

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

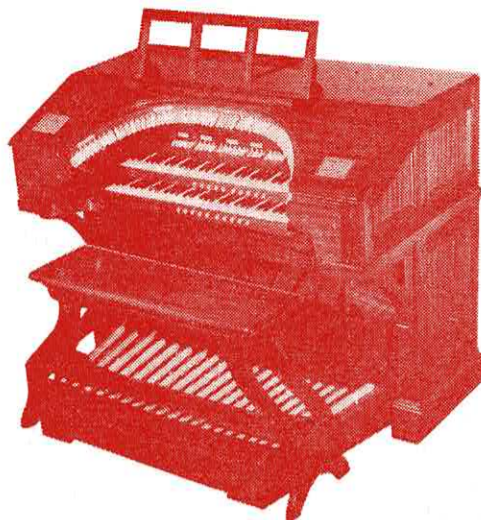
REGISTERED AT G.P.O., SYDNEY, FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A PERIODICAL.

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**PRICE
40c**



VOLUME 8 NUMBER 7

1st JULY 1970.

WHAT'S ON IN N.S.W. IN JULY.

SATURDAY 4th JULY AT 8pm. A final reminder is hereby given about the organ party at the home of our members, George and Joyce Walker, on the above date. Those who have not already done so, should phone the Walkers quickly in order to ensure that a reservation is held for them. They live at 21 Lyne Road, Cheltenham and their phone number is 86-5871. There will be a charge of \$1 per person to the organ funds. Since July 4th is American Independence Day, perhaps we can expect some fireworks - musically speaking, of course.

SATURDAY 18th JULY AT 8am. Rise and shine early on this day, as there will be an early-morn concert at the Capitol Theatre which will feature our member BILL SCHUMACHER at the console. Its been quite a while since we last heard BILL at this organ - in fact, come to think of it, its been quite a while since we last heard the Capitol organ (full stop). It is to be expected that there will be a good roll up of members and their friends for this early morn wing ding - the more, the merrier.

Yes, you may bring your friends to the Capitol - admission will be 50 cents each to members and friends. There are only four original theatre organ installations left in this country now - in Sydney, the State, the Capitol and the Victory Kogarah, and the remaining one is in Perth at the Metro Theatre, so come along and SEE AND HEAR the MIGHTY 3/15 Capitol Wurlitzer in its original home.

Remember - "The early bird gets not only the worm, but the Wurlitzer too" at the Capitol on SATURDAY 18th JULY AT EIGHT IN THE MORNING. Organist - BILL SCHUMACHER.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee please note, that the July meeting will be held on Monday 6th July at 7.15pm and the August meeting on Monday 3rd, also at 7.15pm. Don't forget the new location.

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST TOSA NEWS.

Friday 24th July is the deadline for news items to be included in the August issue of TOSA News. Let the Editor have your copy by the due date, if you please.

COMING EVENTS.

Events which may be scheduled for the first few days of any particular month will, in future, be advertised in the previous month's TOSA News in order to give members sufficient time to plan for their attendance. Sometimes, postal delays cause late arrival of your TOSA News, thus jeopardizing the success of a function held early in the month.

Accordingly, you are advised that there will be advance announcements for every concert, organ party or technical lecture which may occur in the early part of any month. The announcement will then be repeated in the following month's TOSA News as a reminder only. Functions scheduled for the later part of the month will be announced in the current TOSA News in the normal fashion.

LOOKING BACK AT JUNE.

The "Dance To The WurliTzer" night, presented by the NSW Division on June 12th, was a great success socially and musically, and those present had a very enjoyable and unusual evening. Due to lack of support by members, it was not a financial success however - in fact, a loss was incurred.

First class dance music was provided by our Honorary member PETER HELD at the Society WurliTzer, whilst member Frank Thornley on drums, furnished the necessary drumnastics in fine style. PETER has had wide overseas experience in playing the organ for dancing, and he revealed right from the start that he knew all the tricks in exploiting the organ for this requirement. He maintained excellent tempos throughout, and made frequent use of the organ's percussive sounds for novelty and effect, where needed. Those who were not dancers found his music very enjoyable listening indeed.

During the breaks in the dance programme, guest appearances were made by one of our younger playing members, RAY THORNLEY. RAY was organist at the Christie theatre pipe organ of the Victory Theatre Kogarah, during the absence of the resident organist ALLAN TRANTER, also a member of TOSA. He is developing a nice style of playing and seems to get better with each appearance.

