

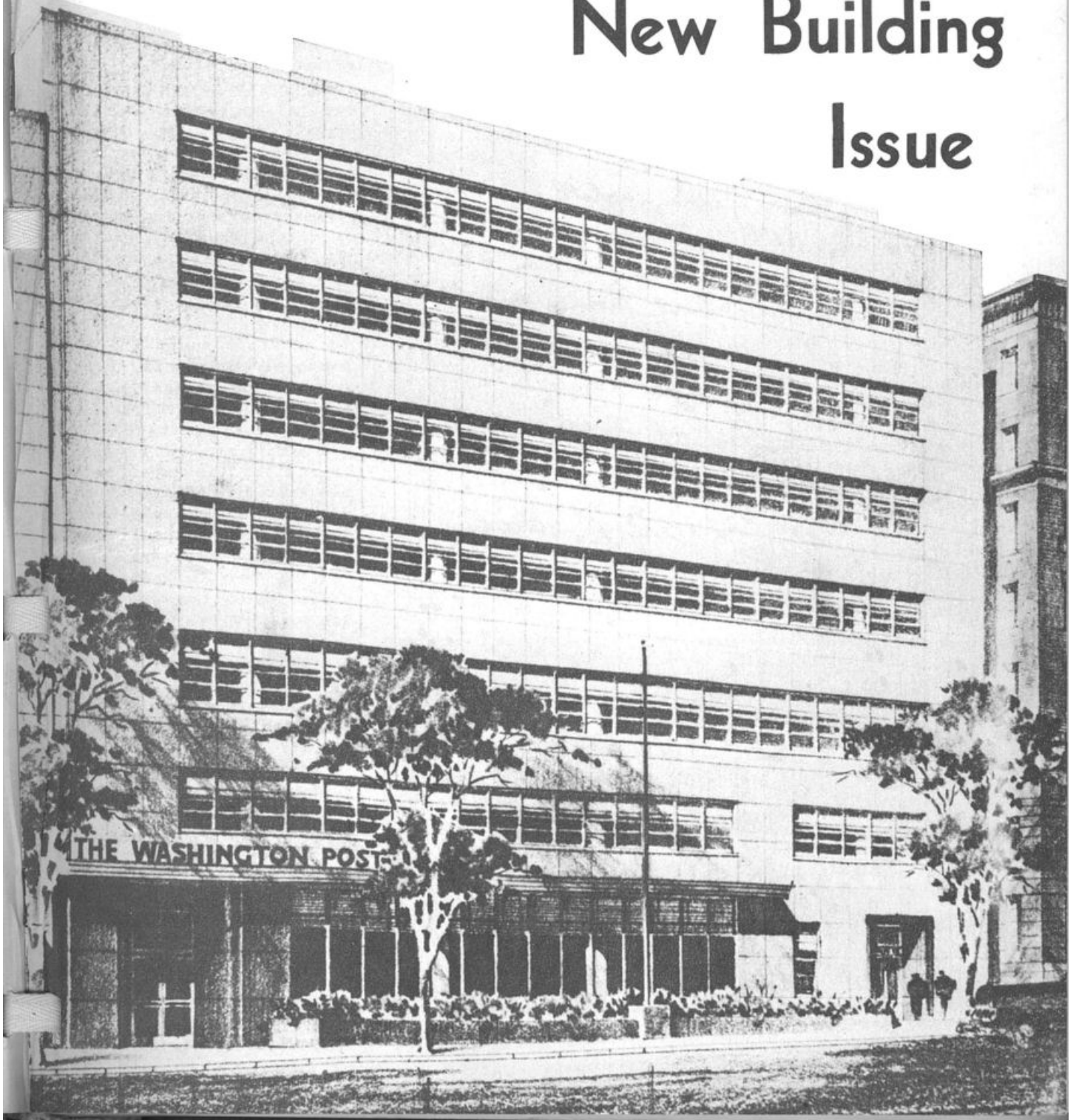
Shop Talk

about THE WASHINGTON POST and WTOP

Volume 2 - 38

December 23, 1949

New Building Issue





A Message From The Publisher

The Washington Post
WASHINGTON 4, D. C.
PHILIP L. GRAHAM, PUBLISHER

This issue of Shop Talk tells of the most important step affecting the Washington Post since Mr. Meyer bought it in 1933.

