

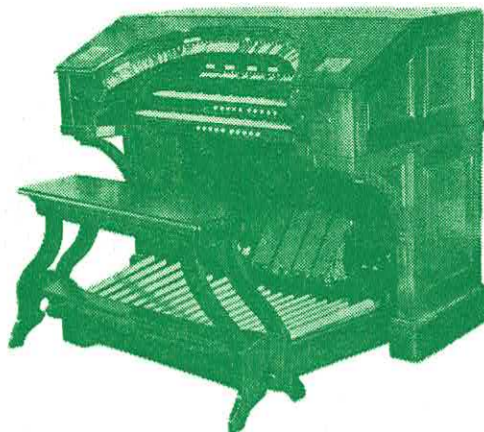
T.O.S.A. NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE DIVISIONS OF N.S.W., QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PATRON: REGINALD DIXON, M.B.E.

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



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1st APRIL 1969.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW SOUTH WALES IN APRIL.

FRIDAY 11th APRIL AT 8pm at Wadsworth's Music Store in Railway Arcade, Darcy Street Parramatta (Town Hall side of Railway Station and less than 100 yards distant). There will be a demonstration of a revolutionary new color organ, on which Wadsworths hold the world patent. The color changing unit is, in fact, manufactured in the Parramatta district. In addition, there will be several organs available for members to play. There will be no charge for this function - it is a FREE night, so come along and see this new development for yourself. The Ladies Committee will serve tea and biscuits, during the evening.

SUNDAY 20th APRIL AT 2.30pm. The first FREE public concert for the 1969 season on our Wurlitzer in the Marrickville Town Hall, will take place on the above date. This is a FREE concert to the general public as well as our members, so invite as many of your friends, neighbours, relatives or workmates as you possibly can. The more you bring along the better, so why not let your hair down and invite as many as you possibly can. Our member DAVID PARSONS will be featured at the console of our Wurlitzer for this Sunday afternoon event. SUNDAY 20th APRIL AT 2.30pm.

WEDNESDAY 23rd APRIL AT 8pm. "MEET YOUR ORGAN" NIGHT.

All members are invited to a "Meet Your Organ" night at the Marrickville Town Hall on the above date. There will be NO FEATURED ORGANIST on this occasion - each playing member is asked to bring along music to play TWO ITEMS on our Society Wurlitzer. During the evening, there will be guided tours of the organ chambers in groups of three or four at a time. THIS FUNCTION IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY - NO VISITORS OR FRIENDS. There is no charge for admission - it is a FREE night and membership cards should be produced at the doors. Tea and biscuits will be served during the evening. Come along and "MEET YOUR ORGAN" on this first occasion that the instrument is to be open for full inspection. PRODUCE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD AT DOORS.

THERE ARE THREE FUNCTIONS DURING APRIL AND ALL ARE FREE ONES FOR YOUR PLEASURE AND ENJOYMENT - SO DO COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE BY A LARGE ATTENDANCE.

COMING EVENTS.

There will be a Wurlitzer organ concert by a leading organist on our own organ at the Marrickville Town Hall during the month of May. It will take place on a week night and full details will be given in the next issue of TOSA News. There will also be a visit to a well known church pipe organ during May.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Members of the Committee are reminded that the April meeting will be held on Monday 7th April, and the May meeting on Monday 5th May at 7.15pm in each case. The June meeting will be on Monday 2nd June.

TOSA NEWS DEADLINE.

All Interstate Divisions, or any member with news items or advertisements for the May issue of TOSA News, are reminded that the deadline for all copy will be Friday April 18th. Advertisements for members are free of charge. They should be kept as brief as possible, and be sent to Frank Ellis, 16 Delhi Street, Lidcombe 2141.

LOOKING BACK AT LAST MONTH.