It was an informal as well as enjoyable evening and there was ample opportunity for lots of chatter and the exchange of news, which everyone took advantage of, especially during the tea breaks. Probably the most disappointed member of the Society would have been member Barry Tooker's fiancée, Pamela Lawson, who was unable to attend the dance due to the fact that she had her appendix removed only a day or two before the event. Her parents, who visited her before attending the dance hastened to assure TOSA News that she is doing fine, and looking forward to attending the next WurliTzer Dance night. Your Editor, who compered the dance, hopes that A GREAT MANY MORE members will also be looking forward to attending the next such function, and I'm not just thinking of financial reasons alone - its most disheartening for artists to play to a small audience no matter how enthusiastic such an audience may be. The dance was arranged for the enjoyment of members following suggestions that such a function would be very popular with a large number of our members.

CONCERT RECORDING'S "ORGAN OF THE MONTH" CLUB.

The Australian representative of Concert Recording, has advised TOSA News that there will be no release available again this month. In answer to requests from members of this record club concerning releases made during the last eighteen months, the following list is given:-

January 1969	0019	"The Mightiest WurliTzer"	Eddie Weaver
April 1969	0032	"Especially For You"	Denis Palmistra (Special pre-release)
August 1969	0032	"Especially For You"	Denis Palmistra (normal release)
December 1969	0043	"Wizard Of Organ"	Billy Nalle
January 1970	0045	"Sound Of The Silents"	Lee Erwin
March 1970	0036	"Granada"	H. Robinson Cleaver

SPECIAL NOTICE

TOSA News is delighted to give you all advance notice of the "ORGAN SPECTACULAR" to be held at Sydney Town Hall as part of the city's "Waratah Festival" this year. This is the first occasion that the NSW Division has joined forces with the Waratah Festival organisers to present organ music as an official part of the Waratah Festival. There will be five or six makes of electronic organs on stage, and each will be played by a TOP concert artist in a mini concert of around twenty minutes each. This concert will bring to the public, the dynamic organ sounds of the seventies during the Festival week. It has been announced that celebrated top flight English theatre organist, VIC HAMMETT will be one of the stars appearing at the Organ Spectacular.

Shortly after the Organ Spectacular, we will be presenting the NSW Division's BIG 1970 CONVENTION. One of the highlights this year will be a concert on our own WurliTzer at Marrickville featuring the enormous talents of VIC HAMMETT. Full details will be given in due course.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. At the June Committee meeting, President Tom Halloran announced that he would not seek re-election as President of the NSW Division in 1971. This news was received with deep regret by the Committee. Tom Halloran has been in office as President for a period of eight years and is currently in his ninth year. He will be a most difficult person to replace indeed.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

This month we welcome several more new members, and we look forward to meeting them real soon. We hope they will attend as many functions as is possible, and thereby enjoy the many opportunities the Society provides to enjoy both the "King of Instruments" as well as the many new friendships to be found among the members. Its "hello" now to the following:- Mr A.E. Spoore (Lawson) Arthur Lawrence (Rossmore) Geoff Mattingley (North Strathfield).

Mr Spoore was previously a member of the Cinema Organ Society in England, and TOSA News Editor looks forward to his news and views on the theatre organs scene in the Mother Country. Geoff Mattingley, now resident here, has transferred to us from the Victorian Division, and we look forward to demonstrating to them, that the friendship in the NSW Division is just as warm as that which they found in their former associations.

IAN DAVIES AIDS LEGACY APPEAL ONCE AGAIN.

The President of the Paddington-Woollahra R.S.L. Club has issued a personal invitation to members of T.O.S.A. and their friends to attend a concert in the Club's own auditorium on Tuesday 28th July at 6.30pm. The concert, in aid of Legacy funds, will feature our Honorary member IAN DAVIES at the console of the organ in association with the R.S.L. male choir from the Bondi Junction-Waverley Club, and the NSW University Band. A similar function for the same good cause last year, resulted in a full house and a most enjoyable night's entertainment.

Admission is only 50¢ each and if you can't get there for the start at 6.30pm, don't let that deter you from attending - you can arrive later if you wish. Just get there as early as you can. The address is 226 Oxford Street Paddington.

TUESDAY 28th JULY AT 6.30pm - IAN DAVIES AT THE ORGAN - GUEST ARTISTS - A GRAND NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT TO AID LEGACY AT THE PADDINGTON R.S.L. CLUB AUDITORIUM.

N.Z. MEMBER HEARS KENTWELL BROADCAST.

