

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

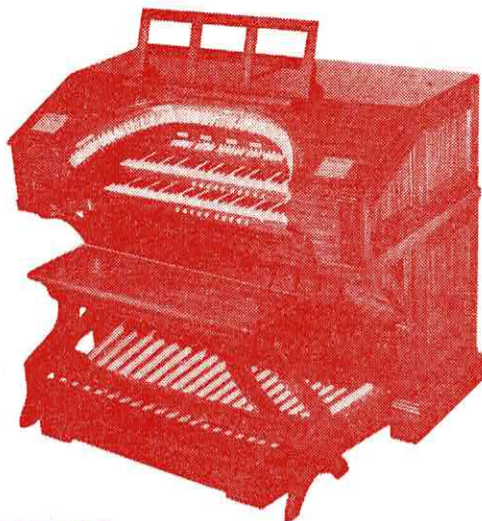
PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

EDITOR: FRANK ELLIS

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SOCIETY DIRECTORY:

General Correspondence to The Secretary, Mrs. P. DUNN, 1A Second Ave, Eastwood, 2122.
Financial Correspondence to The Treasurer, R. BLACKMORE, 21 Yethonga Ave, Lane Cove, 2066.
Editorial Correspondence to The Editor, F. ELLIS, 16 Delhi St, Lidcombe, 2141.



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WHAT'S ON IN NSW THIS MONTH.

WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY AT 8pm. The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers will be held at the Parish Hall of St Anne's Church of England on this night. The Hall, at the corner of Homebush Road and Beresford Road Strathfield, is close to Strathfield station, easy to find, and has plenty of parking space available. EVERY MEMBER is asked to attend this MOST IMPORTANT meeting which will be required to elect a new President and Treasurer as well as other Officers. You are reminded that only financial members will be able to lodge a vote, so please ensure that YOU are FINANCIAL by the due date.

At the conclusion of the Business meeting our member CLIFF BINGHAM will appear at the console of a Thomas organ in a mini-concert of popular organ favorites. Tea and biscuits will be served by the Ladies Committee.

SUNDAY 31st JANUARY AT 2.30pm. The first of our FREE Sunday afternoon concerts featuring the Society's Wurlitzer in the Marrickville Town Hall, is scheduled for this date. The organist will be our youngest recitalist RAY THORNLEY who was one of the stars of the "Organ Spectacular" held at Sydney Town Hall during the Waratah Festival last year. RAY gave an outstanding performance on that occasion, and we can look forward to a first class concert on the Wurlitzer. Each member is asked to bring along as many friends as possible to this FREE concert - the first such for 1971. The guest artist will be HEATHER MOEN who will be making her first concert appearance at the Wurlitzer. She is our youngest recitalist yet.

COMING EVENTS.

TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY AT 8pm. "MEET YOUR ORGAN NIGHT" The date of our second "Meet Your Organ Night" has been set for Tuesday 9th February at 8pm. The first such function was voted by members as being a most enjoyable night indeed and many requests have been made for a second one, so keep this night free and come along. Any member may play our Wurlitzer on this night and each member will be able to play two numbers. Those who wish to play will have their names taken as they arrive, and members will be called up in strict rotation for their turn at the console. When all names have been called and given their chance to play we will start on a second time around, if sufficient time is available. There will also be organised chamber inspections in groups of about six at a time, and names will be taken down during the evening. A cup of tea will be served by our Ladies Committee and this will be a FREE evening. This function is strictly for members only and it is regretted that no friends can be invited. Membership cards must be shown at the doors. Come along and "MEET YOUR ORGAN".....

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded that the January meeting is set down for the 4th at 7.15pm. The February meeting will be held on Monday 1st February also at 7.15pm.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE. Deadline for material for February issue will be 22nd January. Please ensure that your material reaches the /Editor by the due date.

LOOKING BACK AT DECEMBER.

XMAS PARTY AT THE WALKER RESIDENCE. Parking space was at a premium in Lyne Road Cheltenham on Saturday 5th December when the Society held a Xmas party at the home of our members George & Joyce Walker. Both sides of the street held a line of parked cars from 3.30pm until near midnight. The smoothness of the arrangements adequately testified to the good work done by our hosts and their family in the preparations necessary to cope with such a large crowd for about eight hours or so.