As the only function for March was the DENIS PALMISTRA concert on Sunday March 30th, and TOSA News went to press six days before the event, this review will appear in the May issue.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

T.O.S.A. continues to grow in all States and we are indeed delighted to welcome the following new members and extend to them an invitation to attend if not all, then as many functions as possible. You'll meet many friendly folk who have the same interest as yourselves - we hope you enjoy The Society and the companionship of your new friends. Hallo now, to the following new members :-

N.S.W. Division.

Mr & Mrs John Lawson - Miss Pamela Lawson - Miss Ruby Findley - Mr & Mrs A. Dunn - Mr H.K. Barnwell - Mr & Mrs C.J. Smith of Bateman's Bay and Mr Gordon E. Ellis of Forbes.

Queensland Division. Mr & Mrs L. Johnson

Gold Coast Chapter. John Simon - Bruce Small - K.J. Flaherty - G.R. Richardson - G. Thompson - J. Maittlen and K. Holmes. (Mr Bruce Small is the Mayor of Surfer's Paradise)

West Australian Division. Donald Everett - Mrs Margaret Mountier - Donald R. Webster - William Platt - Mrs Aurelia Bergin - Ross Surman - Kenneth & Shirley Morgan and DON KINGSTON of U.S.A. (DON KINGSTON joined during his visit to Perth)

PIPE ORGAN PURCHASE FUND.

The Society gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following amounts to our Pipe Organ Purchase Fund, and sincerely thanks those responsible. George and Joyce Walker the sum of \$45.40 the proceeds of the organ party held at their home during February. From the Sale of a DICK SCHRUMM record \$3 donated by our members in America, Mr Dick Schrumm and Russ Evans who sent us a large parcel of records some time ago. These are selling steadily and adding to the fund month by month - we are very grateful to these members whose loyal help we have received from so far away - distance seems to be no bar to organ lovers.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS (Reported by Neville Seymour)

On Sunday 23rd February the Gold Coast Chapter held their monthly meeting at the residence of Mr Keith Moore, Isle of Capri. I was greatly impressed by the friendliness of all at the meeting and the keenness of the members to have a go. They have some fine up and coming organists. The next meeting was to be on March 30th at a location to be advised. Prior to the normal monthly meeting there was to be a recital by DON KINGSTON in Sufer's Paradise on March 23rd. The April meeting will take place at the residence of Mr Arthur, 18 Coyne Street, Kirra on Sunday the 27th.

On February 25th the Queensland Division held its meeting at the home of Vice-President Claude Harrington of Chermside, and the evening was voted a great success. We were honored to have LES RICHMOND play for us in his own masterful style. LES is just recovering from a long illness and all present were delighted that he is regaining his health and strength again. His playing was indeed delightful. Mrs Harrington sang some enjoyable songs during the evening and it is a great pity that we have not been hearing more of her vocal efforts. Perhaps if Claude helps with the housework, we may hear more in the future. How about it Claude??

The progressive dinner held on March 8th was our greatest evening yet. We started at the home of Mr & Mrs Len Hinds, where soup was served in the garden setting. At the appropriate time Len despatched his guests to the home of Mr & Mrs Hal Whitehouse for the second course. After a slight delay, due to members getting lost, they were welcomed at the Whitehouse home with ice-cold fruitcup followed by fish, chicken and spaghetti bolognese. High praise was passed for the cooks, then it was on to the Harris residence for steamed pudding and custard followed by tea and biscuits. During the latter part of the evening, we were entertained by Mrs Harris at the Hammond model H, and she was followed by Claude Harrington and Norm Lewin. We were then entertained by our Honorary life member WILBUR KENTWELL who rendered "Sound Of Music" selections Mr Midgeley also showed his versatility on the Hammond H. The highlight of the evening came from WILBUR who played softly and sang to us some of his old favorites over the years. We were amazed at his knowledge of the lyrics of these old numbers as they came forth without any seeming effort on his part at all. We sincerely thank WILBUR for this nostalgic excursion into the past which he presented with such feeling.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS (cont)

The evening ended at 12.40am with 100% vote for more of this type of function.

