

# NBC CONVERTS EL CAPITAN FOR TV THEATRE

The El Capitan Theatre, which prior to its acquisition by NBC had been the home of such long run legitimate shows as Ken Murray's hit "Blackouts", has been converted for use as an originating point for shows for the NBC television network. In most respects the facilities provided at the El Capitan are identical with those installed at Studio D in the main plant; therefore, this discussion will be confined to points of difference between the two installations.

Prior to conversion the theatre had a stage area of 70 x 35 feet behind the proscenium arch. This has been supplemented by covering what was formerly the orchestra pit and the first five rows of the main floor seating area to provide an additional

area of 55 x 25 feet in front of the proscenium. The staging facilities which existed at the El Capitan have been retained and renovated for further use. In addition eight counterweighted battens have been installed to serve for rigging the stage lighting equipment. The stage area is lighted from four adjustable height spotlight battens, four borderlights and eight stage ladders. The side stage areas are rigged with adjustable grids holding three battens each which are raised or lowered by means of winches. Front stage lighting is provided from fifteen 20 ampere circuits in pans mounted on the front of the balcony.

The four borderlights and their controls are identical with those in Studio D. The spotlight circuits are similar differing only

in the method of selection of control dimmers. Each circuit is terminated in a Rotolector which is a 24 point rotary selector switch by means of which any circuit can be connected to any one of the 24 dimmers on the spotlight dimmer control board.

The borderlight dimmer board, the Rotolector board and the spotlight dimmer board are located on a platform 14 feet above stage level at stage right. Full communications facilities to the main control booth and to auxiliary lighting positions on stage and in the balcony have been provided at the light control position.

The control booth is located at the left rear of the main floor audience area. The