This modern, wholly air-conditional building will give us the best newspaper plant in the area, and also the finest working quarters.

The building project is a testimonial to the progress of the Washington Post — and of our faith in its future.

Philip L. Graham



The new Washington Post building will be a culmination of one phase of Eugene Meyer's endeavor to give the nation's capital an outstanding newspaper.

Warned by experienced newspapermen, including owners of some of the most successful newspaper properties in America of the great difficulties facing The Washington Post, Mr. Meyer nevertheless was resolute in his determination.

One of his first steps was to create a sound editorial page, and he was so successful in finding the right men to aid him that both of the men who have served as his editors have won Pulitzer Prizes for the excellence of the editorial page under their direction.

His successes in building up a remarkable staff in all departments, in boosting the paper's prestige, its importance as a news medium, its circulation and its advertising are known to all members of the Post family and have for years caused admiration throughout the newspaper industry.

Mr. Meyer has long wanted a physical plant that would not only be worthy of The Washington Post but would also aid the functioning of the daily operation. He knew how badly we were handicapped by the inadequacies of the present building and equipment. The war and its consequences made delay inevitable. But when he found the right location, the right architect and builder, it was just a matter of waiting until the right time. That time is now.



PROGRESS REPORT The Post will occupy this entire area between the Sheraton Hotel (left) and the Lenox Office Building. All foundation work is expected to be in by Jan. 1.

THE POST'S new address is going to be 1513-21 L Street, N.W. Work was started there several months ago on a two-story-and-mezzanine printing plant, but construction was delayed for approximately six weeks during the summer by a carpenters' and laborers' strike. During the period of suspension it was decided to acquire additional land and construct a building large enough to house the entire Post organization.

The building immediately adjacent to the original site on the west, formerly occupied by Southern Wholesalers, Inc., was razed to provide a site with a frontage of 120 feet on L Street and a depth of 132 feet.

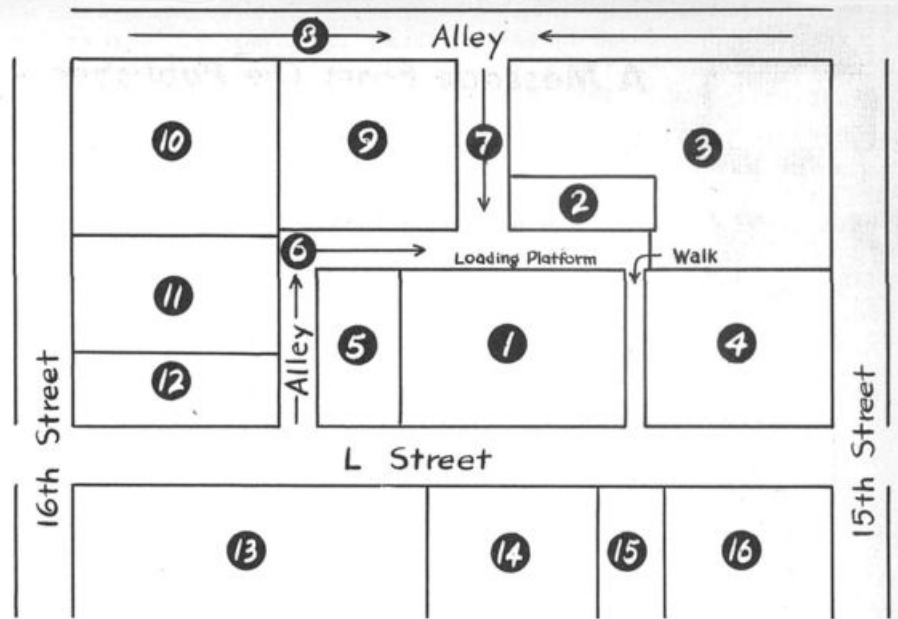
The total area of the four buildings which The Post now occupies, approximately 70,000 square feet, will be increased to more than 125,000 square feet.

