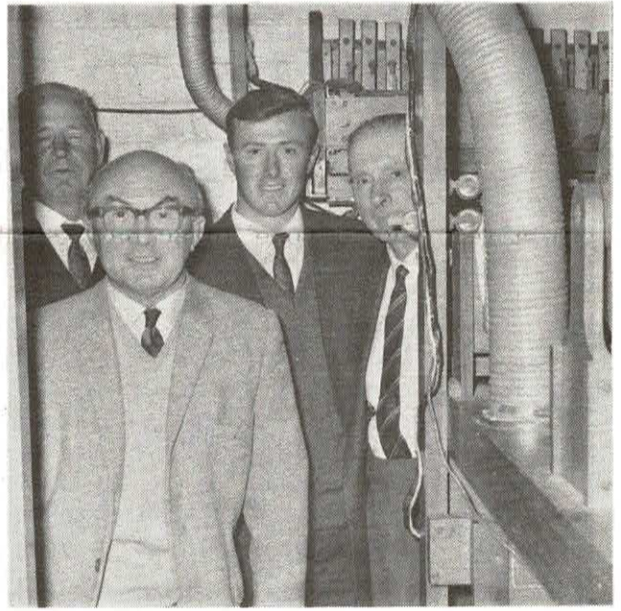
DES RUSSELL



MRS. WARD



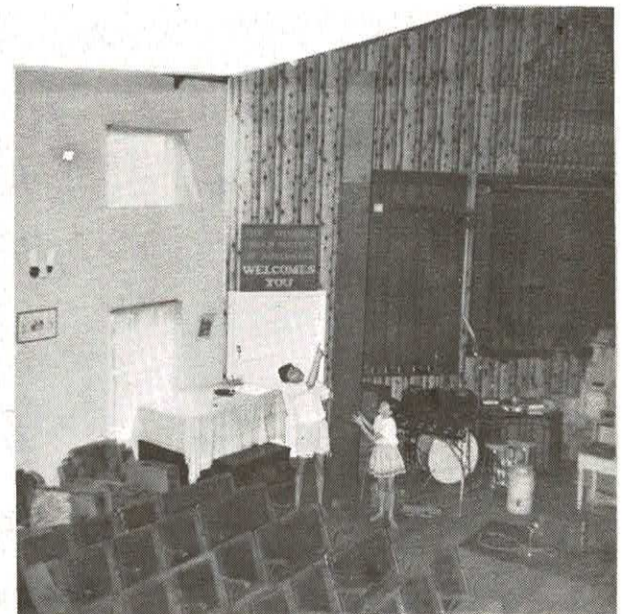
DAVID JOHNSON



CHAMBER INSPECTION



ERIC MIROVITCH LECTURE



BIG BASS BOOMER AT CLANCY RESIDENCE

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.

An impressively large audience were on hand when our member DAVID PARSONS was presented in concert on the Society's 2/10 Wurlitzer on Sunday 20th April in the Marrickville Town Hall. This being the first "free" public concert of the 1969 season, it was very gratifying to the Society to see so many of the general public, as well as our members, turn up to enjoy an afternoon of theatre organ. DAVID PARSONS chose his programme with great care - he very obviously had rehearsed it more than adequately, and he presented it with verve and imagination. Since his first Wurlitzer Pipe organ concert for the Society at the Capitol Theatre during our 1967 Convention, his style has acquired much more polish and sophistication.

He played with the assurance of an experienced theatre organist - even his choice of programme proclaimed this fact, with its balance of well proven favorites plus some novelty numbers which were in every theatre organist's repertoire in the golden days. As well, he included some of today's hit paraders for the benefit of the younger members of his audience. With the addition of a light classical item, and some music from the shows, DAVID achieved, in this reviewer's opinion, the right blend of music calculated to please an average audience, and this was borne out by the splendid ovation he received.