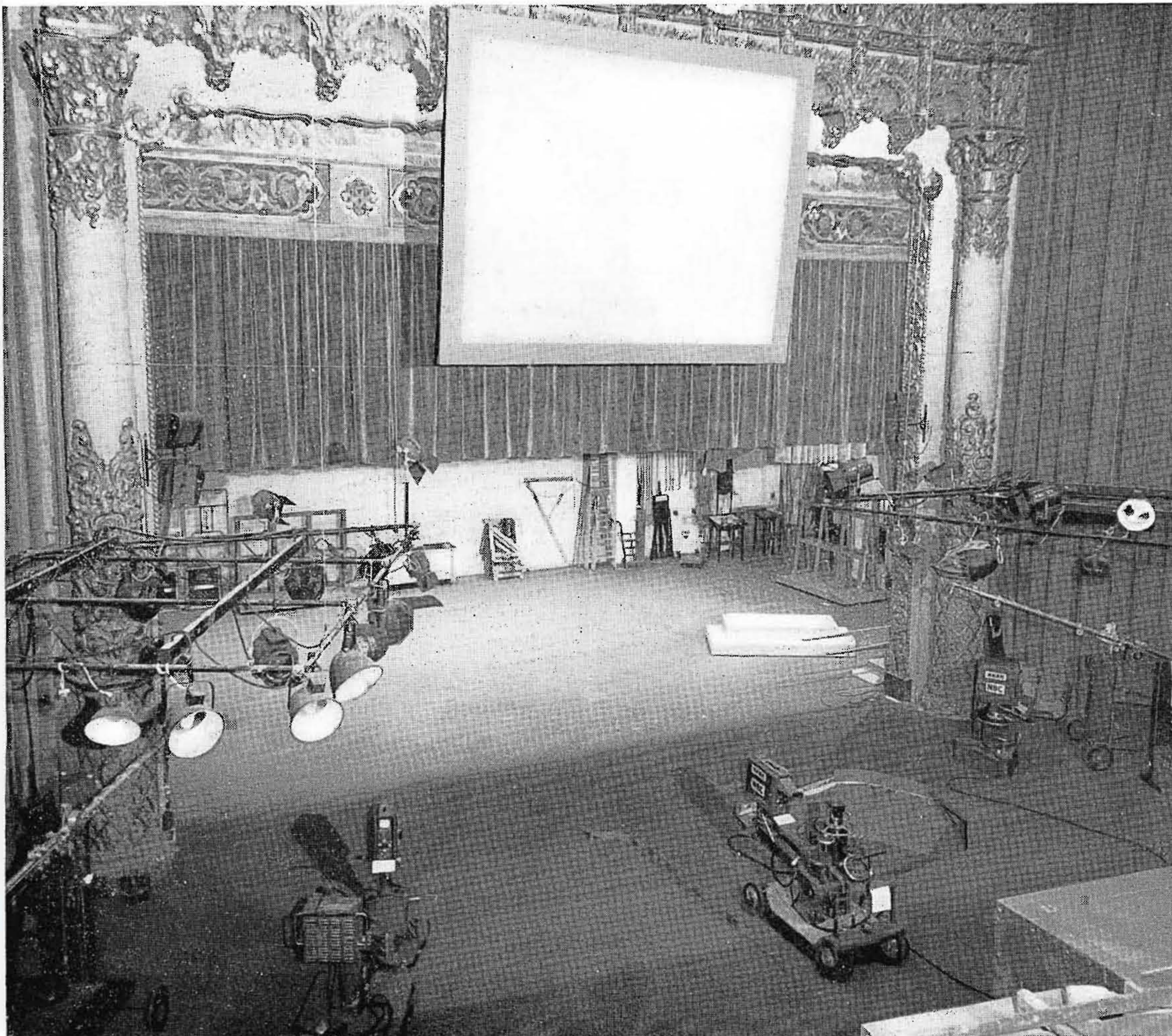