March 24th is a very big occasion for the Division. We are to be honored by a recital from DON KINGSTON at the Riverside Ballroom. DON will be associated with WILBUR KENTWELL in this prestige show. Whitehouse Bros, the Conn retailers, are making a charge of 50¢ per person for the concert and the proceeds will go to the Queensland Division Pipe Organ Fund. This is a very generous offer from Whitehouse Bros and the Society is very grateful to them. The progressive dinner mentioned earlier in this report was attended by 65 members and resulted in a good profit for the Organ Fund.

WEST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION NEWS (Reported by Ray Clements)

On February 24th the Yamaha dealers of Perth got together and presented the new Yamaha E3 at Harper Hall. Mr Ted Worsely from Melbourne was the demonstrator, and several TOSA members were on hand to entertain the audience of 350 people.

Those members who missed the TOSA picnic at Peter Fry's farm at Benger really missed a treat. Those of us who made the trip had a most enjoyable day and evening. Pete has a Conn Minuet organ which was well and truly put through its paces. Those playing were Peter Fry, Ray Clements, Max Bell, John Green, Dot Arndt. Mrs Fry prepared a delicious barbeque tea for us before we left for the return journey to the city around 8.30pm.

The March meeting was held at the home of JOHN FUHRMANN, and after a rather lengthy business section, JOHN started the entertainment with some selections on his Lowrey Theatre Organ, followed at the console by Rheta Weston, Ray Clements, Margaret Mountier, Jim Thompson and Dot Arndt. A brief spot of humour came with the introduction of "Fats" Fuhrmann and "Motes-art" Clements, suitably decked out in tails with wigs and bowlers, to play a selection of piano and organ duets. At the conclusion of each duet, "Motes-art" rose and bowed gracefully, whilst "Fats" Fuhrmann flicked ash from his cigar over the nearest members of the audience. The act certainly raised a lot of laughs, and added to the evening's fun. During the evening, the sum of \$8.20 was raised for the Pipe Organ Fund with the raffle of some organ records donated by JOHN FUHRMANN.

DON KINGSTON IN CONCERT. On March 12th, the South Perth City Hall was packed with over 640 people for DON KINGSTON'S second concert in Perth. By 7.30pm, Committee members were kept very busy bringing in extra chairs, even so, by the time the concert got under way there were a number of patrons in the "standing room" only section. From the start, the concert was a huge success and MR KINGSTON'S playing of the Conn Theatre organ was superb. Once again, he delighted his fans with "The Chicken Reel Polka" which he played as an encore by request.

Anthony Taylor, Secretary of the South Australian Division of TOSA spent a few days in Perth recently, and was made to feel very welcome by the Committee.

NEXT MEETING IN PERTH. The April meeting is set down for Tuesday 15th at the home of member Dot Arndt, 175 Tenth Avenue, Inglewood 6052.

TOSA News Editor, Frank Ellis, has received the second issue of the West Australian Division's Newsletter, "The Cipher". Once again TOSA News congratulates the boys in the West for an excellent job of work. Volume 1 No.2 is even better than No.1.

OPEN LETTER FROM CONCERT RECORDING COMPANY.

Dear Member,

We have a problem. Our expansion in Australia since the Club was founded in 1967 has been so unexpectedly rapid that we find we are unable to keep up full supplies of records to you each month.

This may be the last letter you will receive in the mail for several weeks. During this period our business in Australia is being 're-organised'. Concert Recording (Australia) will be set up, and will function in a manner to give more direct service to our members.

What does this mean to you? It means that many exciting organ records of all types (Theatre Pipe Organ, Classic Organ, all makes of electronic organs, even mechanical player organs) will be released on a regular schedule each month. An improvement in our preview selection sheets will improve your choice of records.

