

# t.o.s.a. news

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

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Volume 13 Number 8

SOCIETY DIRECTORY

August, 1975.

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## WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

3rd August, Sunday, 2.30 p.m. A home Matinee recital has been arranged by Ritchie Willis of 13 Roemont Avenue, Mortdale. Our idea for this function on a Sunday afternoon is to keep you at home on these cold winter evenings, so come along and enjoy five artists who will make their time available for the Capitol Wurlitzer Organ Restoration Fund. We have Janice Wilson, Barbara Dixon, Ian Sommerville, Ron Smith on the Thomas Lawrence Welk Theatre Organ and John Shaw on the Gulbransen Piano.

Book now by ringing Ritchie Willis 57 3581 as seating is limited to 36. A donation of \$1.50 for Gents and \$1.00 for Ladies. Come along, enjoy yourself and help a very worthy cause, book early and don't be disappointed. See you there.

12th August, Tuesday, 7-45p.m. The organ retailing showroom of Flanagan & Winter present Ray Thornley, in concert on the Lowrey Symphonic Console Theatre Organ plus support Artists in the Bankstown Town Hall. Ray's bright bouncy style and amazing pedal technique has captured the loyalty of organ music lovers in Sydney and here is an opportunity on Tuesday the 12th August, at 7.45 p.m. to once again hear his expertise. Tickets are available now from Mitchell's booking office, Bankstown Town Hall or Flanagan Winter, 1 Palmer Street, Parramatta.

Registered with the G.P.O. for posting as a periodical-  
Category B

19th August, Tuesday 8.00 pm. An invitation has been extended to us for Duo-organ entertainment by Denis Bedson and Carmen La Motte playing two Hammond Organs and Organ and Piano a programme of popular music is good value for visitors at \$1.50 including supper at the Hammond Organ Society Northside Chapter 3, Cammeray Community Centre, Warringah Avenue, Cammeray.

27th August, Wednesday, 8.00p.m. The Theatre Organ Society Quarterly General Meeting is to be held in the Lowrey Organ Home of Flanagan & Winter at 1 Palmer Street, Parramatta. The meeting is to start promptly at 8.00p.m. to allow business matters to proceed speedily and the most important item on agenda will be the ratification of the position of Society Secretary. We would ask people to bring a plate for supper at the end of the evening's activities. This is a most important meeting and should be attended by all members of the Theatre Organ Society. as it is only by your attendance at these meetings that you can influence your committee.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21st September Sunday, 2.30pm The Theatre Organ Society will present Australia's international organist, Tony Fanelon in concert at Marrickville Town Hall. Our recent organ spectacular at Bankstown was well supported by members and the general public and raised over \$1,000 for the Society. We ask for your assistance with this concert and to assist you we are including with this issue a promotional handout to be given to a non-member friend or hung in a prominent place at your employment, club or favourite venue where it can be seen by as many people as possible.

21st October, Tuesday, 8.00pm A home organ party has been arranged by Dan Cohen featuring Ray Thornley playing his three manual Thomas Triannn organ as there is only room for 40 or 50 people members should phone early for reservations the number is 661 5937 the address is 43 Rodman Avenue, South Maroubra, (Cnr. Rodman Avenue & Bauchamp Rd) A charge of \$1.50 for gents and \$1.00 for ladies will be applied to the Capitol Organ Fund.

23rd October, Thursday, featuring Eric Smith on the organ in Sydney Town Hall, playing a private concert for members of the Organ Society and the Theatre Organ Society with a programme of classics and light music.

25th October, Saturday, 8.00 p.m. Eric Smith plays to the film 'Son of the Shiek' at Ritchie Willis' during a Roaring 20's evening.

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..... 1976 IS SYDNEY CONVENTION YEAR .....

... THE FUNTASTIC FIFTH ...

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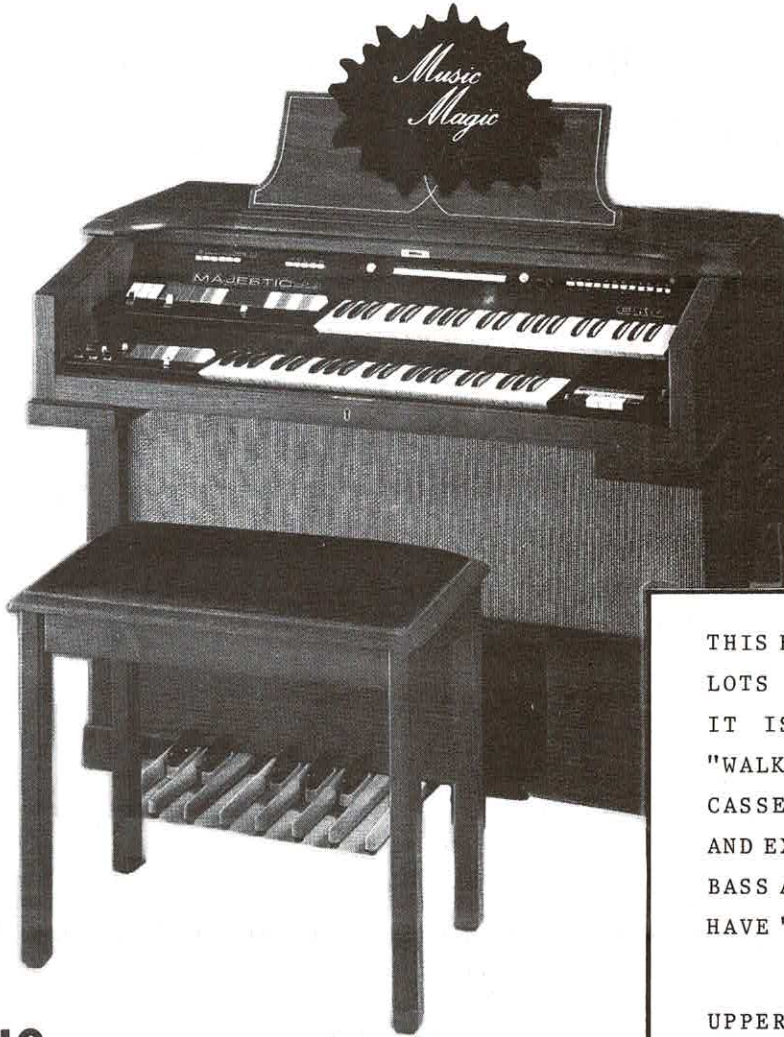
REVIEWS:

It was brought to notice during a recent committee meeting that a review of the Saturday morning concert last conducted at the State Theatre may have been overlooked, however, we take this opportunity to certainly thank those people concerned for their efforts in organising this concert and to Ian Sommerville and Ken Banfield for giving us a sample of their musical erudition.

