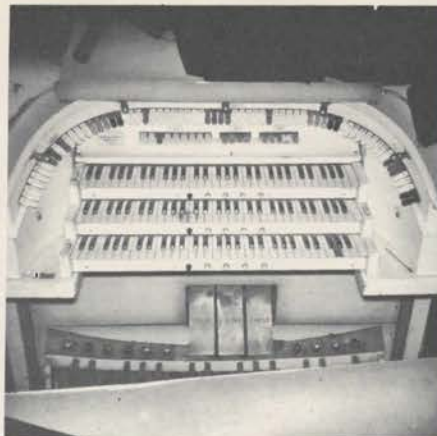


# That Legendary CAPITOL MOLLER

By David L. Junchen

Once the largest theatre organ in the Midwest, outside of Chicago and St. Louis, the 4/23 Moller which was in the Capitol Theatre in Davenport, Iowa, is now just a memory. George Bickford, former Capitol organist and now Hammondist at the Davenport Club, recalls that this was a "very fine" instrument. Although some people can't see how 23 ranks could be squeezed into the available chamber space, George recalls that all the chests were on the same level except the 4' pipes on the solo side, which were double decked.

This instrument, installed in 1920 at a cost of \$14,405, was unfortunately badly water-damaged several years after its installation. In March of 1928, Wicks rebuilt what was salvageable of the organ at a cost of \$6,375. Included in this figure were a new ivory and gold 3 manual console, new direct electric chests, and a new generator, although only 10 ranks and part of the percussions could be saved. These remains of a once-glorious instrument



Console as rebuilt by Wicks in 1928.

were water damaged again in the early forties and still again in the fifties, with the result that the organ is no longer playable, because of both water and pipe damage. Various individuals have worked on the organ in recent years, but too much work needs to be done to make it practicable. The Capitol manager extends a warm welcome to anyone wishing to see the organ, and has indicated a desire to sell the instrument.



Solo (Left Chamber)

Piano never connected to Console. There is also a Piano and Harp under the right chamber grilles.

In addition to its 23 ranks, the original organ also had triangle, castanets, Indian blocks, tom tom, snare drums, bass drums, cymbal, marimba-phone, celeste, glockenspiel, orchestral bells, xylophone, and cathedral chimes. The organ as it now stands has the following, from the shutters back:

## Specifications - Moller in Capitol Theatre, Davenport, Iowa

|   | No. of Pipes | PEDAL            | ORCHESTRAL<br>Bottom Manual | ACCOMPANIMENT<br>Middle Manual | SOLO<br>Top Manual |
|---|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>SOLO CHAMBER</b><br>Left Side Of Theatre           |              |                  |                             |                                |                    |
| Kinura  | 73           |                  | 8                           | 8                              | 8                  |
| Gross Flute   | 73           | 8                | 8                           | 8-4                            | 8-4                |
| Violin D'Orchestral                                   | 73           |                  | 8                           | 8                              | 8                  |
| Tibia Clausa  | 85           | 8                | 8-4                         | 8-4-2 2/3-2                    | 8-4-2              |
| Tuba  | 85           | 16-              | 8                           | 16-8                           | 8                  |
| <b>ACCOMPANIMENT CHAMBER</b><br>Right Side of Theatre |              |                  |                             |                                |                    |
| Vox Humana  | 73           |                  | 8                           | 8-4                            | 8                  |
| Bourdon-Flute   | 97           | 32 Res<br>16-8-4 | 16-8-4-2                    | 16-8-2 2/3-2                   | 16-8               |
| Violin  | 73           | 8                | 8                           | 16-8                           | 8                  |
| Diapason  | 73           | 8                | 8-4                         | 8-4                            | 8                  |
| Violin Celeste  | 61           |                  | 8                           | 8-4                            | 8                  |
| Marimba Harp  | 49 Bars      |                  | x                           | x                              |                    |
| Xylophone   | 37 Bars      |                  | x                           | x                              |                    |
| Cathedral Chimes                                      | 20 Tubes     |                  | x                           | x                              |                    |
| Bass Drum   |              | x                |                             |                                |                    |
| Snare Drum  |              | x                |                             | x                              |                    |
| Cymbal  |              | x                |                             |                                |                    |
| Tympani   |              | x                |                             |                                |                    |
| Tambourine  |              |                  |                             | x                              |                    |
| Tom-Tom   |              |                  |                             | x                              |                    |
| Sub-Octave Coupler                                    |              |                  | x                           | x                              | x                  |
| Super Coupler   |              |                  | x                           | x                              | x                  |