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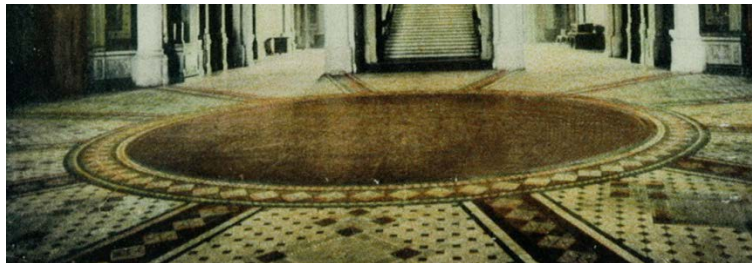
**April 10, 2013**

**BACKGROUND:**

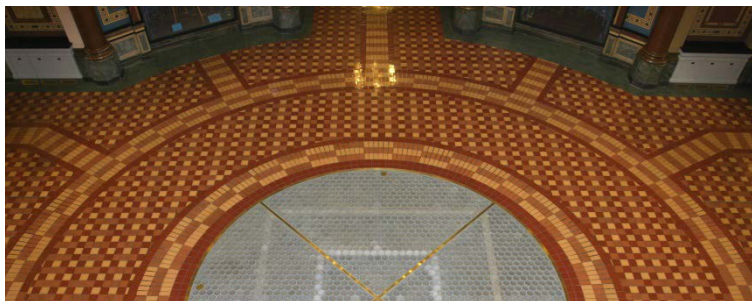
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**THIS WEEK:**

**Controlling Noise and Dust During the 1956 Replacement of the Old Floor Tile on First Floor of Capitol**



**Original Tile Flooring with Original Glass Circle, circa 1914**



**1956 Replacement Tile Flooring with New Glass Circle, 2011**

# The Des Moines Register

August 15, 1956

By Jack Magarrell

## Work in Isolation Booth On Floor at Statehouse

Workmen entered the isolation booth Tuesday for the \$44,000 answer to the statehouse floor problem.

The isolation booth is 10 feet wide and 12 feet long, made of thick, sound-absorbing material to muffle the grinding chatter of the air hammers as they chew up the 70-year-old ceramic tile floor.

### Mounted on Wheels

The big booth is mounted on wheels so workmen can move it along as their work progresses down the four corridors and around the rotunda of the capitol's main floor.

Charles Wagner, superintendent of buildings and grounds, and John Normile, architect, put the sound-trap in the contract with Ringland-Johnson, Inc., for the peace of mind of employees in the building.

It also is supposed to confine the dust raised by the drilling.

**The employees noted, as the air hammers began, that after the sound-absorbing material had absorbed what it could there was quite a bit of noise left over.**

"It sounds like a dentist's drill," commented a woman who works in the supreme court clerk's office. "It sets

your teeth on edge."

The work was expected to progress past the supreme court chambers to the opposite end of the building by the time the supreme court opens its next session Sept. 18.

### 2-Month Job

Wagner said the whole project would take about two months. He said it was unavoidable that the statehouse floor will be torn up during the week of the Iowa State Fair when the number of visitors reaches a peak.

Workmen said the tile, which was the original flooring of the capitol, tears up easily; it's the concrete beneath the tile that is hard to remove.

**Start of the floor project was delayed until Monday when the new tile, in three shades of reddish brown, arrive from Ironton, Ohio.**

The old tile has been breaking, chipping and buckling in hot weather. After 70 years, the supply of replacement tiles left over from the original job was gone.

The 1955 legislature appropriated \$25,000 for replacement of the tile. The legislative interim committee had to dig into its emergency funds for another \$19,000 to get the job done.