(Continued on page 4)

We plan to produce tapes once again. We also plan to instal some of the finest American tape-master equipment to ensure that our planned programme of recordings of famous Australian Organs will meet the highest standards of fidelity.

This letter takes the place of your usual preview this month. We do still have available stocks of most past releases, should you wish to avail yourself of the opportunity to catch up on missed issues. Please be patient with us until our re-organisation is complete.

John Clancy - Manager.

RECORD REVIEWS.

Concert Recording's "Organ Of The Month" Club release, this month has a very special significance to all members of the NSW Division of TOSA, and perhaps for members of the Society in other States also, for it is of an Australian Organist and a well known local installation.

GUEST REVIEWER. This month's record has been reviewed by Rod Blackmore

<u>TITLE OF RECORD</u>	"ESPECIALLY FOR YOU" RECORD NUMBER IS CR-0032
<u>THE ORGANIST</u>	DENIS PALMISTRA
<u>THE ORGAN</u>	2/15 WURLITZER OF CLANCY RESIDENCE, WENTWORTHVILLE NSW.
<u>THE PROGRAMME</u>	Averedeci Roma - I Wish You Love - La Serenata - La Golondrina - This Is My Song - My Heart Reminds Me - Blue Hawaii - C'Est Magnificique - Pagan Love Song) I'm In Love With A Wonderful Guy.

Some old favorites are captured on this disc, but you won't want to buy just because of that; you'll buy because they're styled by DENIS PALMISTRA. Here is an organist who has updated the traditional approach to these numbers, a master of the glissando, an expert in the nuances obtainable from swell pedal technique, an artist with a fearless bass toned to the expressive needs of every item.

Stereo reproduction is good; you are taken clear across the Clancy music room in some of those exciting glides. And this disc drops you right in the midst of full-bodied theatre sound, completely live, not weak or pipey.

A bouncy rendition of "Averedeci Roma" exploiting the tibia ranks moves through a fully chorded section for variety, brings out the exceptional Vox, and ends with judicious use of tympani to set this record in motion. Moving through a quiet (mainly tibia) number, "I Wish You Love", the organist gives a "composer's recital" of "La Serenata" (Leroy Anderson's not Braga's) demonstrating a strong, but definitely not mechanical, counter melody.

"La Golondrina" is played with restrained beauty - very different to the bull fighting atmosphere achieved by some organists with this piece. Effective use is made of the chrysoglott here, its sound being much stronger in this residence installation than in a theatre. For a full theatre sound, the first section and coda of "This Is My Song" would be hard to equal, while the melody is delightfully intervened.

Piano, stereo-balanced against strings introduces "My Heart Reminds Me", moving into a confident beat with a strong counter melody, climaxing with a full organ without tremulants. At times languid, with a tropical flavour not over emphasising the glockenspiel, "Blue Hawaii" gives way to an up to the minute performance of "C'Est Magnifique" - hear those untremmed trumpets snarl, hear that full throbbing tremmed finale !! Almost an evergreen, "Pagan Love Song" with the Palmistra touch involving clever use of the swells and terrific pedal glissandos creates an unparalleled island mood. The L.P. concludes with "I'm In Love With A Wonderful Guy" exploiting the full range of the organ - ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.

R.D.B.

LOCAL RECORD NEWS. Seen in Woolworth's record bars recently is "VIC HAMMETT AT THE BUCKINGHAM WURLITZER" on Saga label number SOC 1037 at the bargain price of \$1.75. Yes, you read it right the first time. Also to be seen, if you like to look for it, is VIC HAMMETT "WURLITZER 69" on Phillips label. This is the disc VIC made on the Victorian Division's Dendy WurliTzer. Another one which will become a collector's item in the years to come, if it is not in that class already, is TONY FENELON'S "WITH A SONG IN MY HEART". This is, apparently, the last record made by TONY on the lovely Regent Theatre Melbourne 4/19 WurliTzer, now removed from the theatre. This disc is even better than the previous one played by TONY on the same organ for Crest Records and which featured Academy Award Winning Movie Songs. According to the grapevine, they can be had at Winton Music Centre as well as other record bars.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWS From The Vox Newsletter. March issue.

