

COMIC AND MAGAZINE DEPARTMENT

U. S. DOESN'T LIKE OUR UTILITY POLES

Uncle Sam's Expensive Courthouse Is 'Marred'

By E. R. NICOLAI

Superlatives by the score are being used by government officials in Seattle to describe the \$1,800,000 Federal Courthouse, nearing completion at Fifth Avenue and Spring Street.

But, despite the words of praise, federal authorities are somewhat upset when they visit the offices they will occupy the latter part of next month and look out of the windows for a view of Elliott Bay. Their view is darkened somewhat by weathered utility poles which virtually surround the building.

Early this week, William A. Newman, of San Francisco, district engineer for the Public Buildings Administration, made his final inspection of the stately courthouse. With him was Fred H. Williams, government construction engineer on the building.

'Should be Removed'

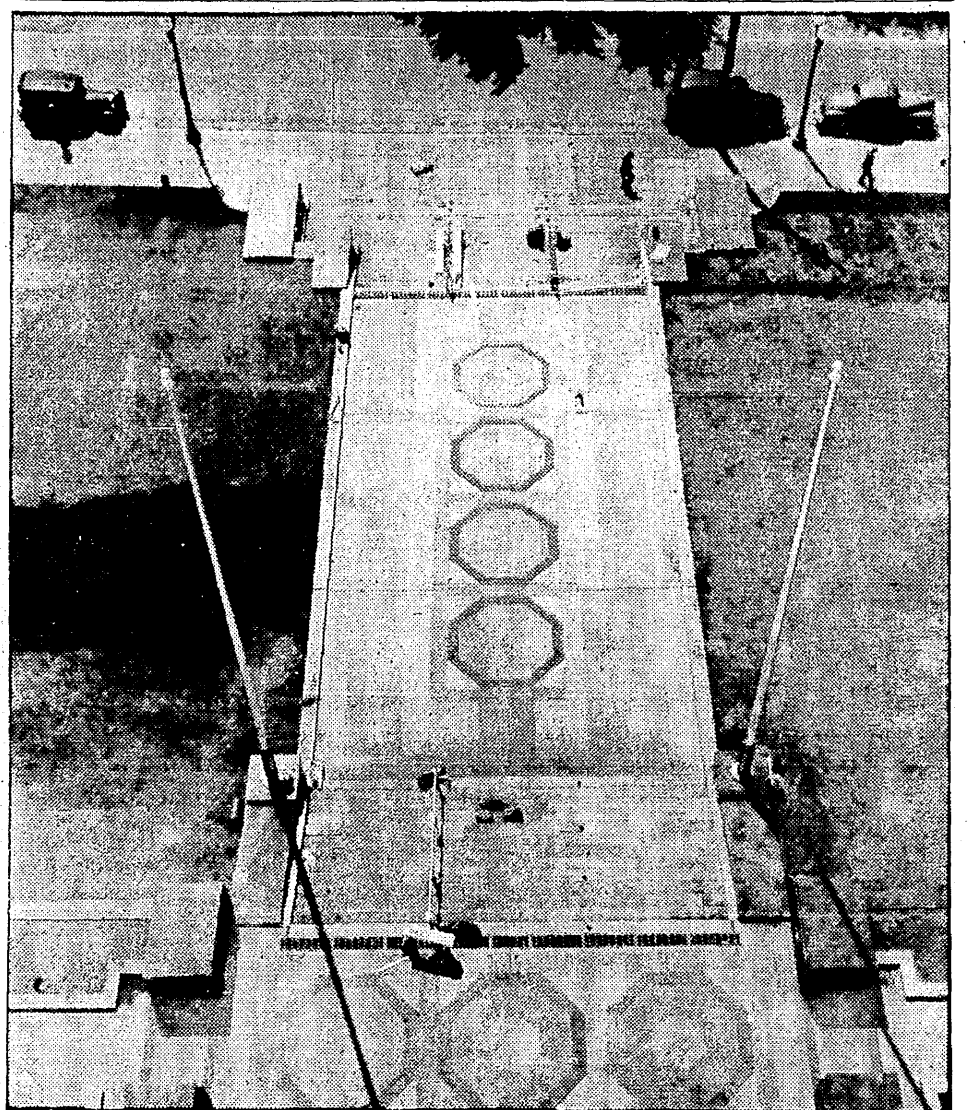
Newman stood at the entrance to the building, surveyed the spacious area which soon will be green with lawn, and commented:

"Those ugly poles should be removed. They wouldn't be tolerated in any other city the size of Seattle and it would be a nice gesture by the city if the poles were removed and the utility wires placed underground."