BILL SCHUMACHER was heard at the console of the Conn organ during the afternoon, in a very pleasant programme lasting around an hour and a half. BILL, playing in a quiet and relaxed style achieved a quite authentic theatre sound and presented a number of items we had not heard from him previously. Most agreed that his programme was a most enjoyable one.

Whilst the chicken dinner was being set out under the pergola, several members took advantage of the Walker pool, to enjoy a swim. A slight drizzle which persisted during the dinner did not dampen anyone's enthusiasm and all enjoyed the outdoor meal very much. Host, George was kept busy at the barbecue grilling sausages, and TOSA News understands that he didn't even burn so much as one sausage, which is very good grilling indeed when one considers the large quantity of succulent snags which must have passed through his hands.

DAVID PARSONS then commenced his recital in the delightfully decorated lounge room and played for almost an hour, after which three silent films were shown with DAVID supplying the organ accompaniment. The films were, two one reel Charlie Chaplin comedies with Charlie as a cop in one and as a cook in the other. These were followed by the Three Stooges in one of their typical hilarious films. Mrs BETTY RANDALL then took her place at the organ to play a brief session of Xmas carols with all members joining in the singing. DAVID then played the second portion of his recital and supper was served soon after ten o'clock. It was near midnight by the time the last guest had departed after enjoying their afternoon and evening with George and Joyce. Our hosts donated the sum of \$110 to the Society funds from this function - \$55 to the Pipe Organ Purchase Fund and a further \$55 to the Electronic Organ Construction Fund. We sincerely thank them for all the effort put into this function, for the hospitality of their home, and of course for the donations to our two needy funds.

XMAS PARTY AT THE BONDI JUNCTION RSL CLUB.

TOSA members enjoyed another happy Xmas party a few days later, when our Honorary member IAN DAVIES played host at the Bondi Junction-Waverley RSL Club's Auditorium. Here again, complete informality was the keynote of the evening's entertainment and the convivial atmosphere of the Club was soon resounding to the sounds of the Rodgers three manual theatre organ as IAN put the instrument through its paces.

IAN played a popular programme to suit all tastes and included a classical item to reveal the Rodgers considerable potential as a straight organ. As well, he featured what must be his most requested item, "Quiet Village" played as only he can. Then it was time for guest organists to appear, and BILL SCHUMACHER and COLIN TRINGHAM both played several items which earned them warm applause. The spacious auditorium of the Club, is, of course an ideal place for dancing, and IAN then returned to the organ to provide an excellent programme of dance music.

Supper time found the tables laden with tasty goodies in wide variety, and so with good food, good music and good company the Society brought its final function for 1970 to a close. We thank IAN DAVIES for making it possible for us to enjoy the facilities of the Club again and sincerely thank the Club management for having us once more.

THE SOCIETY SAYS "THANK YOU".

The Executive and Committee sincerely thank the following members for their warm and generous assistance to us. To George and Joyce Walker for the very tasteful decoration of the stage at Sydney Town Hall for the "Organ Spectacular" and again at Marrickville Town Hall for the almost garden-like setting for the Tony Fenelon concert. Both concerts were enhanced considerably as a result. And to DAVID PARSONS and BILL SCHUMACHER for the very generous gifts of their musical talents during the Xmas functions, we also extend our grateful thanks. Without their generosity, our Xmas functions would not have been so successful, and there is no doubt that members fully realise the worth of all the above named persons, who are ever ready to make personal sacrifices for the benefit of all members of the Society. Please accept our grateful thanks.

NEW ZEALAND'S NEW ORGAN SOCIETY PATRON.

Last month, TOSA News reported the formation of a new Organ Society in New Zealand which will have its headquarters in Auckland. We can now divulge the name of the famous theatre organist who was invited to become their first Patron, for the gentleman concerned has accepted. It is DENIS PALMISTRA who is probably the best remembered organist imported into New Zealand for the Civic Theatre in Auckland. DENIS is certain to give a concert for the new Society on his next visit to that part of the world. Prominent among the foundation members of the new Society, are TOSA members Leo Cassin and Maurice Carbines, both of whom are dedicated to the theatre organ. They are also most enthusiastic workers for the cause, so it can be expected that the N.Z. organ lovers are in for a better deal in the future than they have had in the past. TOSA News congratulates them on their initiative in launching the new project as well as on their choice of a Patron.

"WILBUR DOES IT AGAIN".