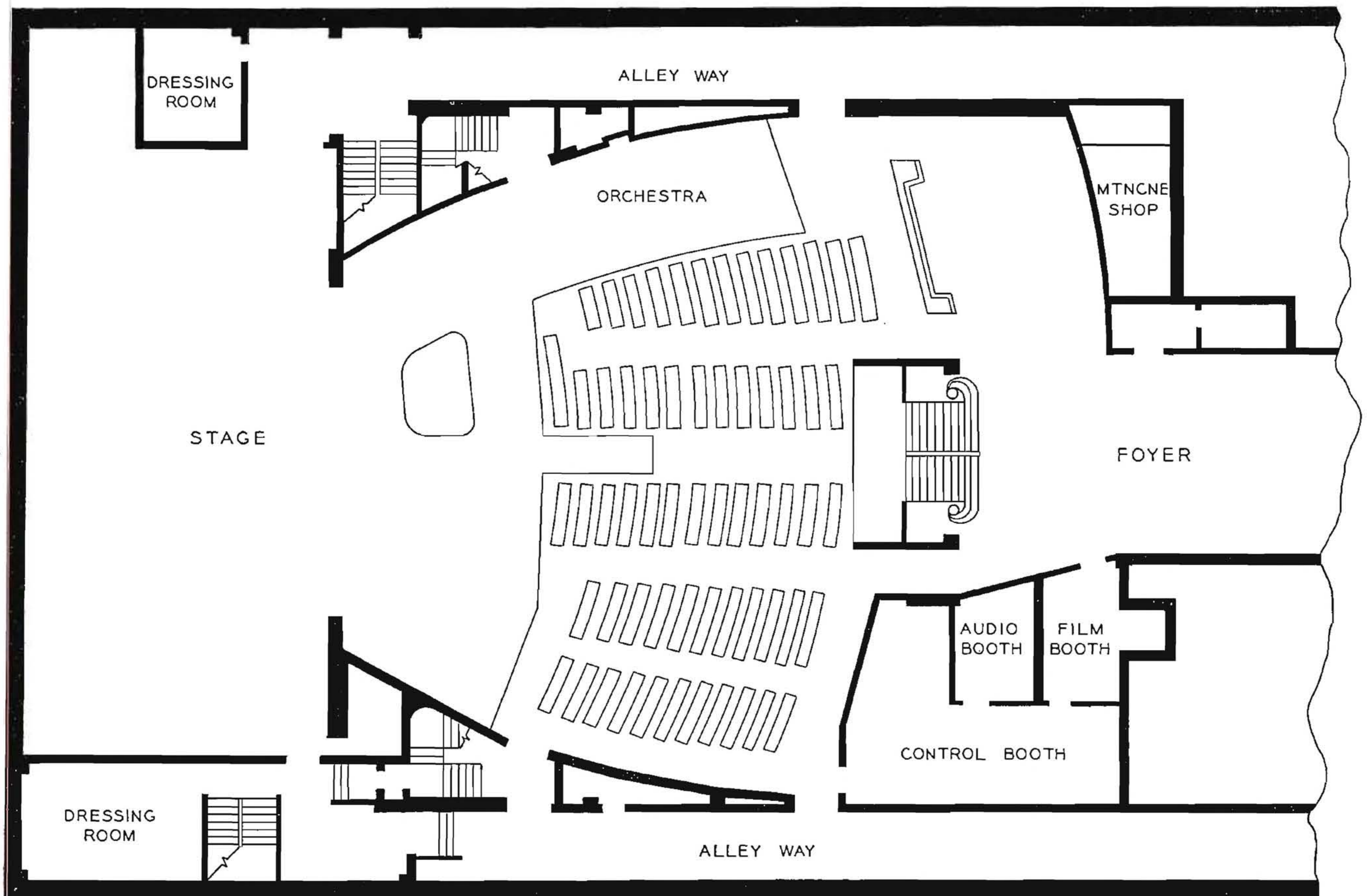


