Site preparation begins for two-story structure

Site preparation work for the new 200,000 square-foot general-purpose building got under way Monday morning in the former parking area west of the Technical Center.

R.A. Heintz Co., of Beaverton, brought in their heavy earth-moving equipment and dump trucks to prepare the site where the new building will be located eventually.

Cobb Rock, also of Beaverton, is supplying rocks for the fill. Reimers and Jolivet of Portland are the building contractors.

Jack Peasley (building superintendent) said the site preparation work will be completed in approximately two weeks. In the meantime, employees are parking their vehicles in the new gravel lot south of the Tech Center or in the area northwest of the Operations Center.

Jack added that the gravel parking lot south of the Electron Devices building will be paved and striped during the weekend of August 18–19.

Last Saturday morning, Don Postlewaite and our Grounds Maintenance crew felled a few oak trees on the site of the new structure. These were trees which are not suitable for transplanting because of their age and size. (See related story.)

There’s much you can learn from the stump of an old oak tree.

Take the one just west of the Technical Center. It measures 47 inches in diameter and has 47 rings, indicating 47 years of growth. The rings are about 1 inch wide.

In addition, it has a cavity indicating injury during the lifetime of the tree.

The stump was once part of a giant western oak tree until it was cut away last Saturday morning to make room for the new two-story general-purpose building.

Don Postlewaite (Grounds Maintenance manager) used his magnifying glass and pocket knife to count the tree rings and found some closer together than others.

“The rings were really close together during the tree’s early days,” Don noted, “which indicates tough, adverse conditions during its early growth.”

In addition, the south side of the trunk showed signs of an injury—most likely sunscalding—but this was healed over and the cavity was sealed.

Then the tree grew “like crazy” for 111 years until the Tech Center was built and a parking area was located by the tree. These new conditions brought growth problems and once again the rings drew closer together.