The Victorian Division has announced details of their two day Convention to be held on Easter Saturday and Sunday, April 5th & 6th. On Saturday afternoon there is to be an organ crawl to three members homes. These are timed for 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm. The afternoon will be followed by a Theatre night at the Dendy Theatre, Brighton, where DAVID JOHNSTON will be at the console to play both before and after the picture programme. The film will be "Doctor Zhivago". On the Sunday morning at 9.30am, there will be a concert at the Dendy Cinema by members of the Division. At 2.30pm in the Moorabbin Town Hall a programme of music will be presented as demonstrations of the latest electronic organs. There will also be an opportunity for those interested to inspect the progress of re-installing the 4/21 Wurlitzer in the Town Hall, after a brief descriptive talk of the whole project is given.

The Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Division resulted in Max Kuhn being elected as President, Roy Preston as Vice-President, Irene Veale as Secretary and Bruce Ardley as Treasurer. After four years as President, Alan Glover retired from the Presidency due to further responsibilities in connection with his work.

CHARLES TUCKWELL's recent concert for the Victorian Division at the Dendy Cinema, is glowingly reported by The Vox, and it seems very obvious that our CHARLES was very warmly received by our Sister Division, who hope to have him back again.

WELL KNOWN ORGAN DEALER PASSES AWAY.

The Society was shocked to learn of the sudden death of John Wills on the seventh of last month due to a fatal heart attack. His personality and business ability had made the firm of Rees Wills Pty. Ltd., one of the leading organ retailers in Sydney. In addition to being the franchise holder of Lowrey organs, Mr Wills was responsible for the first two, and as far as TOSA News is aware, the only two Rodgers three manual Theatre organs into this country.

He was a loyal supporter of T.O.S.A. although not a member, having been ever ready to make organs available for Society functions. There was always a warm welcome for TOSA members who dropped in, even if only for a chat. His services to the Society in the sale of tickets for our concerts has been an example of warm and very generous co-operation. John Wills was not a man to do things by halves. Having offered to sell tickets for the opening of the Society Wurlitzer at Marrickville Town Hall, he took it upon himself to advertise the function in the Morning Herald entirely at his own expense. When thanked by your Editor for this fine gesture his reply was that he wanted to see the Society achieve a full house for this big event. We have lost a loyal friend and ally in John Wills, and we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife in her sudden and tragic loss.

At the Service at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium Chapel, the Society was represented by our President, Mr Tom Halloran.

FOR SALE.

SPECIAL LOWREY CORONATION ORGAN WITH FULL PEDAL BOARD AND LESLIE SPEAKER.
PRICE \$2,500 TELEPHONE 38-3857

FOR SALE

Current model LEAK STEREO 30 watt TRANSISTOR AMPLIFIER. Less than .1% distortion. Imported from England. Has had little use and is in mint condition. PRICE \$130 Write to Harold Duffell, Box 2923 G.P.O. Sydney 2001.

OVERSEAS TRIP FOR MEMBER.

TOSA member Colin Tringham will be flying to the U.S.A. early this month on a combined business and pleasure trip. Colin will be away for about three months, and has planned a visit to the A.T.O.E. Convention as a highlight of his tour. TOSA News hopes for a full report on the organ scene in America as well as a resume of their Annual Convention. Col has just built an electronic rhythm unit and will exhibit this to the Society when he returns (if some one else doesn't beat him to it). Any member who desires to contact him in the USA should write to :- Colin Tringham, C/- Compugraphic Corp., 66 Concord Street, Wilmington, Massachusetts, 01887, U.S.A. TOSA News wishes him a happy and successful trip and hopes that he will find time to drop us a bulletin or two. Make sure you take our address down before you leave Col.

