



AN ACRE OF SEATS IN A PALACE OF SPLENDOR

By Bill Peterson, number 4 in a series

THE FOX THEATRE—SAN FRANCISCO

This fabulous theatre was designed by Thomas W. Lamb and was opened on June 28, 1929. William Fox planned this as the ultimate theatre in his empire, with a seating capacity of approximately 5000. Original blueprints called for a 1000 room hotel to be built in conjunction with the theatre, but the financial crash prevented the completion of the master plan. The Fox had a lobby finished in walnut and 18 carat gold leaf, and an auditorium with deep-set arches heavy with fresco work. There were two organs, one a Moller located on the lobby third level balcony, and the other was a Wurlitzer Crawford Special 4/36 with the main console in the center of the orchestra pit. The slave console was on the stage.

The Fox was torn down in 1963.