

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

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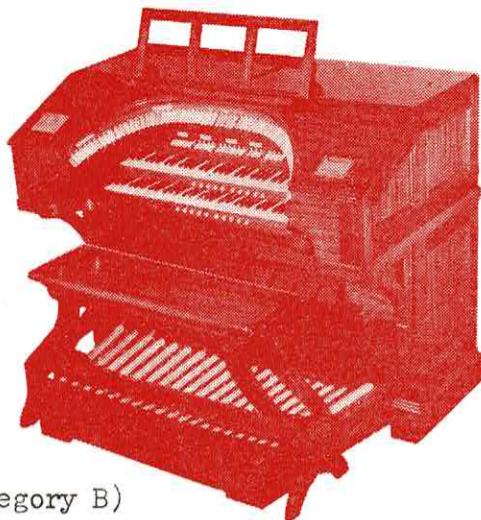
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WHAT'S ON IN NSW THIS MONTH.

FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER AT 8pm. The second birthday of the installation of our WurliTzer in Marrickville Town Hall, will be celebrated with a concert to be played by Melbourne organist TONY FENELON, who was the last resident organist at the Hoyt's Regent Theatre, Melbourne. Earlier this year he appeared in concert for theatre organ clubs in the United States. He has numerous concert appearances at the Dendy Cinema to his credit as well as concerts at the recently installed organ in the Moorabbin Town Hall. He is Patron of the Western Australian Division of TOSA and has played for members in Perth, Adelaide, and for Sydney members, at the Capitol Theatre. This will be his first appearance at Marrickville. Admission prices to the general public will be \$1.50 Adults and 50 cents for children and pensioners. Tickets are now on sale at Rees Wills Pty Ltd the Lowrey Organ showrooms and Winton Music Center the Thomas Organ showrooms. TOSA members may obtain concession tickets from our Treasurer at \$1 each and all children of members will be FREE. Write to the Treasurer for your tickets or you may purchase them at the doors on the night. ALL TICKETS, INCLUDING THE MEMBERS CONCESSION TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE AT THE DOORS.

SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER AT 8pm. There will be an organ party at the home of our members, Mr & Mrs Neville Wright of 67 Clarke Street Peakhurst (cnr of Clarke & Evans Streets). The Wrights have a Conn 543 Spinet organ installed. There will be a charge of \$1 per person to the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund and the organ will be open to members to play, so please bring your music with you. The last organ party at the Wrights was a most enjoyable evening, so don't miss out on this one. Those who are planning to attend should telephone one week before the event and make a reservation in order to facilitate the catering arrangements. Telephone Mr Wright's mother and leave your reservation with her - the telephone number is

53 6869

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER AT 3.30pm. There will be a Xmas party with a difference this year. It will be held on Saturday 5th of December at 3.30pm at the residence of our members George and Joyce Walker of 21 Lyne Road Cheltenham. The party will commence with a popular organ concert by our member BILL SCHUMACHER at 3.30pm. At 5pm there will be a chicken dinner and barbecue in the gardens, and those who would like to have a swim are invited to bring their gear and use the Walker's swimming pool. The organ will be available for members to play between 6.30pm and 7.15pm when silent films will be shown. At 7.45pm there will be a half hour of Xmas carols and at 8.15pm a concert by our member DAVID PARSONS. At 9.45pm supper will be served.

A charge of \$3 per person will be made for this special afternoon and evening Xmas party, and our hosts will donate \$2 per person to the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund. Bookings should be made at least one week prior to the 5th December for catering arrangements to be finalised. Phone your reservations to 86-5871 now.

NO FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THIS EVENT CAN BE GIVEN IN TIME FOR THIS PARTY. THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE YOU WILL RECEIVE. (Details of another Xmas Party on page 9)

LOOKING BACK AT OCTOBER. A BIG, BIG MONTH."ORGAN SPECTACULAR" WAS SPECTACULAR SUCCESS.

Sydney's first "Organ Spectacular" did indeed live up to its name, and an audience of just over 1,500 gave each organist a tremendous ovation for their contributions to the Waratah Festival's musical offerings, during this period of spring carnival which captures the city of Sydney annually. Never before, has the "king of instruments" played such an important part in the Waratah Festival, nor has the public had the opportunity to enjoy popular organ music, both in the Town Hall, as well as in threelunch hour open air concerts in Hyde Park. The success of all these functions indicate that they could well become a permanent part of Waratah in the future, and this is a goal which the Society hopes will be achieved.

