



SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE

(No.5 April / May 2013)

SUNSET STORAGE CALL

Besides use of various sea containers and company storage facilities pieces of equipment from the national collection have been stored with members for safety reasons and to ease the pressure of finding more storage space. Storage coordinator Graeme Lacey is reaching the point where he can arrange for equipment held on behalf of AMMPT by members, to be relocated at our new centralised storage facility at Sunset Hospital. If you have national collection equipment in your possession which needs to be shifted please contact Graeme on telephone 9275 6559 so a move can be scheduled.

HERITAGE MONTH DISPLAY – APRIL 18th – May 18th

Member Jillian Carlson is arranging a heritage display in the foyer of the Cygnet Theatre for AMMPT Western Region. The display will feature posters, significant historical photos and some cinema equipment from the national collection. Both the theatre owner Colin Stiles and manager Graham Kahn were supportive of having a display. Heritage Month advertising will recognise AMMPT Western Region's support.

APRIL 17th – RSL HALL FRED BELL PARADE BENTLEY 7PM for 7.30PM

“Museums and Web Pages”

Communication and information are the lifeblood of community groups. Andrew Bowman shares his experiences and considerations when designing an effective webpage. The Carnamah Shire some 300km from Perth has developed a website using a variety of communications technologies to communicate with residents using Andrew's expertise. His knowledge has previously been shared with community and single purpose museum operators in WA.

Members attending the “Projectionists” evening with Bill Gaynor, George Robinson and Roy Mudge were fascinated by the tales, both serious and funny, that were shared by the three presenters. A number of photographs previously unseen by those in attendance generated many questions and comments. The meeting closed at 10pm and attracted members from as far away as Bunbury. A tremendous spirit of camaraderie prevailed. Those who were unable to attend will ultimately be able to view the presentations which were filmed by Peter Goodall and Ken McKay.

CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN – 21st APRIL – NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Our well attended March Cygnet Theatre film showing of “A Tale of Two Cities” corresponded with St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Our live pre-show organ music entertainment included well known Irish tunes. “Northwest Passage” starring Spencer Tracy and Robert Young will continue the 10.30pm Sunday morning 2013 Classics of the Silver Screen series on April 21st. The MGM film is set in the mid-18th century during the French and Indian War and involves a raid to avenge the many attacks on Canada's British settlers and deter further attacks. If you have friends and acquaintances who might be interested in attending a show, why not send them this broadsheet or direct them to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZby_hrm75Q?

MORE MUSEUM EQUIPMENT

Using his contacts in the television industry Ross McDonald has obtained a 1” Video recorder for the national museum. These machines were used for playback of programs and commercials. In this instance the machine came from Westlink Network part of the Department of Local Government and Regional Development. The Network runs a statewide program service for educational and health purposes via satellite. The recorder is reported to be in good condition.

see over

ADMINISTRIVIA

Following up various matters raised by members at the last AGM the AMMPT Western Region committee has decided to have the organisation's books audited annually. Although not required in our constitution or by the Western Australian Associations Incorporation Act, the amount of money being handled by the committee warrants this risk management and transparency initiative.

GRAND CINEMAS

Following discussions between Grand Cinemas chairman Colin Stiles and AMMPT Western Region President John Fuhrmann the Grand Cinemas Board has agreed in writing that some equipment currently being replaced by digital systems will be made available to AMMPT. This includes Kinoton and Cinemeccanica 35 mm projectors.

MEMBER SNAPSHOT – BARRY GOLDMAN

Having a father who was an escapologist made it inevitable that I would enter the entertainment industry. Being a frequent attendee at Saturday matinees in the Claremont and Cottesloe Theatres during the 1940s and 50s provided a taste of the atmosphere. Like some others in the industry, I helped my Fremantle Boys teachers with the showing of 16mm films. Actually, one teacher had a room, set up as a theatre with bio box.

When school finished I became an apprentice electrician with the SEC and learnt skills useful in later life in cinema maintenance. At the same time Arthur Brewer employed me part time on some Friday and Saturday nights as assistant projectionist at the Claremont and Swanbourne Picture Gardens.

Through chance after getting married in 1960 the wife and I moved into a house in Outram Street West Perth next to a new neighbour in Lionel Hart who owned the Liberty and Savoy Theatres. I soon had a penguin suit and became night time doorman at the Liberty. Many dignitaries used the private box with its speakers and lounge chairs at the Liberty. Governor Sir Charles Gairdner loved the complimentary chocolates and wine.

On New Year's Day 1962 Lionel Hart took over the Windsor Theatre and my career progressed to assistant projectionist on Wednesday and some Saturday nights. I was a busy boy continuing with my SEC job during the week as well. The film Lawrence of Arabia arrived in 1963 and work was required to install a 70mm screen and new curtains in dust and unbelievable heat in the roof. Six nights per week assisting Ivan Fel, Albert Buckingham and Bill Smith was a big learning experience.

Later while still working at the SEC, I moonlighted at the Premier Gardens 6 nights a week showing Italian and Greek films. I vividly remember a projector take-up belt breaking and leaving 1800ft of film on the floor which I kicked aside to get the next reel ready.

In 1970 I started a 36 season engagement at the outdoor Somerville Auditorium for the Festival of Perth. Over that period at different times I shared work with Hedley Sims and George Robinson. One sobering experience was water that was not rain, but the sprinklers coming on in the middle of the show. We stopped the film brought up the house lights and waited while I found the off-site power for the pumps. Doesn't this sort of thing always happen at a changeover? On leaving the SEC in 1994 and living in Nedlands I was able to work for UWA repairing spotlights and stage equipment and I have continued to do some of this work for AMMPT.

I'm now a resident of Ocean Reef and a few years back joined projectionist Hedley Simms at the Cygnet. Really, I'm the Lonnie Donegan of WA Cinemas (I've been everywhere man). Drive-ins at Dowerin, the Skyline and Cunderdin. Hardtop theatres such as the Liberty, Savoy, Oxford, Windsor, Cygnet, Premier and Hamilton Hill Hall. Gardens theatres included the Claremont, Swanbourne and Graylands.

I worked anywhere to satisfy my love for the "palace of dreams" whether it was indoors or outdoors. It gets in your blood.