Opening with Zipp A De Do Dah, DAVID followed on with Selections from Disney's very durable film, "Snow White", the music of which seems somewhat sugary by today's standards, however, DAVID managed to impart a new freshness to it. Then came the overture, "The Barber Of Seville" which was very well played indeed. For contrast, Puppet On A String came next, played with a jerky emphasis as befitting the title. An unexpected and surprising item followed which turned out to be quite a highlight of the programme. This was "Nightmare In The Mosque" (shades of Reginald Foort here) and it was excitingly played and registered. Before playing this item DAVID spent a couple of minutes telling the audience just what it was all about, and this contributed enormously to its success. As DAVID humorously put it, "musically, its a mess", but he went on to make of it, an event. The first half concluded with the old, but still popular standard, Valencia. After interval time, we heard, The Wedding Of The Painted Doll, There's A Kind Of Hush, Abba Dabba Honeymoon, The March Of The Toys and Love Is Blue - a mixed bag indeed, but all quite enjoyable. This concert took place but a few days before Anzac Day, so DAVID featured a bracket of three numbers beloved of Servicemen of both World Wars, as his tribute to this day of Remembrance. They were, Land Of Hope & Glory, Roses Of Picardy and The Dambuster's March. The programme continued with A Place Where We Can Go, Selections from "Fiddler On The Roof" and the song written for and made famous by England's greatest comedienne Gracie Fields, Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye. The applause went on long after DAVID had left the console, and he returned to encore with Tijuana Taxi and Thoroughly Modern Millie. Summing it all up - DAVID PARSONS made a very impressive debut in his first concert at our Wurlitzer in the Marrickville Town Hall. We look forward to his next one.

"MEET YOUR ORGAN" NIGHT AT MARRICKVILLE.

A goodly number of members were present to participate in this very informal night, the first of this type of function yet held at Marrickville. The success of the function would suggest that there should be more of this type of evening during the year. All playing members had been asked to bring two items of music to play on the Society's Wurlitzer, and it was surprising to find that we have an undreamed of amount of talent within our ranks.

The evening was also the first occasion on which inspections of the chambers had been allowed, and about 60 members took advantage of the chance for an inspection whilst the instrument was actually being played. Chamber inspections were organised by your Editor from a table alongside the console, and parties of four were made up and handed over to Jim McKern, who conducted them to the Main Chamber where Bill Richards explained the layout and answered members questions. They were then conducted across the stage and handed over to Ray Garrett who guided them to the Solo Chamber where Malcolm Mackay was waiting to explain things and answer questions. Many members expressed their thanks for the courtesy of these four gentlemen as well as for their patience.

Among those who played the organ were :- Vic Leon, John Castray, Ray Thornley, Mr R. Smith, Mr W. Wyatt, Miss Lois Brangwin, John Clancy, Lance Wells, Tom Barker, Mrs Ward, Jim Bass, Elizabeth Bird, Noel Cerezo, Terry Cresswell, Bill Schumacher, Des Russell, Cliff Bingham, David Parsons, Ian Somerville, Cyril Haines, Robert Gliddon, and a welcome guest from Victoria David Johnston. David is resident organist at the Dendy Cinema at the console of the Victorian Division's Wurlitzer

"MEET YOUR ORGAN" NIGHT (cont)

and we were pleased indeed to have the opportunity of hearing him. He was in Sydney briefly whilst on his honeymoon, and the NSW Division extends its congratulations and best wishes to both David and Mrs Johnston.

The evening was voted as a most enjoyable one by all who were present, however, the success of any future functions of this kind, will depend on a strict control to ensure that members do not play more than the two numbers allowed to them. There were several members who did not get the opportunity to play at all due to the lack of time, even though we had been given an extension of time by the caretaker, and this, the Society regrets very much. If each player sticks to the two items only rule, then it is quite possible that a "second time around" could be given when all those who wish to play have in fact done so. When next we have another function of this kind, let's all do the right thing and not go beyond the allotted time, and this will ensure a fair go for all.

ERIC SMITH CONCERT ON SOCIETY WURLITZER.

Despite a twenty-four hour strike of Sydney's trains, buses and ferries on Wednesday 21st May, there was quite a large attendance to hear our Honorary member ERIC SMITH in his first concert on the Society's 2/10 WurliTzer at Marrickville, and those who were present more than compensated for those unable to attend, by their more than obvious enthusiasm and enjoyment. Although ERIC has concertised for us on previous occasions, these have always been on a Hammond organ. Our Victorian Division were privileged to hear him play a WurliTzer theatre pipe organ before us - however, the wait was well worth while, for ERIC SMITH was revealed as a most polished pipe performer indeed, and we were entertained with a wide variety of music, most of which was arranged by himself, and presented with a maximum of polish.

Precise and delightful playing complimented by expert registration made it quite obvious that a considerable amount of time had been spent by our artist in both the planning and preparation of his programme, and his undoubted flair for arrangements played a very large part in ensuring that his concert achieved and merited a warm and ready acceptance by the audience. This it did full well.