In a letter to your Editor, our New Zealand member, MAURICE CARBINES, tells of hearing the WILBUR KENTWELL broadcast over Radio 2GB recently. According to MAURICE it was purely by chance that he heard it. He was lying in bed listening to his transistor radio (its mighty cold in N.Z. right now) and just happened to tune in 2GB at the right time. Having journeyed over from New Zealand specially to attend the DENIS PALMISTRA concert last November MAURICE would have had little difficulty in visualising the scene at Marrickville Town Hall as he listened to the broadcast of WILBUR KENTWELL. NSW members send their greetings to Maurice, Eddie Aikin and all the other enthusiastic members of TOSA in the land of the Kiwi, where Victorian Division's TONY FENELON was heard in concert on the Tokoroa WurliTzer, owned by Eddie, in the last two weeks. TONY, on his way to U.S.A., broke his journey to play for the High school pupils in the morning, record a broadcast in the afternoon, and then play a public concert at night. No matter how you look at it, that's not a bad day's work - its also "nice work if you can get it". You can get it if you try, and try and try and try... Get what I mean???

N.S.W. MEMBER THANKS VICTORIAN DIVISION.

Our member, Wal Cook has written TOSA News asking us to pass on to the members of our sister Division in Victoria his thanks for a very enjoyable visit recently. He says, "Having had the opportunity to attend the opening of the Moorabbin Town Hall's WurliTzer organ (ex State Theatre) I would send many thanks to Henry Stollery and his wife for their kindness in all they did for myself and Noel Cerezo, and also DAVID JOHNSTONE, the resident organist at the Dendy Cinema, not forgetting Eric Wicks whom I've met and dined with on other occasions, which goes to make any visiting TOSA member feel its grand to be in our wonderful Society"

Thanking you sincerely,
Wal Cook.

THANKS TO TOSA FROM ORANGE DISTRICT.

A very warm and appreciative letter has been received from Mr Allen Walker of the Western Districts Hammond Organ Society, thanking the NSW Division for arranging a visit by a group of members to our organ at Marrickville Town Hall. The visit took place on Sunday 24th May in the morning, and the organ was made available to our visitors for a brief playing period. Later, that afternoon, they were in the audience for the ALLAN TRANTER concert which, from the tone of their letter, they enjoyed very much. High praise was bestowed on ALLAN for his performance on the organ. We, in TOSA, were very pleased to welcome the folk from Orange, and look forward to seeing them all in the future.

INTERSTATE TOSA FUNCTIONS IN JULY.

For the benefit of any members who may be travelling interstate during the month of July, the following information is given. You are welcome to attend TOSA functions in all States. NSW Division also welcomes visitors from other State Divisions when they are visiting Sydney.

QUEENSLAND. July functions not given - Arthur Midgley and Peter Humble will be playing the organ at Myers Chermside Drive-in Mon 29th June - Fri 3rd July.

VICTORIA. July 5th. Joint concert by Lowrey-Hammond-TOSA in Preston - 3 electronic organs. One of organists to be featured - Shirley Radford.
 July 12th Workshop at Dendy Theatre. LYN LARSEN tutorial for playing members.
 July 13th Third LYN LARSEN concert at Moorabbin Town Hall will feature 28 piece orchestra with TONY FENELON soloing in a piano concerto.
 July 19th. Meeting and jam session at the Organ Lodge at Mitcham.
 July 26th The second monthly organ concert arranged by the Moorabbin City Council on their Wurlitzer. Organist - TONY FENELON.

9th August Sunday afternoon concert at Dendy Theatre at 2.30pm with four member organists appearing at the console.

Thursday 17th September. The Victorian Division celebrates its Tenth Anniversary with a Gala evening at the Moorabbin Town Hall. Titled a "Wurlitzer Smorgasbord" the Society's top players will be presented together with a surprise organist of some renown. Smorgasbord supper - dancing 8 - 12.30 with Birthday celebrations at midnight. Professional catering - Souvenir brochures - a warm welcome to interstate visitors. Interstaters who may require billeting should contact Les Jackman of 9 Gilsland Rd., Murrumbeena - Phone 56-4576 giving the following information: Sex - approximate age - whether staying one night or two - method of travel. Mr Jackman, MAY then be able to arrange billeting for you.

WEST AUSTRALIA No report of July functions received
SOUTH AUSTRALIA No report of July functions received.

LIBERACE A THEATRE ORGAN LOVER ?

A recent article on TV's "golden boy" pianist-entertainer, Liberace, says that his home costs him around \$50,000 a year to maintain. He has more than 500 suits and 300 sports coats. One tuxedo jacket which lights up cost around \$1,500 and that's without the batteries. He has a swimming pool in the shape of a grand piano and this shape is repeated in numerous other articles around the house right down to such things as the ashtrays. However, the most interesting fact for TOSA members is that Lee has a theatre organ installed in his sitting room. A short flight of stairs leads to an alcove dominated by a two manual console which cost him \$70,000 to restore. As might be imagined, a large candleabra graces the console - in fact it replaces the music stand, but who ever saw Liberace use music anyway. Had the flamboyant Lee been an organist instead of a pianist, who knows what heights of showmanship might have been reached in his TV shows. One could see consoles that rose from the pit and vanished through the ceiling, or revolved like a merry-go-round whilst the inimitable Lee pedalled away with both feet in illuminated shoes. The mind really boggles at the thought of what might have happened had Liberace been a theatre organist. Perhaps its for the best that he isn't one. Who knows?

