

Research projects to share space

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Reporter

Two University research projects will begin moving next month into the former Coca-Cola plant located adjacent to campus.

The new Energy Efficient Industrialized Housing Program and the University Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) will share space in the building at 1565 Franklin Blvd.

The former Coca-Cola plant, being temporarily dubbed the "Whittaker building," is also within the boundaries of the Riverfront Research Park special zoning district.

"It (the building) will be a very good place for those two programs," said John Moseley, University vice president for research.

An 18-month lease at a cost of \$128,884 was signed in December with California realtors. The facility will provide 33,180 square feet of office and laboratory space.

Private donations and a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for the housing program are financing the lease.

Moseley said the office space in the building will be occupied by the LERC while the housing program will mostly utilize the warehouse space.

"The industrialized housing program needs a lot of space," Moseley said. "There will be a lot of testing and moving of housing components and some building."

Moseley said equipment for the program will include a wind tunnel to test for energy efficiency and an artificial sky to simulate outdoor conditions.

Because the building is being used as a temporary headquarters for the two projects, only minimal renovation is necessary before the move can be completed and work begun, Moseley said.

"We're going to clean up the place and replace some lines," Moseley said. "Because the place is being used temporarily, we're not going to spend a lot of money on renovations."

G.Z. "Charlie" Brown, housing project director and University architecture professor, said

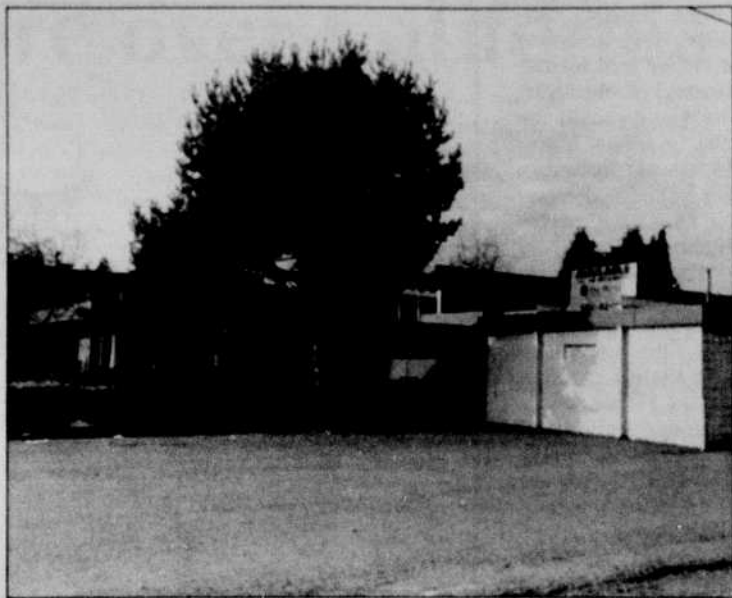


Photo by Mark Yen

Two University research projects will be housed next month in this former Coca-Cola plant located adjacent to campus on Franklin Boulevard.

no timetable has been established for the move and the decision on what equipment to include has not been made yet.

"Right now we're working on developing a research plan and studying industrialized housing in the U.S.," Brown said.

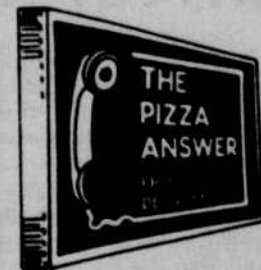
Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield and Rep. Peter DeFazio were on hand in November to announce the beginnings of the housing project. The program is a joint effort with the Florida Solar Energy Center to study effective ways to save energy in housing construction.

The housing program is being funded by a \$700,000 grant from the energy department and represents the only DOE project approved by Congress this year.

Though the building is being used on a temporary basis, Moseley said the office space available will allow the LERC to have a permanent place to offer classes.

Both programs are expected to move their headquarters into the first building constructed on the Riverfront Research Park site, Moseley said.

Moseley expects the University to renew the lease for at least another year to allow for the first building construction.



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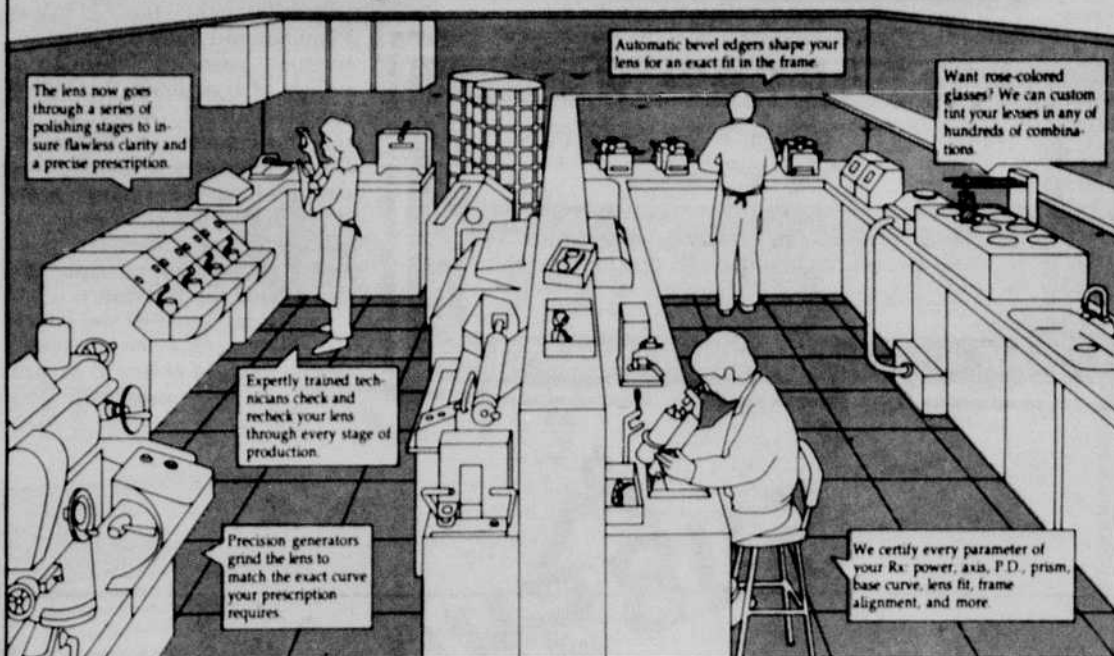
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