The appearance on stage of compere JAMES DIBBLE was the signal for a prolonged round of warm applause for this popular ABC TV personality. JAMES, a member of the Society, and an old smoothie when it comes to M.C-ing this type of function, turned in his usual faultless performance, and had the show ticking along in fine style from the first moment to the last.

The first organist to appear was also the youngest, being only 18 years old. RAY THORNLEY, appropriately enough, chose "Another Opening, Another Show" as his first item. Then came the "Love Theme from Romeo & Juliet", "Birth Of The Blues", "Just A Wearying For You" and finally, "Anything Goes". He was featured at the console of the Schober organ, which was installed on stage, much as it would be in a private home, and whilst the instrument possessed a great many excellent voices, it is doubtful if these would have been heard to advantage toward the back of the hall. It was obvious to this reviewer who was seated near the stage, that RAY could have used a deal more power. It was later learned that a last minute technical hitch had prevented full use of the organ's normally available volume. In these circumstances, RAY'S performance was outstanding - he did indeed get the most from the organ and played confidently throughout. His programme was well chosen, tastefully presented and obviously well rehearsed.

Next came PAT QUINN at the Lowrey Theatre organ, model H25, and he opened with a fast moving "Time Is Tight" followed by "Hora Staccato", "La Chason D'Orphee from Black Orpheus", "Muskrat Ramble", "Pearly Shells", "Alley Cat" and concluding with "Goin' Home". PAT QUINN'S style leans toward the modern idiom mainly, and features rhythmical numbers with full use of the organ's percussions. In such items, he drives along with a solid beat, and at times recreates the sound of an 8 or 10 piece combo of the 'big band era'. In his slower numbers, he often reveals a sensitive and oft-times unusual approach to them. PAT seldom forgets to occasionally throw the audience a big happy grin which is quite infectious when he happens to be playing a beaty, up-tempo number. The Lowrey organ was revealed as a very versatile instrument with a good range of excellent voices, and an authentic sounding percussion department.

First of the three manual organs to be featured was the Thomas Trianon model 606, which had CLIFF BINGHAM at the console. CLIFF is equally at home on either pipes or plug-ins, and can be relied upon to produce either the traditional or the modern theatre organ styling equally well. His programme opened with "Get Happy" and continued with a wistful "Yesterday", "I'll Never Fall In Love Again", "Sophia", "What Kind Of Fool Am I?" and ended with a GEORGE WRIGHTISH "Chit Chat Polka", the last two mentioned, being highlights for me. CLIFF is well equipped to get the best from the Thomas organ, and this is exactly what he did in his performance at the Spectacular. He achieved a very theatrical sound with well selected voices showing the Trianon to its best advantage.

Following the intermission in number four position, came our celebrity organist from Great Britain, Mr VIC HAMMETT at the console of the Baldwin organ. VIC opened with "Cherokee" followed by a latin-American bracket which included a dazzling "Brazil". His next offering was an unusual blending of three numbers not usually bracketed together, but his originality and imagination really paid off and gave us a fascinating and enchanting item - the ingredients used in this delightful confection were equal measures of "Beautiful Dreamer", "Dream A Little Dream Of Me" and "I'll See You In My Dreams". This recipe, served with MR HAMMETT'S customary finesse and polish would tickle any musical palate, and it did exactly that, at Sydney's Town Hall. His final item, a "tongue in cheek 'send-up' of the "village band", showed that in the comedy sphere, MR HAMMETT can "ham it" up with the best of them and not turn a hair in the process. The Baldwin organ had a wide range of true sounding voices, plus a few tricks of its own which VIC used to perfection during his programme.

The next organist to appear was ERIC SMITH at the Yamaha E3 model, and here, too, was another fine performance. ERIC opened with the Gershwin item, "Of Thee I Sing", followed by an intricate "Kitten On The Keys". His next item was a novelty, "The Train", a simulated steam train extravaganza which carried the audience from standing start, through tunnels, across bridges etc, until the train came to rest at its destination - this was extremely well done and received a warm appreciation from the audience. In marked contrast, ERIC'S next offering was the Widor Toccata which revealed the Yamaha's straight organ potential. The last two items were, "A Foggy Day" and the ever popular "South". The Yamaha E3 is a well voiced organ with a crisp tone and ERIC SMITH most certainly extracted the most from it.