TECHNICAL LECTURE ON LOUDSPEAKERS (Second part) by RAY GARRETT
(Reported by Des Russell)

On Saturday evening, 1st March, an enthusiastic group of approximately twenty members enjoyed the second half of RAY GARRETT's lecture in a relaxed atmosphere now traditional to the home of Mr. & Mrs. ARTHUR SPRING. A great deal of very useful information concerning the design of loudspeaker enclosures was covered during the lecture. A brief summary follows -

When contemplating the construction of an organ sound system, choose a suitable speaker first and 'tailor' the cabinet dimensions to suit the speaker specifications. If circumstances are favourable use a three-speaker system, Bass, Midrange and Tweeter. Instal cross-over networks between amplifier and speakers, so that the bass speaker (12" 15 watt) will receive the low notes in the range of 30 Hz to 500 Hz, the midrange speaker (6 to 8" about 10 watts) will handle from 500 Hz to 3kHz, and the remainder of the audio range will be handled by the tweeter 3kHz to 16 kHz. The power handling capacity required of the tweeter is modest and there are several moderately priced 3" to 4" units specially manufactured for this purpose. Such a three speaker system will not add greatly to the cubic capacity of the bass speaker enclosure but care should be taken to provide air pressure isolation between each speaker. It is usual for speaker manufacturers to provide the midrange and tweeter speakers with complete steel housing at the rear of the speaker cones. This provides satisfactory air pressure isolation and thus allows one to safely instal the three speakers in the one enclosure. It is understood that the speaker enclosure should be very rigidly constructed and the ideal unit will emit no sound whatsoever from its panels. In practice this is not too easy to achieve unless one 'goes the whole hog' by constructing the enclosure of concrete or brick. A good compromise can be obtained by using chip board of not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ " thickness. When construction is completed, the enclosure should be tested for resonance (or rather the lack of it) and this is achieved very simply by imparting a mechanical impulse to each of the panels in turn. If any resonance can be detected, glue a few edgewise struts to the inside surfaces of the offending panels.

As the enclosure will not be handling frequencies above 500 Hz, the necessity of filling the interior with the best quality synthetic fibre is of doubtful value. Ordinary carpet underfelt would probably serve the purpose well enough.

In consideration of the cubic capacity for a fully enclosed bass speaker (as distinct from the vented enclosure) 10 cubic feet was the recommendation here for the 'better than average' quality 12" speaker. The mounting position of the speaker in the enclosure is not critical, but the centre of the panel is a bad choice.

Most people realize that the room in which the speaker is installed will have a profound effect on its reproduction. Some worthwhile improvement in the pedal section of an organ can be effected by placing the speaker unit in the corner of the room allowing the walls and floor to act as reflecting planes. The corner location can improve the effective low frequency radiation of the speaker by approximately four times. For best results, choose a large room (for most of us it's Hobson's) as good low note response is hard to obtain in small rooms. It is of interest to note that the reproduction of a pure tone requires a room at least half as long as the wavelength of the note. Thus bottom C at 32 Hz (wavelength 35 feet) would require a room of at least 17.5 feet in length.

Finally, the lecture terminated with a practical demonstration of the cross modulation effects produced by a speaker, leaving no doubts in the minds of those present that a multispeaker system is the only satisfactory way to avoid cross modulation.

Following a spirited question and discussion time, members were treated to a workout of Arthur Spring's latest "Spring-Thing" by PETER HELD, DAVID PARSONS and others. This organ now contains a much expanded range of voices as well as a special effects unit. It is hoped that it will not be long before the instrument is finalised, when it will be possible to arrange a concert hall demonstration.

RECEIPT DUTY (TURNOVER TAX): As from 1st February, 1969, the N.S.W. Division will be paying the new (State) Receipt Duty by periodical returns. The Commissioner of Stamp Duties' approval number is R114100 and members may consider this number as having been shown on all receipts issued on and after that date.