FIG. 1. View of the El Capitan stage and operating areas. An RCA PT-100A Theatre TV Projector is used to show the picture being transmitted on the large screen above the stage. Note the camera "pit" at the lower right.

FIG. 2. Photo showing the seating area of El Capitan Studio and the ramp at front over which cameras can be dollied.



FIG. 3. Floor plan of El Capitan TV "Theatre-Studio."



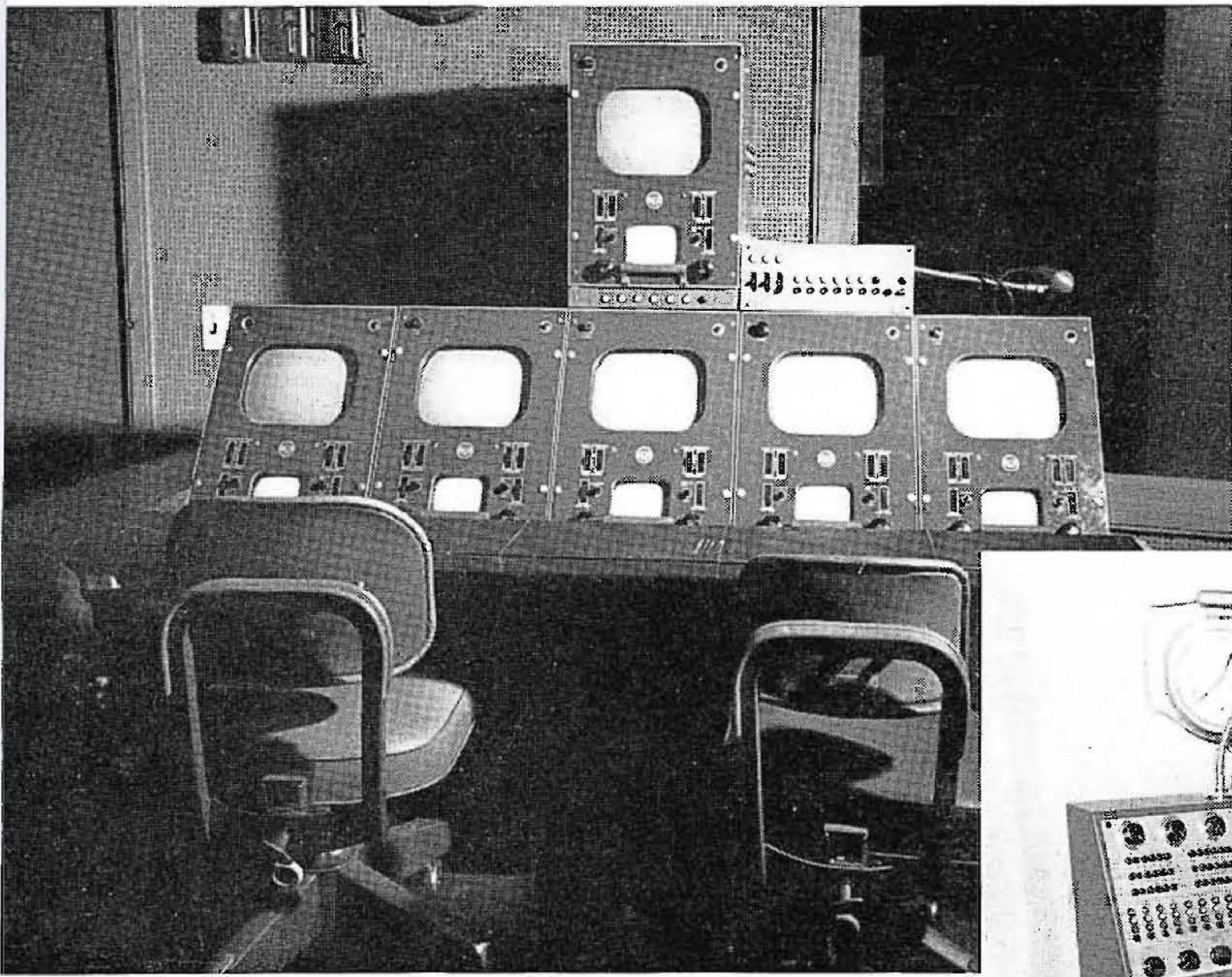


FIG. 4. Front view of video control console at El Capitan. Five monitors in console are associated with four live and one film cameras. Unit mounted above is master monitor.