The public announcement story, written by real estate editor Pat Harness, will appear in The Post in the next few days.

THE NEW BUILDING will be a seven-story reinforced concrete structure. The front will be of gray limestone, similar to that used by the Statler Hotel, with black granite used for trim around the main entrance.

The large (11 feet high) windows at the first floor level will be removable to facilitate future installation of additional press equipment. The front windows on the upper floors will be continuous across the entire front; rear windows are in a similar arrangement; there are almost no side windows.

A steel flagpole 30 feet high, with a bronze base, will rise directly in front of the building. Between the large first-floor windows and the sidewalk will be a garden plot 10 feet wide and 40 feet long. Trees already in place between the sidewalk and the street will enhance the beauty



LOCATION MAP of the new building, showing the excellent accessibility to the rear loading platform via three alleys, and the space at rear for ultimate expansion.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. New Post building | 9. Parking lot |
| 2. Post warehouse | 10. Russian Embassy |
| 3. Parking lot, Post owned | 11. Residences |
| 4. Sheraton Hotel | 12. Whitestone Hotel |
| 5. Lenox Office Building | 13. Statler Hotel |
| 6. Alley, 28 feet wide | 14. Garage |
| 7. Alley, 30 feet wide | 15. Store |
| 8. Alley, 15 feet wide | 16. Apartment House |

of the facade.

The words "The Washington Post" will appear over the west entrance in stainless steel letters 20 inches high.

A large loading dock at the rear of the building will permit simultaneous loading of eight newspaper trucks. Special equipment for the safe and efficient handling of 2000-pound rolls of newsprint will be installed behind this dock. A freight elevator serving all floors will be available from the dock. As a result, all service deliveries will be made at the rear of the building. The front entrances will be for staff and visitors only.

AIR CONDITIONING The entire building - all departments - will be completely air-conditioned.

The air conditioning plant will be installed on the roof. The plant will consist of several air conditioning sys-

tems serving separate zones of the building. One system will serve the press room, another the engraving department, and still others will serve other areas from which recirculation of air would be undesirable. The cooling mechanism will be a 600-ton refrigeration unit.

The system is the most modern available. It follows the system which has been proved by long research to provide maximum working comfort.

The temperature, instead of being reduced to a constant figure (say 70 degrees), as was done in older systems, is set in terms of a reduction from outside temperature. If the outside temperature is at 82 degrees, it would be comfortable inside at around 70 degrees. But 70 degrees would be too low (might cause colds, etc.,) if the outside air were at 95 degrees. In general, the system keeps in-

side temperature some 10 to 12 degrees below outside air. In addition, the humidity is kept at comfortable levels.

