



Plumb Line



Volume 1 Issue 13

October 20, 1996

PROGRESS SO FAR

Get Ready, Igor!

Well, we're getting closer and closer to having electricity brought to the new building -- crews were hard at work on Wednesday digging trenches and laying cable. We're going to have one new transformer on the corner of the property by the playground, and another one to the east of the drive-through overhang on the new building. The cables they laid are truly impressive; they're over an inch in diameter each and there are three of them. When the hookup is complete, all the wiring will be completely buried and our power lines will come up beside the building into the big silver switch boxes on the east wall.

I'm waiting with great anticipation for this job to be finished -- it will really be slick when we can 'plug in' the new building and have it start drawing power from its own connection to Public Service. One of these days, we'll hear the shout -- "Throw The First Switch!"

Ducts In A Row?

If you go out and look at the sanctuary floor, you might think we've been overrun by giant gophers! There are huge trenches zigzagging all over the place, and they match up with the 'portholes' in the basement wall.

Rest assured, those trenches weren't made by the local wildlife. They were dug for the big air ducts that go under the floor! You may have noticed these ducts -- the main ones that go in the trenches are a couple of feet in diameter, and they've been stacked up at the site for a while now.

The process of installing the main ducts is complicated -- we aren't going to just throw them in the hole and fill in around them with dirt. First, we have to pour a concrete slab in the bottom of all the trenches for the ducts to sit on. Then, we have to secure the ducts to the slab so that they won't float when we pour concrete all around them and fill up the trenches. When we're done, the ducts will be completely encased in concrete.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Journeyman Needed

No, we're not planning to take a trip anywhere. A professional electrician is known as a 'journeyman,' and we need a couple of these folks to work on the electrical wiring inside the new building.

Now that the walls are going up quickly, we're ready for conduit, plugs, switch boxes, and circuits. This work has to be done before we can start putting insulation in the walls and sealing them up, so Now Is The Time For All Good Journeyman To Come To The Aid Of Their Church!

If you're a journeyman or know someone who is, please consider putting that unique talent to work on the building project -- we could sure use your help. Imagine how you'll feel when you flip on a light switch, look around at the light flooding our new building, and say, "I did that!"

April's Little Hammer

Pastor Archer has a good time poking fun at April Busby's hammer -- he keeps asking her whether it was made by Mattel or whether she got it as a prize in a cereal box. (I've examined the hammer in question as part of my investigative reporting duties, and it looks like a regular old hammer to ME, but you never know about these Men of the Cloth...)

Anyway, one day April left her hammer out at the construction site. She called Pastor Archer and asked him to pick it up and return it to her at choir practice. He picked it up at the end of the day, and it was waiting for her on Wednesday night -- April's 'Little Girl Hammer,' sitting there with a pink ribbon tied around it.

That reminds me of the foreman who spray-painted all the shop tools fluorescent pink so the 'macho' shop guys wouldn't steal them...

Grown-Up Tricycle?

As any wife will testify, a man with a workshop is a dangerous thing. Given enough time and resources, there's no telling what will emerge from the shop, especially if the man in question is as skilled as Les Asbury. To view his latest creation, go out to the site and look for a thing that looks like a cross between a scaffold, a tricycle, and a Radio Flyer wagon.

Now, now -- as you marvel at this creation, you have to understand that it's just exactly what we need to work on the edge of the roof! It was specially constructed so that Fred can pull it into position with his lawn tractor, steady it on its car-jack feet, and set up the scaffolding. Then, the work crew can climb the scaffold and work on the soffit and fascia (wooden trim pieces on the outer edge of the roof and under the eaves). This new piece of custom equipment will pay off in spades as the crews work their way all around the building, saving setup time and providing a work platform that's just the right height.

Personally, I'm impressed. My wife can tell you all about the rare occasions when I try to build something -- let's just say that I'm not quite on a par with Les Asbury.

Pavement And The Pond

Believe it or not, we're getting close to the time when we can start preparing for the construction of the new parking lot! Most of the trench work and underground hookups are in place, and we're looking forward to the finishing touches on the dirt work. Once the dirt is 'brought up to grade' (that is, the dirt levels match the landscaping plans), we can start pouring curbs and gutters and laying asphalt for driveways and parking lots.

The new parking area won't just keep us from getting muddy feet, either -- we'll need it when we tear out the east half of the old parking lot to make room for the new retention pond. Our landscaping plans had to tie in with the city's flood control plan for the creek to the east, and that plan includes a little retention pond on the northeast corner of the property. It should be a neat little pond, with trees and shrubbery around the edges.

Heave Ho!

What do you do when you discover that the boards stacked in the basement are too long to turn the corner and go out the basement door and up the stairs? You could cut them into shorter pieces, but that's a waste of good lumber. Or, you could follow David and Alan Jansen's example -- thread the boards one at a time up through one of the ductwork holes in the basement ceiling! If you look at the size of that stack of lumber, you'll understand what a huge job that was. Thanks, guys!

*** Gold Stars ***

Yes, it's time once again to present the spectacular Plumb Line "Gold Star Award" for service above and beyond the Call of Duty:

Jim Brunemeier will be overseeing the electrical work on the new facility, and we're grateful for his expertise. **Cherie Holden, Lenore Foster, and Dorothy Sorensen** have provided lunches and 'break goodies,' and the crews thank them from the bottom of their stomachs.

Question and Answer

Q. What was that big green fiberglass tub on the site last week?

A. That thing was NOT the baptistry. (Honest!) The big tub goes under the transformer by the playground to provide a little working room for Public Service crews if they need to work on the electric cables.

Working Hours

The work schedule varies with the weather, occasional hold-ups experienced while waiting for material, and other reasons, but here are some general guidelines:

- * Work is normally done from about 8 A.M. to about 2 P.M. on weekdays, and most Saturdays.
- * Work continues on most weekday evenings, starting in the mid to late afternoon after things cool off.

For specific dates and times, ask around -- DeeDee Minne is helping Pastor Archer coordinate the volunteer effort, and you can also grab someone on the construction team to find out about day-to-day operations on the site.

Back Talk!

Got a question? Want to make an announcement? Get it in the paper!

Contact Information

Here are some names and numbers you may need for project information and coordination:

DeeDee Minne **637-9841**

Volunteer coordination (construction, child care, etc.)

Dorothy Sorensen **469-4905**

Coordination of meals and work breaks