A warm welcome awaited WILBUR KENTWELL as he walked on to the stage of Newcastle's Hunter Theatre on Saturday 28th November and took his place at the console of his 3 manual Conn Theatre organ. WILBUR'S concert appearances in Newcastle have become an annual event looked forward to by many confirmed fans, and as long as Mr K continues to play for them, they continue to sit as though glued to their seats. Never one to do things by halves, WILBUR obviously believes in giving value for money, and the concert did not end until almost midnight.

It was a veritable feast of popular organ music, wide in variety and scope - show tunes, film scores, novelty numbers, and some good old favorites of the timeless kind, WILBUR played them all with his customary musical expertise and flawless showmanship.

During the first half of the programme he introduced his guest artist, Miss Pat Charker, who performed as delightfully as she looked, and that was quite something. She possessed a good voice, a bubbling personality and that special kind of magic which can capture any audience. She sang, she played the flute real beaut, and she joined WILBUR in a number of duets in which both artists "let their hair down" and indulged in numerous asides, to the delight of their fans. Their version of "Two Sleepy People" revived memories of Bob Hope and Shirley Ross, who recorded this light-hearted musical romp, quite some time ago. It almost brought the house down in Newcastle. As a certain well known Newcastle personality said to me in a letter this week, "It was the best Kentwell concert yet" and with this statement I am inclined to agree. The stage lighting was a copy book example of what can be done to achieve mood, and, on appropriate occasions, a dramatic background to an organ tableaux. To sum up - WILBUR KENTWELL DOES IT AGAIN !

PETER HELD FOR ADELAIDE.

It was announced in the South Australian TOSA News for December, that NSW Honorary member PETER HELD would be playing the second concert on the South Aust. Division's newly installed 2/12 WurliTzer organ. The concert will take place on December 30th. It was reported to TOSA News that the organ's opening had been a very good one with the organists being KNIGHT BARNETT and TONY FENELON. The concert was recorded by the A.B.C. for broadcasting over a new Theatre Organ programme which commenced on Wednesday 9th December and which will go on air regularly. It will be known as "Theatre Organ Club" and will be heard over 5AN each Wednesday night at 9.30pm (S.A. time) A five page organ supplement appeared in the pages of an Adelaide paper only a few days before the opening concert took place, and this would have created tremendous interest in our hobby in Adelaide.

The South Australian TOSA News made mention of the fact that TONY FENELON had recently played a concert for the NSW Division in the Marrickville Town Hall and said that an audience of approximately 600 people had attended. Unfortunately, they overstated the audience by 200 persons. We wished it had been 600 in the audience.

YOUNG ORGANISTS AT WORK.

In the weeks before Xmas, RAY THORNLEY was appearing at Mark Foy's city store playing organ for the Xmas shoppers, whilst young HEATHER MOEN could be seen at Top Ryde Shopping Centre. It seems no time at all since RAY made his first public appearance at our WurliTzer as a guest on a DAVID PARSONS concert, and now on January 31st RAY, as the solo artist will introduce as his guest, young HEATHER MOEN making her first appearance at a public concert on our WurliTzer. Its great to see young talent maturing to concert stature in so short a time.

RECORDING TAPES - SPECIAL OFFER.

The Society has been successful in arranging for members to be able to purchase supplies of highest quality recording tapes at a substantial reduction which will be better than discount prices. Tape can be purchased directly from the Society. Final details of the scheme, together with the name of the Officer of the Society who will be controlling the distribution are now being worked out.

APPEAL TO NORTH SHORE RESIDENTS.

The Society needs the help of three or four members to help with the mailing of TOSA News during 1971. The task is not a difficult one and will require only about three hours each month. It entails the packing and sorting of each month's TOSA News in readiness for posting. Residents of the North Shore or near North Shore would be preferred in order to avoid involving volunteers in too much travelling time, although this is not to be taken as a deterrent. Members from any area in the metropolitan district are welcome. Vice-President Des Russell will be pleased to hear from some nice North-side residents who have three hours to spare each month. His phone number is 42-4729 and his address is 20 Coolaroo Road, Lane Cove. Will you help the Society????

1971 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

This year, the Society will be making a definite effort to enrol new members. About seventy new members joined us during 1970, but with the help of all members this figure could be doubled or even trebled. In these days of rising wages, the Society, like all other sections of the community, faces rising costs in every facet of its activities, and a growing membership absorbs such rises and enables the Society to offer better facilities and functions whilst annual membership dues are held stabilised at the same level that they have been for some years now. Actually, they have been held at \$8 per year since 1967 despite enormous increases in costs.