(Further Reviews Page 14.)

**S** STAMFORD INDUSTRIES PROUDLY PRESENT

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### THE BBC THEATRE ORGAN

This month brings the concluding section of the book loaned to us by Eric Smith on the BBC Theatre Organ written by Reginald Foort.

#### THE RELAY ROOM

Next let us visit the relay room which is situated in part of what used to be one of the boxes adjacent to the stage. The remainder of the box is used to house the grand piano which can be played from each of the keyboards of the console.

The relays are equivalent to a kind of complicated switchboard at which all the various messages sent by the organist's fingers are sorted out and transmitted to their respective portions of the organ.

#### THE BLOWING INSTALLATION

On leaving the relay room, we go down a short staircase to the basement to have a look at the blowing installation. Actually there are two of these each independent of the other - one for the Solo Chamber, and the other for the Main and Percussion chambers. It is the latter which we are inspecting. It consists of a 10 hp electric motor which revolves a rotary fan very much like a steam turbine. The compressed air thus produced is conveyed through a large metal wind-trunk up through the ceiling and thence by numerous smaller trunks to the various wind reservoirs in the organ chambers. Notice also the 15 volt dynamo which operates rather like the magneto of a car. This is driven by a belt from the main shaft of the big motor to provide the current required to operate the action.

#### THE ORGAN CHAMBERS

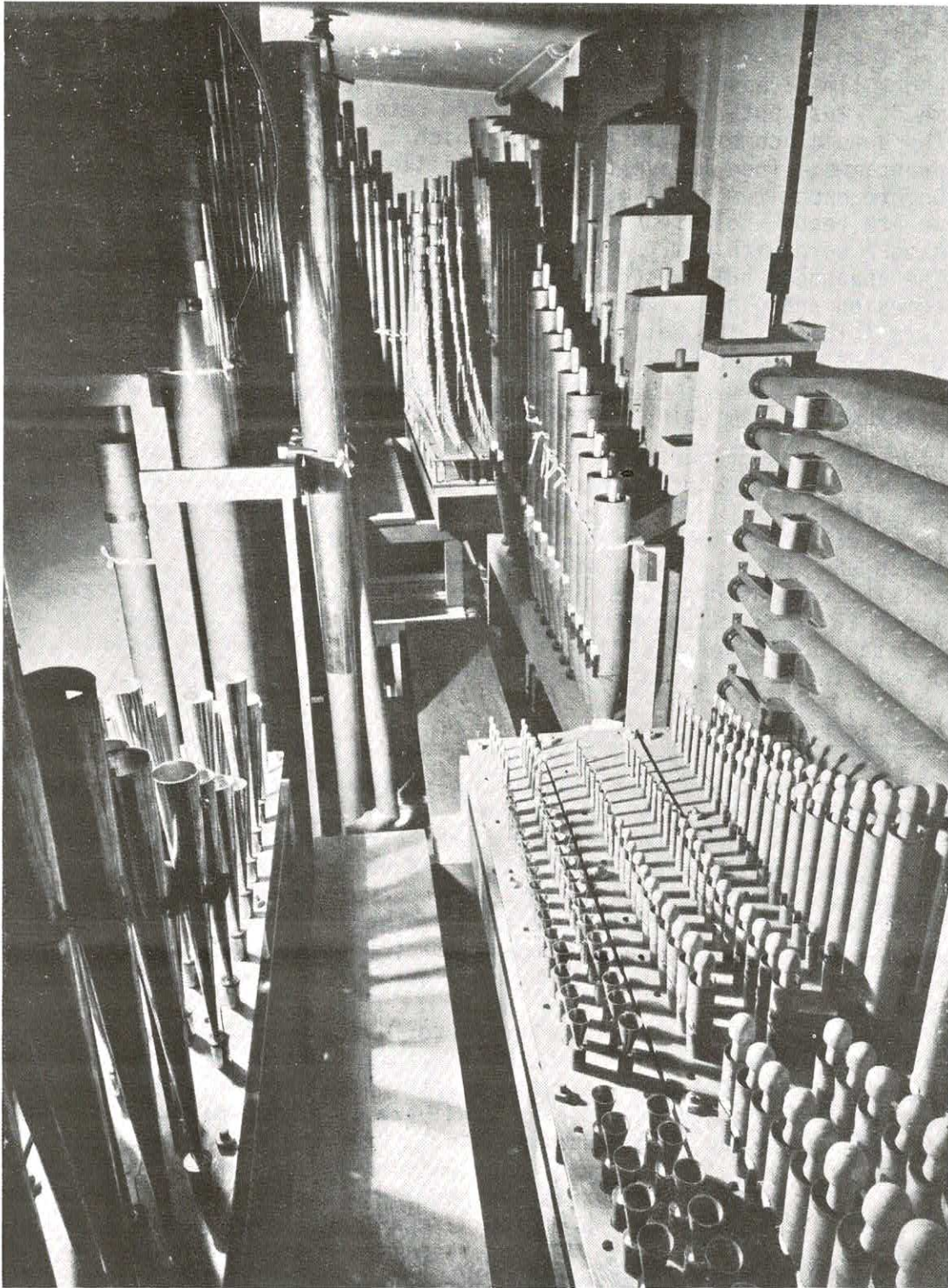
The organ chambers, containing the various rows of pipes, drums, cymbals, bells, etc., are situated in the ends nearest the stage of what used to be the grand circle. The two ends of the circle were separated off by means of soundproof walls and formed into three organ chambers, so now we must proceed up two flights of stairs to the circle and unlock the door leading to these. We come first to the Percussion chamber - that is the room containing all the drums, cymbals, chimes, glockenspiel, xylophone, etc. These always seem to fascinate the visitor more than anything else in the organ!