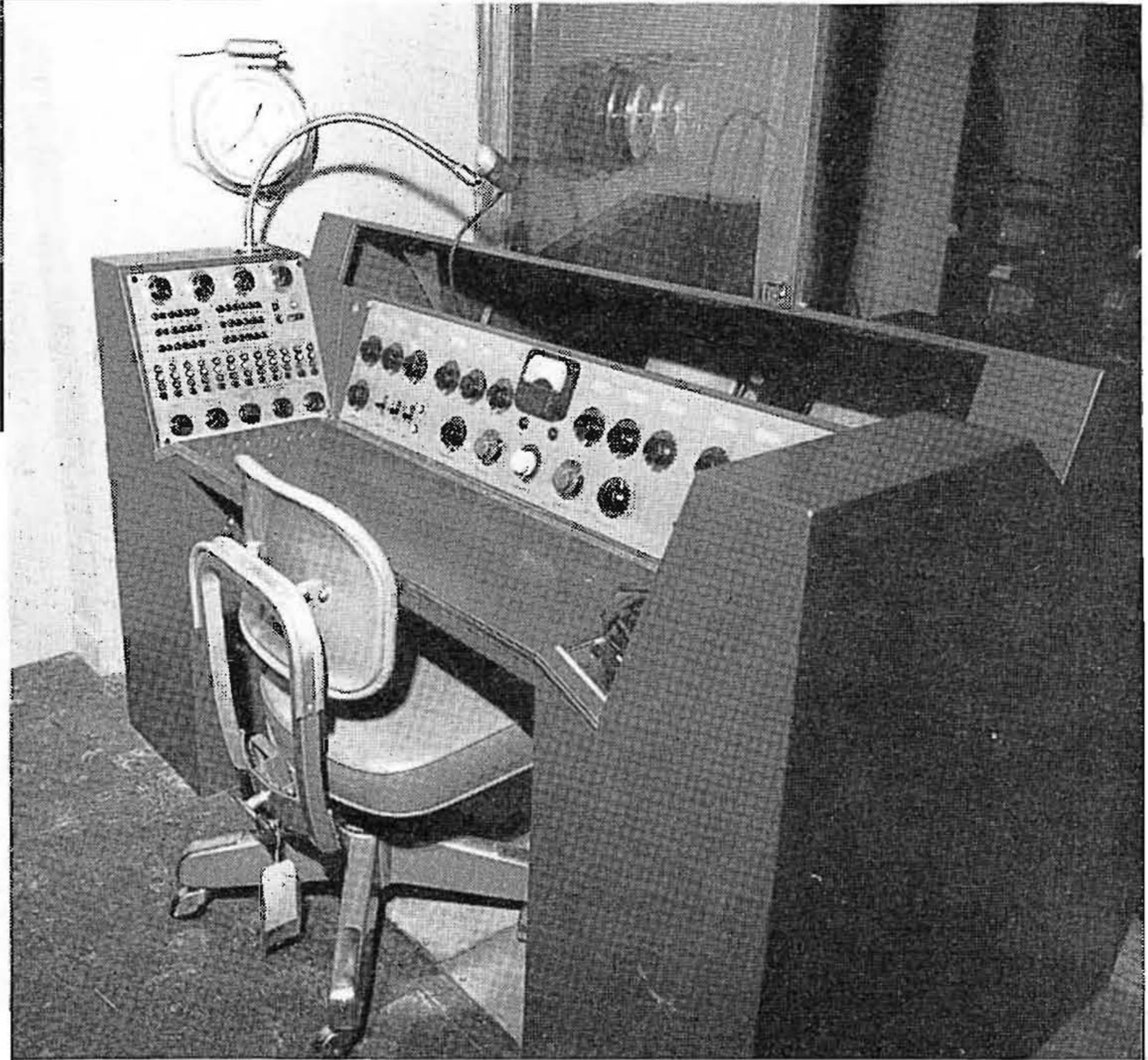


FIG. 5. The NBC Custom TV-Audio console shown installed at El Capitan theatre studio.