Opening with his theme, Life Is Nothing Without Music, he went on to prove the truth of that title. His first bracket consisted of, Another Opening - Another Show-Oasis - Cherokee - The Trolley Song and Moonlight In Vermont which was given a wistful haunting quality which made it the highlight of this opening bracket. Soprano, Rae Candy, accompanied by ERIC at the organ, sang the Waltz Song from Romeo & Juliet and Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod), and was warmly applauded for her lovely singing of these favorite items. From the pen of Victor Herbert, ERIC featured Fleurette-Serenade and March Of The Toys followed by an enjoyable excursion into nostalgia with a well remembered selection of songs sung by Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy. The numbers heard were, On Parade from the film "Sweethearts", the title song from "Rose Marie", Maytime from "Maytime", March Of The Grenadiers from "The Love Parade", Farewell To Dreams from "Maytime" and finally Sweethearts from the show of the same name.

Opening the second half of the concert was The Dandy March followed by a brilliantly played Ritual Fire Dance. This was an exciting item and evoked a great deal of applause. Next came Chorale Prelude on All The Things You Are - this was another of ERIC's arrangements and one which I am sure Mr Kern would have approved of. Widor's Toccata in F (Organ Symphony No. 5) brought this particular bracket to a close. Miss Rae Candy then returned to the stage to sing Daybreak - Indian Love Call - Too Late Now and By Strauss all of which came from well known shows. She sang delightfully and particular mention should be made of Daybreak, which was a show-stopper. The unusual One Note Samba was followed by a special arrangement made many years ago by JESSE CRAWFORD of Over The Rainbow - this was a special surprise indeed. Garner's Lovely Misty arranged by ASHLEY MILLER suited our WurliTzer to a "t", and together with I Left My Heart In San Francisco would surely have satisfied every lover of the romantic sounds of the theatre organ. In fact, the latter one of these two was, for me, at least, one of the most delightful items of the evening. Variations & Fugue on "I Got Rhythm" brought to a conclusion a fine evening's entertainment. ERIC returned to play his theme, and in response to repeated calls for encore, obliged with Strike Up the Band, beefed out in the manner of a theatre organist playing out his audience, only, in this instance, they refused to leave. The console of our WurliTzer was located to the left of the stage for this concert and this location, together with two excellent colored spotlights supplied and operated by Mr Bond, added some theatre atmosphere to the evening, and we would like to thank Mr Bond and all those who assisted in the lighting, microphones and other chores. You all did a fine job.

TECHNICAL LECTURE on ORGAN TUNING
(first in a series of two)

by ERIC MIROVITCH (reported by RAY GARRETT)

A group of approximately 20 members gathered at Arthur Spring's home on the evening of 3rd May to hear what was to be a most stimulating lecture on the history of technical and subjective difficulties surrounding organ tuning.

The tune of an instrument is at any time subjective, although most would agree in recognition of bad mistuning, few would be of like mind in degree of precision necessary to produce acceptable tuning, but basically an accuracy of 0.01% will be sufficient to exceed the capabilities of the sensory system.

Historically our present musical scale is traceable to Greek origin (Pythagoras' "monochord") from which the basis of the 12 uneven interval "natural scale" was evolved, from which Salenas developed the "tempered 5th" or "mean tone" system - which enabled playing in more keys but not in D flat, F sharp, A flat, B major or E flat, A flat, B flat minor.

These systems were eventually displaced by the more acceptable present day equal temperament scale consisting of twelve equal intervals in each octave related by the twelfth root of two. The equal temperament scale has the disadvantages of non-beatless chords (imperfect) and consequently differing "colour" according to the chord - this colour was utilised by some composers such as Handel by selection of the appropriate key. Because of this inaccuracy, some instruments (e.g. Temple Church Organ, London) continued to use the mean tone system and provided additional keys for D sharp, B flat, G sharp and A flat. It has been shown that to play in all keys without beats, 53 notes per octave are required - an impractical situation.

The second disadvantage of the "equal temperament" scale is that of the imperfect interval of the twelfth root of two, i.e. 1.0595--- etc., which is inherently difficult to obtain and to tune, requiring methods such as beating against 5ths to obtain the correct relationship. Such a relationship places tuning by a beat method outside the ability of the layman and consequently a need for a tuning aid has become almost a necessity. Although many commercial aids of the required accuracy are available, such as signal generators and frequency counters, these are expensive, equal in cost to a large proportion of that of the instrument on which they would be used, (i.e. in excess of \$440). Of the range of electronic type tuners such as the Conn Strobotuner, Peterson and Schober Autotuner, the last is the most simple. These systems relate the tune frequency to the mains power frequency.