At the far end of the room is a door leading to the main chamber. This contains the diapasons, flutes and string pipes i.e. most of the stops mainly used for accompaniment purposes. Notice the various rows of pipes arranged on top of the wind chests. Below are the wind regulators which look rather like small versions of the old-fashioned bellows but which are controlled by strong V shaped internal springs in place of the weights on top which were formerly employed.

Now we make our way back through the Percussion chamber into the circle walk around to the opposite side and enter the Solo Chamber. This contains most of the heavy reed stops; the big Tibia Clausa, the Vox Humana, and the woodwind pipes, including the Orchestral Oboe, on the lovely tone of which so many listeners have remarked.

#### THE ELECTRONE

Once more we find ourselves in the circle, so let me point out the large loudspeaker near the roof of the hall, through which all the tones of the Compton patent Electrone are produced. The Electrone is one of the latest and most striking additions to the modern organ. Without the use of organ pipes or wind, all the sounds are produced synthetically by electrical means and then amplified. Some of the loveliest tones of the



### THE MAIN CHAMBER

(Left) the Trumpet Pipes, (right) the Kinura and the small (metal) Tibia Clausa. The horizontal pipes are the Gamba 16ft. In the background can be seen some of the Diapasons, Flutes, and Strings.

organ are the result, to say nothing of the wonderful synthetic chimes and the artificial acoustic effects. The Electrone is played from the top keyboard, and the stops being placed on the top row on the extreme right of the console.

Now I am afraid we must conclude our tour of the organ because in a short time I have to broadcast, so come downstairs to the console with me. I must put my music in order and reset some of the pistons with the special combinations of stops which I shall require for this particular programme. Then I have to think a little about what I am going to say before each item and I must run over some of the difficult passages. Now we are ready - glass of water and all; here is the announcer and I must have a word with him. There are the warning flicks of the red light. The announcer holds up his hand and says 'Quiet Please'. The red light comes on and glows steadily . . . . we are on the air. The announcer says ' This is the National programme. Here is Reginald Foort at the BBC Theatre Organ'. I play my signature tune -- Keep Smiling -- and then turn to the microphone and announce my first item : 'Good evening everybody. I am going to begin by playing you .....

This article was part of a booklet loaned to me by Eric Smith describing the famous BBC Compton organ in St. Georges Hall. The whole of the organ was ~~completely~~ destroyed by a huge oil bomb during the first air raid on London. All that remained of the organ was the steel frame of the bench and the iron frame of the piano.

This booklet is reprinted in the book "The Cinema Organ" by Reginald Foort which is an excellent little non-technical book on a fascinating instrument and the way it was played by one of the greatest Theatre Organists of all time. The book is available from Mark Gabriel at \$6.95.

#### C.B. TOURS U.S.A.

For two-and-a-half weeks during June, in company with nine other Thomas Organ dealers, it was my pleasure to travel to America and see some of the sights most of us only dream about.

We had four days in Los Angeles where we were able to have dinner aboard the "Queen Mary", tour Universal Film Studios, (very disillusioning - everything is so faked), and spend a whole day in Disneyland. That place is absolutely a must for visitors to Los Angeles, whether you are nine or ninety years old. One of the amusement arcades had a beautifully restored "Welte" player organ that thundered out a grate variety of tunes for only a dime.

We also visited the Thomas Organ Factory in Sepulveda where an organ is produced every ten minutes. The real highlight of my stay in Los Angeles, however, was to renew acquaintance with Dick Simonton. Several of our number were invited to his beautiful home in North Hollywood for an organ evening. In the main upstairs lounge, Dick has a 4-manual, 63-rank Aeolian-Skinner classical pipe organ, carefully voiced and built to suit the not-very-large room. This organ has two 32-foot pedal stops, one of which is a reed. The other is one of four electronically-generated pedal stops playing through a THIRTY-INCH bass speaker. After sampling the beautiful voices of the "upstairs" organ, Dick took us down to the basement to his private 80-seat theatre where his justifiably famous, four-manual, 36-rank WurliTzer lives. Words cannot describe the feeling of playing 36 ranks that are all in tune, all in regulation and all working. The organ had just been used for some recording and was in absolutely spot-on condition, mainly due to the efforts of a young friend of Dick's, Steve Ross.



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## Orchestral Versatility

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Since with the CSY-1 the Electone and Solo Synthesizer are one integral unit, you can combine their effects in most modes to extend versatility and create unique yet easy-to-play musical dimensions. For instance, with one hand you can accompany the synthesized voices with Electone chords, something you cannot expect when using an ordinary independent organ with add-on synthesizer unit.

Steve was able to make arrangements, several days later, for some of us to visit some of the pipe organs around Los Angeles. In one afternoon and evening, we visited the San Gabriel Civic Centre, home of a mint-condition 3/16 WurliTzer with Post Horn. If our ex-Capitol Wurly can sound even close to this one, we will have a fabulous organ.

In Dick's Rolls-Royce, with Steve as chauffeur, we drove to down town Los Angeles to the Ellas Temple to try the monstrous 4/61 Robert Morton. This organ has one of the most lush sounds I have ever heard. It is in fair condition, but the local ATOS chapter have big plans for restoration and more unification.

After tea, we went to the Culver City Baptist Church where ATOS have installed a mighty little 3/10 Wurly, with Post Horn. A beautifully restored fun organ, I can hope that Marrickville will sound as good after its forthcoming renovations. One of the chapter members then invited us to his home, where he has a 2/9 "Link" organ in his back shed! - definitely the loudest organ I heard.

During our week in Chicago, we visited the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchandisers) Show, where everybody who makes a musical instrument exhibits - organs, pianos, drums, band instruments, synthesizers and you-name-it. Among the organ exhibitors were: Thomas; Conn; Hammond; Yamaha; Kimball; Rodgers; Allen; Kawai; Gulbransen; Farfisa; Baldwin and Gem. There, we renewed contacts with Lyn Larsen, Bill Thomson, Byron Melcher and Jack Malmsten, all of whom have been to Australia and who would all look forward to coming here again. We also heard the talents of Carol Jones, Hector Olivera and Dwight Beacham, all well-known ATOS personalities. Star of the organ section was undoubtedly the \$40,000 Allen Theatre Organ - it had to be heard to be believed! So did Lyn Larsen and Bill Thomson when they got going on it!