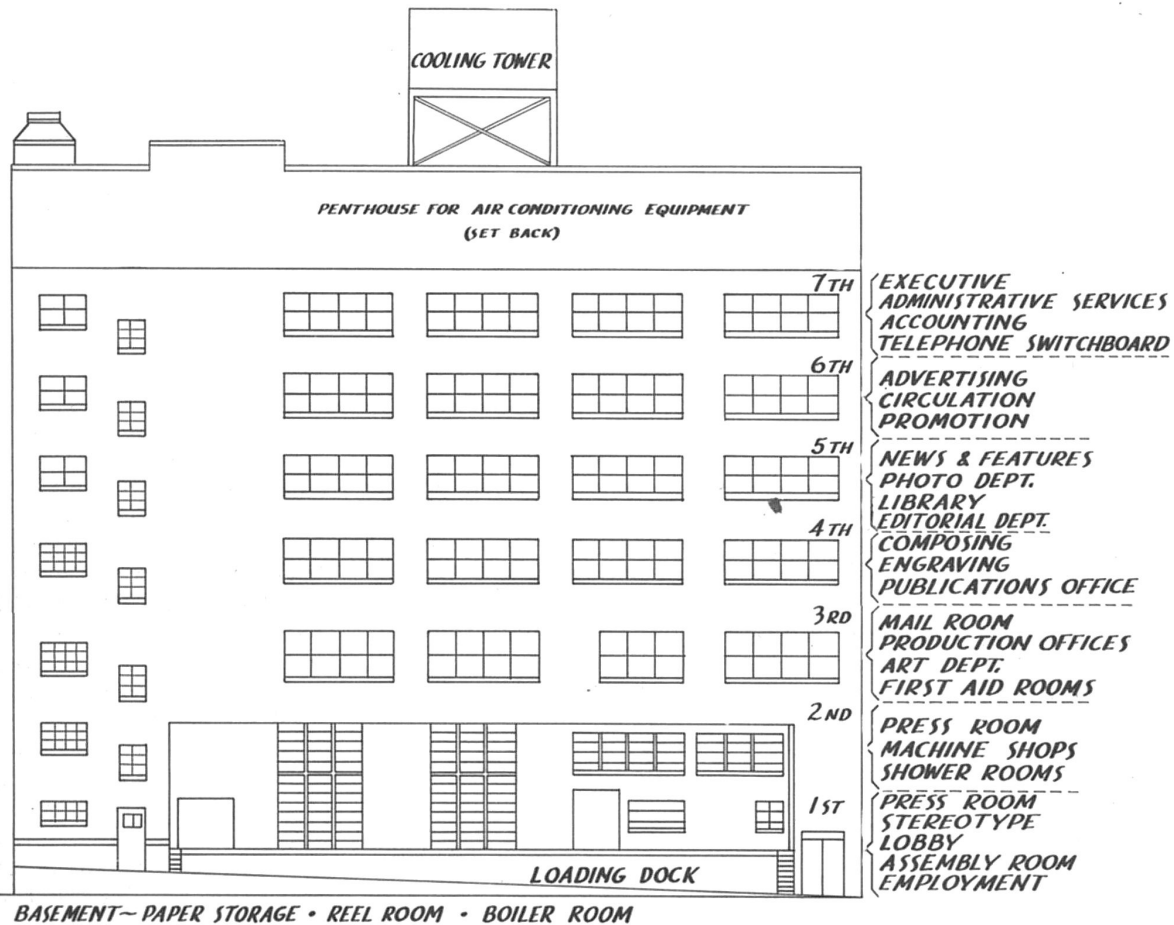
FLOORING throughout the building will vary according to its location and purpose. Floors in the basement areas will be of cement. Floors in the press room, stereotype room, mail room and shops will be of wood block. The composing room floor will be con-

given to the question of lighting, and both quantity and quality of light will be much higher than those ordinarily considered adequate. All working space requiring general lighting will be equipped with continuous strips of fluorescent lights.

All office floors will be equipped with under-floor duct systems to permit the use of electric typewriters,

pieces of freight.

Four strictly passenger elevators will serve the new building, two in the main lobby on the west side of the building for visitors and staff members, and two on the east side exclusively for Post personnel. The employees' elevator next to the entrance will go to the basement as well as to the upper floors; the other three will not go



REAR VIEW of the new building with location of departments indicated.

structed of hard maple strips installed on edge. The press room floor supports will be separated from the press structure to dampen floor vibration.

Offices will have rubber or asphalt tile and the rest rooms will be floored in terrazo or ceramic tile.

Interior walls of the mechanical departments will be of hollow glazed tile. Office space will be acoustically treated.

Special study has been

calculating machines or other electrical office equipment and telephones on desks in any location without the use of exposed wiring. A similar duct system will be installed on the composing room ceiling, so that composing room equipment may be located anywhere on the floor.

