

Mini-bank will aid contractors

Students passing the north side of Architecture Hall in the past few days probably have noticed a strange looking structure being built there.

That edifice, called a test-bent, is connected with the construction of the new National Bank of Commerce (NBC) building, according to Von Innes, architect with Davis, Fenton, Stango and Darling, a Lincoln architecture firm planning the NBC building.

Innes said the test-bent's purpose is to enable the contractor to test forming methods, to work with the concrete mix which is to be used in the NBC building, to give persons who will work on the building experience with the materials to be used and to correct any deficiencies.

"The test-bent is being built on the Lincoln campus primarily to give architecture students a chance to see the methods being used to build the NBC building," Innes said.

When the University and architects no longer need the structure, it will be removed and the building site will be restored, he added.

"The test-bent is not an overall model of the new building, but in some respects it will be similar," Innes said, noting that the north wall, ceiling and columns of the test-bent all will have the external appearance of the NBC building.

Actually, he said, the test-bent is just one condensed component of the building. He added that none of the materials used in the test-bent will be used in the actual NBC building.

He said the test-bent is not a new concept, and it is used frequently.

Innes said that, when completed, the test-bent will be 15 ft. wide by 22 ft. long and will be 25 ft. high. Even though it is not yet finished, some procedures in constructing the NBC building already have been altered.

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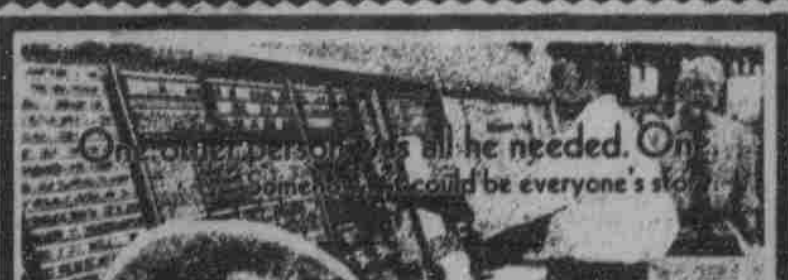
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