Our last night in Chicago was climaxed by a visit to the home of Byron Melcher for a barbecue. Byron, as well as being product manager for the Thomas Company, is also a "big noise" in ATOS, and a fine concert artist (remember his Marrickville concert early last year?) He has, in addition to his Thomas, a beautiful little 2/6 Robert Morton in the lounge room. After some swinging music and American home cooking at its best (courtesy of Mrs. Melcher and Sons), we travelled a short distance to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lechowicz. Stan has one of the most exquisitely-voiced organs I have ever played, a 4/20 Barton with grand piano (also with a Duo-Art reproducing action) and Post Horn. As there are no other houses really close by, the music continued well into the wee small hours.

The finish of our week in Chicago, also marked the close of our organ activities. The remainder of our tour consisted of a day-and-a-half only in New Orleans (Bourbon Street was quite an education), San Francisco and Hawaii (I have a genuine Hawaiian sunburn). A day in Fiji for some duty-free shopping ended an exhausting, but exciting, U.S. trip.

In conclusion, I can only pay tribute to men like Dick Simonton, Steve Ross and Byron Melcher, who went right out of their way to show us the pipe organs with a degree of hospitality that is uniquely American.

:::: The above impressions were compiled by Cliff Bingham ::::

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LETTERS FROM MEMBERS:

Dear Sir,

I am sorry for not writing sooner, re the concert at Bankstown. I'm afraid words are not enough to describe the evening. Supreme or colossal can't make it, my family talked about it for days. My many thanks to those people who thought of it, and organised it, a wonderful night.

I thought I would like to mention a book put out by Willoughby Council re the "Arcadia" at Chatswood and many other articles of news which I feel many new members would like. I was told about it by a very kind member a Mr. C. Cohen of Chatswood. Most of the members who have been in the Society for years may already have the volume but new members would appreciate it as it has a lot to tell. It's called "The Story of the Arcadia" by Ian C. Griggs. So if any member wants it, contact the Town Clerk Box 57, Chatswood, 2067. It's about \$1 plus postage (Check price) but ring first to see if they have any on hand 412 3333. It's a must in my opinion, for those who don't possess it. It contained alot of interesting articles, a lot I was unaware of, as I didn't frequent any Theatres on the North side of the Harbour.

I have a four months old Thomas Troubadour 186 which I would like to sell, it's as new but as I have part of my right hand missing I can't manage it. I am willing to dispose of it for \$1500 complete with headphones, all cassette tapes and a lot of extras, any one who wants a good organ and save \$200 could give me a ring or come and see it.

Colin Stewart,  
13 Montgomery Avenue,  
Revesby 771-1370

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the following new members to the swelling ranks of the NSW Division:

John & Kay ATKINS	Como West	Colin & Leah LEAGHT	CAMPBELLTOWN
Edgar HILL	Turrumurra	Mark ISAACS	Carlton
Ian STREET	Brighton-le-Sands	Ronald SALMON	Northmead
Raymond & Irene BRADLEY	Berowra	Miss Florence LAWLER	Beverley Hills
Bill HAYES	Villawood	Peter BIDENCOPE	St. Ives
Ralph & Barbara DIXON	Beverley Hills	Miss I. LEEMBRUGGEN	Cremorne
Gloria HARDY	Bexley	Harry COUCHMAN	Berkeley

FREQUENCY MODULATION BROADCASTS

We can report that on the 11th June at 7.25p.m. the first FM Radio Broadcast in stereo was presented and announced by Peter Bidencope and the response was very encouraging. It is anticipated that one broadcast per month will be programmed and it is hoped that dates and times etc. will be announced in these pages so that members can rally to hear a programme of the type that many have dreamed of presenting for years past. The continuation of the programme will of course depend on your support and Peter would like to hear from members with any suggestions of material for inclusion in the programme. Peter's telephone No. is 44 2728.

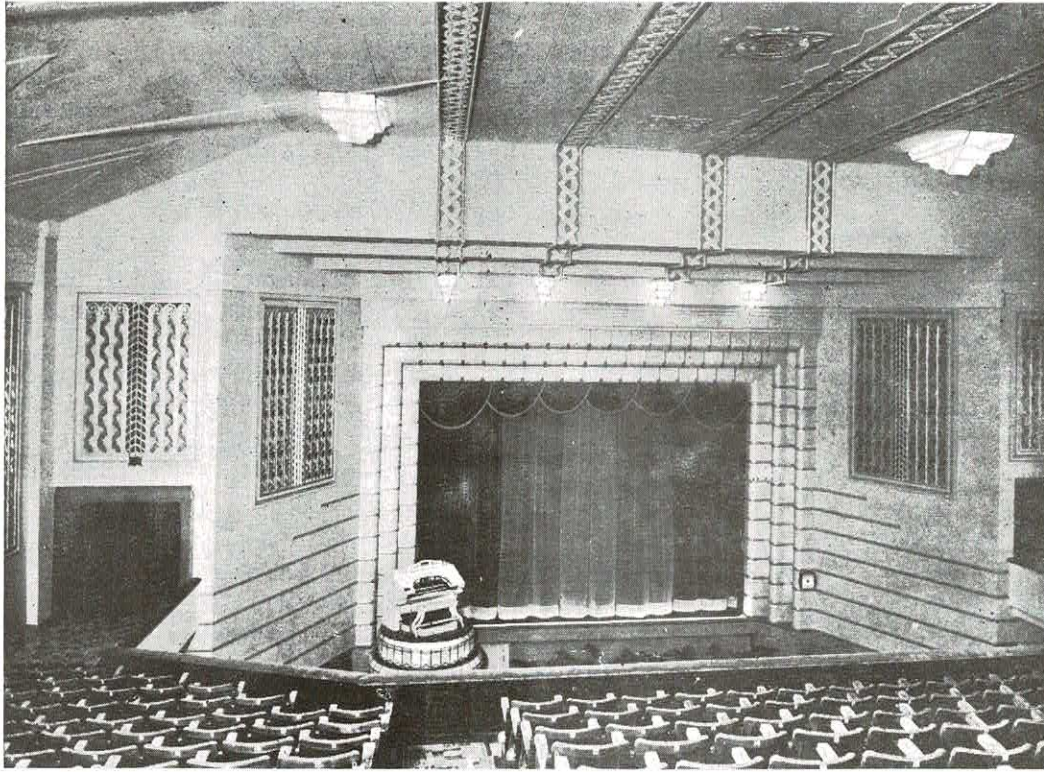
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..... 1976 SYDNEY CONVENTION YEAR .....