THERE'S GOOD NEWS today for harried employees used to waiting long minutes for the present lone elevator, then crowding aboard with several

below the street floor.

In addition to the elevators, there will be three steel stairways, one in each corner except the northwest.

HERE IS HOW the seven floors will be occupied:

1. *Basement.* Paper storage, reel room, electrical switchboard rooms, pump room, press control room, boiler room. The paper storage area will hold about 550 tons - approximately ten days usage. Present storage space will

accommodate a maximum of 100 tons, sufficient for two normal daily editions or one good-sized Sunday edition.

2. *First floor.* The central 45 feet from front to rear will be occupied by the press room.

To the west will be the main entrance, lobby, public space with classified advertising counter, and two elevators. To the rear will be a large assembly room measuring 36' x 40'. This will accommodate up to 200 people, and will give us a room for group meetings, displays, and many other purposes. The west entrance will be the public entrance.

To the east of the press room will be an entrance for employees only and two elevators. Off the east lobby will be the employment office. The stereotype room will occupy the rest of the first floor. The plate casting capacity of the stereotype department will be increased by more than 100% in the new plant. One ten-ton and one eight-ton metal pot, each equipped with two wood auto-casters, will be capable of casting 500 press plates per hour.

3. *Second floor.* Here, too, the central portion of the building will be press room. On the west this floor will be equipped as office space, which is not presently assigned. On the east, in front, will be the machine, electrical and maintenance shops. At the rear will be locker and shower rooms for press room and stereotype department personnel. There will be 11 showers against the present 8.

4. *Third floor.* The central portion of this floor over the entire press room will be assigned as mail room. Mail room expansion has long been one of our most vital needs. The new mail room covers 6000 square feet of space (129 x 46) - about 2½ times the present space.

Two long friction-roller feeder tables (52 feet in

length) will sit directly above the two lines of presses. Papers delivered from the presses by Cutler-Hammer heavy-duty conveyors will move along these tables to automatic bundling machines, and then will drop by gravity through spiral chutes to the delivery tables on the loading dock below. In the front of the mail room, there will be smaller tables for inserting Parades, comic sections, etc.

To the west will be the art department, first aid room, and offices for the production manager, the assistant production manager, and for Mr. Janof and his assistants. The east section of the third floor will contain locker and wash rooms for composing room and engraving department personnel.

5. *Fourth floor.* The fourth floor will be taken up entirely by the composing room, engraving department and publications office. The 41 linotype machines and other composing room equipment will be arranged for the most efficient production procedures. A glass-enclosed proof room will be near the west center of the room.

The engraving department will occupy the west section of the fourth floor. It will be just above the art department on the third floor, permitting direct transmission of art material by dumb waiter.

The publications office (detail) will be at the southeast corner of the building, situated next to the east elevators so that outside material can be directly received.

Total floor space of the entire mechanical department will be increased from 20,016 square feet to 35,815 square feet. More important, the location and shape of the floor space assigned to production departments will make possible a compact and orderly layout, with related sections immediately adjacent to each other. This rearrangement will permit an efficient