Newman said that the wide area on the Fifth Avenue side of the building not only will be lawn, but



Despite an unsightly veil of weathered utility poles and wires, Seattle's \$1,800,000 Federal Courthouse, a gleaming structure of white, with contrasting red trimmings, stands forth majestically at Fifth and Spring Street—the most modern office building in the Pacific Northwest. Federal officials have suggested that the city have the poles and network of wires removed.



Here is shown the attractive mosaic sidewalk on the Fifth Avenue side of the courthouse. This photograph was taken from the tenth floor of the building. In a few weeks the sidewalk will be bordered with shrubs and lawn and trees will be planted to further beautify the building's surroundings. Two flag poles flank the entrance to the structure.



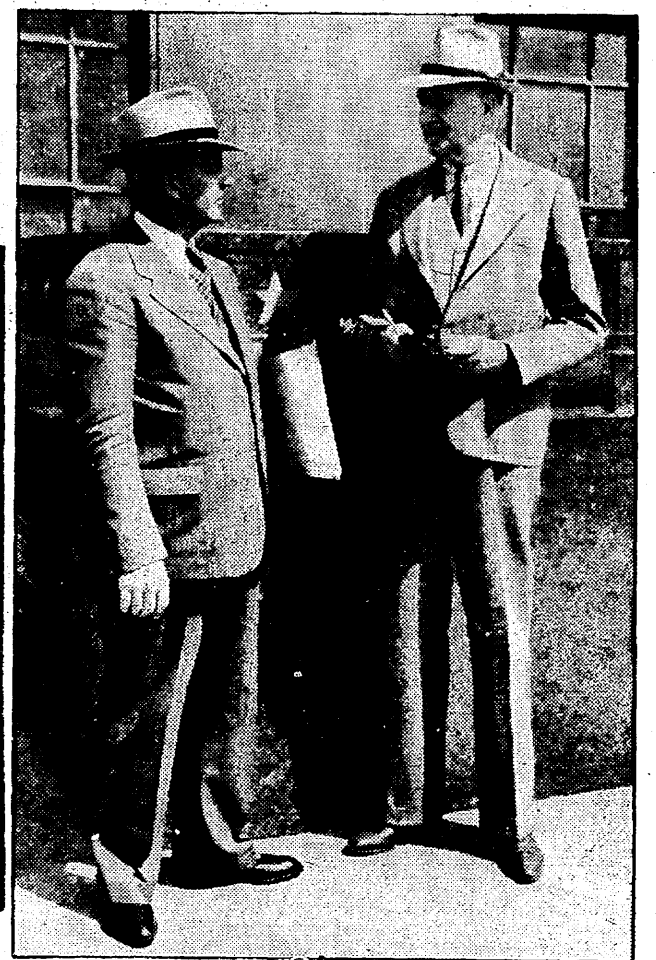
United States District Court Judge Lloyd L. Black (seated) is shown here with Deputy Clerk Elmo Bell in Judge Black's new courtroom, which he will use when the courthouse is occupied by Department of Justice officials late in September. On the wall above Judge Black's bench is a modernistic clock of chrome. The bench is richly paneled. On both sides are witness boxes. This courtroom is trimmed in blue. Other courts in the building are trimmed in green, red and brown. Woodwork is American black walnut.



Even prisoners in the Federal Courthouse will be able to view Seattle's scenic beauty while awaiting hearing. This photograph, taken from inside a cell in the marshal's office, shows what a prisoner will see—Elliott Bay, the Public Library, other buildings.



William Myers, a workman, pauses for a refrigerated drink of water from one of the many fountains in the building. Each fountain contains an automatic refrigerator.



Duty of these two men, Fred H. Williams (left) and William A. Newman is to see that the building is constructed according to government standards. They were photographed at the main entrance to the structure. Both are with the Public Buildings Administration.

will be landscaped and beautified with shrubs and trees.

Inside the building, soon to be opened to public view, visitors find beauty and costly fittings which are not equaled by any other government building elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. Chrome, marble, brass trimmings and hardwood paneling are abundant. Pride of the N. P. Severin Company, builders, are the terrazzo floors in the entrances on Fifth Avenue and Sixth Avenue.

The structure even surpasses swanky Hollywood apartments in richness of equipment and finishing.

Judges, for example, have their private tiled showers. Heavy drapes set off the windows. Hardwood trimmings are everywhere. Indirect lighting of the latest type sheds a glow over heavy linoleum flooring polished to a mirror gloss.