The second three manual organ heard at the Spectacular, was the Conn 650 Theatre organ, and this was played by two organists, namely DAVID PARSONS and REUBERT HAYES. DAVID appeared first and played two serious items, "The Arrival Of The Queen Of Sheba" (Handel) and the "Ballet Egyptienne" by Liugini. His handling of the Conn 650 was all that could be desired, and by closing one's eyes, it was almost possible to imagine the sound to be emanating from the huge array of pipes which dominate the stage area, rather than from an electronic organ's speaker boxes. It was a fine performance by DAVID, and the sudden change from his classical styling to the lush Tibia-ed theatre sounds as REUBERT HAYES replaced him at the console, was given greater emphasis because of it.

REUBERT'S many years of experience of the cinema organ in various capital city theatres, ensured that a polished, precise performance could be expected from this organist, and this promise was realised. It was about as smooth as any performance he has ever given. It did not seem possible that REUBERT'S lush theatre sound, and DAVID'S classical organ tones could have come from the same instrument. REUBERT'S programme opened with "Spanish Gypsy Dance" and continued with a portion of Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony", "Autumn Leaves", "Funiculi Funicula", "Poeme", portion of the 1812 Overture, and concluded with a portion of Liszt's "Hungarian Fantasy". It was an exciting and entirely suitable finale to the 1970 Organ Spectacular.

The Society sincerely thanks all those who made it possible - our seven brilliant organists for superb performances - the six enthusiastic organ distributors who pulled out "all the stops" in their efforts to ensure success - the devoted technicians who so expertly carried out the complex installations - our popular compere JAMES DIBBLE for a smooth linking together of the programme - the Waratah Festival Committee - the Sydney City Council, and all our own members who assisted in many and varied ways to bring our dream of an "Organ Spectacular" to its brilliant fulfilment. The Theatre Organ Society of Australia salutes and thanks you all.

RARE BOOK AVAILABLE.

Member Ian Griggs reported to TOSA News that he had located a couple of copies of that much sought after book by Ben M Hall "The Best Remaining Seats". Anyone who would like to have the copy he does not require (and who wouldn't??) should give Ian a ring at 86-1586. Before you ring, see item on page six. Ed.

ORGAN SHOWROOM'S NEW ADDRESS.

Wadsworth Music Store Pty. Ltd., organ distributors in the Parramatta area, have advised TOSA News that they have moved to spacious new premises at 79 Argyle Street, Parramatta. Their showroom also extends through to 154 Church Street Parramatta, opposite Grace Bros store, thus giving it frontages in both streets. The firm are agents for Parramatta and the North Shore for the following makes of organs : Yamaha - National - Baldwin - WurliTzer - Farfisa - Echo - Corsaire and Toshiba. They are sole NSW importers for the WurliTzer range of instruments, as well as manufacturers of some models of the Farfisa and Echo ranges of organs. Last month they had the Japanese organist, Miss NORKIA SUGIBAYASHI in their showroom for two days demonstrating the National organs, and they anticipate having her back again in the near future. It is to be hoped that this talented Japanese organist will be heard in concert on her next visit.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION CLAIMS A "FIRST".

It was reported in the Queensland Division's September "Tibia" that the Editor of the West Australian Division's journal "Cipher" had credited the Queensland boys with being the first Division to produce a L.P. disc recording. West Australian Editor Doug Miller, was of course referring to the Queensland "Warana Festival" record. Sorry Doug, I think you will find that this honor belongs either to Victoria for their "Final Recital at the Capitol Theatre" or to NSW for their "Final Recital at the Prince Edward Theatre" - I'm not sure which got out first.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members this month. It is our hope that you will find a great deal of pleasure in your new organ interest and your new friends, who, like yourselves, joined our Australia wide Society for the same reasons you did. Make yourselves known to the Committee men the first time you attend a function - it is their job to see that you are made to feel welcome and that you meet other fellow members. Its hallo to the following:-

Mr R.R. Adams of Winston Hills	Mr J.A. Maclean of Mosman
John Robinson of Pymble	Mr W. F. Cooper of Gynea
Mr D.J. Clark of South Tamworth	Mr J.B. Wilson of Parramatta
Mr Pat Quinn of Dundas	Mr Allan Brewster of Dapto
Douglas & Valerie New of Albion Park	Mrs Margaret Bower of Turramurra
	Mr & Mrs A.F. O'Hanlon of Caringbah

OPENING OF S.A. DIVISION'S WURLITZER ORGAN.

In a letter to your Editor, Rev. Anthony Taylor, Secretary of the South Australian Division, confirms the opening date of their own WurliTzer currently being installed in Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School. It will be Saturday 12th December at 8pm, and the opening concert will be played by KNIGHT BARNETT and TONY FENELON. The instrument is the 2/12 WurliTzer formerly in Hoyt's Plaza Theatre Melbourne.