A simple high-accuracy (0.005%) tuner is most easily obtained using 12 crystal oscillators, ground to give the root twelve relationship; the required pitches are obtained by frequency division of the higher crystal frequency. Crystals and devices such as tuning forks are fixed frequency devices and do not permit variation of the A = 440 Hz international pitch which becomes necessary when a pipe organ must be tuned under conditions of differing temperatures and if the metal fatigue of readjustment is to be avoided.

The above criteria set the foundations for an organ tuner which Eric produced in its "breadboard" form; this used the fact that the twelfth root of two is nearly equal to 196/185 (accurate to one part in 100,000) and by use of one basic oscillator and binary dividers to obtain the various semitones. For more detail and a demonstration of this instrument we will have to wait for Eric's second lecture.

The evening was concluded by a most exhilarating presentation of ARTHUR SPRING's organ which is fast approaching the production stages.

PARRAMATTA "ROXY" THEATRE ORGAN TO BE RE-INSTALLED

Early this year the 3/10 Christie Unit Organ was secured by a syndicate comprising ERIC SMITH, BARRY TOOKER, JOHN ATKINSON, KEVIN KING, ROBERT GLIDDON, JOHN WHITEHOUSE and JOHN ANDREWS (most of whom are TOSA members). The organ was purchased from STANFORD BALDWIN of Castle Hill who had maintained it as a residence installation for some years. The organ was originally in the Roxy Theatre, Parramatta, and is presently undergoing extensive restoration. Plans for the organ's installation will be announced in TOSA News when we are advised. The history of this particular instrument has been covered fully in the January 1965 issue of "The Diaphone."

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS (Reported by Tom Ellis)

(The Queensland Division news bulletin has been compiled by Tom Ellis this month, as our usual correspondent, Nev Seymour has been in hospital for an operation. We hear that he is progressing favorably, and extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Mr Tom F. Ellis is the Editor of the Queensland Division's news sheet, "TIBIA" which has recently made its appearance on the theatre organ scene. TOSA News missed out on the first edition but Volume 1 No. 2 which arrived here a day or so ago, is a well produced and newsy addition to the Society's numerous publications. What a coincidence that its Editor should be another F. Ellis tho' he does have a "T" in front of it. Anyway Tom, welcome and good luck in your new assignment. And so to the news.)

Queensland members appear to have received some kind of a "shot in the arm". Most certainly there has been a great increase in Society activities in the recent months. This increase could be due to some extent to the decision made at the A.G.M. to purchase a theatre pipe organ. Committee members are now frantically searching for ideas for "Fund Raising Activities". We report with pride, that for a donation of ten cents to the Fund, any person may now inspect the Appendix (recently removed) of our President's daughter, Wendy (aged 16). We hasten to add the said Appendix is "pickled" in a bottle. Would any one dare to say we were lacking in enterprise?

Some recent events included a visit to St. John's Cathedral to hear a recital by that very talented organist Mr Robert Boughen. Mr Boughen chose his pieces with a view to demonstrating the full capabilities of the huge instrument which was built in England by Norman & Beard, and installed in the Cathedral in 1907 by Whitehouse Bros. It is interesting to note that, apart from regular tuning, no expense has been incurred throughout its 62 years of service.

On Saturday 19th April, about 50 members attended a Bar-B-Que at the residence of Mr & Mrs Nev. Seymour, Camp Hill, and all enjoyed a thoroughly pleasant evening. The Pipe Organ Fund netted a further \$38 as a result. Nev's garden with its miniature waterfall and fountain is something to behold. We understand that whilst the construction was "all his own work" Mrs Seymour is the "green fingers" and to her goes the credit for the many beautiful plants and shrubs which really make the garden a showpiece. We note with regret that, at the time of these notes Nev. is in hospital, having recently undergone a major operation, we are all looking forward to the day when this hardworking Committee member can rejoin us.