.... THE FUNTASTIC FIFTH ...

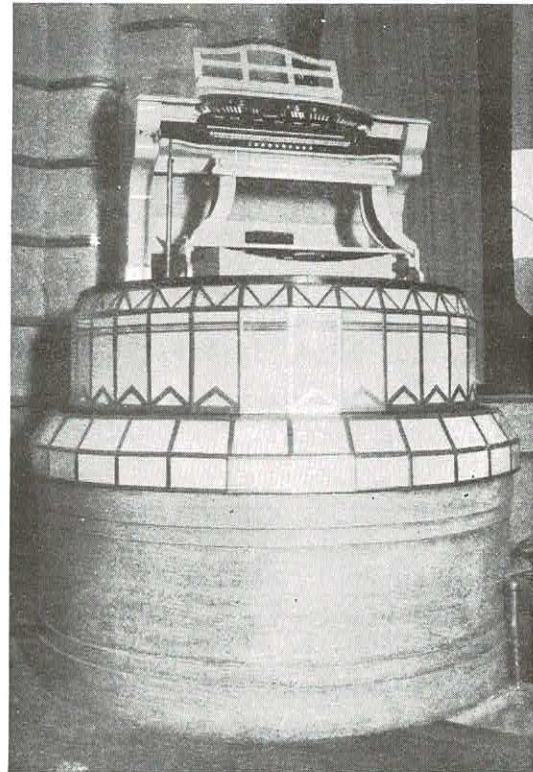
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The  
auditorium  
from  
the  
circle



The original Enfield Theatre was opened in December, 1927. About 1935 it came under the control of Western Suburbs Cinemas Ltd., and the Company embarked on a policy of bringing the Theatres on the circuit up to date. Closing in 1937 the building was practically rebuilt, at a very substantial cost, and presented a brilliant spectacle on the re-opening night on Wednesday 27th July, 1938. No lengthy ceremony marked this occasion, the only speech being that of the Mayor of Enfield, who, in a few well chosen words, declared the Theatre open.

An outstanding feature of the evening was the rendering of items on the newly installed Christie organ, played most capably by Denis Palmistra, who was well known at the console in several other Theatres on the circuit. His performance was enthusiastically received by the audience.



Console of the Christie organ, when illuminated by its concealed lighting this glass ornamentation showed two colours a lovely deep blue surmounted with a brilliant crimson, the upper portion of the keyboard being lit in a deep cream and the combination of these colours was really beautiful.

STATESIDE PIZZA'S PAY FOR PIPES.

It was reported in 'Theatre Organ' the Portland Paramount Publix #1 (4m/21r) Wurlitzer was sold at public auction for \$52,500. The successful bidder was Portland's 'Organ Grinder' owner Jerry Forchuk.

Hopefully a new 'Organ Grinder' restaurant will be built in the Portland district to accomodate Jerry's latest toy.'

In the light of these facts we must realise the value of our own organs when they are a working instrument instead of stored wood metal and moths!

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED: CONSOLE Theatre organ horse-shoe, 2 manual & pedal board, also any toy counter effects, xylophone, bass drum, snare drum, cymbal etc.

Any lead in obtaining these pieces would be greatly appreciated as they are required for the restoration of a FOTOPAYER.

B.R. WRIGHT / Mastertouch Phone  
789 1339

RECORD COLLECTION FOR SALE

A library of books and record collection has been purchased by Bill Schumacher, Robert Gliddon and Mark Gabriel. Most of the records in the collection wereduplicated or duplicates of records already in these member's libraries. Amongst the surplus records are such unprocurables as George Wright recordings, Lyn Larsen, etc. etc. etc. These members are offering these records to the Society and members are invited to contact the above for a full list of titles available and details as to price.

INTERSTATE & OVERSEAS ORGAN ORIENTATED PUBLICATIONS 3043

VICTORIA	'The Vox'	Bill Lowden, 7 Dalkeith Avenue, Tullamarine
S.A.	'TOSA News'	A. Taylor, 31 Florence Terr. Belair, 5052
W.A.	'TREMULANT'	D. Grant, 93 Wellington Rd. Dianella 6062
A.C.T.	'TOSA ACTION'	P. Sherrington, 4 Kershaw Pl. Page, 2614
QLD.	'THE TIBIA'	W. White, 5 Pyrope Street, Camp Hill 4152
TAS.	'VOX ORGANUM'	O. McDougall, 3 Nankoor Cres. Howrah 7018

American Publications

AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY \$10.00 u.s. per annum  
P.O. Box 1314, Salinas, California 93901 U.S.A.

The Organist Magazine \$8.50 Aust. per annum  
1 Palmer Street, Parramatta 2150

The Console \$9.50 Aust. per annum  
P.O. Box 108, Wentworthville 2145

English Publications

Cinema Organ Society Journal 2.75 Stg. per annum  
Len Hudson, 22 Oakwood Close, Chase Rd., Southgate, London N14 4JY