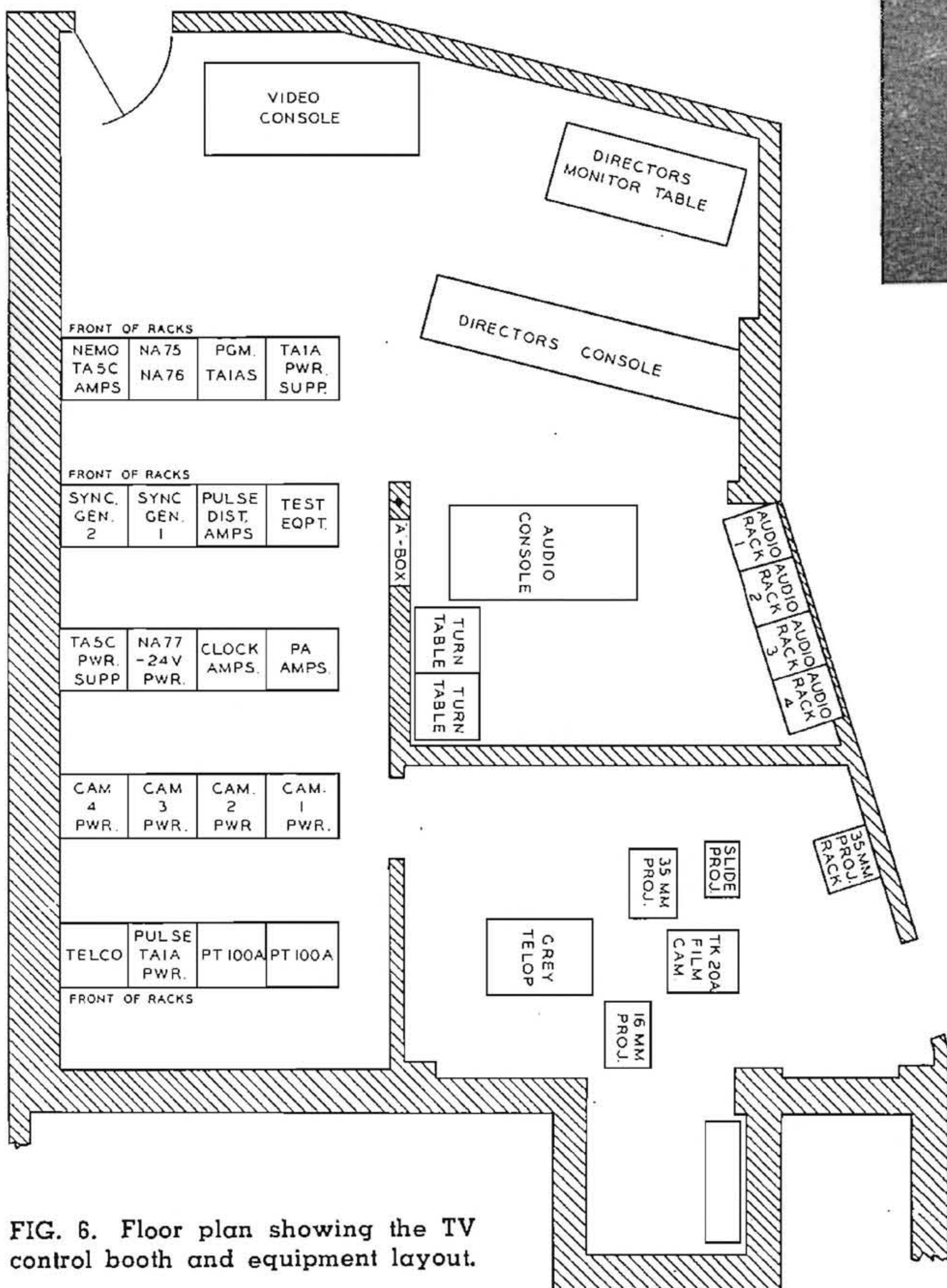


FIG. 6. Floor plan showing the TV control booth and equipment layout.