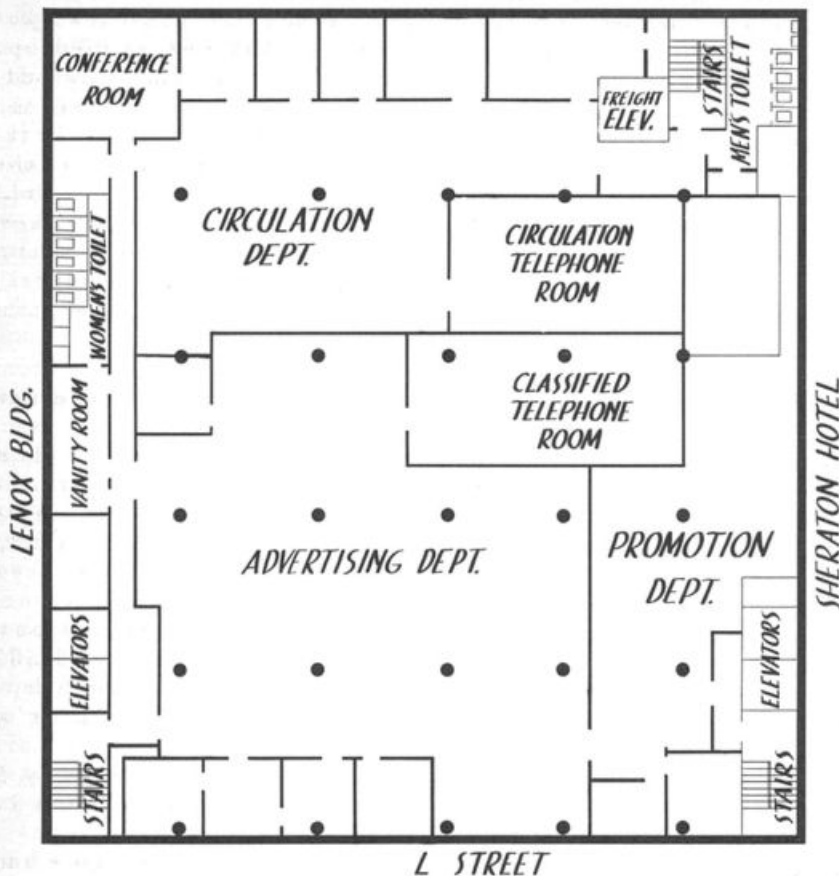
flow of work and material not possible under the present arrangement.

6. *Fifth floor.* The entire editorial and news departments will occupy the fifth floor. Locating all writing and library personnel on the same floor should be a tremendous improvement over the present arrangement, which finds the editorial department on the third floor, the city room on the second floor, other reporters on the second and third floors of the annex, sports department on the second floor annex, Sunday and women's departments on the fourth floor, library on the fourth floor and photo department on the fifth floor.

7. *Sixth floor.* Advertising, circulation and promotion departments will be quartered on the sixth floor. At present, advertising is on the fifth floor of the main building, circulation has two floors of the National Theater Building, and promotion, which exists to serve them both, is on another floor of the National Theater Building. Also on the sixth floor will be a 15' by 25' conference room for departmental discussions or other group meetings.

8. *Seventh floor.* The seventh floor will house the executive offices, the accounting department and general administrative services. Here again, three associated departments, now situated apart from each other, will be brought together. (Executive is now on the third floor front, administrative services at the third floor rear, accounting on the fourth floor of the main building and the annex). The cashier's cage, now in the lobby, will be on this floor, along with 240 square feet of vault space, protected by fire-resistant doors.

The Post's telephone switchboard will also occupy the seventh floor, with greatly improved facilities. There will be two 20' by 20' rooms, a glass-enclosed one for the



CROSS SECTION of the sixth floor, demonstrating general floor plan of all floors from the third to the seventh. Press room will occupy a 45-foot-wide, two-story-high strip from front to rear through the first and second floors.

Note the adequacy of up-and-down transportation--four passenger elevators and a large freight elevator--plus three stairways.

The black dots indicate the location of pillars.

operators, another for the dial mechanism. Total area will be about four times what it is now. Operators will have their own rest room, a closet and a cot . . . and the present inadequate equipment, capable of handling only 225 incoming calls at a time, will be enlarged to a capacity of 300 calls. The new switchboard will be a three-position one; the present one has two positions.

A 19' by 20' executive conference room will be another seventh-floor feature.

INCREASED PRESS FACILITIES

The Post's present press equipment consists of ten units and two double folders, each equipped with a single

balloon former. This means that two 40-page papers, each in three sections, may be printed simultaneously. (A single press unit prints eight pages in a "straight" run, or if run "collect" a unit will print 16 pages at half the speed of a straight run.)