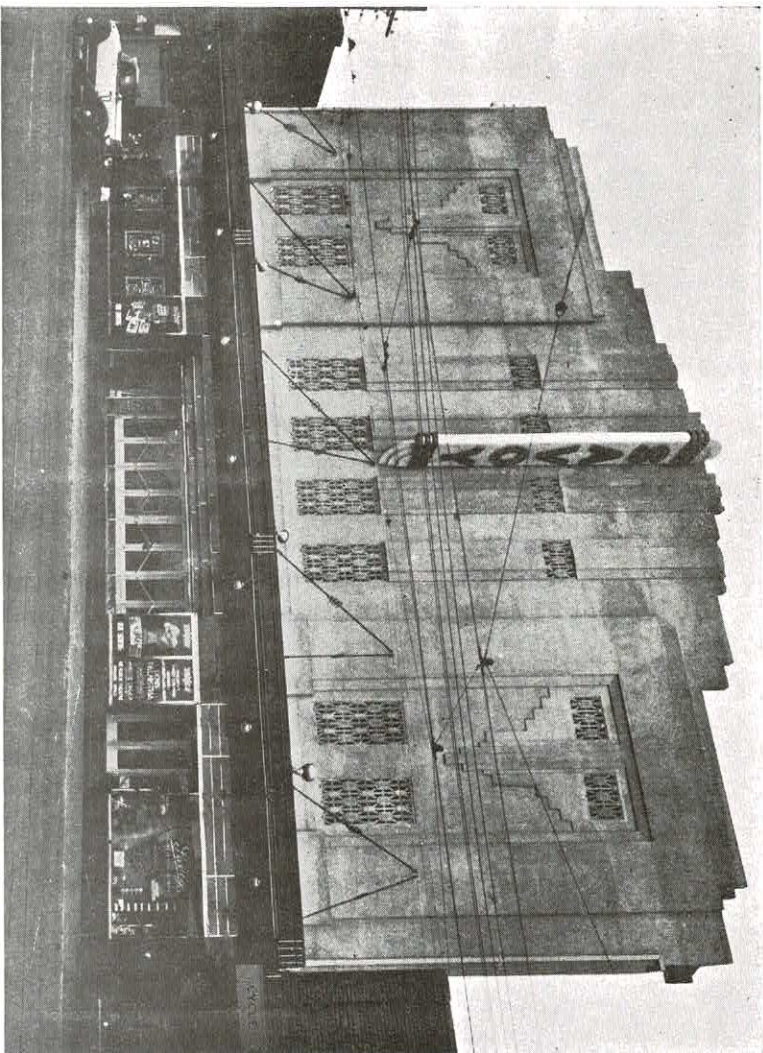
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DON'T FORGET

TONY FENELON

21st SEPTEMBER, 1975

MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL WURLITZER \*\*\*\*\*



An exterior view of the Savoy Theatre.

suburban cinemas commenced operating on a 'restricted' screening policy. In the case of the Savoy, screenings were reduced to Fridays and Saturdays only, from 1958. The Theatre closed in January, 1960 and the property is now used as a carpet showroom and distribution centre.

Some additional information supplied by John Gardiner is that the Enfield Savoy Organ was originally supplied by Hill, Norman & Beard to the Hoyts De-Luxe Theatre in Melbourne which is now renamed, the Esquire and was opened by Charles Tuckwell in July 1929, it was the only Christie in Melbourne and it later fell into disuse and was transferred to the Sydney Plaza Theatre on 11th April, 1930. It was opened here by the American Organist, Eddie Fitch and was later dismantled from this theatre on 27th July, 1938 reinstalled in the Savoy Theatre at Enfield and the opening programme was of course by Denis Palmistra.

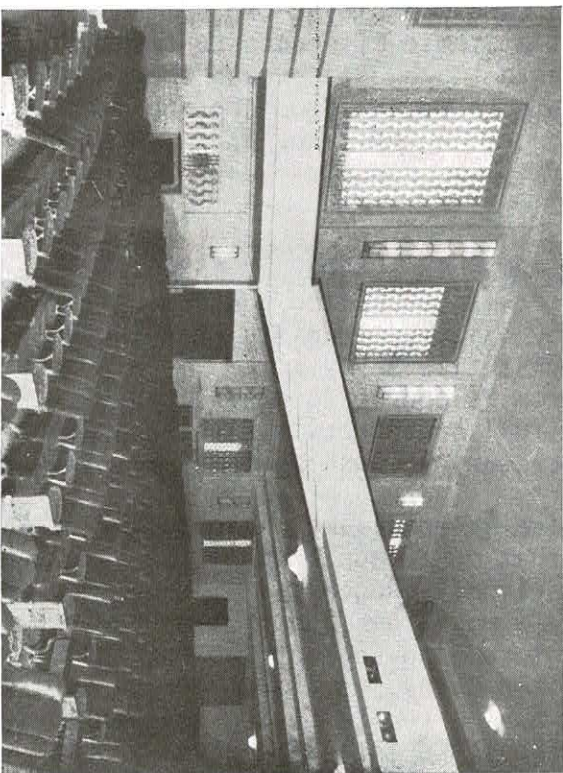
In January, 1939 until September 1939 it was played by Nicholas Robbins and from then until March 1940 by Jim Williams.

With it's marvellously wide range of tonal expression, the playing of this beautiful instrument was obviously enjoyed by everyone. Over a thousand pipes were built into this organ and it is easy to imagine the great variety of musical effects that could be produced.

It is interesting to note that the Savoy was the fifth on the circuit to install an organ following popular demand.

In 1944 Hoyts Theatres secured Western Suburbs Cinemas and affiliated companies, thus gaining control of 23 additional theatres in the Sydney suburbs. It brought under the Hoyts banner many of the finest theatres in the suburban area.

With the introduction of television to Sydney in September, 1956, theatre attendances began to decrease and due to this factor many



a view of the auditorium from the stalls, looking back towards the circle. The fibrous plaster, which is a feature of the interior, was executed by Cooper Bros.

Barry Bretener took over in March 1940 until May of the same year, Ray Chaffer took over from June 1940 until January 1941. Then came Knight Barnett (probably an insignificant appointment for such a fine entertainer) and he stayed until September, 1941 when Paul Cullen took over the entertainment in December 1941 Harry Weldon came to the Savoy Enfield and stayed until April, 1942 then came Muriel Jeavons (a photograph of whom will appear in next month's article by Charles Cohen and Rod Blackmore) she stayed until October 1943 then Gunner Paulsen took over and Bert Myers also played there. The last organist featured was Bruce Brisby and the organ was sold in 1959 to Frank Baldwin of Castle Hill. The original plan by Frank was to install the organ in his home but this project was not completed to the playing stage and in November last year the 2/8 Christie was purchased by Jeff Smith in Adelaide for installation in his Adelaide home.

Ed. Note: According to our 'Tracing the Giants' Articles which appeared earlier this year the Savoy Christie did not begin its life in the De-Luxe Theatre Melbourne, it was originally purchased for the Regent Theatre, Perth and was actually installed for a short time in that Theatre before moving to the De-Luxe Melbourne, This must surely be Australia's most travelled organ.

