



# Southwest Seventh

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS

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As mentioned in our last issue, there were a number of questions regarding the size of the new building, general decor, color schemes, etc. We are fortunate that the building owner (David Nassif Associates) and the architect (Edward Durell Stone) have designed and constructed a building of superior quality. This is the largest privately-owned office building in the Washington area and makes use of materials not found in the average office structure. For example, the building is equipped with tinted thermo-pane glass, micarta partitioning, and carpeting throughout--including corridors.

The new headquarters building will be ten stories high and will cover a full city block. DOT will occupy floors two through ten. To give you an idea of the building size, approximately 22 miles of partitioning will be installed and roughly 22 acres of carpeting required to cover the floor area.

The micarta partitioning is beautiful and very practical. Micarta is the same type of material used to surface the tops of many furniture items such as coffee tables, desks, dinette tables, etc. It is extremely durable and highly resistant to normal wear and tear; sharp objects, however, will cause permanent damage. Thus, nails, tacks and other sharp objects for hanging pictures, charts, etc., cannot be used in our new building without causing

This bulletin will be issued periodically during the consolidation of the Department of Transportation headquarters into two buildings -- 400 Seventh Street, S.W., and 800 Independence Avenue, S.W.



permanent damage to the partitioning. Adhesive backed devices, which are available in the General Services Administration self-service stores, must be used instead of nails and tacks for attaching objects to the walls.

The carpet color plan at this time is a red tweed on floors 3, 4, 5, and 10 and green tweed on floors 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9. The predominant partition color is off-white for the general office areas and corridors, accented by wood-grain teak on doors and selected walls throughout.

We can appreciate that many DOT employees are anxious to see our new home for themselves. Unfortunately, because the building will still be under construction when we occupy the initial space on the 2nd floor, tours of the entire building cannot be conducted due to construction hazards. However, once we are assured that construction is complete and hazards no longer exist in a particular area, we will welcome a chance to show DOT employees their new home. A later publication of "Southwest Seventh" will provide tour details.

#### General questions:

1. What shops will be on the street level?

At this time, the only firm commitment is for a branch office of the First National Bank to be located on the street level. Also fairly firm are lease arrangements for a restaurant and a drug store. In a more negotiable stage are plans for a ladies dress shop; a liquor store; jewelery, candy, and stationery stores; and possibly a gift shop.

2. Which DOT offices will be located in FOB-10A?

Present plans provide for the following activities to be located in 10A: Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, St. Lawrence Seaway Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety, and the Office of Hazardous Materials. This is the tentative plan. All other DOT offices will be in the Nassif Building.

In our next issue we will attempt to cover some of your questions on public transportation to the southwest employment area.