Members of the NSW Division who would like to attend the opening, should write immediately to Rev. Taylor and make their reservations. His address is:- Saint James Rectory, 10 Falcon Ave, Mile End 5031, South Australia. Sydney members who may be considering a motoring holiday next Easter, might like to keep in mind that the South Australian Division are considering the possibility of an Easter Convention in 1971. This would feature the two WurliTzers now in Adelaide - namely, the instrument (ex Adelaide Regent Theatre) now in St. Peter's College, and their own WurliTzer now in Pulteney Grammar School. Further details will be given as they come to hand.

ARNOLD COLEMAN SUFFERS STROKE.

Honorary member, IAN DAVIES reported to TOSA News that Melbourne's theatre organist, ARNOLD COLEMAN had suffered a stroke in early September. Although he has recovered beyond his Doctor's expectations, there is a slight impairment of his left arm and leg, and he requires a stick for walking around. ARNOLD was for many years Chief Organist at the Melbourne State Theatre. On Sunday August 30th, he gave a recital on the Moorabbin Town Hall's WurliTzer, his old organ from the State Theatre. On behalf of all NSW members, TOSA News extends to ARNOLD our sympathy in this misfortune and our sincere wishes for a full recovery. We had been looking forward to another visit by ARNOLD who had expressed great interest in playing a concert for us at the Capitol Theatre.

WHAT'S ON INTERSTATE THIS MONTH.

QUEENSLAND. Sunday 8th November 8pm at the RSL Hall, Scarborough St. Southport, Concert by BARRY BAILEY at the Conn and LES HILSDEN at the piano.

VICTORIA. Sunday 1st November 2.30pm at Moorabbin Town Hall. VIC HAMMETT's final Australian concert.

STH. AUST. Details for November not yet to hand. Contact S.A. Div. Secretary.

WEST. AUST. Details for November not yet to hand. Contact W.A. Div. Secretary.

MRS LEON - OUR CONVENTION GUEST.

The Society was delighted to have as our guest at the recent Convention, Mrs Leon, the wife of our late member, Vic Leon. Mrs Leon, now out and about again after a long hospitalization following the tragic car accident which took the life of her husband, is still far from being fully recovered. She enjoyed meeting members of the Society again. During the Convention dinner, a tape recording of Vic Leon at the organ was played, and we had the opportunity to hear, once again, the very happy kind of music he liked to play. It was very enjoyable indeed, and a splendid tribute to one of the pioneer members of our Society. The tape was made available to us by Mrs Leon and we are indebted to her for its being loaned. Our guest expressed to members her thanks for their interest in her welfare.

THE SOCIETY WURLITZER ORGAN'S SECOND BIRTHDAY ON FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER AT 8pm.

WELCOME GUESTS AT HAMMETT CONCERT.

One of the earliest to arrive at Marrickville Town Hall for the VIC HAMMETT concert which was the finale of the 1970 Convention, was BARRIE BRETTNER, well known theatre organist. BARRIE, who received shocking injuries in a car accident in July 1968, and still requires a couple of walking sticks to help him get around, was quite excited at hearing our Wurlitzer for the first time. He fully enjoyed VIC's concert and was generous with his praises - he had some nice things to say about the organ too. BARRIE opened the Wurlitzer of the Civic Theatre, Auburn, on 13th February 1934. He played in theatres throughout England being associated with such greats as SYDNEY TORCH, HAROLD RAMSAY, JOSEPH SEAL and H. ROBINSON CLEAVER, before being chosen by Wurlitzer's London representative to open the first Wurlitzer in Denmark. This was the Palladium Theatre in Copenhagen. Here in this lovely theatre, he frequently played for Royalty. We were delighted to see him again.

Also in our audience were ABC radio and TV personalities, James Dibble and Geoff. Moore. James was accompanied by his mother, and Geoff had several friends from Newcastle with him. Geoff. Moore is a really dedicated disciple to the cause of theatre organ - the mere mention of the words "theatre organ" causes his eyes to light up with a fanatical gleam and he bubbles enthusiasm for as long as he has an audience. Jim Dibble too, is a theatre organ lover from way back - I won't say how far back for that would be telling....that's as much as you'll get from me.

Another pleasant surprise during the Saturday early-morn concert at the Capitol Theatre, was to have John Thiele, the Editor of the South Australian Division's TOSA News, with us. John, who is a teacher at an Adelaide Grammar School, had only a couple of days warning that he would be in Sydney for the weekend of our Convention. He accompanied a party of around 50 schoolboys over for a session of "It's Academic". Due to a tight schedule with his charges, he was only able to attend the Capitol concert, but he greatly enjoyed the opportunity of hearing the Capitol's Wurlitzer in its original home and took home with him photos galore to prove to the Adelaide boys that he'd really been in the theatre. It was just great to see you too John, and I look forward to a longer yarn together next time.

