

looked spectacular on the color television screen.

The camera work by the three camerapersons (one, a petite young lady) was outstanding. Both the long-range shots and the close-ups of the keyboard showed off the Marr & Colton to full advantage. Nancy and Rosa chatted first about the organ with Rosa explaining its mysterious workings and demonstrating some of its capabilities. They reminisced about Rosa's experiences as a theatre organist accompanying silent films, and she illustrated just how it was done by accompanying a portion of an old Laurel and Hardy silent comedy, *The Finishing Touch*.

With the advent of talking pictures, Miss Rio continued her musical career playing the organ for radio programs, and she shared some amusing anecdotes connected with her radio experiences. The television audience was also treated to the familiar themes that accompanied such programs as *Ted Malone — Between the Bookends*, *Mert and Marge*, *Lorenzo Jones*, *Front Page Farrell* and *My True Story* — to name only a few. Miss Savin also displayed the trophy recently presented to Rosa Rio by the "Friends of Old-Time Radio" for her contribution to that medium. She logged more hours than any other artist.

The last five minutes of the program were allotted to Rosa to just let herself go and give everyone a sample of the theatre organ sound at its best. The Opera House was filled with the glorious melodies of "Romance," "I Wish I Were in Love Again" and "Stella by Starlight."

The entire half-hour's taping went without a hitch and required no retakes. Credit for this was due entirely to the high degree of professionalism of these two talented ladies, and the rapport so readily apparent between them. The finished product telecast on Thanksgiving evening was a joy to the eye as well as the ear.

It is possible that this program may be made available to public television stations in other areas of the country. Anyone interested in obtaining this tape for presentation on a public television station in your area may address inquiries concerning distribution to Mrs. June L. Garen, Diaphone Editor, CVTOS, 247 Laurel Road, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089. □



Mike Ohman, '79 Los Angeles chapter chairman, presents the ATOS Honorary Member Award to J. B. Nethercutt. (Pegpic)

ATOS AWARD PRESENTED TO J. B. NETHERCUTT

Some unfinished ATOS business was accomplished during the pre-Thanksgiving Bill Thomson concert at the San Sylmar Tower of Beauty in California, that unique museum of restored vintage autos and musical instruments. Back in July, Jack B. Nethercutt, owner of the museum, was selected as the 1979-1980 ATOS Honorary Member, an annual award for distinguished service to the theatre organ. Nethercutt's qualifications for the award were formidable:

1. Underwrote the restoration of the organ in the auditorium of his alma mater, Santa Monica High School.

2. Donated the 4/20+ theatre organ to the Oakland, Calif. Paramount.

3. Donated the Foort 5/27 Moller organ to the City of Pasadena, Calif., for installation in the civic auditorium.

4. Donated the 4/22 ex-San Francisco Orpheum Robert Morton organ to Oakland's Piedmont United School District for a high school installation.

5. Donated a 2/7 Wurlitzer to the First Presbyterian Church in Phoenix, Arizona.

6. Donated a composite 29-rank Wurlitzer-Moller organ to the First Christian Church in Porterville, Calif.

The award was to be made during the ATOS Convention Banquet in July, but Mr. Nethercutt was out of the country. The San Sylmar Museum curator and program director, Gordon Belt, stood in for Nethercutt.

The final step was taken during the late November concert. There in the music room of the museum surrounded by his collection of vintage musical instruments (including a superb 4/35 Wurlitzer), and before an invited audience of friends and admirers, the award was given to Mr. Nethercutt. The presentation was made at the close of intermission, between halves of a concert performed by Bill Thomson. LA Chapter Chairman Mike Ohman made the presentation, voicing the above-listed donations. Most in the audience were unaware, until that moment, of the scope of Mr. Nethercutt's activities in behalf of the King of Instruments.

Mr. Nethercutt accepted graciously, then it was back to the concert and Bill Thomson's organ stylings. □