Should any of our Southern friends be interested, the DON KINGSTON-WILBUR KENTWELL Concert at Riverside Ballroom has been professionally "taped". There are two sizes, 5" and 7". The 5" is a shortened edition whereas the 7" contains the entire performance. These tapes are available to T.O.S.A. members at less than the normal price of the tapes themselves. \$4.50 for the 5" and \$7.00 for the 7". Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Mrs H. Whitehouse, 36 Royal Parade, Alderley, Brisbane. All proceeds go to the Pipe Organ Fund.

President Howell Whitehouse and his wife Doris recently returned from the Hammond Organ Convention in Newcastle, full of praise for the way the whole thing was organised and conducted. Also for the warm reception they both received from the NSW members. Howell says we might do well to steal a few ideas for our own future use.

The Gold Coast Chapter continues to flourish; the April meeting was held on Sunday the 27th at the home of Stan & Chris Haigh. Playing members names were drawn from a hat, and a most enjoyable time was had by all. Several members made the trip from Brisbane for this meeting, including our President and his wife. There is great gnashing of teeth here in Brisbane right now, due to the fact that NSW member Joh Congert paid a flying visit to our fair city but only a few of our members were able to hear him play. "Better luck next time", say all of us.

(It was reported in "TIBIA" that Joh Congert had played a concert for the NSW members at Marrickville Town Hall last January. TOSA News would like to correct this statement however - Joh played an electronic organ at Wesley Centre in January. No offence Tom, my friend - its only to set the record straight that we mention it.) ED.

DO YOU NEED AN ORGAN SERVICE MAN???

Sydney members of TOSA are advised that a member with wide experience in the servicing of electronic organs is now available to service any make of electronic organ should you require him. For service or repairs telephone 635-0425 for further details. Don't forget to mention that you saw the ad in TOSA News.

WEST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS (Reported by Ray Clements)

The May meeting was held at Ross Surman's residence and approximately 35 members were in attendance. The organ was the new Conn Theatrette 551 with Pipes and was supplied by Armstrong's Piano & Organ Salon. Ray Clements opened the entertainment with The Dream Of Olwyn, and selections from "Finian's Rainbow". Alan Doodson followed, and this was the first time members had heard Alan play. His music was very much enjoyed. John Fuhrman was next to take his place at the console, and later on returned again to play for some community singing. Others to play were Lyn Cook, Max Bell, John Larnar and Pete Fry.

During the evening, the sum of \$11.60 was raised for the Pipe Organ Fund, as the result of a raffle.

Seen demonstrating various brands of organs at the recent Perth Homes & Trades Fair, were TOSA members, Rheta Weston, John Fuhrman, Ray Clements and Bob Boyd of the Vic. Division. Quite large crowds were attracted to all the organ stands at the Fair.

June meeting will be at the home of John Green, la Venn St., Cottesloe. Also on June 3rd Ray Clements is to play in concert at Geraldton Railway Institute on the new Conn 551 Theatrette Organ.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS (Reported by Fran Searle)

Our concert held on Anzac Day at Rothman's Theatre, Wayville Showgrounds was an absolute 'gas' and it really swung from start to finish. Almost 400 people turned up and there was standing room only long before the action started. The wives of our Committee members had worked like Trojans in the kitchen all day to prepare an absolute banquet - it would have delighted the eye of even such a prominent gourmet as Graham Kerr. There was an excellent supply and variety of wines to follow which really helped people to get together and provide the informal air necessary to ensure that the musical entertainment to follow was appreciated 100%

Despite having had injections for Hong Kong flu (he suffered some side effects) JACK (Knight) BARNETT performed excellently and was well appreciated. Surely no one can play single note melody on the swell and yet make it sound so beautiful and convincing - he certainly has built in emotion which cannot be purchased with the instrument. TONY FENELON followed and his boyish charm and sincerity coupled with such a mountain of musical talent and versatility had every man Jack (and the Jills too) over on his side long before the night finished. I have never heard or seen "such a small man with a mighty touch". When TONY arrives in America the Yanks will surely sit up and take notice - they usually claim to have 'the biggest and the best' but I am sure that before TONY is through he will make this a debatable point.

The following evening at the same location, the same two artists were in concert in a more serious mood - no food, no wines and no dancing! Nonetheless, the audience knew what was to come and expecting something outstanding they surely got it. Colin Smith, the local Thomas agent together with TOSA must have been very pleased with themselves when all was said and done, particularly TOSA, as we received over \$300 as a result of the joint takings, as a contribution to our Pipe Organ Fund.

AN APOLOGY TO IAN DAVIES.