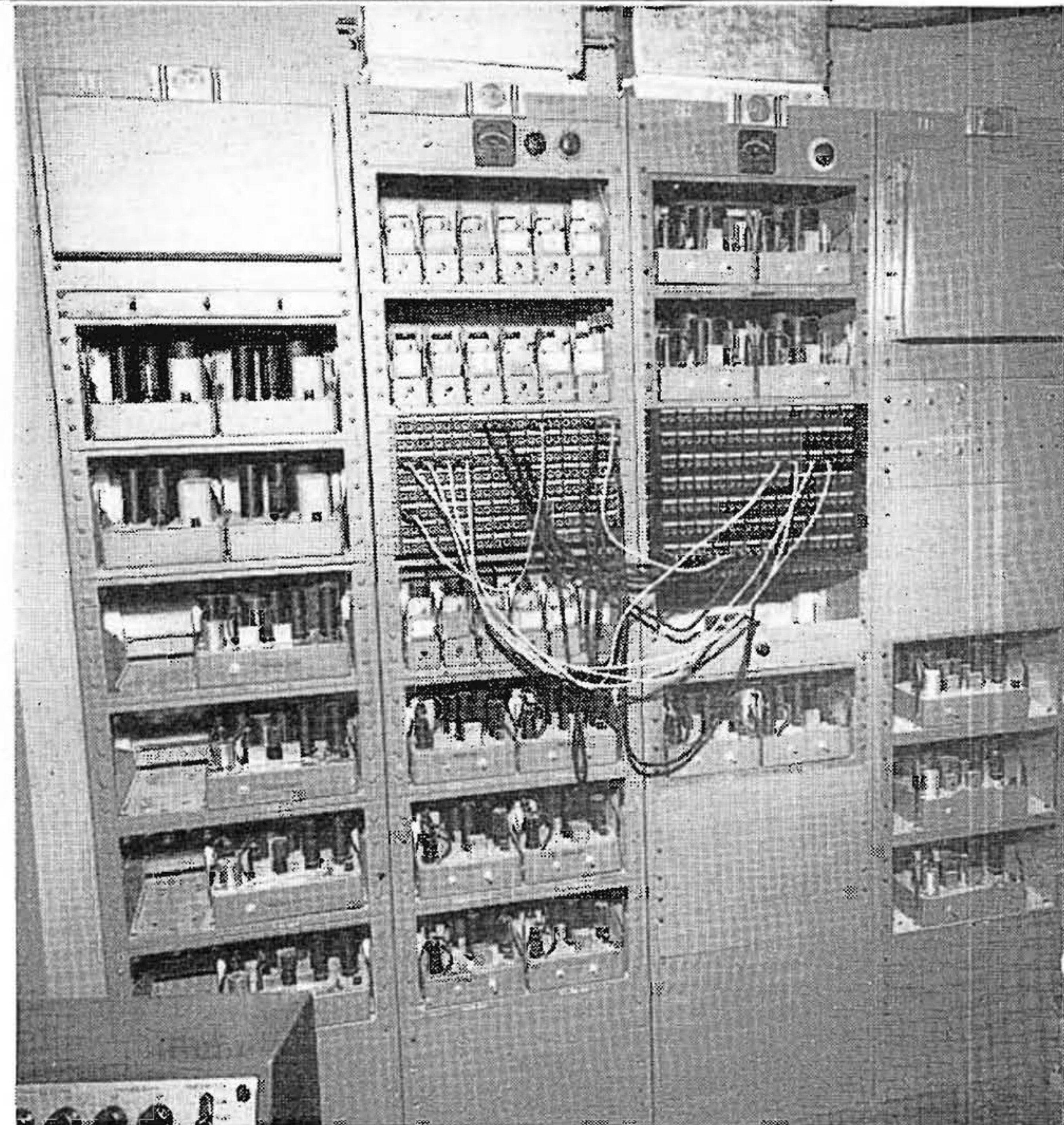


FIG. 7. View of four audio equipment racks utilized in the El Capitan studio.