AT THE CONSOLE - RECENT MOVES.

Our Honorary member REUBERT HAYES has taken up residency at the Victory Theatre Kogarah, which has installed a two manual Conn Theatre organ, model 642 with remote speakers to replace the 2/7 Christie theatre pipe organ recently removed from the theatre by its owner, ALAN TRANTER. According to a report from a local paper, which reached TOSA News from a relative of mine, REUBERT has received standing ovations as well as packed houses.

Our Honorary member PETER HELD is now appearing at the console of the Lowrey theatre organ in the Odeon Theatre at Campsie. PETER replaces REUBERT who had a long and successful season there. PETER HELD has appeared in England and South Africa, as well as having been resident at the Theatre Royal in Dublin. Your Editor extends to both of them our wishes for a long and successful residency.

COMMITTEE RESIGNATION REGREFFULLY RECEIVED.

The Society received with regret the resignation from Committee of our member Mr Bill Schnitger. Bill has resigned because of a hearing defect which is steadily worsening making it almost impossible for him to hear what is being said at the Committee meetings. A man of strong principles, Bill says that he cannot adequately represent the members who elected him when he is unaware of what is being discussed. It appears that there is nothing can be done for his loss of hearing. We extend our sympathy to him as well as our thanks for his support in the past. Member Harold Duffel has been co-opted to serve in the vacant position for the remainder of the current year.

TOSA CAR STICKER SEEN IN PUERTO RICO.

Major Ben Bailey of the U.S. Air Force, and a TOSA member, is now stationed in Puerto Rico. He has obtained from us, one of the South Australian produced car stickers which he has proudly stuck in his vehicle's window. He says "Our end of Puerto Rico seems rather short of theatre organs, but it is a small world, and a sticker may hail another enthusiast." Hope you locate many of them Ben.

HAVE YOU OBTAINED YOUR FREE CAR STICKER YET ?? A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO THE SECRETARY WILL SPEED IT ON ITS WAY TO YOU. GET YOURS NOW, AND DISPLAY IT WITH PRIDE IN THE REAR WINDOWS OF YOUR CAR. ONE FREE STICKER TO EVERY MEMBER. EXTRA STICKERS AT 25 CENTS EACH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY.

CLOSER TIES WITH ENGLISH T.O. CLUBS.

Our Secretary, Mrs Phyllis Dunn, has been made a member of the Medway Organ Club in Great Britain. This was announced by VIC HAMMETT at the conclusion of his "Teach-In" during the Convention. He delivered a letter from the Secretary of the Medway Organ Club to our Secretary, giving her full details of this move for closer ties. VIC also delivered her membership card. The Medway Club draws its members from the districts of Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham and informed Mrs Dunn that they have a nine rank Wurlitzer still in a theatre in their area.

VIC also delivered a letter from the Chairman of the Windsor District Theatre Organ Trust to Mrs Dunn, and this too, is a friendly letter which seeks closer ties with our Society. That these two T.O. Clubs in Great Britain have seen fit to initiate moves to bring us all closer together speaks well for the growing brotherhood of theatre organ lovers, and we, in turn, must do everything in our power to bring this highly desirable ideal to a lasting fulfilment. Mrs Dunn has the matter in hand, and knowing her talents in the field of communication, TOSA News has no doubt that the warmest letters of appreciation will be sent to our new brothers in England, if they have not already been despatched. As TOSA News Editor hails from the city of Manchester (many long years ago, I hasten to add) it goes without saying that I personally am delighted with the prospect of closer ties with English Cinema Organ Club members, who have much to offer in the cause of Theatre Organ.

BLACKPOOL CALLING !!

Another nice letter from our Patron, REGINALD DIXON has been received by TOSA News. REG is to give a talk on theatre organs to a Society in Blackpool in the New Year with special attention being given to the history of Hope Jones. He says that he has added an article in our Diaphone section to the collection of material from which he will compile his talk. He was also very interested to read in the August TOSA News of the doings of English theatre organist DON THOMPSON who now lives in the United States. REG says "It doesn't seem many years ago since he used to dash up backstage to the Tower Ballroom" REG concludes his very welcome letter with best wishes to members in NSW.

NEWCASTLE HAMMOND SOCIETY NEWS.