Last month TOSA News, in its South Australian Division News report, informed its readers that IAN DAVIES was one of the four organists who had appeared in Adelaide on Easter Sunday afternoon at the Wurlitzer in St. Peter's College. If you were one of the ones who thought your Editor had either flipped or gone off his cotton-pickin' head you'd be wrong. It was a goof for sure, but it was an error made in typing by our good friend Fran Searle, Publicity Officer for the S.A. Division. He must have had IAN DAVIES on his mind as he typed - it should have read IAN JOHNSTON. When informed by letter of the error Fran wrote back and said, and I quote from his epistle, "When I read of the 'clang-up' I had inadvertently made regarding the name of Ian Davies instead of Ian Johnston, I could not have been more stunned had you clouted me on the noggin with a 32' Bombarde" Unquote. And so you should be Fran - so you should be. Our apologies to you IAN DAVIES and IAN JOHNSTON for the mishap which was not without its hilarious moments. When I rang IAN to tell him about it, he was out, but Mrs Davies laughed her head off (well, almost anyway) and in no time there were gales of laughter at each end of the line. Naughty IAN DAVIES sneaking off to Adelaide to play concerts when he should have been in residence at the Bondi R.S.L. Club. Shame on 'im!

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS (Reported from The Vox Newsletter)

It was announced in the May edition of Vox that JACK MALMSTEN, chief demonstrator for the Thomas Organ Co of America, will be heard in concert at the Forest Hills Theatre on Friday 6th June. Mr MALMSTEN needs no introduction to Australian organ lovers, having made two previous visits to this country.

Vox also reports that the Dendy Cinema WurliTzer console is again fully operative, and once again, in top form. During the last three weeks the entire stop rail of the console has been dismantled and all the secondary motors (the ones which move the stop tabs) have been recovered with brown leather. On dismantling the console, the work team found that the motors (which had been recovered some time ago when the organ was in the Capitol Theatre) were in a very poor state and would have given a lot of trouble in the near future.

At a recent musical evening, which Victorian President Max Kuhn attended, one of the musicians was none other than STANLEY WALLACE the opening organist of the Melbourne Regent's original 270 Special (4/21) WurliTzer. Max was able to have a brief chat with Mr Wallace who expressed interest in the Division's activities. (I'll bet there was quite a deal of reminiscing when these two got together - Ed.) Its very nice indeed to know that another of the well known Australian Theatre Organists has been located.

Vox also gave the itinerary of the forthcoming tour of America by their talented and popular member, TONY FENELON which starts in September next. TONY will play many of the well known installations over there and we confidently predict that his concerts will be enormously successful. NSW Division wishes TONY the best of luck.

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST WURLITZER WITH HORSE-SHOE CONSOLE. ???

Following the story which appeared in the April TOSA News on page 7 concerning the above, your Editor has received a lengthy letter from our good friend Mr Arthur Pyers of the Victorian Division. This letter, in two parts, is of great interest to our members as it sheds new light on this subject and also adds to our store of knowledge concerning Australia's early WurliTzer installations. We reprint it as received.

PART 1 FROM ARTHUR PYERS TOSA MELBOURNE

To the best of my knowledge the first Horse-Shoe WurliTzer in Australia was installed in the Hoyts De Luxe Theatre (now Esquire) Bourke Street Melbourne, and opened in June 1922 with the late HORACE WEBER as organist. HORACE stayed there until he transferred to the Capitol to open the 3/15 in November 1924. The above organ was one of three that were similar 2/7's with player attachments but no Tibia. The other two were Wintergarden Theatre Brisbane and the original W.A. Crowle (more about this in Part 2.) Prior to the opening of sound films in Hoyts De Luxe in July 1929, a Christie was installed with CHARLES TUCKWELL as Organist.

The original De Luxe organ had "Hope Jones" nameplates on it, and were changed to WurliTzer before its removal. It was then in storage for a while. About September or October 1929, it was installed in the Paramount Theatre Bourke Street (later renamed "Lyceum" later "Cleopatra" and now known as the "Paris") again with CHARLES TUCKWELL as Organist. (Charles could no doubt verify the dates). The Christie was not used for some time, and was later removed and sent to the Plaza Theatre in Sydney. I think EDDIE FITCH opened it in Sydney. During 1946 the console was removed from the Lyceum Melbourne and stored, the pipework left in the theatre until several ranks and one manual were used in the rebuild of ex Ambassadors Theatre Perth 3/15 to make up the 4/19 for the Melbourne Regent.

