

OUR COLOR COVER
and
Special Insert

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ATOE member Bob Rickett of Portland, Oregon, kindly furnished the fine color cover and the insert covering his WurliTzer home installation. Many thanks Bob, from ATOE.

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theatre organ

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The excellent article, "San Francisco Bids Farewell to the Fox", brings to mind something that may be of interest. We here in the Central New York area shared indirectly with the historical "Farewell to the Fox". FM radio's "Farewell . . ." was carried transcribed over Utica, New York's WUFM, Central New York's only full time FM stereo station. The 90-minute program produced by San Francisco's KPEN-FM, was featured on WUFM's "Organ Loft" program April 28 and was the climaxing feature in a series of special programs celebrating the Organ Loft's first anniversary. The listener response to "Farewell to the Fox" was beyond our expectation, with cards, letters and phone calls coming in on the days following the broadcast, with most requesting a repeat of the broadcast. One letter may be worth while noting here. The writer indicated that the program held special significance to him and his wife as they had spent many memorable hours in the S.F. Fox Theatre listening to the mighty organ as well as watching the wife's father, Lester Whitson, of the "Whitson Bros.", perform on stage.

The management of WUFM expresses its thanks to ATOE President "Tiny" James, who made it possible through his negotiations with KPEN to get a release of the tapes of this historical broadcast, which are now on tour in the East, with Buffalo as the next major area, under sponsorship of the Niagara Frontier Chapter, to hear it.

Sincerely,
Donald P. Robinson
Organ Programs
Director
WUFM - Utica, N.Y.

Dear President James:

I am extremely ashamed of myself for not writing sooner. I do hope that you will understand that I meant to write much quicker. Please forgive me.

I am thrilled, indeed, to be accepted in your organization as a member. I do thank you and Mr. Bethard's effort for making this possible. I do hope to become a member, and an organist that



your organization will be proud to have.

I have great admiration for the late Jesse Crawford, the poet of the organ. His music, to me, is an art that sings from the heart. Mr. Bethard had kindly sent me a recording of Mr. Crawford's accompaniment technique, and I was most impressed with this. At present, I accompany Mr. Hiraoka, a famous xylophonist, every Saturday. Incidentally Mr. Hiraoka performed every morning on N.B.C. (New York) at the time Mr. Crawford also was on the air.

Mr. Hiraoka has, also, great admiration and respect for Jesse Crawford. If at all possible, I hope to become an organist whose music sings out from the soul, as his does.

I have sent a snapshot of our WurliTzer at Mitsukoshi by separate mail.

Thank you, again, for the membership. I am honored.

Best wishes to you and all members.

Sincerely,

Hiroshi Matsuzawa

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