



Plumb Line



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PROGRESS SO FAR

Vanishing Plumb Line?

No, the Plumb Line has not shut down the presses just yet. Frankly, I was just worried that everybody would get sick of reading about roof trusses -- we're in a phase of the project that takes a long time to finish, and there just really wasn't anything new to say! I want to keep the Plumb Line interesting so that folks don't just tune it out, and I ran out of new ways to say, "Yup! Trusses! More trusses, just like last week! Man, there are a LOT of trusses out there! Yup, yup." Everyone is REALLY looking forward to getting the roof done, and one of the fringe benefits of finishing that project will be a plate full of new projects and milestones to talk about in the paper.

NOTE: I don't plan to put out a Plumb Line on December 1, by the way. Thanksgiving week will be a time of mass confusion for all of us, I expect, and I think the smart thing to do is pick up the Plumb Line with the December 8 issue.

Behold The Doors!

The interior framing work in the center section of the building is moving along quite nicely! The walls are in place, the ceiling joists are up, and the doorways are framed in.

It's really neat to watch rooms take shape in that space -- if you haven't walked out there lately, you should go take a look. Like so much of the project, the last little bits of detail work seem to make all the difference. Suddenly, the area changes from a forest of wall studs to a hallway and rooms on either side!

I'm always amazed at the sheer number of boards required to build walls and ceilings. When you look closely and think about the number of nails, measurements, and saw cuts that went into that space you quickly realize just how much time and sweat went into that part of the project.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Work Off That Turkey

Come one, come all! After you stuff yourself with turkey and trimmings (or tofu, burritos, or whatever else you eat on Thanksgiving), come on out to the site and work off those extra calories! There's no better way to sweat off some mashed potatoes and gravy, believe me. Besides, after a day of eating yourself silly and watching 347 football games you should be ready for a change of pace, right?

We're planning a variety of projects for Friday and Saturday (the 29th and 30th), so make plans now to come out and lend a hand. Bad weather may cause us to switch our emphasis from one project to the next, but we'll have plenty of work to do in any case. We need to tackle the following areas with as many people as we can possibly get:

☞ **Nail sheathing up on the roof.** We've got experts to place the sheets and nail them in place, but we need a herd of nailers to go to each sheet and finish them up.

☞ **Fill-in trusses and framing to connect the center section to the auditorium.** Here, we need a herd of helpers to haul boards and hold things in place while the connecting trusses are nailed in place.

☞ **Nail sheathing up on the outer walls.** Not a lot of skill required here, just an awful lot of nails to pound.

☞ **Pour concrete in the center section and/or the auditorium.** This will be the next installment of the Mountain View Wheelbarrow Relay Race, in which we haul cement in wheelbarrows as fast as we can.

All of this work needs to be done, folks -- if you show up to give us a hand, we can make it happen. Ideally, we'd like to start with a large group of volunteers and break them up into teams so that we can work several of these projects at the same time.

High-Tech Electric Meter

I passed by our new electric meter several times before I noticed something strange about it. That meter doesn't look like any electric meter I've ever seen!

Instead of the usual clockwork mechanism that has a spinning disc and a handful of little dials, this thing has a display that looks like a calculator. I'm guessing that this meter is a computerized gizmo that can monitor our power consumption, add up the number of stones in the Great Pyramid, and predict lunar eclipses all at the same time.

I think I like the old meters better. (All right, so I'm weird. Maybe nobody else has ever watched an electric meter spin around, but I think it's neat.) We won't ever have kids standing around watching the little gears turn inside the meter, but we may have to guard against kids trying to play Nintendo games on the silly thing. Such is the price of progress, I suppose.

Want Fries With That?

Our new building now sports a drive-thru, complete with a roof! Volunteers were hard at work on Wednesday, cutting and nailing the sheathing in place up on the roof. It's really looking nice, isn't it? I can just imagine how nice that overhang will be in bad weather -- loading and unloading folks of all ages will be a breeze.

Of course, I imagine that Dad will still be the one that gets to troop out through the rain and bring the car around to the drive-thru... some things never change.

Sprouting Boxes

Now that the framing is in place for the center section, electrical boxes for lights and outlets are sprouting up all over the place. They try to stay quiet and act casual so that you won't notice them, but if you look closely you can spot them in the walls and ceilings. I think they're quietly multiplying, myself. Pretty soon now, they'll start growing tentacles and linking themselves together with sections of metal conduit -- just you wait and see! With the proper care and feeding, they'll thrive and eventually bloom out into light fixtures, switches, and electrical outlets.

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:

John Lewis hasn't let snow and cold weather keep him from working on the fascia; he's been spotted out here on days so cold that he had to fire up his truck to get warm. That kind of determination is an inspiration to us all!

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? Want to recognize someone for a job well done? Get it in the paper! Contact **Philippe Nave** at **469-8327** (home) or **538-3150** (work) (send e-mail to pnavel@lucent.com)

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 Sorenson **469-4905**

Coordination of meals and work breaks