Refrigerated Drinking Water

Visitors to the building will find it an oasis. On every floor and outside every courtroom, too, are refrigerators which automatically cool drinking water. The old-fashioned drinking fountain can't be found in the building.

Clocks are as numerous as petals on a flower. The building's clock in nearly every room. In the courtrooms, Uncle Sam's clock in the courtroom, these clocks have small chrome stars instead of numbers and dainty chrome hands point to the stars.

Overhead in the courtrooms are long channels of glistening chrome which reflect the rays of light and bathe the rooms in a gentle glow. The acoustics are a vast improvement over those in the Postoffice Building which now houses the courts.

Best Money Can Buy

The splendor of the building likewise is reflected in the furniture. Deep, luxurious overstuffed chairs and davenport are in virtually every office. They are the best office furniture money can buy.

The courtroom benches, however, are the traditional, severe type. Hardwood, to be sure, but without padding.

Members of federal juries who deliberate cases will be secluded as hermits. Each courtroom has a specially-built jury room which can be reached by one door only and

that door is just behind the judge's bench.

When jurors leave their box they file through the door in the back of a courtroom and go down a flight of stairs to a well-lighted room equipped with tiled washrooms. Only exit from this deliberation room is through the courtroom. Thus, there will be no opportunity for jury tampering.

Judge Black Pleased

United States District Judge Lloyd L. Black inspected one of the jury rooms this week and expressed complete satisfaction.

"The jury room is large enough so the jurors could stay there overnight if necessary," he said.

The elevator machinery and air-conditioning apparatus in the penthouse atop the courthouse is an engineer's paradise. Air will be circulated through the huge building by immense blowers which will work automatically through a thermostat control system. Each courtroom has a gigantic air inlet to insure pure air at all times.

Although the courthouse was built by a Chicago firm, most of the material in it came from Seattle. Most of the workmen, too, were Seattle men.

Housing of all Department of Justice agencies under one roof will make for greater coordination. At present, many of the agencies connected with the department are scattered throughout the city. When the building is occupied, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the clerk's office, probation office, referee in bankruptcy, marshal's office, commissioners, Secret Service and Alcohol Tax Unit will be brought closer together.

Although the Secret Service and Alcohol Tax Unit are Treasury Department agencies, much of their work involves prosecution of criminals in cooperation with the Justice Department.

F. B. I. Has Own Cells

The Federal Bureau of Investigation likewise will have cells in which suspects can be kept while awaiting questioning.

Crowded conditions which exist in the Postoffice Building will be remedied by the new building. Hundreds upon hundreds of documents for which the clerk's office has difficulty finding space will be stored in spacious file rooms.

As a further coordination move,

the telephones of agencies in the building will be on the Seneca 3100 exchange, the same switchboard which serves the Federal Office Building at First Avenue and Madison Street.

Even federal prisoners will have an opportunity to reflect on the opportunities offered by the building's location. In the United States marshal's office are three barred cells. The center one provides a sweeping view of Elliott Bay. Women prisoners, who will occupy cells made of high-grade steel sheeting instead of bars, will have only a view of buildings across Spring Street.

The building has three elevators for passengers and one for freight. The freight elevators also will be used to carry prisoners.

Bullet-Proof 'Fort'