Accordingly we remind members that for every new member they introduce to the Society, they will receive a voucher for \$1 when their prospect joins us. Ask your new prospect to mark on his Application Form the words, "Introduced by Mr so & so". You will then receive your voucher for \$1. The voucher can be used as a part payment of your next year's Membership Dues. Due to Postal regulations relative to the posting of TOSA News to bona-fide members only, this scheme can only include four new members (\$4) to each current member. If a member can be the means of obtaining four new members for the Society, his annual dues will be \$4 (in cash) and four \$1 vouchers, for the FOLLOWING YEAR.

So, help yourself whilst you help the Society to gain new members. See how many YOU can introduce this year? People seldom ask to join - YOU have to ask them, and it's surprising how many are willing to join when you suggest it. Especially if you are enthusiastic about the Society when you approach them.

CLIFF BINGHAM RELEASES FIRST LP RECORD.

Our member CLIFF BINGHAM has just released his first LP record entitled "CLIFF BINGHAM PLAYS THE THOMAS". The price of the record is \$3.98 and it can be bought at the Winton Music Center (Thomas Organs) in York Street Sydney. The cover, which is one of the double variety, has two excellent full size photos, one of CLIFF at the Trianon in a seascape setting and the other of CLIFF at the Celebrity model. These are the two organs featured on the disc. TOSA News was not able to review the record this month, as it was not available at the time we went to press, but CLIFF assured us the record would be in stock by the time you receive this issue. Having seen the cover, and noted the programme your Editor says this disc should be well worth while, and suggests you should buy your copy real soon. I would also suggest that CLIFF could perhaps bring some copies along when he plays after the Annual General Meeting later this month - it would give members the chance to buy without much effort. As well, CLIFF might like to autograph them as he sells them.

CHATSWOOD TOWN HALL WURLITZER.

At the Annual General Meeting this month, nominations will be accepted from members who would like to join the Sub-Committee to take charge of re-leathering the air motors of the Chatswood Wurlitzer. The organ is being professionally installed, but TOSA has undertaken the re-leathering tasks. Work will commence early in the New Year and members who would like to play a part are asked to nominate at the A.G.M. on 27th January.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

We are now in the first month of a new year, and we warmly welcome the first group of new members for 1971. You have joined a Society which is Australia-wide and which has close ties with Theatre Organ clubs and Societies in England and America. We all have a common interest which binds us together - and that is our love of the Theatre Organ - the "King of all musical instruments". Had it not been for the formation of Theatre Organ Societies overseas about fifteen years ago, there is no doubt that many of these fine instruments would have had their consoles broken up, and their pipes either melted down or junked. But the growing army of T.O. members around the world have saved many organs for future generations to enjoy, and in many cases, organs have been re-installed in theatres to provide the entertainment for which they were designed. Other fine theatre organs have been re-installed in Town Halls and other suitable auditoriums where they may continue to give pleasure to the general public as well as members of Theatre Organ Clubs.

In joining the Society, you have demonstrated your love of the instrument and your support for what is being done to preserve every Theatre Organ we possibly can, and we welcome your support as warmly as we now welcome you personally. Its "hallo" to the following new members:- Alan & Elaine Wright of Cecil Park - Albert G. Morgan of Castlecrag - Kevin & Kitty Gallagher of Eastwood - Mrs Valerie Meyers of Punchbowl - Robert Graham of Singleton - and Mrs B.E. Vale & family of Engadine. WE HOPE YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH US WILL BE A LONG & HAPPY ONE.

McFARLAND'S NEW FRANCHISE.

C.H. McFarland of Marrickville, recognised for a number of years as the Australian distributor of Toshiba electronic organs, have recently acquired an additional franchise for the complete range of Ace-tone electronic home spinet and portable organs together with allied musical lines which includes several models of the well known Ace-tone automatic rhythm boxes and a full range of guitar and bass amplifiers from 20 to 200 watts.

Ace-tone's name and quality is well established and McFarlands inform TOSA News that their new home spinet organs are comprehensive in their variety and contrasts of tones including some with built in rhythm and manual percussions with xylophone and marimba etc, yet are competitively priced.

For further information regarding the new models contact McFarlands and ask for TOSA's Honorary member, CHARLES TUCKWELL.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION'S ORGAN DUE.