The initial installation in the new building will consist of sixteen Scott high-speed black and white straight-line units and two double folders, each equipped with a double balloon former. These 16 new units will be in two lines of eight units each. Two 64-page papers, each in four sections, may be printed simultaneously in a "straight" run (eight pages per unit).

All reels will be equipped with "Flying Pastors," which automatically paste the leading edge of a new newsprint roll to the following edge of the expiring roll at regular operating speed, thus eliminating drastic reductions in speed to change rolls.

INTERIOR COLOR SCHEME of the building is being planned with an eye to cheerfulness, good visibility and efficiency.

Walls throughout the mechanical department will be of easy-to-clean buff-colored tile, with the presses painted a light green. Brick and concrete walls in the vaults, storage areas, basement, freight elevator, lobby and baling room will be of a slightly darker green, ceiling will be light cream yellow.

A Kahn color expert is devising wall-and-ceiling color schemes for the various offices, acting on suggestions from department heads concerning their individual areas. On the advice of head photographer Hugh Miller, for example, the photo department will have green ceramic tile walls, glazed in the studio, unglazed in the dark room to eliminate glare.

The main lobby, walled in golden yellow marble trimmed with black, will give visitors a pleasing first impression.

ANY EMPLOYEE who becomes ill or injured will be attended to in a first aid room located on the west side of the third floor, across a corridor from the art department. Two sections of the room will be partitioned off as cot space.

ON THE THIRD, fifth, sixth and seventh floors will be women's rest rooms, each including a lounge space equipped with a vanity table.

Painted in pastel shades the vanity tables will have mirrors and lights. Some of the rest rooms will also have cots.

BETTER TOUR FACILITIES Student groups and others wanting to see a newspaper plant in action will get a much-improved opportunity in the new Post building.

The rapid elevator service will, of course, be an important factor. The assembly room on the first floor will be a convenient gathering place. And the piece de resistance will be a special visitors' gallery overlooking the pressroom.

Placed on the east side of the press room at the second floor level, the gallery will be four feet wide, 75 feet long and fronted with glass. It will afford the tourists an excellent view and still keep them safely away from the presses. At present, it is impossible to show groups through the pressroom during an actual run.



Linton



Robinson

ABOUT THE ARCHITECTS One of the largest architectural firms in the country, Albert Kahn, Associated, has designed the new building.

With headquarters in Detroit, the Kahn organization has planned some of the most famous buildings in this and four other continents. Among its accomplishments are Ford's Willow Run plant, the Burroughs Adding Machine plant, Henry Ford Hospital, the General Motors Assembly Plant, and buildings for such newspapers as the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News, and the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Kahn's has a permanent staff of some 400 people, including 175 architectural de-

signers and 80 to 90 mechanical and electrical engineers. The firm was founded in 1903.

Three members of the Kahn staff have been particularly concerned with the Post project. They are Robert Linton, vice president and project manager, Norman Robinson, architect in charge, and Fred Guenot, architectural superintendent on the job.



McShain



Hauck

CONSTRUCTION BY

McSHAIN Erection of the new building is by John McShain, Inc.

McShain, too, has an illustrious record

of accomplishment. A story about him appeared in Time last month when he obtained the contract for rebuilding the White House. He has also been chief builder on the Pentagon, the Jefferson Memorial, the Du Pont Circle underpass and the F. D. R. Memorial Library at Hyde Park.

Heading work on the Post building for McShain are R. L. Tippet, estimator, and P. J. Hauck, general superintendent.



Tippet

FUTURE EXPANSION

The new building is so designed that the original 16 press units could be increased to 42. If this were done, paper storage space would be provided across the alley to the rear of the building and connected to the press room by tunnel.

Since The Post also owns the parking lot facing on 15th Street (No. 3 in the location map), this area could be the site of another building for additional offices, if needed.

