



THE DAY THEY BROUGHT the old oak tree down: Photos by Aldine VanGieson (Photography) show falling of the giant 202-year-old western oak tree west of the Tech Center last Saturday morning by our Grounds

Maintenance crew, Don Postlewaite (second photo from left) uses a 50-inch bar chain saw to cut down the 47-inch diameter tree. Lloyd Austin and Lloyd Cook (right photo) saw up tree trunk for cord wood.

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 Jolivette 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.)



NUMBER OF RINGS for giant oak tree west of the Tech Center adds up to 202, according to precise count by Don Postlewaite (Grounds Maintenance manager). The western oak, with a 47-inch diameter, gave way to construction of the new general-purpose building. It and several other oaks were not transplanted because of their age and size. (Photo by Aldine VanGieson.)

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Those rings on giant oak tree show some adverse conditions

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 a grand total of 202 rings. 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 sun-scalding—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.