#### REVIEWS:

##### 22nd June, Marrickville Town Hall

Joh Congert with Valda Lang, Reviewed by Peter Held.

Very good support was accorded by members and non-members alike, on this one of the three yearly free concerts at this venue.

Joh opened with 'Happy Days are here again' and 'Anchors Aweigh'. Though accurately played these would not have been my personal choice of opening numbers.

'Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head' and 'Singing in the Rain' were played with sensitive registration and good use of percussions.

During the concert Joh introduced Valda Lang who played two cameo spots and it is encouraging to see new talent at these afternoon concerts.

The musical content of the afternoon was a crowd pleaser and showed off all the styles of music that we have come to expect from Joh and made him so popular to a large number of patrons in the clubs at which he has played.

##### 6th July, Savoy Theatre Hurstville

AS REVIEWED IN THE ST. GEORGE & SUTHERLAND SHIRE LEADER BY AARON ISRAEL

Phil Doyle, chief of the Mecca movie circuit, presented a unique afternoon concert of theatre organ music played by his two organists, Ray Thornley and Mark Isaacs, last Sunday week at the Hurstville Savoy.

A super-electronic organ was brought from Melbourne for the occasion.

Theatre organ fans were able to hear a full organ recital in the appropriate plush atmosphere -- the opulence so necessary to cushion the special sound of the theatre organ.

To break things up a bit, there were also silent films, accompanied by Ray Thornley, including a Chaplin classic that most people would not have seen before, Flirty Four Flushers, and an early Will Rogers.

Also screened was a Phil Doyle special, a movie he made of the growth of his movie circuit, which included an interesting segment showing the recovery and restoration of the vandalised Savoy.

But the music was THE thing. Thornley gave a recital which covered movie music from "Look for the Silver Lining" of 1929 through the years when musicals were movie hits such as My Fair Lady, South Pacific, and later

Ones like Mame and Hello Dolly!

To fill out the selection, Ray Thornley brought us all up to date with Jonathan Livingstone Seagull and the Towering Inferno. Ray played with his usual flair, rhythmic skill and good choice of tone coloring. His pedal work is far more interesting and musically adventurous than any cinema organist of the halcyon days of the thirties.

He even uses pedal techniques that were certainly not seen in Sydney although there was a real giant in Melbourne the envy of cathedral organists.

Mark Isaacs, the young lad from Carlton who is the Hurstville Mecca's resident organist, played a bracket. He is tasty, stylish, but yet to establish a special character of his own.

At the moment he appears to have traces of some cinema organists you can still hear on record, like George Wright.

This was for many organ lovers a great afternoon, but nothing will ever replace the growl of the 'mighty Wurlitzer'.

15th July, Pitt Street, Congregational Church - K.E.

The Pitt Street, Congregational church is providing a pleasant escape from the bustle of mid-day Sydney with its lunch hour music recitals on Tuesdays at 1.10p.m. (til September 2nd.)

On the 15th July, Eric Smith, whilst entertaining a small audience, grasped the opportunity to mention the days of Theatre Organ and Wurlitzers in his introduction to Coates' "Knightsbridge March",  
Thanks Eric!

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#### EDITORIAL:

As the negotiations for the re-installation of the Capitol Organ have been proceeding for some time (and this will probably be discussed at the Quarterly meeting this month) it must surely be our aim as collective member/owners of this instrument to have it prepared, refurbished and ready for an immediate installation start when the right time is apparent.

It would be foolish for us to suddenly obtain suitable accommodation and then begin the years of work necessary to re-leather an organ nearly twice the size of our ex-Prince Edward Organ.

All those people willing to be retrained in the interesting work necessary to rework our Capitol Organ and who are not already assisting the existing work parties are encouraged to telephone the Secretary Elect, Steve McDonald on 599 4436 so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

This will mean we will have three working parties sharing the load and should therefore bring to top condition the second mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ the Society has saved.

#### FORTHCOMING TOSA NEWS ARTICLES

We are pleased to announce that next month we will present an article researched and written by Charles Cohen and Rod Blackmore on the King's Theatre Gordon and it is hoped that we will have the first part of a further Flashbacks article at present being worked on by Ian Cameron.

In the next Showcases of the Past, by Barry Sharp we will feature the Duke of York Theatre at Eastwood.

All these articles will be presented with photographs interestingly detailed text. Our thanks are extended to all these hard working people whose efforts are appreciated by us all.

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#### QUEENSLAND DIVISION ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THEIR PIPE ORGAN

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In the latest edition of the TIBIA Magazine Queensland Division announce that the opening of their Christie Theatre Organ at the Kelvin Grove Auditorium will take place on Saturday 20th September. Further details we hope will be available for next issue but it should be an exciting event to attend if you are up north.

#### 1975 ATOS CONVENTION:

During last month we farewelled (enviously) the following members of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia to attend the San Francisco Convention, Robert Gliddon, Bill Schumacher, David Sacre, Don Clarke and I understand Neil Jensen from Queensland is also over there.

HALF YOUR LUCK, FELLOWS we will expect a report on your return!

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN MELBOURNE

Sunday, August, 17th Moorabbin Town Hall - Tony Fenelon in concert.

Thursday, September, 18th Moorabbin Town Hall - Victorian Div. Ball

Sunday, September, 21st Cinema North - Eric Smith in Concert.

Thursday, October, 30th Moorabbin Town Hall - Hubert Selby from U.K.