The possibility of using the warehouse in part for an

employees' cafeteria and lounge has been considered throughout the planning, but this has not yet shaped up. Such facilities could be added by remodeling the second floor of the warehouse. Definite announcement as to the feasibility of this plan will be made later. Publisher Graham welcomes suggestions and comments on the cafeteria idea, which can be sent him by memo.

WHY DOES THE POST need a new building?

The inadequacy of its present plant can be illustrated with a few of the most vital statistics. In 1933, when Eugene Meyer purchased the paper--

Circulation was about 51,000. Now it is 184,502 daily and 190,362 Sunday (September, 1949, Publisher's Statement).

Advertising ran roughly 5 million lines yearly. Now it is 23 million.

An average daily issue had 10 or 12 pages. Today's average daily edition is 38 pages.

The Sunday paper had three sections: Main news, sports, real estate. With the separate sports section, The Sunday Post has recently been carrying 9 sections.

WHAT ABOUT WTOP?

While the new building was still in the planning stage, consideration was given to providing studios for WTOP on the seventh floor.

However, the probability of electrical interference and vibrations from presses, composing room and air conditioning equipment made the plan impracticable.

But while it would have been pleasant to have the "family" all together, WTOP people will not regret staying in their studios in the Warner Building. The 13th and E Street position is extremely convenient, offices are comfortable and the broadcasting rooms are fully adequate.

Post People



Charles C. Boysen

If you've tried to arrange a five-minute appointment with Post business manager Charles C. Boysen lately and discovered it practically impossible, you can blame the new building.

Even with the almost full-time cooperation of treasurer Floyd Harrison and R. Brandon Marsh, assistant to the business manager, Boysen has found the new building close to a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week project, with literally thousands of details.

But helping The Post acquire new space is no novelty for Boysen. He got his basic training long ago. In 1934 he directed the addition of the west wing to the present building, and in 1941 he supervised the erection of the east wing's rear addition.

Being business manager of a newspaper was among the least of Boysen's expectations while he was attending high school back in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Besides classwork, his chief interests then were football (he played tackle), baseball (first base) and summer jobs as meter-reader and oiler in the town's power plant, which his father managed.

After graduation, he entered the electrical engineering school at Iowa State College. That venture ended in 1916 when, as a member of the National Guard, Boysen was sent to Texas to help guard against the Mexican border troubles.

Already in uniform and a first sergeant, Boysen was commissioned a second lieutenant the day we declared war on Germany. He trained in Iowa, Oklahoma and New Mexico, went overseas in 1917 and saw action as a captain of infantry in France.

He stayed in France for two years after the armistice, helping billet returning U.S. troops, and got a chance to test his rifle skill in international matches. His accurate work with a Springfield was instrumental in many victories won by the American team.

Stateside again, Boysen remained in the Army and toured the South with a recruiting band for a while, then went back to Iowa to work for his father. In 1922, he joined the Bureau of Internal Revenue doing field work, switching to the Farm Loan Bureau six years later. There he made his first contact with Eugene Meyer, then Farm Loan Commissioner.

Boysen moved to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in 1932. But when Mr. Meyer purchased The Post the following year, one of his first



Marsh



Harrison

acts was to call in Boysen to be assistant treasurer.

He has progressed through the positions of assistant comptroller, comptroller, and circulation director. Besides being business manager, Boysen is also a director and the secretary of The Washington Post Company, and a director, secretary and treasurer of WTOP, Incorporated.

In his few spare moments, Boysen finds enjoyment in photography. Armed with a Kodak Medalist camera, he shoots scenes that impress him, develops and prints the pictures at home.

Married in 1922, the Boysens have a daughter, Elizabeth, now a freshman at Vassar.

Every employee needs group insurance. Sign up at the personnel office.



THIS WAS The Post's 10th and D Street "domicile", occupied from 1880 to 1893 Building still stands.



FIFTY YEARS AGO the present Post building was only a slight shadow of itself. Additions were made on sides and rear.