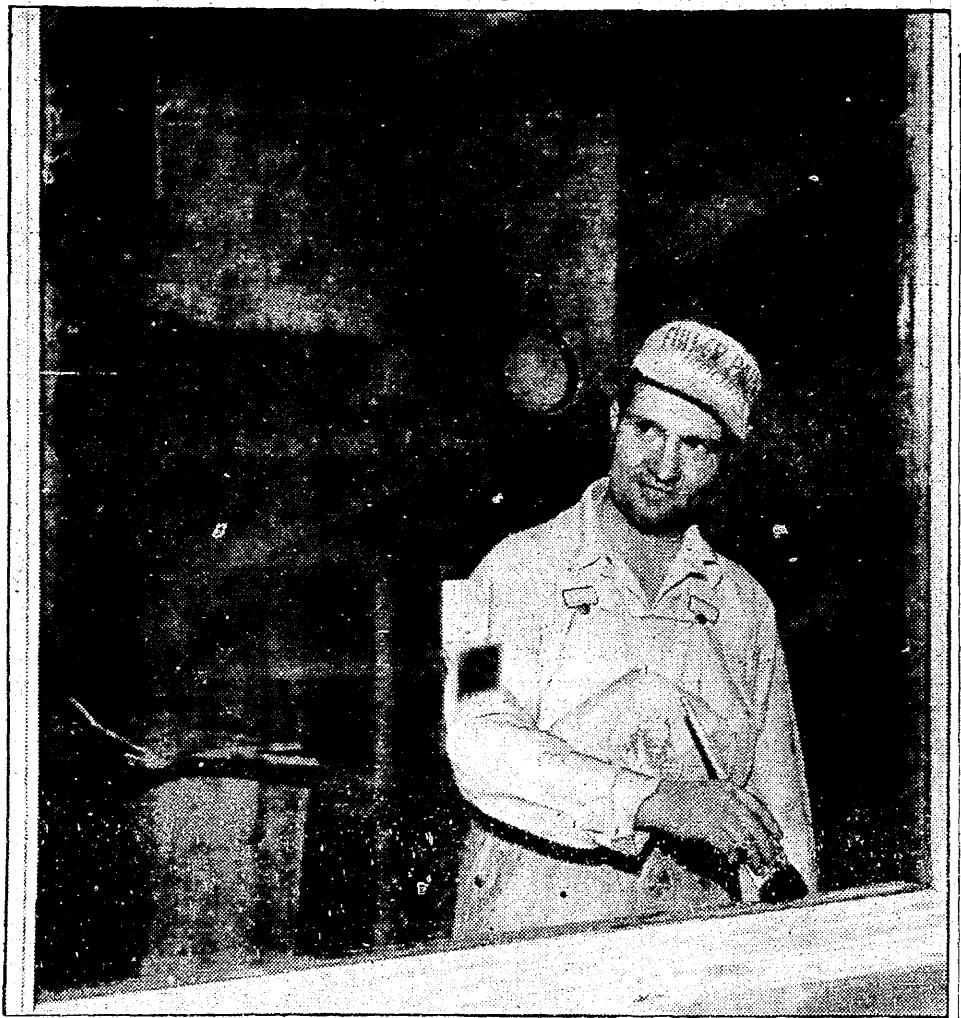
In contrast to the artistic beauty portrayed in the building's interior is the Spring Street entrance to the basement. This is where prisoners will enter the building. Facing the doorway to the street is a small "fort" which has a bullet-resisting glass window and a door of tempered steel. When prisoners enter the building, a guard will be in the "fort" and will keep a machine-gun trained on them to thwart any attempt to escape.

But for all its chrome and brass trimmings, its private shower baths, its modernistic clocks, the building is constructed to last many years, Newman declares.

"This is the only federal courthouse building in the nation, with the exception of one in New York City," Newman said. "It represents the recognition by the federal government of the enterprise and activity of Seattle citizens and should provide a definite tie between Seattle and the nation's capital."

Ain't No Justice

DALLAS, Tex.—(AP)—An 18-year-old groom told police his 14-year-old bride ran away. He asked them to recover the wedding and engagement rings, which had not been paid for. The practical police not only told him the rings were the property of the bride, but advised him further he had better keep up the payments.



Federal prisoners entering the courthouse through the Spring Street basement doorway will come face to face with this "fort" on which a painter is putting the finishing touches. The hole in the bullet-resisting glass is for a machine gun which a guard will keep trained on the prisoners to thwart escapes. The "fort" is constructed of highly-tempered steel and has a vault-like door to protect the guard.

THE STARS INCLINE HOROSCOPE BUT DO NOT COMPEL

LEO—(July 23 to August 23)—persons of all ages to count their Subjects of this sign have a great love for their own. They are likely to think members of their families can do no wrong. Teachers should be tactful in hinting that a child of a Leo mother needs correction. Both men and women have a great deal of intuition and for this reason are quick to judge character. Many seem to be easily prejudiced, but they are likely to discover concealed faults.

Sunday, August 18

Again adverse planetary aspects dominate this day. It is a rule of the stars that inclines people to look on the dark side of world conditions. Destructive thoughts should be overcome.

Heart and home—This day heat and humidity may affect the nerves of many in different sections of the country. There should be determined opposition to depression or discouragement. This is a time for

Persons whose birthdate it is have the augury of a year of domestic perplexities. Girls should be cautious in regard to love affairs. Finances should be satisfactory. Children born on this day probably will be good-natured, talented and energetic, but difficult to direct. Many of these Leo boys and girls may be extraordinary in mentality.

FEATURES IN THIS DEPARTMENT TODAY

This Page—U. S. doesn't like our utility poles in front of expensive new courthouse.

Page 15—Full page of The Times' regular daily comics.

Page 16—Times' Saturday comic features, the antics of Mickey Finn.

Page 17—More weekly comics—Winnie Winkle, Smilin' Jack.

Page 18—Junior American editorial, "The Benefits of Democracy"; Dixie Dugan, Ed Reed's "Off the Record."