NSW CONSTITUTION TO BE REVIEWED.

The Constitution is to be reviewed to bring it into line with present day requirements. Any member who has any suggestions to offer in this regard is asked to contact Rod Blackmore, the Treasurer. A limited number of copies of the present Constitution are available to members by contacting either the Secretary or the Treasurer.

TAPES OF THE WILBUR KENTWELL CONCERT.

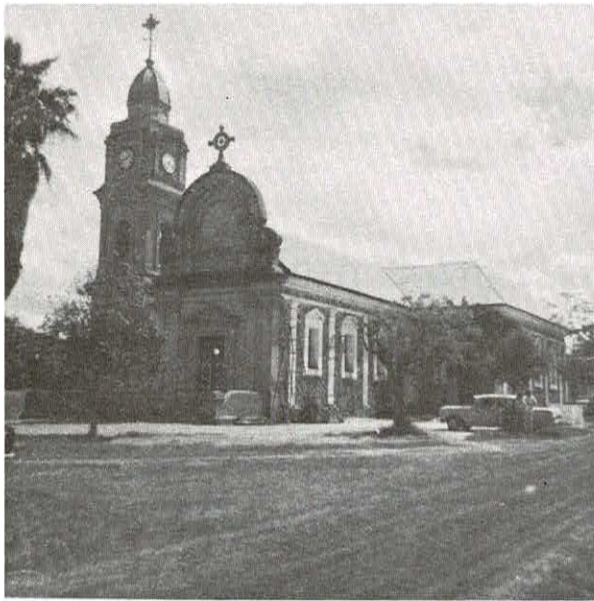
Members are advised that they can obtain copies of the WILBUR KENTWELL concert on tape by contacting member Geoff Rowston, phone 81-1404 (Private) or 69-1758 (Business). The cost is \$13 per copy, made up in the following way. Tape \$10, Copying fee \$2 and a donation to the Society of \$1. WILBUR gave permission for copies to be made available on condition that \$1 for each copy went to the Society's organ fund with his compliments. Which was very nice of WILBUR indeed. So, if you would like to have a tape of WILBUR KENTWELL's Marrickville Cavalcade of Prince Edward Theatre favorites, contact member Geoff Rowston and let him know.

The Diaphone

SECTION

EDITOR : ROD BLACKMORE

WESTERN MONASTERY ORGAN HAS THEATRE FLAVOUR



The New Norcia Cathedral



Show-pipes behind the console

From one of our Western Australia correspondents, BOB ELMS, comes the specification of a pipe organ with tone big and beautiful built by Moser of Munich in 1923. Consisting of 42 ranks, it is installed in the Pro-cathedral of the Holy Trinity (a Spanish monastery) at New Norcia, 75 miles north of Perth.

MANUAL I

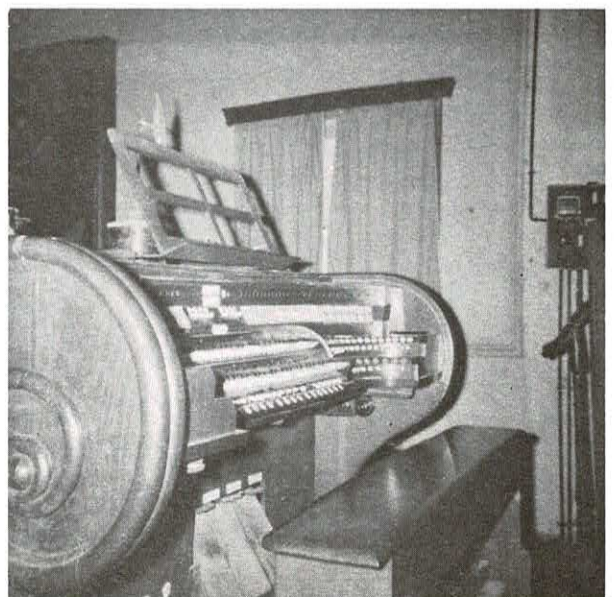
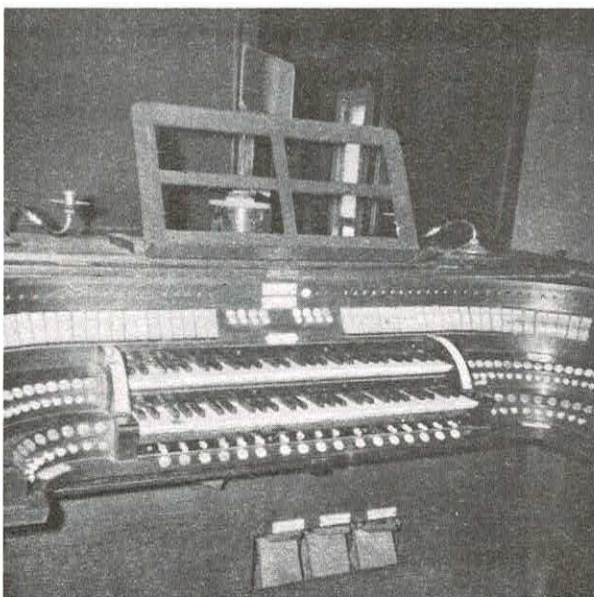
Bourdon	16'
Open diapason	8'
Soloflote	8'
Dulciana	8'
Unda Maris	8'
Oktav	4'
Mixture	3 ranks
Trompete	8'