Newcastle Hammond Organ Society will present a concert on the 6th November, in St. Luke's Church of England, Telarah. They will also present a concert in the Belmont Church of England (Young and Green's showrooms) on 20th November.

They also advise that WILBUR KENTWELL will be appearing in concert again in Newcastle on Saturday 28th November, in the Hunter Theatre. This will be a charity concert in aid of the Delando Crescent Subnormal Childrens' Home. For reservations, TOSA Members should contact their Secretary, Keith Joice, of 6 Errington Avenue, New Lambton, 2305.

RARE BOOK NOT AVAILABLE

In the last couple of hours, member Ian Griggs has notified TOSA News that the copies of "Best Remaining Seats" which he had for sale, have now gone. Sorry, folks.

N.S.W. ORGANISTS WELL RECEIVED IN VICTORIA

The October issue of "VOX" carried reviews of performances by two N.S.W. organists during the month of September. Our Honorary members, IAN DAVIES and ERIC SMITH played concerts at the Dendy Cinema and the Moorabbin Town Hall, respectively. In his review, Barry Layton said IAN DAVIES' concert was well programmed, and equally well presented, and IAN soon showed that he had not forgotten the instrument, which he formerly played in Melbourne's Capitol Theatre. ERIC SMITH'S concert on the 4/21 Wurlitzer of Moorabbin Town Hall reviewed by Alan Glover, was described as a beautifully balanced programme, played to a very responsive audience.

"A distinguished musical training and varied experience combined with innate good taste and imagination to make ERIC SMITH a very satisfying player to listen to. When one considers that he undertook all the accompanying as well as twenty-one solo items, ERIC set himself a formidable task. From first to last, his masterly playing was equal to every demand" said Alan.

WILBUR KENTWELL ON AIR FOR A.B.C. Wilbur Kentwell has recorded thirteen episodes on his Conn 3-manual Theatre Organ for the A.B.C. Titled "Wilbur Kentwell Presents", Wilbur will do his own hosting on the show.

1970 CONVENTION REPORT.ALAN TRANTER AT THE STATE THEATRE FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

One could almost have been back in the hey-day of the Motion Picture Palace, for upon entering the foyer of the Dress Circle of this still majestic cathedral of the Movies, the throbbing strains of the mighty Wurlitzer drifted down from the ceiling, and, in the case of the 32 feet Diaphones, set the building quivering. Such was the first impression. The tiny audience, made up largely of a group of dedicated TOSA members, was sufficient to jolt one back to 1970. Despite this disappointment, ALAN TRANTER embarked upon a task which, as most of us know, was not an easy one.

The small group of disciples who have been working on this mammoth instrument have over the past few months done much to bring the organ closer to its former glory. A lot is still "off", though, and many ranks are missing notes. Nevertheless, ALAN succeeded in playing a fine show, and used what he could of that available, to provide some interesting combinations. Commencing at 7.40 p.m., ALAN played to the start of the 8.00 p.m. session with Lara's Theme, A man and a woman, Raindrops are falling on my head, Good morning starshine, and 's marvellous, 's wonderful.

Following the newsreel and a couple of shorts, ALAN was picked out with a narrow spot, and played a special segment for ten minutes, including People who need people, Nola, and Aquarius. Then at interval came what was for me the highlight of the evening with ALAN'S interpretations of Goody Goody, Moon River, Holiday for Strings, and most impressive renditions of The Impossible Dream and Swedish Rhapsody. In all, a very worthwhile evening, even if you didn't like the main feature!

(Reviewed by Ian C. Griggs)

EARLY MORNING CAPITOL SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER

On gazing around the Capitol Theatre, this function soon revealed who would rather sleep in on a Saturday morning! The delightful introduction to this 8 a.m. recital was apt indeed. As the console rose from the pit, a blanketed figure asleep atop the lid was rudely woken by BILL SCHUMACHER playing "Oh how I hate to get up in the morning." As CLIFF BINGHAM shed his blanket and reluctantly reached full awakeness, BILL stumbled off for another half-hour's sleep.

CLIFF BINGHAM soon took over the console, and within a few minutes we were once again bathed in the delicious sound of the Capitol 3/15 Wurlitzer, which has been lovingly kept in top condition by a wonderful bunch of TOSA members.

CLIFF'S first number was "This is it", the Bugs Bunny Show theme song, and for me, "That WAS it", for his show proved to be one of sheer excellence. CLIFF'S technical ability, on both manuals and pedals is an asset which, coupled with his fine sense of rhythm and blending of tonal colours and isolation of fine solo stops, results in a show of the finest degree. How lucky we are to have young organists of this calibre in our city.