TOSA News understands that the theatre organ, purchased from an English theatre, by the Queensland Division of TOSA, was due to arrive in Brisbane on December 27th. At the time of going to press, no confirmation of its arrival had been given. Queensland members will soon be starting the huge task of restoring and re-installing their own organ - a task which will be tackled with their usual enthusiasm and zest. We look forward to the day they will announce the opening of yet another theatre organ in Australia. The good wishes of us all are extended to them in their labours.

A GEORGE WRIGHT CONCERT.

"Theatre Organ", the official journal of the American Theatre Organ Society, in its October issue, carried a half page advert for a GEORGE WRIGHT concert on Sunday 1st November last, at the fabulous Ohio Theatre in Columbus. This theatre has a four manual 20 rank Robert Morton theatre organ installed. The interesting thing about this advert concerns the prices of admission. Reserved seats only were available in three sections - Orchestra (equivalent to our front stalls) Loges (equal to our Mezzanine) and Balcony (our Dress Circle). Front stall seats near the console were \$6 each whilst the rest of the front stalls not so near the console were only \$4 - Back Stalls were \$3 - Loges \$5 - front part of Dress Circle \$3 and back part of Circle only \$2. The forgoing prices reveal that American theatre organ fans like to get as close to the console as possible and are prepared to pay more for the privilege of watching exactly what GEORGE does. I wonder how much they'd pay for the chance to sit at the console with him?

The organ is the same one heard on Concert Recording's "The Mighty Morton" Cr0024 played by ROGER GARRETT, so if you have this record in your collection, I suggest you play it again, and then try to imagine you are in the theatre listening to GEORGE WRIGHT playing the same organ.

A WORLD RECORD PERHAPS ?

As members are aware, President Tom Halloran will not be available for nomination as President this year, having decided to stand down and enjoy a well-earned rest.

Your Editor cannot let the occasion pass without making known the fact of Tom's long service to the Society.

Tom Halloran has been President of the NSW Division of TOSA for 9 years. This is the longest term of office for any TOSA President in Australia. In fact, I do not know of a longer term as President in any of the overseas Theatre Organ Clubs. It could well be that Tom, in addition to holding the Australian record in this field, also holds a world record too.

TOSA News warmly congratulates Tom for a difficult and demanding job well done, as well as for his length of service to TOSA. He has certainly earned some "long service leave".

FOR SALE.

New Julius organ. Two 49 note manuals. 25 note pedal board. Complete with stool, console and all hardware. A few capacitors and resistors missing. Circuit diagram and assembly drawings supplied. Seven of these organs have been built by TOSA members. Price \$280. Phone 42-4729 after 6pm.

"AU REVOIR" AND THANK YOU.

This has been the last issue of TOSA News with myself as Editor. I will probably be involved in the production of the February issue but there will be a new Editor in command, and my task will only be to prepare as much of the ground as possible to allow the new Editor to settle in smoothly.

The six years I have spent as Editor have been exceptionally happy ones for me, and I regard it as a privilege to have played a small part in the growth of the Society during those years. When I look back on TOSA as it was seven or eight years ago, it seems hard to believe that it has made such progress since then.

I especially value the many friendships that have come to me through the Society - most of these are of course, mainly Sydney folk, but there are very many from the country, interstate Divisions, and also from overseas. It has become abundantly clear to me that there is a very strong brotherhood amongst the Theatre Organ fraternity both here and abroad, and if you are a member then "you're one of us" and welcome. I treasure many warm letters from overseas and Interstate.

I am deeply grateful to the many members who have had, at various times, nice things to say of TOSA News - they have helped and encouraged me very much. I am grateful too, for the many news-tips, items, paragraphs and just plain happy gossip sent in by so many members - it all helped enormously to get another issue ready for the printers. The cooperation of Interstate TOSA Editors too, has always been forthcoming in very many ways, and to them I also extend my thanks.

It has been said by some, that TOSA News contains much unnecessary material, and that reviews of concerts, personal paragraphs, gossip, in fact many of the items which add color and warmth to its pages, are really superfluous, and this may well be so. These items may not be vitally necessary, but they are desirable features nevertheless, and from the letters and phone calls I have received over the years, I believe most members would agree with me. For the odd member or two who may consign his TOSA News to the rubbish bin unread, there are a hundred who like to be kept informed of anything appertaining to the organ world, even the gossip, and it is to this majority of loyal and interested members that TOSA News has been directed.

Thank you all for your support and help over the years, and my best wishes to the new Editor.

ORGANICALLY YOURS,

Frank Ellis

THE EDITOR.