PART 2. FROM ALAN GLOVER IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF VICTORIAN DIVISION OF TOSA and Son-in-law of Mrs Hearne and the late Mr O.C. Hearne "Montana" Geelong, Victoria, who in the latter part of 1927 purchased the 2/7 WurliTzer with player attachment, installed in the residence of Mr W.A. Crowle. The organ was shipped to Geelong and installed in the Hearne residence during March-April 1928. Portion of the flute rank was removed (three octaves) and replaced with a stop of Tibia/Gedackt quality by G. Fincham & Sons who have maintained the organ ever since.

The player attachment has since been disconnected. The installation was carried out by the late Mr. L.C. Smith (who carried out the Regent 4/19 rebuild). The organ is still playing and is the first residence organ to be broadcast in Australia, this was over the ABC 3AR about 1929. The organ has a beautiful sound and has been played by many well known organists, and during January this year by ERIC SMITH of NSW.

MEMBERS PRACTISE SESSIONS AT MARRICKVILLE.

The next members practise session at Marrickville will be Saturday 28th June at the times allotted to individual members. It is anticipated that the July practise day will be on Saturday 26th July, however this will be confirmed in the next issue. A second practise group is being formed and it is expected that this group will more than likely be allotted a week night. Those who have joined this group will be notified individually.

LOWREY ORGAN AGENCY TO MRS JOAN WILLS.

Following the recent sudden death of Mr John Wills, the Lowrey Organ Agency has been transferred to Mrs Joan Wills. The business will now be carried on by Mrs Wills and staff and this is what John would have wanted. The same personal and friendly service which had distinguished the firm under John's management will still be very much in evidence. Rees Wills Pty. Ltd., are the NSW representatives for Lowrey and Rodgers organs and Australian reps for Leslie speakers. TOSA wishes Mrs Wills every success.

CONCESSION MEMBERSHIP TO PENSIONERS.

Pensioners may join our Society at reduced rates, so if you have a pensioner friend or relative who would like to be a member tell them about this offer. They should make application to the Secretary in writing stating their Pension Card Entitlement number. The Annual charge will be \$4 each.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

As an incentive to members to help us grow larger and increase our membership the Society has had for some time now, a scheme by which you will save money by introducing friends who would like to join the Society. Members will be issued with vouchers to the value of \$1 for each new member (to a maximum of 4) introduced to the Society. These vouchers may be returned to the Society as part-payment of next year's subscriptions.

A maximum discount of \$4 only is permissible because of the "bona-fide" subscribers provisions of postal regulations governing our publications. For this reason the offer is available only to city members, and we regret that country, interstate and overseas members will be unable to participate.

INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER AND SAVE \$1. INTRODUCE 4 NEW MEMBERS AND SAVE \$4.

MEMBER VISITS NEW ZEALAND.

Member Wal Cook recently spent three weeks touring both North and South islands of New Zealand. While staying at Rotorua he contacted our well known N.Z. member, Eddie Aikin who drove over to pick him up for a visit to Tokoroa to see Eddie's famous WurliTzer. Wal was most impressed with what he saw and heard and said that he thought Eddie and the boys who worked on the installation had done a mighty job. He also inspected the Civic Theatre Auckland, now minus its mighty WurliTzer and said that it is still a beautiful and well maintained theatre. He extends his thanks to Eddie for the hospitality, as well as sending greetings.

ORGANIST VISITS BRISBANE & GOLD COAST.

Our members Joh and Mrs Congert recently visited Brisbane and the Gold Coast and enjoyed loads of hospitality from Queensland's TOSA members. In Brisbane they met President Howell and Mrs Whitehouse, Mr & Mrs Stan Harris, WILBUR KENTWELL, Gordon Berry and Mr & Mrs Nev Seymour. Joh of course had lots of opportunities to try out various organs in members homes and very obviously enjoyed himself to the full. On the Gold Coast he visited Arthur Rizzo who demonstrated his three manual Rodgers electronic organ with its external speaker set up. The Congerts wish to say their thanks to Queensland members through TOSA News.

CLASSICAL ORGAN CONVENTION.

