

Eugene Federal Building project adds new security measures

■ **BUILDING:** The renovations are part of a nationwide response to the Oklahoma City bombing

The Associated Press

A \$1.65 million building project under way at the U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building complex incorporates expensive new security measures.

"It's part of a nationwide concern that was generated after what happened in Oklahoma City," said Rob Walch, chief deputy clerk of federal courts for the District of Oregon.

The April 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City killed 168 people and injured more than 500.

Federal workers in Eugene also recall the protest that followed the

1992 acquittal of Los Angeles police officers involved in the beating of Rodney King. About 300 people attacked the building, causing \$20,000 in damage.

The building project will add space for court operations and offices for prosecutors and Drug Enforcement Administration agents.

The first phase involves renovation of 1,100 square feet in the U.S. Courthouse, including new security measures, at a cost of about \$454,000, General Services Administration spokeswoman Lisa Ofenloch said.

Much of the glass on the building's ground floor has been replaced with bullet-resistant panes that required reinforced frames.

Barriers that can be raised and lowered by hydraulic power have been installed in a driveway leading to the courthouse door.

And a breezeway from the courthouse to the clerk's office in the Federal Building will be enclosed in glass to better protect staff, Walch said.

The project's second phase involves renovating the 12,600-square-foot fourth floor of the Federal Building at a cost of \$759,000.

The renovated space will be used by federal prosecutors and the local Drug Enforcement Administration. "A lot of the reason the cost is so high is because of the DEA's special security concerns," Ofenloch said.

A third phase of work will replace the concrete plaza at a cost of \$437,000, Ofenloch said. Large aggregate used in the original concrete is loosening, posing a hazard for pedestrians, Ofenloch said.

The project is scheduled to be completed in mid-February.

Two-story size rock finds a home in Portland

■ **BOULDER:** The stone, a gift from Suzhou, China, will sit outside City Hall

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — What can you do with a 16-ton boulder? Well, when it's a gift from someone special, you find a prominent spot to display it.

After a year of looking for that spot, Portland city officials say they'll put their gift from sister city Suzhou, China, outside City Hall once renovations to the building are complete.

The two-story rock arrives Wednesday by ship, and will be stored until the four-story City Hall reopens.

Portland Mayor Vera Katz and

Suzhou Mayor Zhang Xin Sheng are expected to announce the boulder's future home on Friday.

The boulder was excavated from China's Lake Tai, and is among the largest of the limestone specimens ever to be mined from the bottom.

Such stones often are centerpieces of classical Chinese gardens. But the boulder's size and Mayor Zhang's political wishes meant that placing the rock in the classical Chinese garden planned for Chinatown was not an option.

The rock probably will be placed in a small plaza on the Fourth Avenue side of City Hall, occupied until July by a 10-ton ancient petroglyph. The 15,000-year-old Wallula Stone has been re-

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— Skip Stanaway
Head Architect on the City Hall renovation

turned to its rightful owners, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

"Placement is going to be very important," said Skip Stanaway, the head architect on the City Hall renovation. "We need to know the cultural feelings about the stone, where it's appropriate, what's politically correct."

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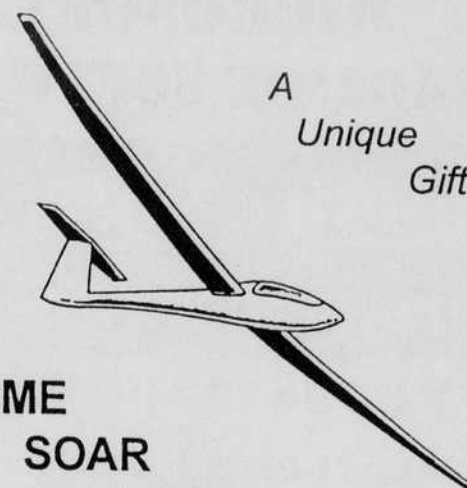
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