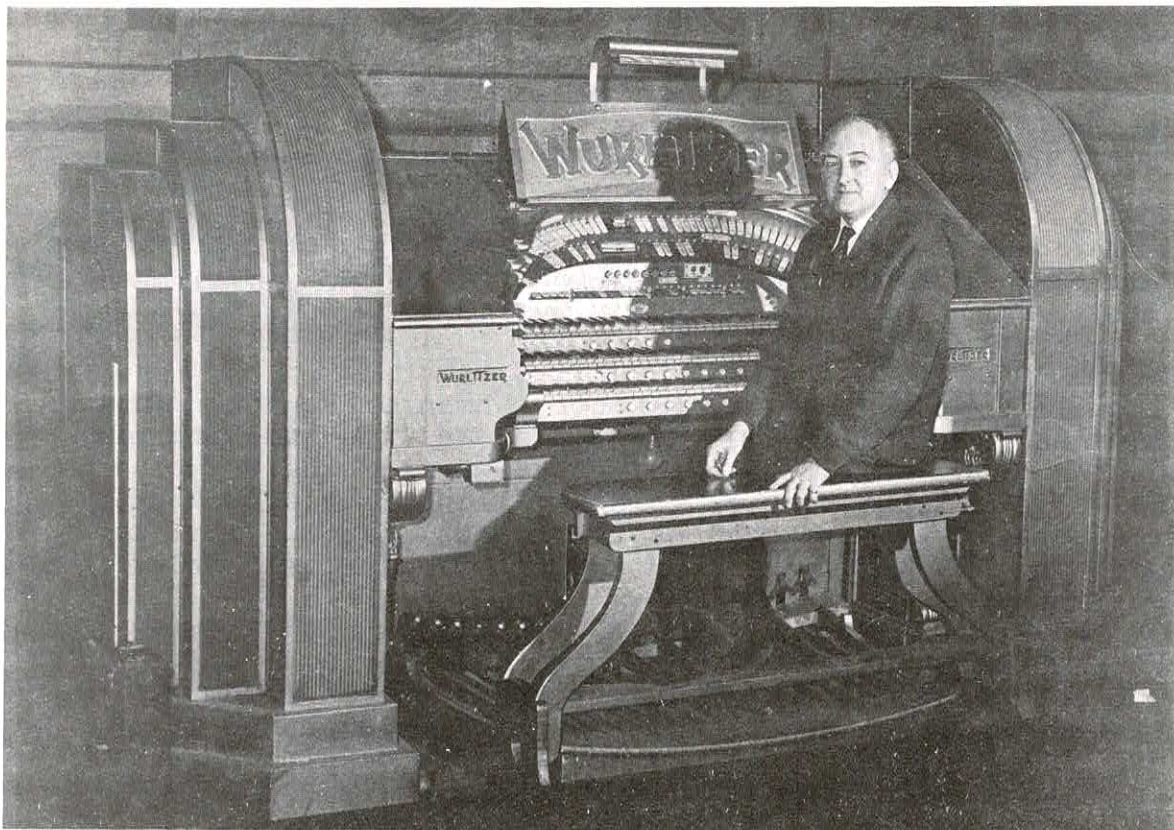
## BRITISH CINEMA ORGANS

We are starting this month a series of articles on British Cinema Organs which will be illustrated from a collection loaned to us by Robert Gliddon Bill Schumacher and Mark Gabriel, the first being:-

### THE REGAL, KINGSTON ON THAMES, (LONDON) WURLITZER

The quiet London suburb of Kingston once boasted one of the finest small Wurlitzer installations to be found in any town. The sounds of this instrument are most familiar to record collectors here in Australia per medium of the numerous recordings made thereon by Joseph Seal (pictured at the console). Although only twelve ranks in size this Wurlitzer has the sound of a much larger instrument due to the careful selection of ranks in the original tonal scheme. The ranks (or sets of pipes) are as follows: English Horn, Tuba Horn, Trumpet, Open Diapason, Tibia Clausa, Saxophone, Kinura, Viol, Viol Celeste, Krumet, Flute and Vox Humana.

A careful look at the preceding list will show only five flue sets of pipes as compared to seven reed sets. Quite an interesting comparison to the normal Wurlitzer where there are usually slightly more flues than reeds. One stop which most Australian readers will not have heard too much of is the Krumet, which is a most peculiar reed sound somewhat like the Kinura but with much more body due to much longer resonators. We have only two sets of these pipes in Australia, one on the organ in Moorabbin Town Hall and the other on the ex Capitol, Sydney, Wurlitzer. The Wurlitzer was removed from the now ABC (Regal) Kingston some two or so years ago. It has now a permanent home in a musical museum located in outer London.



PLAN NOW TO BE IN SYDNEY NEXT EASTER FOR THE \*\*FUNTASTIC FIFTH\*\* NATIONAL  
THEATRE ORGAN CONVENTION

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

To assist with some of the mountains of work lumbered on the shoulders of our active Treasurer, Ron Smith will take up the position of Membership Secretary to handle all matters relating to the membership of our Society. Any changes of address should be directed to Ron and we certainly welcome Ron on the working team of your Society. Ron can be contacted at 47 Horbury Street, Sans Souci -- 529 7379.

THEATRE ORGAN BROADCAST LOSS

During the month the A.B.C. revamped the programme "Sentimental Journey" and the Theatre Organ segment presented by Malcolm Patterson from Adelaide has been dropped. The new producer of the programme, Peter McCormack, has no present plans for the inclusion of a Theatre Organ segment at this time. If you enjoyed the programme and would like to see some further Theatre Organ broadcasts by the ABC then you should write expressing your views as it is only in this way that we can influence the people concerned to broadcast programmes to our liking. It would be worth mentioning that Malcolm Patterson has a half hour programme on the local 5AN ABC Radio Station in Adelaide every Sunday night at 3 min. past 10.00 Sydney time which could be relayed to Sydney for broadcasting purposes. Provided sufficient people write in showing their concern at this loss, a new programme may evolve. The ball's in your court, if you do nothing, nothing results; please write and air your views.

ERRATUM

Page 2 in What's on in August under 19th August, the address for the Cammeray Community Centre should be Warwick Avenue, Cammeray.

DEADLINE

Monday 18th August will be the deadline for copy for September issue.

BIRTHS

We have news that two new Vox Humana ranks (with multiple pitches) have been added to Ian Cameron and Barry Tooker's families. Welcome to Glenys Cameron and Brian Tooker from the Theatre Organ Society.

MR. BLACKPOOL BOOK

A small booklet written by Peter Ashman on Reginald Dixon the man who became a legend in his own life-time and our past-Patron is available in Australia from the Editor at 587 3374 and the cost of this excellent little book of 180 pages (with photographs throughout) is \$3.00 but be early as stocks are limited and this is terrific value for money.

PADSTOW STAR THEATRE

The installation of the pipe organ in the Star Theatre at Padstow by Steve McDonald is reaching an advanced stage and it is anticipated that news of the opening date will be available for publication shortly.....