Secretary John Clancy attended several sessions of the Classical Organ Convention held last month. This was well run and a credit to DQ Wilbur Hughes (Secretary of the Convention Committee) who did most of the organisation and introduction of recitalists. Visiting celebrity organist Peter Planyevsky revealed himself as a masterly improviser. John enjoyed most of all, the programme played by Sergio De Pieri at King's School Parramatta, which included all the eight small Preludes and Fugues by J.S. Bach. A barbecue, organ tour and slide lecture added variety to the week's events. Altho' John was not able to attend all of the twenty five events of the Convention, he enjoyed those he was able to get along to.

WILBUR KENTWELL PACKS HUNTER THEATRE FOR HAMMOND SOCIETY.

Saturday 3rd May was a memorable day for about 1,000 Novocastrians who filled every available seat in the Hunter Theatre Newcastle for the big event of the Newcastle Hammond Society's Two Day Convention. It would also have been a memorable day for the "star" of that occasion, WILBUR KENTWELL, whose name was a household word in the city of Newcastle more than twenty years ago. If he had entertained any doubts as to how well he would be remembered after so long away, they were very effectively dispelled by the enthusiasm of the full house.

Although WILBUR and your Editor have been close friends for almost thirty years, we had not seen each other for over ten years, and the surprised look on his face as he arrived and saw me standing outside the theatre to greet him, was in itself, well worth the 100 mile drive to see.

The warmth of the welcome extended to me by the President and Committee of the Hammond Society was very much appreciated, and I extend my thanks to them for making sure that I met everyone as well as for their many kindnesses to me. I would also offer congratulations to them for the excellent staging and organisation of this prestige function which ran with the precision of a well oiled machine. As regards the musical fare offered, it can only be described as enchanting. It is many years since WILBUR had been heard "live" in concert in this State, and it can be truly said of him that the old magic is still there but it is even smoother than we remembered it. He still remains as Australia's ultimate master of the Hammond organ.

The programme opened with WILBUR presenting "The Sound Of Music" selections, and his sensitive and delightful interpretation of this musical score gave it a new and exciting dimension. This was followed by "Over The Rainbow" - "Somewhere My Love" - "More" - "Fascination" - "Til" and a bouncy "Shakin' The Blues Away". An entertaining comedy duo, The Versatiles, were next on the bill. They worked hard and their act was well received.

After the interval, ARNI ZIGURS appeared at the console in a bracket of six numbers. Rather nervous in his first number, ARNI played very well indeed ending with a fine arrangement of "Slaughter On Tenth Avenue". KEITH SHAKESPEARE was a good compere, and also took his place at the C3 Hammond located in the orchestra pit to play for a silent movie featuring Charlie Chaplin. KEITH handled this very well indeed. President DAVID PITTS presented three items, one of which, a train simulation, was quite an exciting novelty - I don't think I have heard anyone do this type of thing better.

WILBUR KENTWELL then returned to give us a bracket of popular melodies taken from the classics - this was a highlight of the show, beautifully played and glittering with polished presentation. The programme ended with the music of the show "West Side Story", and such was the ovation extended to WILBUR that he returned to present his own exciting and famous concert arrangement of "Coming In On A Wing And A Prayer", in which he imitates the sound of a wartime R.A.F. Bomber returning to England after a mission over Europe. The planes engines are heard to fail, and the crews prayers are taken up by the organ in the hymn tune "Lead Kindly Light" after which the plane's engines splutter into life again. One could hear the audible sigh of relief from the audience as the engines fired and the organ triumphantly took up the theme melody in a thundering climax.

The audience still clamoured for more and an untiring WILBUR KENTWELL once more took his place at the console, and obliged with the full score of "My Fair Lady" and finally "You'll Never Walk Alone" full of emotion as he modulated into "The Lord's Prayer". At 11.55pm the curtain descended and brought to an exciting climax the return of WILBUR KENTWELL to Newcastle.

After another hour of reminiscing with WILBUR your Editor left for the return to Sydney. I arrived home about 3.30am tired but very happy to have been present at the "best yet" function presented by our friends, the Newcastle Hammond Society. I was privileged to meet and talk with T.O.S.A.'s Queensland President, Howell Whitehouse and his charming wife who had come down to Newcastle for the event. Our talk did much to further cement the good relations which exist between the Queensland and NSW Divisions.

The installation in the Hunter Theatre for the event was the largest Hammond set-up yet staged in this country, consisting of two C3 and one H111 Hammonds hooked up to four PR40 tone cabinets plus one Leslie cabinet. Paling's supplied the equipment and Alan Bourne carried out the installation which was a great credit to him.