



FROM THE EDITOR

NEW ROLE FOR JACK WATLING

Many TABS readers know Jack Watling. For seven years 'Our Jack' restlessly patrolled the Pennines and the South Lancashire Plain for Strand.

More recently he has traversed a wider world of tundra and alpine meadows in our cause.



Now another widening of the Watling horizon. He has joined that new and rumbustious offspring, Strand Commercial Lighting, as their Export Sales Manager where his role will be the ever wider spreading of the ENVIRON range of dimmers. For details of the revolutionary ENVIRON 2 see page 31.

If readers wish to continue receiving TABS after they have moved house or theatre it would be most helpful if they could advise us of their change of address.

It would also be very helpful if they gave their previous address because we don't have a crystal ball on our desk and it is probably only because the TABS secretary can recite the mailing list backwards, and recognises

TABS AND MOVING HOUSE

names that she can trace them from county to county.

If you wish to receive TABS on a regular basis, but do not get your own personal copy, write to me at P.O. Box 51, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9HR, England, giving me the

address to which you wish your copy to be sent, and explaining your interest, and we will be pleased to add you to our new computer list.

We are happy to send TABS twice a year (at somewhat irregular intervals, depending on the Editor's work load) to Architects, Consultant Engineers, Theatre and Television folk and, of course, anyone interested in amateur and educational drama.

NEWS FROM THE GOLDEN WEST - STRAND CENTURY

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TO: RICHARD HARRIS, EDITOR, 'TABS'

FROM: SUSAN DANDRIDGE, STRAND CENTURY

STRAND CENTURY'S PARTICIPATION AT THE UNITED INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF TWO NEW MEMORY CONSOLES. MANTRIX 2 AND 2S. THE PHENOMENALLY SUCCESSFUL MANUAL CONSOLES ARE NOW JOINED BY A MEMORY MODULE! THE MEMORY PORTION OF THE SYSTEM MAY BE INCLUDED INITIALLY, ADDED LATER, OR PURCHASED AS A SEPARATE CONSOLE TO WORK EITHER WITH THE MANTRIX OR INDEPENDENTLY!

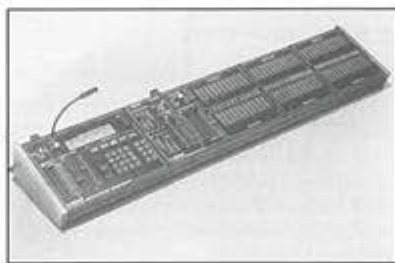
MANTRIX MEMORY FEATURES INCLUDE AN LCD WINDOW FOR DISPLAY OF CHANNELS AND LEVELS, SPLIT CROSSFADER, A WHEEL FOR LEVEL OR RATE CONTROL, LIVE OR BLIND RECORDING DIGITALLY AND FROM THE MANUAL POTENTIOMETERS, ELECTRONIC PROPORTIONAL PATCH AND OVERLAPPING SUBMASTERS. UP TO 288 DIMMERS MAY BE CONTROLLED ON 12 TO 84 CHANNELS. SOLID STATE CARTRIDGES PROVIDE LIBRARY STORAGE OF RECORDED INFORMATION.

CREATING EVEN MORE OF A STIR WAS THE ELEGANT NEW MINI LIGHT PALETTE, AN ADVANCE IN MID-RANGE CONSOLE DESIGN. THE PROVEN RELIABILITY AND MANY OF THE OPERATIONAL FEATURES OF THE ACCLAIMED LIGHT PALETTE ARE INCORPORATED INTO A COMPACT PORTABLE CONSOLE.

NEW FEATURES OF OVERLAPPING SUBMASTERS AND PROPORTIONAL PATCH ARE COMBINED WITH MULTI-PART CUES, SPECIAL EFFECTS, WHEEL CONTROL OF CHANNELS AND RUNNING FADES, AND TWO GREEN PHOSPHOR VIDEO DISPLAY SCREENS. LIBRARY STORAGE IS PROVIDED BY FLOPPY DISCS. THE STANDARD SYSTEM BACKUP ALLOWS DIMMERS TO BE PATCHED TO 12 INDIVIDUAL MANUAL FADERS! IF ADDITIONAL BACKUP PROTECTION IS DESIRED, A COMPLETE DUPLICATED SET OF ELECTRONICS MAY BE HOUSED IN THE CONSOLE! MINI LIGHT PALETTE CONTROLS UP TO 384 DIMMERS ON 200 CONTROL CHANNEL AND OFFERS A FULL RANGE OF OPTIONS.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS' CONVENTION, HELD IN LAS VEGAS AND ATTENDED BY OVER 65,000 PEOPLE, SAW THE NEW MANTRIX MEMORY, MINI LIGHT PALETTE AND THE NEW TELEVISION VERSION OF LIGHT PALETTE. DESIGNED FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF TELEVISION PRODUCTION, TV LIGHT PALETTE OFFERS 13 PILE ON SUBMASTERS WHICH CAN BE INSTANTLY LOADED WITH GROUPS FOR MANUAL ACCESS TO LIGHTING LOOKS! TWO SPLIT CROSSFADERS PROVIDE PLAYBACK CONTROL OF MANUAL OR TIMED CUES! FEATURES INCLUDE IMMEDIATE MODIFICATION AND RECORDING OF ACTIVE SUBMASTER INFORMATION, MANUAL FADING OF RUNNING EFFECTS, ASSIGNMENT OF DIMMERS AND THEIR LEVELS TO CHANNELS, AND COMPLETE DISPLAYS OF ALL CHANNEL LEVEL, CUE AND PLAYBACK INFORMATION. FOR CONTROL OF UP TO 288 DIMMERS A 24 CHANNEL MANTRIX 2S WITH TRANSFER SWITCH IS PROVIDED AS A MANUAL BACKUP CONSOLE, OR TV PALETTE MAY BE PROVIDED WITH A COMPLETE DUPLICATED SET OF ELECTRONICS HOUSED IN THE MAIN CONSOLE.

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CENTURYST LSA
VIA ITT 23



Mantrix 2.



Mini Light Palette.

END OF A THEATRE LIGHTING ERA



End of a Theatre Lighting Era - but everybodys looking very cheerful about it! Our photo was taken at a presentation to Fred Bentham - former TABS Editor and Technical Director of the old Strand Company, when Mike Lowe the General Manager and Director of Strand presented to Fred the very last Patt 23 that can, or ever will, be made.

Unfortunately diligent research does not reveal the actual number made but the best indication is that it would be about 500,100. Officially half a million have been made but of course there were pre-production prototypes, odd units used for proving tools etc. that found their way into the Hire Department and are no doubt still

in use somewhere so one cannot be exactly certain.

I suppose if any one lantern symbolised British theatre lighting it was probably the Patt 23. It was even used by the post office when the philatelic bureau at Edinburgh used it in outline for cancelling first day covers of the British Theatre issue of postage stamps. It is extraordinary to think that it was over thirty years ago that the Patt 23 was introduced.

Originally the Patt 23 was intended for a 250W lamp then, it was somewhat grudgingly approved for 500W and we know that brave spirits all around the world have from time to time used 650W TH lamps!