CLIFF continued with Sadie, selections from The Merry Widow, The Georgia Camp Meeting, What kind of fool am I, Manhattan Spiritual, Parade of the Toy Soldiers, Granada, Dance of the Comedians, and finally, South.

After a short break, when TOSA members could shift their cars, or put some more money in the meter, BILL SCHUMACHER exchanged seats with CLIFF and played the second half, which took us on to 10 O'Clock.

BILL'S entry was most impressive; with the hydraulic set at dead slow ahead, the console rose majestically from the depths to a prologue of ever-increasing volume to reach its climax as BILL'S travel ended. Just like the old days, Eh?. BILL'S programme represented a good cross-section of style, ranging from a most sensitive interpretation of Gershwin's "Someone to watch over me", to a brilliantly played selection of songs from "Hello Dolly." Between these two extremes, BILL played San Francisco, a cute little waltz called Musette, Raindrops are falling on my head, Here comes that rainy day, Cry me a river, If you walked into my life (from "Mame") and That's entertainment.

It's a long time since we've heard BILL at the Capitol. Come to think of it, it's a long time since we've heard the Capitol. What with burnt-out motors and wet cables, she's had a rough trot lately. Nevertheless, BILL'S playing at this early morn concert refreshed our minds once again to this organ's wonderful Sound.

EARLY MORN CAPITOL (CONTINUED)

Congratulations to both CLIFF BINGHAM and BILL SCHUMACHER, for making this session of our 1970 Convention such a brilliant success.

(reviewed by Ian C. Griggs)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT THE BISTRO.

Promptly at 12.30pm, members were waiting at Cahill's Vintage Bistro for the VIC HAMMETT "teach-in". The Baldwin Theatre Organ installed for the day was located near the entrance and afforded everyone a chance to inspect the instrument as they arrived. With his customary impish sense of humour VIC chided the several late comers who arrived during the preliminary "warm-up", and these humorous asides seemed to set the pace for the rest of the session. Every situation which could be exploited for fun was pounced upon, and VIC enjoyed himself hugely in the process. So did his audience who spontaneously reponded throughout.

As members came to the organ with their problems, VIC explained the solution, and often demonstrated just what should have been done in the circum stances. With the shy ones he used all his wiles to cure their attacks of nerves - entreating, cajoling, encouraging or perhaps dishing out a few gems of old fashioned "horse-sense". Whatever the approach he used, his methods were successful and all were given the benefit of his vast knowledge and experience. It was two hours of fun for everyone and a lot of practical help for the aspiring organist into the bargain.

DAVID PARSONS IN CONCERT.

Following a coffee break, our member DAVID PARSONS presented the first of our two one-hour mini-concerts. DAVID has a style uniquely his own. I am never sure whether he is a classical organist who can also successfully play theatre music or a theatre organist who can successfully play the classics. It is certain he does both equally well. His programme, widely varied, was very well played and presented. DAVID introduced his items confidently, giving interesting facts about the item to be played without becoming too verbose. He had very clearly done his research work thoroughly well, such was his store of knowledge of these items. In all, a very entertaining and enjoyable segment of the Convention.

ERIC SMITH IN CONCERT.

Our Honorary member ERIC SMITH played the second of our mini-concerts. Before seating himself at the Baldwin console, he announced that he had not previously played this make of organ before. Had he not announced it, the audience could not have learned this fact from his handling of the Baldwin at which he appeared to be quite "at home". ERIC's also embraced quite a wide range of music and included a number of old favorites, all presented with the "SMITH" touch and polish. In the quite delightful setting of the Bistro's Conference room with it's oak beamed ceiling and splendid accoustics, ERIC achieved a very theatre-ish sound indeed and gave full rein to his imagination, registration-wise. The afternoon's music ended around five oclock and Conventioneers moved into the Bistro proper for a really delightful dinner which was most attractively staged, in regard to settings. There was soon a babble of conversation as members excitedly discussed the days activities.

Your Editor shared a table with Mrs Gladys Gash and Don Drayton, and it could truthfully be said that we had ourselves "a Ball". There was so much laughter at our table that anyone could have been excused for thinking that perhaps the bubbly was flowing too freely in our little alcove - I can set your mind at rest on this score. It wasn't. It was just a happy atmosphere. All too soon, the meal ended and it was time for everyone to wend their separate ways to the Town Hall at Merrickville for the final event - VIC HAMMETT in concert on the Society's WurliTzer organ. This was a public concert, and a large and enthusiastic audience gave him a warm welcome as he played his introduction. From that moment on, it was sheer enchantment as VIC's precise fingers, dazingly fast, coaxed one exciting arrangement after another from the keyboards.