TECHNICAL LECTURE IN MAY.

A late announcement from the Technical Committee advises that there will be another lecture in the series on Saturday 3rd May at 8pm. This will be held at the home of our members Mr & Mrs Arthur Spring. The lecture will be given by member Eric Mirovitch, and his subject will be "Aspects of Tuning". All those planning to attend should phone Des Russell at 42-4729 a few days before and make a reservation.

NEWCASTLE HAMMOND ORGAN CONVENTION.

The Newcastle Hammond Organ Society Convention which is to take place on the 3rd and 4th of May was announced in last month's TOSA News. We had expected to give further details of the function this month. However, these have not come to hand as yet, and as our next issue will not be printed early enough to give this information in time to be of benefit to those planning to attend, you are advised to phone John Clancy about the middle of April for this information.

PRACTISE SESSIONS ON SOCIETY WURLITZER.

The Society thanks those members who sent in letters to the Secretary requesting practise times on our Wurlitzer, when these become available in the near future. When details are finalised, an announcement will be made in TOSA News.

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST WURLITZER WITH HORSE-SHOE CONSOLE. ???

Our member LANCE WELLS presented John Clancy with a tastefully printed invitation card to attend a "Welcome to EDDIE HORTON" evening at the residence of Mr W.A. Crowle at Potts Point. The invitation stated that EDDIE HORTON was to play the Crowle residence Wurlitzer, which, later was installed in the Civic Theatre at Auburn, and is now in the residence of John Clancy. The invitation stated that MR HORTON had been engaged to play the Wurlitzer Hope-Jones Organ then being installed in the Prince Edward Theatre. As the invitation card was dated for Wednesday September 17th 1924, this means that the organ now owned by John, was actually playing two months before the Prince Edward organ which opened on 22nd November 1924. This was the same day that the Melbourne Capitol theatre opened its doors. Our references for these dates are:- The Diaphone Volume 3 No 2 - "Au Revoir To The Capitol Wurlitzer" programme printed by the Victorian Division - and the photo album of the late Mr W.A. Crowle, who was the Wurlitzer representative in Australia.

C.O.S. REMEMBERS AUSTRALIA'S BARRIE BRETTNER

The English Cinema Organ Society Newsletter for January mentions the paragraph in TOSA News August 1968 concerning the serious accident suffered by famous Australian theatre organist, BARRIE BRETTNER, and the details of his long hospitalisation. Very obviously, BARRIE is well remembered in England for his many fine organ presentations for the members of the C.O.S. hastened to send their best wishes to him for a speedy and complete recovery. A very nice "hands across the sea" gesture.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT OUR WURLITZER????

The Society wishes to expand the maintenance crew on our Wurlitzer at Marrickville Town Hall. Realising that many members may like to have the opportunity of working on the instrument are reluctant to come forward and offer their services because of their lack of knowledge of the work involved, the Society has decided to train those who would like to take this opportunity, by having them work with experienced organ crew members during work sessions at Marrickville. This will lay the foundation for further maintenance crews, who would then become available for work on other organs or for special projects in the future. If you would like to join the crew and enjoy working with them as you learn, then phone President Tom Halloran at 523-5077 for further details. See you soon at Marrickville????

DEL CASTILLO'S PRIMER OF ORGAN STOPS.

Secretary John Clancy still has a few copies available of famed American organist DEL CASTILLO'S "Primer of Organ Stops". This interesting booklet, which sold in the U.S.A. at \$2 can be bought for only \$1.50 while they last. Written by an organist of wide experience it is full of serious and humorous explanations of the origins of the organ's stops. Write to John if you would like a copy.

EDITOR SAYS THANKS TO VICTORIA MEMBERS.