PEDAL

Major Bass	16'
Echo Bass	16'
Sub-bass	16'
Bombardon	16'
Bassflote	8'
Violoncello	8'
Stopped Bass	8'

MANUAL II

Rohrflote	16'
Viola da gamba	8'
Aeoline	8'
Voix Celeste	2 ranks
Koncertflote	8'
Lieblich Gedecht	8'
Gemshorn	4'
Echoflote	4'
Nasard	2 2/3'
Piccolo	2'
Tierz	1 3/5'
Septime	1 1/7'
None	3/9'
Harmonica aetheria	5 ranks
Cymbel	3 ranks
Cor Anglais	16'
Clarinet	8'
Klarine	4'



This big console wouldn't look at all out-of-place in a theatre!

"DIAPHONE" SECTION

The action is tubular pneumatic and the whole organ is TOTALLY ENCLOSED in three swell boxes - the biggest swell boxes you've ever seen! It can give a startling impression of a large Wurlitzer, but this is frowned upon by the cathedral authorities. The 'Harmonica aethera' is a most impressive stop, consisting of a 5-rank vox celeste, very soft-toned which gives a beautiful shimmering effect.

In addition, there is every conceivable type of accessory you could think of :-

- Ventils to all reed ranks.
- Full sets of inter-manual and super and sub couplers, including super octave couplers to pedal from manual II.
- 50 free combination pistons.
- Duplicated pedal stop tabs at each side of the console.
- 2 swell pedals, one sforzando pedal.
- 2 tremulants of differing speeds and depths.
- Bell controlled from console.
- Fixed combination pistons to each manual, controllable from a stop tab.
- Swell indicators to both manuals.
- Wind indicator to electric blower.
- Transposing lever which puts entire organ into a different key!
- Manual swell control by lever at console.



THE FAMOUS BAMBOO ORGAN OF LAS PINAS, PHILIPPINES

Member CYRIL HAYNES received (and forwarded to us) this photograph and short story from a friend who has been touring the islands:-

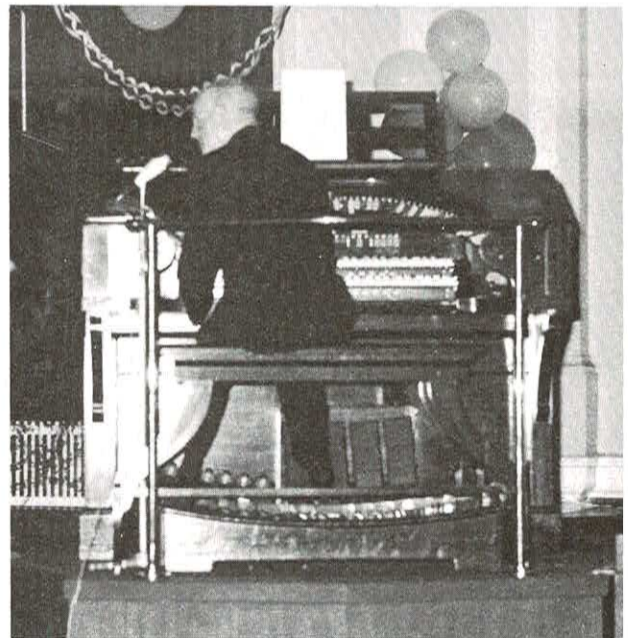
The organ is installed in the Las Pinas Church, Rizal Province. Father Diego Cera, a member of the Augustinian Recolets Friars, began the construction of the organ in 1818. The 950 bamboos were covered for six months with sand from the beach to preserve them from the attacks of bamboo bugs.

The work was finished in 1821. Twice the organ was badly damaged, in 1862 by an earthquake, and in 1882 by the rains as the church's roof was blown off. It was then partly repaired.

In 1917, Father Faniel, a Belgian missionary, completed the repair of the organ with the help of the Las Pinas people. In 1932 an electric blower was installed. The organ was also repaired in 1943 and again in 1962. The offerings of visitors to the church are destined to keep the organ in good condition, repair the church and support its school.



The bamboo organ, Manila



WILBUR KENTWELL smiles for 'TOSA-PHOTOS' just prior to his Marrickville Concert on 23rd April.



WILBUR announcing part of his programme.

VIC LEON - A TRIBUTE.

On Sunday 31st May, a fatal car accident at Blaxland, on the Blue Mountains, took the life of VIC LEON, and placed his wife in Nepean District Hospital seriously injured.

VIC joined the Society in its first year, and was one of our most enthusiastic and loyal members. His enthusiasm was deeply sown and thoroughly practical at all times. His creed was not "what can the Society do for me" but rather "what can I do for the Society", and he pursued this aim throughout the years. He was a great ambassador for TOSA, and when ever he met anyone who professed to like organ music, he would do his utmost to persuade them to join the Society. With his sincere and friendly approach it was hard to refuse him.

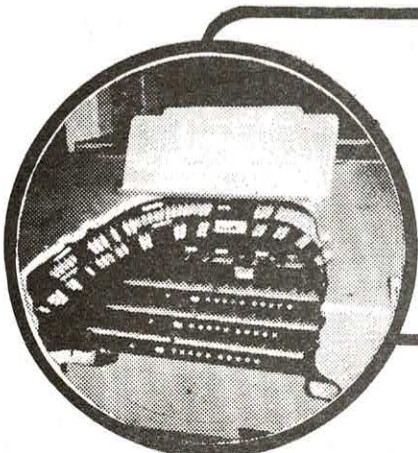
I first met VIC at my cousin's wedding reception at which he provided a veritable feast of well chosen music, delightfully played. It was on that night that he told me, with pride, of the, then recently formed, TOSA and invited me to attend their next function as his guest, which I did. It was on that same night that I joined the Society, so I have special memories of, as well

as gratitude to, him. Member John Lock, one of his close friends, also joined the Society through VIC'S good offices. VIC studied the theatre organ under WALLACE KOTTER at the Sydney Regent Theatre, but did not follow up his interest in theatre organ, concentrating on the piano and lateron, the electronic instrument. He was resident pianist at the Ainslie Lodge Wedding Reception Center at Bexley for several years and also at the Labor Club at Randwick.

Probably one of VIC'S greatest services to the Society was in the field of teaching members to play the organ. He commenced taking classes of up to ten members at a time at the home of John Lock. Planned to last for one hour VIC generously carried the classes on for the whole evening, with supper being served by the Locks to make a social occasion of it all. He was forced to discontinue teaching after about two years through ill health. It was typical of him that all the fees collected at his teaching sessions were donated to the Society's Organ Fund. He became Deputy organist to IAN DAVIES at the Paddington RSL Club from Feb 1968 to Jan 1970 missing only one day in that time. As a member of TOSA's Research Sub Committee, he unearthed a great amount of historical fact concerning the early days of theatre organ in this country. President Halloran represented the Society at the funeral, and we extend sincere sympathy to his widow and family. We will all miss him very much indeed.



**THEATRE
ORGAN
SOCIETY**
of Australia



**PUBLICISE YOUR SOCIETY -
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RACTIVE CAR STICKER.**

TECHNICAL LECTURE by LESLIE BOURNE.

Reported by Des Russell.

On Saturday evening 23rd May, members of the TOSA Technical group were 'entertained' by an engineer of electronic organ fame who was on holiday in Australia from the 'Old Country'. LESLIE BOURNE'S stay in Sydney was very short, and due to lack of sufficient notice some 50 TOSA members had to be advised by telephone of the opportunity to meet and hear about some of Les's experiences in electronic organ design during the past few decades. This function was made possible by the usual generosity of Mr & Mrs Arthur Spring who permitted us to invade their home once again.

Leslie Bourne must surely be awarded the grand medal for stamina as an interesting speaker for he captured the undivided interest of all present for a period of no less than 2½ hours! A brief account of his experiences follow.

In the country of his boyhood, Richmond in Surrey, the trains had been recently electrified, and one day, while observing these smokeless wonders, the local parson happened to come by (on his bicycle of course) and, observing the interest displayed by the young lad in the electric 'engines', asked if he was interested in electrical gadgets. During the conversation which followed the parson mentioned that he had two brothers, both engineers - one designed clocks, and the other brother was an electrical engineer, their surname - Hope-Jones! The basis of a long friendship was established, and much later, in 1927 Frank Hope-Jones introduced Leslie Bourne to a certain Mr Compton - a well known builder of pipe organs in Gt Britain. When Mr Compton learnt of Les's desire to build England's first electric organ, he lost no time in putting him to work. The experiments began with 'electro-phonics' organs and progressed to pedal organs employing tuned reeds, but the greatest effort during that period was centered on photoelectric generators. However, while results were encouraging, the lack of a suitable photosensing device caused attention to be transferred to a new system of tone generation, and in 1927 he produced his first really successful instrument using the electromagnetic tone wheel generators. This system did not get into production however, as Mr Compton (the boss) felt that it had unrealistic attack and decay characteristics (key clicks) and would not therefore be a satisfactory substitute for the pipe organ. Moreover, being a pipe organ 'purist', borrowed tones were considered by Mr Compton to be unacceptable. It was a somewhat disappointed Leslie who, in the thirties started on his now famous electrostatic generators. Over the years many improvements have been effected, and one of his most difficult problems was to overcome a fairly high signal noise level. This was achieved by applying a certain bias voltage to one component of the electrostatic generators. Today, the 10" belt driven discs contain some 30 notes each, and it is claimed that the 8 ft Diapason, as engraved, is complete to it's 64th harmonic! This feature, combined with careful attack and decay, has satisfied most of the pipe organ purists. To produce a chorus effect, a system of four speakers mounted at the ends of four slowly rotating arms, produce small frequency shifts due to doppler effect. At any instant one speaker is approaching the listener while another is receding, thus producing one frequency below and the other above the generated frequency. The result is that there are virtually three slightly differing frequencies reproduced from one original tone, this produces a very satisfactory chorus effect.

During the question time which followed, Leslie Bourne stated that their biggest installation of a Compton electronic organ was in the Royal Festival Hall. The specification included five 32 ft ranks, and a total audio power output to the dozens of speakers of some 2,000 watts!

EDDIE AIKIN REPORTS ON FENELON CONCERT.

A letter from our member Eddie Aikin in New Zealand arrived today giving a report on TONY FENELON'S briefconcert stop-over in New Zealand on his way to America. Eddie is the owner of the WurliTzer organ installed in the Tokoroa High School auditorium. TONY played for the assembled High School pupils at a morning concert in which he was filmed for NZ TV News. Eddie describes the evening concert as being a huge success and is certainly well pleased that his WurliTzer has at last broken through and got itself on the NZ television scene.

Your Editor never ceases to be amazed at the enthusiasm and drive of our member Eddie Aikin. Without benefit of a committee to carry some of the work load for him, he single handedly presents visiting organists in concert on his WurliTzer for the public enjoyment. Not only has he the huge amount of promotional and organisational work on his hands, but he also faces the task of tuning and servicing the organ before a concert. He has presented ANN HOLMES, VIC HAMMETT, DENIS PALMISTRA and TONY FENELON. Few organ enthusiasts anywhere, have done more than he, or are/deserving of thanks.
more

The following article appeared in the pages of the "North Shore Times" complete with a picture of the console shortly after the wraps had been removed. The publicity gained by the Society through this type of article is immeasurable and does much for our public image.

"1925 ORGAN SINGS OUT. MUSIC TO PAY BY...?"

When the doors of Willoughby's heralded new town hall open for the first time this year, visitors should not be surprised if a fog horn echoes down the corridors. If jingling sleigh bells or sombre cathedral chimes give them a jolt as they queue for a dog license they need not worry. The lyre bird of the music world - the WurliTzer Organ - may be showing its paces.

Members of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia persuaded Willoughby Council to install the organ in stage two of the civic center scheduled to be finished "some-time this year". The organ itself will be known by generations of Northsiders who went to the old Arcadia Theatre in Chatswood. It was installed in the hey-day of the silent films in 1925. For forty of the golden years of the movies, the WurliTzer organ used its full amazing range.

When the theatre was demolished in 1962 trustees offered the organ to Willoughby Council free of charge. The offer was accepted. Then came the problem. What to do with a grand old theatre organ that would need at least 2,000 cubic feet of space?

This is where the Theatre Organ Society stepped in. Enthusiastic members of the fast growing Society - they don't like the word "fanatics" - offered to help install the organ in the proposed town hall. The organ is being lovingly unwrapped at Willoughby Municipal depot where it has lain for eight years.. Council employees and music lovers are working together to restore the organ to its former glory.