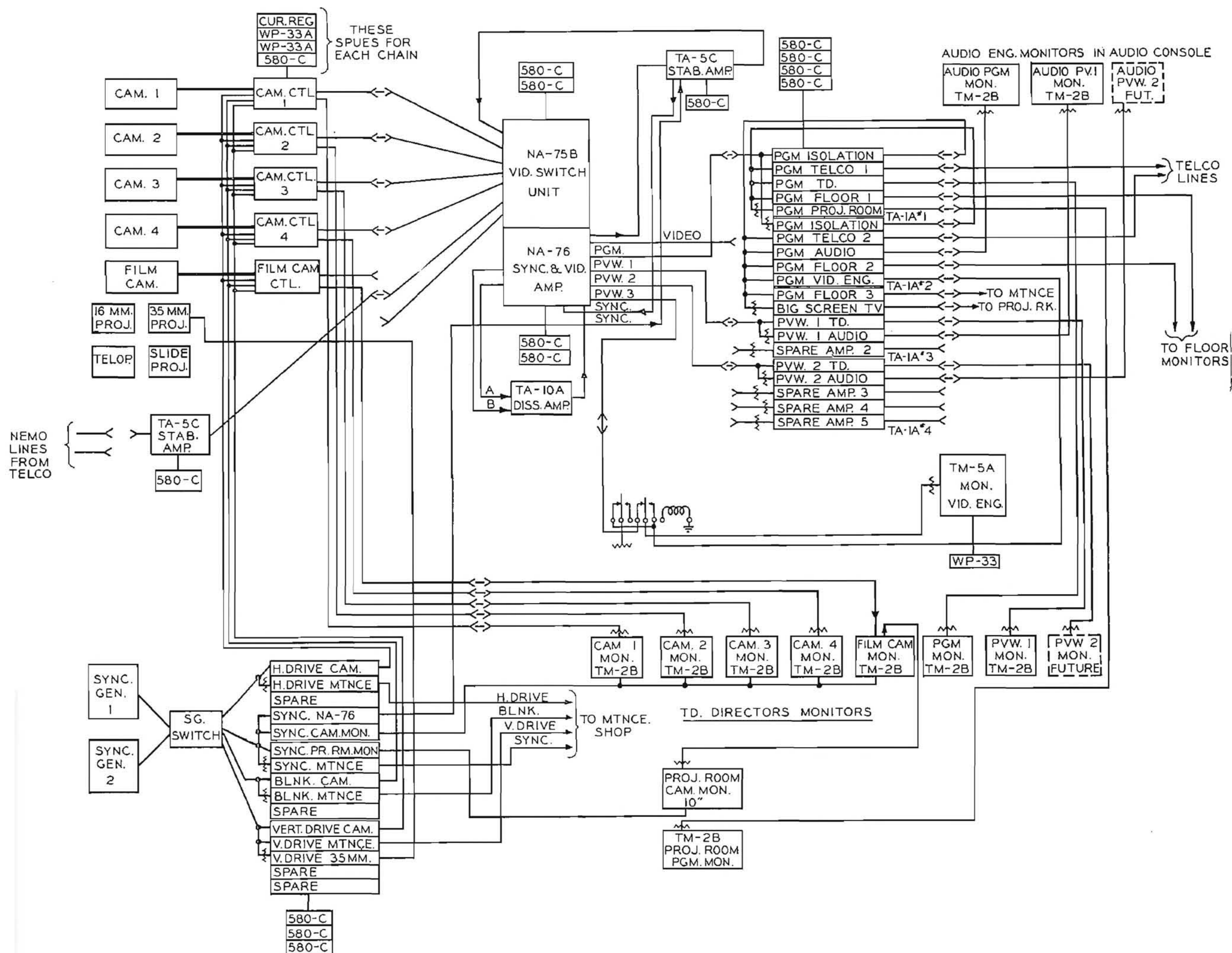


FIG. 8. Block diagram of the video system at the El Capitan.

video and audio systems for the theatre are similar to those provided for Studio D; however, being a remote origination point some additional audio and video equipment is required to feed the telephone lines which carry the studio output to the main plant master control.

In addition a film camera and complete projection facilities have been installed so that film commercials and filmed program sequences can be integrated at the theatre. The projection booth equipment consists of an RCA TK-20A iconoscope camera, RCA 16 and 35mm television film projectors, a two-by-two slide projector and a Grey Telop for projection of opaque slides.

To insure proper audience reaction both audio and video monitoring facilities have

been provided for the theatre audience. Video monitoring is provided by the use of an RCA PT-100A large screen projector. The control racks for the projector are located in the main control booth and equipment room and the projector barrel is located in the balcony giving a 50-foot projection throw to the 11 x 15 foot screen which is suspended 21 feet above stage level immediately in front of the proscenium arch. The projector controls have been modified to permit operation of the unit from a remote control console located in the balcony.

Audio monitoring has been provided in the form of an audience address system. The system and its controls are similar to

that provided in Studio D; the control console being located in the balcony adjacent to the large screen projector console. The output of the system drives three BA-13A amplifiers. One amplifier drives the main speaker which is an RCA sectionalized acoustic horn. The other two amplifiers drive five auxiliary speakers which are RCA 7-inch accordion type speakers mounted one on each side of the stage and three at the rear of the auditorium under the balcony.

The El Capitan Theatre has been equipped with an actor's reinforced loud-speaker system and an intercommunications system identical with those installed in Studio D.