During my recent visit to Melbourne, I had the pleasure of seeing Irene Veale (Sec) and Julian Arnold (Editor - Vox) and having a long and interesting talk with them. They very kindly showed me over the installation being carried out at the Moorabbin Town Hall by the Division, and I was able to see the members at work on the huge 4/21 Wurlitzer formerly in the State Theatre. This is going to be a very fine installation indeed when completed, and they are to be congratulated on their great enthusiasm for the project. Thank you Julian and Irene for your courtesy. I was also taken to dinner by my friend Tony Fenelon and afterwards to a concert in which Tony appeared at the console of a Thomas organ and gave his usual brilliant performance. I was also the guest of members Russell and Nancy Giles at their home where Tony and his parents were also guests. We had a wonderful night with the Giles and their two Yamaha organs. My thanks to Tony, Russell and Nancy also. My old friend Arnold Coleman took me to lunch and we spent several happy hours in a reminiscing mood about his years at the State Theatre organ. Thank you Arnold. It was all very enjoyable and far too short.

VIC HAMMETT'S NEW ZEALAND TOUR. (Material furnished by Eddie Aikin - Tokoroa)

A packed house greeted English theatre organist VIC HAMMETT when he appeared in concert at the console of the Wurlitzer organ in the Tokoroa High School Auditorium, last September. MR HAMMETT with his humorous chatty vein soon established friendly relations with his audience usually introducing each item with an appropriate story. His mastery of the Wurlitzer is complete, using solo stops with beautiful accompaniment where the music dictated or rising to stirring crescendos in climaxes.

MR HAMMETT enthralled everyone with his impression of how Mozart would have arranged "Tip Toe Thru The Tulips", it was played in every musical form in the traditional manner. MR HAMMETT concluded his programme with a moving rendition of "We'll Meet Again", "I'll See You Again", and "Now Is The Hour" and received a great ovation from his audience. The concert was arranged by our New Zealand member Eddie Aikin, a tireless worker for the cause of theatre organ in that country.

Eddie Aikin has sent us a comprehensive coverage of the entire event from the splendid publicity material used to advertise the show, to the half page or more "write ups" of the event. As well, he included a splendid collection of photos of the HAMMETT visit which will be passed on to the Editor of The Diaphone for his use when space is available.

VIC HAMMETT also played a full programme for the High school pupils the following morning, demonstrating to them how the Wurlitzers used to be used for the accompaniment of silent movies. He described an imaginary plot to them and then played suitable music to fit the plot. He also showed them the use of the percussions. Finally, he recorded two broadcasts for the NZ Radio network before he returned to Australia for his final concert on the Clancy Wurlitzer before his return to England.

VIC HAMMETT made a tremendous impression on the Tokoroa people, and in thanking him, the Mayor, said that he hoped it would not be too long before VIC returned to visit them once again.

Eddie Aikin is to be congratulated for his initiative in arranging the concert and thereby helping tremendously to generate interest in the Wurlitzer organ again. Since the VIC HAMMETT visit, Eddie has presented one of Australia's greatest theatre organists, DENIS PALMISTRA in a concert on the same Wurlitzer. He has clearly demonstrated that New Zealand can take its place in any scheme to set up a circuit of Wurlitzers in Australia when overseas organists are coming to this country.

A TRUE STORY. A member's wife who enjoys organ music, but does not share her husband's fanaticism for the jargon associated with the instrument, was having some difficulty (as we all do at times) in recalling the name of an acquaintance.

"I always think of her name as Hope - just what is it again?"

"It's Miss Jones"

"Well why do I keep calling her Hope Jones? Do we know some one of that name?"

"Only the inventor of the mighty Wurlitzer"

"Oh no ! I've been brainwashed"

And to conclude another true one - I know, because I heard this myself.

Young Girl in train to boy: "Gee you're rude - I'll tell my mother and she'll hit you"

Boy: "Yeah ! What with?"

Girl: " My father" !

WHICH JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU.