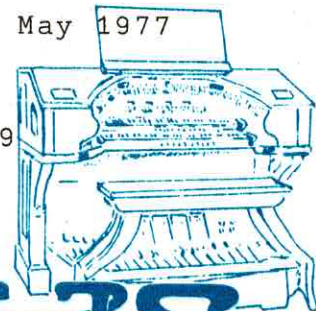


Ian Hansen, 4/26 Chester St., Petersham 2049



T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

ADDRESS BOX A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

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"THE IMPOSSIBLE IS WHAT NOBODY CAN DO UNTIL SOMEBODY DOES IT".

"T.O.S.A. DIARY"

SATURDAY MAY 14, 7.30pm:

A home organ party is to be held at the home of our members, Arthur and Dorothy Cammell. The organist on this occasion will be the one and only Eric Smith. On this occasion, Eric will accompany the 1920 silent film "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde". Which stars John Barrymore, Martha Mansfield and Brandon Hurst. This 63 minute film is \$2.00 for men and \$1.50 for the ladies who are asked to bring a plate. 63 Johnstone St., Peakhurst is where it's at! Please book early for this function by phoning 53-9891 as seating is limited.

QUARTERLY MEETING JUNE 8, ST. COLUMBS WEST RYDE 7.20 pm

FRIDAY MAY 20, 7.00pm"

If you have not booked for the FUNTASTIC MAY CABARET then you must hurry, all bookings must be in no later

that 23th May.

This gala night is being held for your enjoyment in the current ball season. If you enjoyed the Christmas Cabaret imagine how much you can enjoy this one in more congenial temperature conditions. The Cabaret is to be held on Friday 20th May, commencing at 7.00pm.

You will be greeted at the door with sherries, cheese and biscuits. Following the established tradition your music master is AUSTRALIA'S MR. BLACKPOOL, our own Patron, Ian Davies. You will be served with a three course hot dinner and the usual high standard of entertainment will prevail, including a high class floor show.

As usual everyone will receive a free ticket in the lucky door prize and there will be prizes for lucky dancers.

The cost of this fantastic evening is \$15.00 a double or \$8.00 a single. All you need to bring to make the evening a great success is a party of friends and your own liquid refreshments. Dress is optional.

Please supply with your booking the christian names and surnames of all those attending in your party to assist with the preparation of name tags. Please book by Friday, 13th May on the form provided at the rear of the magazine.

All bookings to Mrs. P. Tooker, 9 BLANCHE ST., BELFIELD, 2191.

All enquiries phone 642-6086, 569-3775. Please make all cheques payable to T.O.S.A. not Mrs. Tooker.

THE "ORGAN LOFT" - CAPITOL WORKING BEE 12th MAY

ROSE MUSIC SEMINAR :

Rose Music Ltd. are to hold a music seminar in the Marrickville Town Hall on Wednesday, 11th May at 8.00pm. The organist will be our very own BILL SCHUMACHER. Supper will be provided at the conclusion of the evenings festivities.

EDITORIAL:

As we are now approaching the middle of the year, I would like once again, to thank those members who have helped me along this somewhat rough road. Particularly, to our member John Smith, who is handling the printing of the magazine, also, to our member Ron Wilson, who has loaned us his secretary to type out the stencils for the time being. These two have had the most important job on the Editorial Staff and I think they are doing a magnificent job and without their support and effort there simply would not be a newsheet, in fact it was thought earlier this year that the newsheet may have to go back to 1 page a month! I am quite sure that many members would not like that to happen, especially as we are having an influx of people subscribing to TOSA NEWS simply to get the articles on theatres and organs.

All told there are now ten people involved in the actual production of the newsheet. This does not include the Wells Family who do the posting out of the magazine. There are also those people who aren't so helpful, like the person who made use of the printing machine recently and used all our paper and left us in a spot at the last minute. Such events are annoying to say the least, some people are so thoughtless and careless.

Much of the credit in "TOSA NEWS" goes to our member, Barry Sharp who has done so much for the society over the last two years

with his popular "Showcases of the Past" series.

COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Executive will meet again on 23rd May at 8.00pm in St. Ann's Church Hall, Homebush Road, Strathfield. Members are cordially invited.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Wow, what a month this has been! I definitely feel it's hats off to our northern friends in Queensland for a truly first-class National Convention. Although I, through other commitments here in Sydney missed the Friday night and Saturday Morning activities, most regrettably on my part, had the privilege of joining in with representatives from all over Australia in the Convention Dinner at Sea World and the activities that followed.

Although you will read elsewhere in this issue notes from some who attended from our Division, I would like to briefly touch on some of the points that I feel will be of interest to you. Firstly, Sea World for those who have not had the pleasure, is an aquatic zoo situated on Queensland's Gold Coast at Surfers Paradise. Conventioneers were treated to a display of all Sea World had to offer. Things such as Dolphin acrobatic displays and the like. For the Convention Dinner, Sea World has a delightful informal dining room where the emphasis of relaxation and do your own thing was prevalent. The dinner was a buffet style of tropical food which for some of us took ages to wade through. The Mayor of the Gold Coast was the guest of honour at the dinner. Sir Bruce Small delivered a most interesting address which left all of us I'm sure, wondering why we all don't move to the Gold Coast permanently! Following Sir Bruce, I was asked to address the audience. I felt proud to have had the rare opportunity to represent you publicly. Though I was not alone in this area, for we had an extremely good representation from N.S.W. The theme for my address mainly centred upon impressions of the convention to date, and encouragement for members to get behind their leadership and support them in building a better Theatre Organ Society for all.

Hector Olivera is to say the least a genius. He is also a lot of fun, easy-going and a first-class performer. I very much doubt if there was any one conventioneer who wasn't able to converse with socially, or who missed the opportunity of meeting Hector at, at least one of the venues organized. The organizers planned an informal convention, and that's exactly what we got. I think you will be missing something if you don't read the reviews on the convention, but before I conclude on this segment, I would like to know that all who attended would agree Hector's performance on Queensland's magnificent 3/8 Christie (which incidently, one could be forgiven for thinking had at least 25 ranks the way it sounded), left us spellbound. His ability in musicianship and public appeal is second to none. Conventions are always a challenge to go one better, but this one took the cake.

VERY, VERY IMPORTANT*****

During the convention, as is the custom, the leaders of all Divisions met at the National Executive Meeting. These meetings are held at every convention and are designed to give the leaders of each division the opportunity of at least conferring with their counterparts. One very relevant point which has popped up at National Executive Meetings for many years has been the uniting of all divisions at least at Executive level. Whilst it has been agreed to in principle, to date nothing has ever been done to get this proposal off the ground. That is until we met in Queensland. At the meeting there was representation from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, A.C.T., New South Wales and of course the President of the Queensland Division Howell Whitehouse and his Executive. Mr. Whitehouse, being the chairman made the point for the agenda the formation of a constructive National Body. After much discussion and a lot of careful thought and debate, by UNANIMOUS decision and vote of the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries etc., present, the National Secretariat of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia was formed, and for the first year the National Secretary elected was Mr. E. Lloyd, (Vice-President S.A. Div.). The National Secretariat consists of the Presidents and Secretaries of all Divisions of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia.

What the formation of such an organisation means.

Firstly, each state will be fairly represented by the Presidents and Secretaries elected by the individual membership of each division. Each division will benefit by the National Secretariat centrally booking overseas artists who will be decided on by vote of the representatives involved and at a price that through unity will be to the advantage of all divisions. We will have National co-operation in promotion of the promising talent from Australia, within Australia and overseas. Each division will have closer ties which will make for better conventions etc. Each division will be assured of co-operation in insuring exclusive use to the host state of a convention artist, together with maximum encouragement and co-operation to insure the success of conventions. We will be assured of the best technical knowledge and advice available, but above all, whilst being involved on a unity basis, because of the equal representation, each division will maintain its own identity.

HOW IT WORKS :

Quite simply, one understands that it will cost money, so therefore it was agreed that a levy be placed on memberships of 10¢ (ten cents) per person e.g. a family membership of two people would involve 20c and so on. This levy only serves to cover the costs of postage and stationary and sundries for office expenses incurred by the National Secretary.

The Presidents and Secretaries of each division will meet twice per year, once at a CENTRAL POINT to be appointed by the National Secretary and secondly at the point of the National Convention. The expenses for this will be borne equally by the combined divisions e.g. If the total expenses are added together for transporting delegates from their division to the meeting place appointed say, Canberra, then we would have to contribute 1/7th for our President and the same for our Secretary.

In the event that one or the other is unable to attend, then the President is empowered to appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to Deputise.

As no one division or person will have more authority than the next, a Chairman will be appointed purely to conduct and control the meeting by the delegates in attendance.

Having been involved on your behalf in the formation of at last a unified body to work for the benefit of the members of T.O.S.A., I can see this organisation as taking The Theatre Organ Society of Australia to advancement in the future. In the long run we stand to save money by bulk buying artists, we have a fair say in who we get, which will ensure the very best and our own talent will finally get a fair go, in short we have a bright future ahead. I therefore urge you to not only give favourable consideration to formally adopting this proposal but give us your support in giving us a unified Theatre Organ Society of Australia.

As this matter involves alteration to and inclusion in the Constitution, a notice of motion and voting form will be included with this issue. Every division of T.O.S.A. will be adopting these lines.

Remember ... United we stand and divided we

Regards.

Steve McDonald, President

Congratulations to Past Editor John & Sue Atkinson on the birth of a daughter.

ORGANIST REQUIRED:

St. Thomas's Church MOOREBANK, require an organist to play for their Sunday Services. Mr. Bob Weeding would be happy to discuss details in this regard with interested organists and can be contacted on 747-3628.

SERVICES TO READERS?

Long time member of TOSA, John Atkinson is always happy to advise members on various aspects of the Theatre Organ, as well, he together with Robert Gliddon, import quite a number of recordings from England and America. These discs are not normally available in the record bars. John and Robert can be found usually at functions with the familiar stand. Many of these discs are collectors items. The main titles are on either DEROY, DORIC RECORDINGS, AMBERLEE and recordings of the LANCASTRIAN THEATRE ORGAN TRUST. Further information is available by phoning 587-3374.

For tape recordings, our member, Ray Garrett will copy tapes of past concerts for members. Ray is the Official Recording Engineer for TOSA. Ray can be contacted on 869-7247.

DEADLINE:

The deadline for the June issue of T.O.S.A. News will be Friday May 22. All articles for T.O.S.A. NEWS are to be sent to the Editor, not to the box number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to your excellent and informative magazine- As an ex Melbournian now residing in Sydney for the past 15 years, I was most interested in your recent issue (TOSA NEWS, March 1977)

on the Ballaret Regent Theatre.
I still recall the days of 1940s as a regular Friday nighter
at the local Hoyts St. Kilda Victory (beleived to have been
Melbournes biggest Hoyts Suburban Theatre), now named the
National Theatre - home of the Victoria Ballet.
Len Davis played on his Hammond Organ until the late 1940s and I
think he was transferred to the Ballaret Regent Theatre.
Could you give me information on Len Davis activities in these days?
Yours sincerely, signed Don A.A. ROUVRAY.

Mr. Steve McDonald, President, TOSA N.S.W, DIVISION.
This is just a little note of gratitude for the great way you
showed me around Sydneys' Organ World. Being a member of
TOSA Vic. I really appreciated all that was done for me. I will
write a note to the management of the State Theatre and also to
Mr. Peter Rowe for their help and co-operation as far as letting'
me play that superb organ, which it is. I hope that you prosper
in the Society and that the Society also prospers. I'm sure it
will with you as President. Once again, many thanks for a great
time.
Yours truly, Signed. PETER SEWARD, Member TOSA VIC.

REVIEW: by BOB WEISMANTEL.

Sunshine Sixth National TOSA Convention.
After travelling up to Brisbane on Friday an enthusiastic
crowd gathered in the large foyer of the Kelvin Grove High School,
Auditorium to register for the 6th National Convention. A task
which was made very easy with Queenslands divisions streamlined
system which was no doubt developed after seeing five attempts
in prior Conventions. With the paper work out of the way the
convention got underway with a slide presentation by Noel
Mitchell, capably assisted by his daughter Judy on the console
of the magnificent 3 manual 8 rank Christie. This interesting feature
was followed by Sue Whitehouse, Leith Dittman and rounded off
by Qld divisions Arthur Midgley.
Session 2 was the first of many highlights of the convention
with recording artist Barry Bailey, Qld Div, opening the concert
at the City Hall Grand Organ (a very grand organ indeed).
Following Barry's very enjoyable performance, international
artist Hector Olivera was introduced to display his talents
on the straight organ which he very capably did with very
exciting and moving arrangements of a very wide range of music
doing almost "impossible actrobatics" on the Console ie both
feet doing a run down the pedals while his hands were doing
likewise in the opposite direction.
Comments after the concert suggested that the City Hall will
not have mice in the organ for quite some time. Personally,
I don't think it will need maintenance for quite some time after
that work out!
Buses waiting outside the hall carried the excited conventioners
back to Kelvin Grove for lunch, during which well known local
artist Neil Jensen displayed his talents on the versatile
Christie.

Following this very welcome meal and concert the Bus fleet started a scenic journey to Surfers Paradise to Session 4 at Sea World where the conventioners were entertained by dolphin shows, skiers and clowns on skis and a chance to look around the Nature Park, ride the "Train", the Helicopter, climb the Light House, buy souvenirs, take photos and in general enjoy themselves, till sunset when the convention dinner got underway. Dinner music was supplied by local and interstate artists on each of the two electronic organs. Hector Olivera was encouraged to take his place at the console on two occasions after the address by the Mayor of the Gold Coast and the Presidents of most divisions. I'm sure all who were present agree with the thoughts and encouragement expressed by our own president, Steve McDonald. Hector received a standing ovation for his "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Session 5 started at 11.30am on Sunday morning to allow the National Executive to meet at Red Hill and allow the interstate visitors to do as they pleased for the morning. St. John's Cathedral was the meeting place and the organ was under the command of the city organist Robert Boughen who presented a classical concert, (interspersed with delightful humour and wit) which was followed by a bus trip to the Botanical Gardens where Arthur Midgely once more entertained the large crowd basking in the warm sun.

On to Mayne Hall in the Uni. of Queensland to hear the newest organ in Australia which was assembled by Roger Pogson. The organ is a tribute to its builders and was played by Robert Bougen. 8.00PM Sunday night saw the Kelvin Grove Auditorium full for the concert everyone was waiting for. Hector Olivera on the magnificent 3/8 Christie. From the moment we heard the first notes the audience knew they were really going to experience something very different. As the gleaming white and gold console rose from the pit to the tune of "That's Entertainment", the audience was filled with excitement especially when Hector made use of the piano attached to the organ. I'm sure that out of the 88 notes on the piano, 66 were in use!!

The time flew till interval when Hector left the console for a well earned rest. After interval, all the artists who appeared during the Convention were brought on stage by co - compare Ken Wherrett. Hector then returned to the console to play a medly of tunes from all over the world. This one medly lasted about an hour and captivated everyones attention until the last note!

Hector was called back after his last number twice to play two encores. One of these he presented the "Flight of the Bumblebee", which Hector expertly executed with both feet moving as fast as possible on the pedal board. I think the only reason that Hector was allowed to leave was because the audiences hands were too sore from clapping to demand more. I think I should mention at this stage that Hector received two standing ovations!!!

Our thanks go to Peter Dekker and his crew for doing such a magnificent restoration and installation of this very small but very good instrument, which by the way gave no trouble at all during any part of the Convention.

Tose who missed attending this Convention, missed the most memorable Convention to hit this country.

Congratulations Queensland Division on your first attempt. It was a complete success. To everyone who reads this magazine, plan NOW to be in South Australia next Easter, every minute will be worth it. *

PIPE ORGAN PIZZA OFFERS EXCELLENT MUSIC FROM ITS WURLITZER, GREAT BAKED GOODS, LOTS OF FUN.

Harvy Heck and Russ Nelsons' Pipe Organ Pizza, Santa Ana, Calif., has been opened only 7 months, but it is well established and offers pleasing pipe organ music as played by Tom Sheen, excellent baked goods from the oven, libations for everyone - kids to legalagers - all of which blends to produce lots of fun for those dining out. The setting for the former Los Angeles Million Dollar Theatre Wurlitzer is a large dining room with a fairly high ceiling, decorated in rich, warm tones of reddish brown and clear glass, diamond-like filament lamps. Riotous colours are painted on Swell Shades. Lighting in the new Pizza Emporium is complex and affords the organist or the manager to create colour atmosphere for any type of music being played. Control boxes on the console and at the serving counter have dimmer and spot controls. Spotlights, mirrored ball, the strip lights throughout the dining room can be utilized to create the colour arrangements ranging from deep blue to blazing red.

The organ is heard clearly from every part of the room. It has been regulated and voiced by Ron Mitchell who is noted for his tremulant techniques, and Roy Lyn Larsen, well known organist (Lyns dad stops by for a pizza ans music on occasion and happened to tell several of the Larsen fans about the "Roy" for the boy -Ed). The two men spent Fourth of July weekend working on the Wurlitzer and it was much improved when they packed up and left. Organist Tom Sheen came to town several days later and opened his engagement and has in the short time he's been there, started stringing steady customers who make Pipe Organ Pizza a weekly habit. Sheens music is always entertaining and the big numbers are always real production items. This Wurlitzer has exceptionally beautiful voices, however, like most pizza installations heard to date, full organ has a tendency to sound muffled and there is little to be done to change this situation. Room size, hard finish walls and other surfaces create an acoustical turbulence that seemingly throws tones together when the instrument is played full tilt and in allegro tempo. It isn't anything to get disturbed about as when the place is packed, all the warm bodies help absorb and thus 'desmog' the music.

Unenclosed and mounted about the dining room, organ percussions manage to be heard, and if there is any doubt which unit is being used, it is spotlighted automatically when the organist depresses the stop on the console.

Chambers are under the same lighting control and change colours by keeping with the colour mood set by the organist or manager. Small lamps in the relay light up as each note is played on the console. Old Tom Edison would be happy to see how well his invention has been put to use here at P.O.P.

Thelmas Noble Experiment. Thelma Nelson, wife of boss Russ, has taken a big interest in the food side of the emporium (she can also take over the console if an organist is required and has the former Chicago Southtown 4m/20r Wurlitzer at home to keep in trim on.) As a result, the pizza served here is exceptionally good. Russ will tell anyone how P.O.P.'s cheese is fluffed up and what a difference it makes. There's no doubt he is right. But best of all is the experimental pizza developed by 'Madame Thelma'. For those who don't care about tomatoe sauce, she has a cheese and onion delectable drooler on pizza base that is one of the most mouth-watering concoction ever brought forth from a pizza oven,

Santa Ana isn't quite the center of Los Angeles, which makes it something of a safari, even by freeway to drive some 50 miles out for a meal **

(Adapted from The "Console" July 1976)

DIRECT TO YOU FROM THE U.S.A.
THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION
PROUDLY PRESENTS FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT:

MARIA KUMAGAI LEADING EXPONENT OF THE THEATRE PIPE
ORGAN.

MARIA WILL BE FEATURED AT THE MAGNIFICENT PRINCE EDWARD
WURLITZER 2/10 THEATRE PIPE ORGAN AT THE MARRICKVILLE
TOWN HALL.

THE DATE FOR THIS FABULOUS CONCERT WHICH YOU WON'T WANT
TO MISS IS:

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE, 1977

AT 2.30 PM.

ADMISSION: MEMBERS: \$2.50
ADULTS: \$3.00

PENSIONERS AND STUDENTS \$1.50.

DON'T MISS HER !!!

Presenting "Showcases of the Past"
No. 10 The Prince Edward Theatre

With the closure of stage and showband presentations, which had to be discontinued due to the film entertainment going over 3½ hours (The Second Ten Commandments, followed by War and Peace), audiences continued to be entertained by Noreen Hennessy on the Grand Wurlitzer. Noreen came to the Prince Edward in August, 1944, her final recital took place on February 21st., 1964. It has been estimated that during that period 2½ million people heard her play. The Grand Wurlitzer became silent except when T.O.S.A. member W. Schumacher played at the console for the premiere of the film "Becket" in late 1964.

Over the years many colourful premieres were held at the Prince Edward and of the final ones at the theatre, thousands of enthusiastic fans blocked Castlereagh St. to welcome Bob Hope attending the premiere of "Seven Little Foys" in June 1959, followed by Alfred Hitchcock for his thriller "Psycho". This excellent production starred Tony Perkins, Janet Leigh, Vera Miles and John Gavin. Audiences gasped aloud in thunderstruck surprise as the second murder was so well timed in its execution.

In 1964 rumours spread that the Prince Edward was to be sold. Shortly after the sad news appeared in the newspapers, confirming that the Prudential Assurance Co had purchased the theatre and planned to construct a high rise building on the site. Ironically it was progress that caused the demise of the Prince Edward, not the inroads of television or the effects of any competitive entertainment. The theatre had just concluded its best box-office year since 1926, however the land became too expensive to operate as an ordinary theatre.

It would have been necessary if the theatre to continue to build offices over it. When it became known that the theatre was destined for demolition, and that the organ would possibly be broken up for parts, the T.O.S.A. N.S.W. Div. Executive made enquiries and found that the organ was for sale. Within a week a number of members made available on loan, funds necessary to make the purchase of the organ. The Executive then quickly moved to acquire same and the organ was saved. At the invitation of T.O.S.A., Noreen Hennessy consented to play a final recital for members on Sunday 15th August 1965. At the conclusion of the recital, the then President, Tom Halloran, thanked Noreen on behalf of the Audience and the Wurlitzers' blower was then turned off for the last time after 40 years of continual use. The final recital at the Prince Edward Theatre was held on Saturday evening December 4th, 1965, screening "Tolstoy's" great classic "War and Peace" with Audrey Hepburn, Henry Fonda and Mel Ferrer.

As patrons entered the elegant Castlereagh St. foyer and walked along the plush carpeting, they admired the lavish floral displays and the beautiful large marble fountain immediately in front of the steps leading to the auditorium. They were escorted to their seats by the front of house staff. Placed on every seat in the theatre was a remembrance photo together with a very interesting history of the theatre. This kind thought by the management was greatly appreciated by the patrons. Some members of the audience were very upset on this sad occasion for they were at the theatre on its opening night way back on November 22nd, 1924.

When the final frames of "War and Peace" had run through the projectors on the screen came the last farewell to a showcase that had meant so much to so many Australian movie goers.

"Farewell, Prince Edward 1924 - 1965" it began "On this occasion we wish to express our sincere appreciation to you, our patrons for the loyal support you have given us over the past 41 years. And so we say farewell and hope that you will say with us -"Thanks for the Memories". And so as Bob Hopes recorded voice was heard in Thanks for the Memory - Sydneys' Theatre Beautiful shuttered and Sydney lost what was virtually its first luxury cinema. A few months prior to the closure of the theatre, T.O.S.A. members were busy dismantling the organ. The society had negotiated with Marrickville Council and the Town Hall at Marrickville was the site for the re - installation of the 2/10 Wurlitzer Organ. After three years of hard work and long hours spent by members of the society they were at last able to present the first organ recital on Wednesday evening 27th November, 1968. A capacity audience were shown coloured slides of the interior of the organ on a large projection screen placed in front of the console. At the conclusion of this very interesting item on the program the screen was then removed and the magnificent Prince Edward Wurlitzer was revealed. Mr. Ian Davies presided at the console and was introduced by compare James Dibble. Assisting artists included the Soprano, Julie Carr and St. Brigids Ensemble. The Mayor of Marrickville, Alderman Jim Carr congratulated Ian Davies upon his performance. The first free public recital was held on Sunday afternoon 1st. December, 1968, the organist Charles Tuckwell, exceptionally experienced in both theatre and classical styles of playing presented a pleasant afternoons entertainment to an appreciative audience.

** Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to publish photographs for the above article. We will however, include them with the next issue of TOSA NEWS.

The Organ Grinder

by Dorothy London.

It used to be, not so long ago, that Torontonians wanting a good night out would drive to Buffalo. But things have changed in the last few years and now much of the traffic is in the other direction. One of the reasons for the reverse is the Organ Grinder and Don Thompson. Theatre Organ fans from all over New York State in Michigan make the long trip to Toronto on weekends, just to visit the Organ Grinder. As for the people of Toronto, well, the figures speak for themselves - the Organ Grinder, after only 8 months in operation, is already on the verge of nudging the old Spagetti Factory out of its position as the busiest restaurant in Canada. The owners of the factory don't mind; you see, they own the Grinder, too!

The concept of pizza and pipes is not a new one, of course. The idea was first introduced in northern Calif. in the early 60's, but it didn't really catch on until 1970, by which time there were four pizza restaurants featuring theatre organ entertainment. Since that time, the thing has snowballed, and there are 19 pizza parlours with pipe organs within an hour or so of San Francisco, not to mention the ones in San Diego, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Dallas. The Organ Grinder in Toronto is the first in the east, however, and the first in Canada. It is also the busiest and most

popular of all the pizza parlours.

It differs from all the others in several ways. First, an effort has been made to get away from the barn - like atmosphere favoured in Calif. The place is still a converted warehouse, like many others, but the conversion included an interior decorating job that has to be seen to be believed. The bar, for instance, is an original pharmacy from Liverpool, England, dating from the middle of the last century. It was taken apart, shipped across the Atlantic, and painstakingly reassembled in Toronto. There all kinds of other goodies, too, like genuine theatre artifacts in the lobby, a wall full of old pinball machines, mirrors all over the place (each bearing a statement such as "Precocious Pizza Pipes," to quote one example), and a genuine old - fashioned pump organ. The customers sit on individual chairs at square tables - many of them antique - as opposed to the western tradition of picnic tables and park benches in the Pizza Parlours. The formality is heightened by having waiter and waitress service instead of self service, which is the rule in Calif. Also, cocktails are served, whereas most of the western places serve only beer. The menu includes such Italian specialties as lasagna and veal parmighiana, as well as the usual array of pizzas.

The organ did not come from a theatre; at least, not from one specific theatre. It was assembled from spare parts by the Junchen - Collins Organ Corp. of Chicago. Many parts are over 50 years old, and they come from all different kinds of organs. Mostly Wurlitzer, there are also parts from Barton, Kilgen, Gottfried, Kimball and Midmer - Losh organs. The overall effect of the heterogeneous collection is a good solid theatre organ sound. The word "solid" was deliberately used: this organ has a fantastic base because the 16' Tibia and Diaphone pipes are exposed. That is to say, that they are not enclosed in the organ chambers, as is the usual case with pipe organs. Also, all the traps and percussions are exposed around the walls and hanging from the ceiling, so the whole evening is a visual as well as an audio experience.

Presiding at the console is Don Thompson. Don originally comes from England, but he has lived in the U.S. for the last 8 years or so. While there, he became known as a very popular pizza organist and now, in Toronto, he is adding to that reputation. He can build up an audience to such a pitch of frenzy that even in a non - concert situation of the Pizza Parlour he can receive a cheering, and a shouting, standing ovation at the end of the night, a feat absolutely unheard-of in the usual restaurant situation. Playing for Pizza Audiences requires a very special talent. Don does for theatre organ what Virgil Fox does for classical organ; he takes it away from the small historic band of theatre organ enthusiasts and brings it back to the people where it belongs. An evening at the Organ Grinder is quite an experience, with audience participation such as is not seen anywhere else. Following a piece by Bach, for example, Don is quite likely to ask the audience to play along with their spoons in a comedy version of "The Sting". Such numbers as "Zorbas Dance", and "Hava Nagila" have the entire audience clapping along and often on their feet joining in. Sometimes it is barely possible to hear the organ the sound of the crowd singing along. The atmosphere is one of a friendly private party; everyone joins in the fun. This probably accounts for the great success of the Organ Grinder. It's a place where the entire family can go and relax. Many (if not most) of the repeat customers are High School and College kids who are discovering the theatre pipe organ for the first time.

Many of the staff, too, are college kids earning their way through school. Assisting Don at the console at the moment are two other artists: Ronnie Padgett, who plays on Friday and Saturday afternoons; and Collin Cousins, who plays on Sunday and Monday evenings. Theoulos family of Vancouver, B.C. - the owners of the Organ Grinder - plan to build several more in the near future. One in Vancouver is scheduled to open in early summer, and a St. Louis branch opens later in the year. Several more are planned, and young organists who have an extensive repertoire and who would like to work in the Pizza Parlour field should contact Don Thompson for auditions, either by mail or phone, and should be ready to supply a tape-recording. Anyone planning to visit the Organ Grinder, at 58 The Esplanade in down-town Toronto, would be well advised to go good and early. During the weekends especially, there is a wait of an hour or more to be seated because the place is so popular. You can sit in the lobby, however, and still hear the Organ music and have a drink while you are waiting for a table. But once you hear the talented Don Thompson you'll be a new fan of the Organ Grinder for sure. *

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PRINTED ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OR POLICIES OF T.O.S.A. N.S.W. DIV..

NOTICE OF MOTION

Presented by Mr. N.A.Weismantel at the first Quarterly meeting for action of the Second Quarterly Meeting of members to be held on June 8th at St. Columbs Church Of England, West Ryde.

"That the payment of 50% extra fee in addition to the existing membership fee will enable the spouse of a member to vote at Society Meetings. This is an optional payment only and does not include a subscription to T.O.S.A. News."

signed...N.A.Weismantel.

CAPITAL ORGAN WORKING BEE

The date has been changed to Thursday 12th MAY, 7.30PM at the ORGAN LOFT, 49 BOOMERANG STREET HABBERFIELD.

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING OF MEMBERS.

TO BE HELD AT ST. COLUMBS CHURCH OF ENGLAND, BELLVUE ST., WEST RYDE AT 7.20 PM. ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE, 1977.

THE MAIN ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA WILL BE CONSTITUTIONAL ALTERATIONS SUBMITTED BY NOTICES OF MOTION ON "A" THE ALTERATION OF VOTING RIGHTS AND "B" THE FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT AND DELEGATES AS PROPOSED FROM THE 6TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, 1977.

THE ORGANIST FOR THIS OCCASSION WILL BE MEMBER CLIFF BINGHAM.

NOTICE OF MOTION,

Presented by J.A.WEISMANTEL.

That in accordance with the decisions reached at a meeting of the Executive Officers of most of the Divisions of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia at the Conn Organ Centre, Brisbane on 10th April, 1977 -

1. A BY-Law BE INCORPORATED INTO THE BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY
READING:

"The President and the Secretary of the NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION shall be delegates of the N.S.W. DIVISION to meetings of the NATIONAL SECRETARIAT of the THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA to be held at the direction of the convenor of such SECRETARIAT.
The President shall have the power to nominate either of the Vice - Presidents as a replacement due to inability of attendance at such meetings."

2. A BY-LAW BE INCORPORATED IN THE BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY
READING:

"In accordance with BY-LAW 21, a levy per member per annum which shall be determined by the NATIONAL SECRETARIAT, shall be paid to the NATIONAL SECRETARIAT for the purpose of administration of such Secretariat, and shall be separately accounted for in the Annual Balance Sheet and be duly audited.

3. A BY-LAW BE INCORPORATED INTO THE BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY
READING:

"That provision be made for the contribution of travelling expenses equal to that of all other participant Divisions of delegates to the NATIONAL SECRETARIAT meetings to be held as directed by the convenor."

The above Notice of Motion has been submitted for ratification at the Second Quarterly Meeting of members to be held at St.Columb Church of England, West Ryde on June 8th, 1977.

signed,.. J.A.Weismantel.
Vice-President.