Aldermanic apathy about the project was dispelled by a Council officer who is a member of TOSA. He reminded them of the enterprise of Marrickville Council in giving the "Prince Edward" theatre organ a home. "Music and organ lovers would be thrilled to hear this organ in Chatswood", he said. TOSA members echoed these sentiments. The organ will take its place in the main hall of Willoughby's proposed \$600,000 town hall.

VICTORIAN TOSA PRESIDENT VISITS SYDNEY.

Mr Alistair Pritchard, President of the Victorian Division, was in Sydney for a brief business visit of a couple of days, during the last week. He was made very welcome by our President who took him to Marrickville for an inspection of our organ. Alistair played the instrument and said he liked the theatre sound of our WurliTzer.. The two Presidents held helpful discussions on TOSA matters especially in the fields of co-operation between the Divisions. We were very pleased to see and welcome the live-wire Victorian Division President. Alostair also rang your Editor and we held a long telephone discussion. It was he who furnished TOSA News with the information about what is on in Victoria in July (see page 4) as the latest edition of "Vox" has not yet arrived.

TOSA MEMBER ILL. Our member, Ted Heath, who has not enjoyed good health for some time, has been ordered by his doctor to complete rest. He is confined to bed and has been very ill. The Society hopes that it will not be too long before Ted is up and about again, and we send our best wishes to him for a speedy recovery.

SUCCESSFUL ORGAN PARTY.

The organ party held on Saturday night June 20th was a very enjoyable and successful evening, it was reported to TOSA News. The party went on until well after the midnight hour, all present seemingly reluctant to leave. Among those who played Neville Wright's Conn Theatre spinet, were PETER GROVES, Des Russell, LANCE WELLS, and a surprise packet in the shape of Mrs Pat Stapleton, a relative of our hosts, who, during the supper break sat down at the console and started to pur forth some very nice noises. Also playing the organ was member Sydney Foster formerly with Western Suburbs Cinemas and the Victory Theatre Kogarah. Nowadays he is a music teacher out Bexley way. If you should be needing a teacher phone him at 59-1836. The sum of \$26 was raised for the organ fund and we sincerely thank the hosts, Mr & Mrs Neville Wright for their hospitality and help to the fund.

STATE THEATRE WURLITZER RE-JUVINATION.

A Sub-Committee consisting of Ian Somerville, Jack Lawson, John Atkinson, Robert Gliddon, John Andrews, Allan Tranter and Barry Tooker have been carrying out a considerable amount of work on the State Theatre Wurlitzer in recent weeks. During quite a number of midnight to dawn sessions, four chests have been overhauled, the console has received internal attention, swell shutters have been attended to, (50% of the shutters did not operate) nor did 60% of the dampener motors on the swell shutters thereby contributing to the noise level. The 32' Diaphones, situated under the floor in the front and back stalls, now are connected and working. Much work remains to be done on the console casework and the keyboards, but already the work done has made an enormous difference to the organ.

It is requested that visitors do not go to the State Theatre as the Management have a limit on the number of TOSA members who can be present at each work session, and this number is covered by the working party itself. SORRY - NO VISITORS.

NEWCASTLE HAMMOND SOCIETY NEWS.

The Newcastle Hammond Society proudly announces the appointment of its President, DAVID PITTS, as organist at the new Kensington Theatre. This is the first new theatre opened in Newcastle for 40 years and first one in Australia for many years with organ installed. DAVID plays the overture to the show "My Fair Lady" and again during the interval on a Conn Theatrette organ. The theatre is a delight for all patrons. The decor is most beautifully planned, extremely comfortable, the 70mm screen perfect, and accoustics really tops. Congratulations to DAVID from TOSA. Its really great to hear of a NEW theatre these days, and especially so when an organ is installed for the opening night. Newcastle is indeed fortunate.

TOSA CAR BADGES.

As advertised on page 7, members can now have a TOSA badge in the rear window of their cars. The badge, produced by the South Australian Division, and available to members throughout Australia, is a beauty you'll be proud to display on your vehicle. After all, with so many people carrying badges advertising commercial trivia such as plugs for radio stations (sic) and drinks etc, it is a refreshing change to see a tasteful car sticker proudly proclaiming that the driver is a member of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia. Your Editor and our Secretary are now proudly sporting their badges, and arrangements are being made for a supply to be available at a function in the near future. You will thus be able to buy them on the spot in stead of having to write to South Australia for them.

TERSE VERSE TIME AGAIN.

The article on page four about Liberace and his alcove installed theatre organ, inspired a terse verse this month - the first for a long time. So here goes with the latest demented stanza.

Liberace's theatre organ, installed in his home,
Fills the house with sweet music right up to the dome,
He sits at the console, tuxedo electrically lit,
Lee and organ in the alcove? Could be a tight fit..

Till next month,
Organically yours,
THE EDITOR.