



Plumb Line



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PROGRESS SO FAR

Automatic Mole?

Pastor Archer brought an interesting toy out to the building site the other day, and several of us got a lot of exercise wrestling it back and forth out in the yard. He rented a self-propelled trenching machine, and we used it to dig some ditches for underground power cables and such. It was a big yellow machine (about the size of a chest freezer) that crept along on three wheels while a big chainsaw-like arm dug a six-inch ditch in the ground. It made a deafening racket and tried its best to beat its operator to death as it chewed through the ground, but it was definitely the tool for the job. The machine had about seventeen levers sticking out of the top that were labeled with odd-looking pictograms; once we figured out what all the little symbols meant, the challenge lay in trying to move all the levers to the right spots at the same time while the machine was busily chewing the ground out from underneath. We might have done better to get an expert in Egyptian hieroglyphics out there to make sense of the dashboard symbols on the silly thing...

Doing It The Hard Way

As nice as it was to have the trencher running and cutting long ditches for us, we still had to do the odds and ends by hand. We could get the trencher pretty close to the concrete curbs at various spots, but we knew Fred would beat us to death if we chewed up the concrete. So, the last foot of ditch next to the curbs (and the tunnels under the curbs) had to be hacked out by hand with a pickax.

If you ever wondered whether the dirt around the building is firmly packed down, let me assure you that it's as hard as a rock. It was embarrassing, to say the least -- after eight or ten swings of the pick, the pick-swingers had to sit down and gasp for breath. I don't think any of us are thinking about giving up our day jobs and becoming ditch-diggers.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Sheetrock City

Crews are hanging sheetrock at a fantastic rate in the new building, and it's really looking nice. We're using twelve-foot pieces of sheetrock, and that has its advantages and disadvantages; pieces that big cover a lot of area, but they're heavy and unwieldy. Our folks are up to the challenge, though, and you can see the steady progress they're making.

There's plenty of sheetrock work to go around, believe me -- you never realize just how many surfaces there are in a building that size until you try to cover them all. If you can help at all with this monumental job, please do. Most of the work involves carrying sheets back and forth, holding them up in place, and screwing them to the wall studs; just about anybody can help out.

Ho, Landscapers!

Glen Degenhardt has been leading teams of landscapers around all over the site, working to prepare the grounds for all the planting and yard work that will come later. One of the hardest jobs involved moving all the leftover rock from the columns away from the building; we wound up with roughly 487 tons of flagstone after the columns were done, and it's all been carted off and stacked on the edge of the property. If you notice that the landscape crew members suddenly have bulging biceps, now you know why.

Mission Control

I went upstairs the other day to turn on some lights in the new auditorium. Simple, right? If you think so, you haven't seen the big light panel up in the balcony! That thing has more switches than my whole house! After much trial and error, I finally got the lights on.

I'm just afraid I'll flip the wrong switch and launch missiles or something...

Working Hours

The work schedule varies with the weather, occasional hold-ups experienced while waiting for material, and other reasons. In general, there's something going on all the time weekdays and Saturdays unless the weather turns really bad.

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 pnave@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