One of the highlights of his programme was a repeat of his "send-up" of the village band mentioned in the review of our "Organ Spectacular" elsewhere in this issue. Suffice to say of this that it was even funnier on the WurliTzer than it had been on the Baldwin Electronic organ at the Town Hall.

VIC HAMMETT presented a pot-pouri of organ delights - there was something for everyone, and whether the organ's voices were lush and melting Tibias or full ensembles with a dash of biting reeds, or indeed any of the endless combinations

he selected, the organ was under the control of a master always. In response to prolonged applause, which continued after he had disappeared backstage, he once again re-appeared, walked to the console and obligingly rendered a final encore bracket. So ended the 1970 Convention, and most members seemed to think that it had been the best one ever.

A SECOND XMAS PARTY.

There will be another Xmas party at the Bondi Junction-Waverley RSL Club where our Honorary member IAN DAVIES is resident at the three manual Rodgers organ. This will be held on Wednesday 9th December at 8pm. There will be a charge of \$1 each at the door to cover the cost of supper. A new chef is now "in residence" at the Club and is reported to be excellent. IAN will make the Rodgers readily available for guest organists. A reminder for this function will be given in the December issue of TOSA News.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS. Please note the following Committee meeting dates. Monday 2nd November - Monday 7th December - Monday 4th January at 7.15pm.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE. The deadline for the December TOSA News will be Friday 20th November. Please send your copy by this date to be certain of publication.

EDITORIAL

There was such a bitterly disappointing roll-up of members at the State Theatre on Friday 16th October at the first event of the Convention, that it seems pertinent to ask whether our members are as deeply concerned and interested in the use of the theatre organ in a motion picture palace, as we profess to be.

As has so often been said, "People who live in glass houses should not throw stones" and your Editor, as one of those who did not attend the State Theatre that night, is just as guilty as any of you. Everyone had their own private excuse for not attending - with some of us, it was possibly the thought of a late night at the State Theatre followed by a 6am rising the next morning for the Capitol's concert. Perhaps, some may have been deterred by the additional expense involved, or illness or some other pressing commitment. Whatever our excuses were, each one of us needs to do some honest soul-searching.

Can you imagine the bitter disappointment of the organ crew who had spent almost forty eight hours continuously in the theatre working desperately to repair damage caused by a burst pipe only two days before the event? Armed with every electric radiator they could get their hands on, they spent two whole days trying to dry out the cables and repair water-caused damage to other parts of the organ in time for Friday night. The organist, ALLAN TRANTER, was sent home by the crew to snatch a few hours sleep before his appearance at the console. All this devoted service to the Society for a mere handful of members to enjoy? Their disappointment that so few were there to hear the end result of their labours is understandable. It was also disappointing to the management of the theatre who must now be wondering how effective this Society really is. All the other Convention attractions were very well attended except the State Theatre's function, and this was accorded the Cinderella treatment, and so our consciences need to be stirred.

Despite all this, The State's management have indicated a willingness to allow us to use the organ on the first night of each change of programme at this theatre. This is undoubtedly a very great concession to our Society - most theatre Company's policies these days do not envisage the use of the organ (even if they still have one) and to the Society this seems almost like a break-through to better times. You will realise, of course, that the relevant award payment must be paid to the organist, and this is our responsibility. We can do this best by holding a theatre party at each change of programme, and using the refund from the concession price given to such theatre parties to pay our organist, but a minimum of 75 persons would be needed at each show to cover the amount involved.

The benefits from this scheme are manifold:-

1. We will get to see and hear Sydney's mightiest WurliTzer in its original environment, being used as part of the theatre's presentation as it was intended to be used.
2. The Management's interest in the organ will be maintained and very possibly stimulated.

EDITORIAL (cont.)

- 3. The theatre's patrons receive a bonus of live entertainment.
- 4. The publicity to the Society through a slide on the screen could result in some theatre patrons perhaps becoming members of TOSA.

This is a workable scheme that deserves the full support of every loyal member. It will not be made to work if we leave it to the other fellow. Now is the time to pull together to restore organ interludes back to the largest and most lavish movie palace in this country on a regular basis. Remember, the success of each of these "first night" film plus organ shows at the State Theatre could perhaps lead to even greener pastures.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU.

It is proposed to organise another theatre party at the State Theatre for the next change of programme which at this stage appears to be in 4 to 6 weeks time

WILL YOU SUPPORT THIS VENTURE???

FRANK ELLIS.
EDITOR

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