

Miles and Miles Of Wiring

Two completely separate and highly sophisticated electrical systems were required for the new Observer building. One was to serve the most sophisticated production and printing system at any Michigan newspaper, and the other to serve the complexities of the entire 52,000 sq. ft. building.

Selected to install the building electrical system was Cates Electric Company of Royal Oak, a highly reputable firm which has been serving the construction industry in the metropolitan area since 1947.

Exclusive of the press wiring, Cates electricians installed:

- 627 fluorescent lighting fixtures
- 3,800 light bulbs
- 48,000 ft. electrical wiring (approx. 9.09 miles)
- 3,170 ft. large electrical conduit
- 502 circuits
- 18,000 ft. branch circuit conduit (approx. 3.4 miles)
- 4,300 ft. underfloor duct work
- 350 outlet receptacles
- 42 electrical motors

The 200 car parking lot was designed with six 40-foot high light poles using high-intensity illumination at night for security, while eight mercury-vapor floodlights bathe the pre-cast concrete panels on the front of the building, creating an interesting shadowed effect.

Mounted high on the sides and rear of the building are photo-cell controlled lighting fixtures which project light out into the dense wooded area around the building, giving protection as well as aesthetic interest.

Use of unusual lighting fixtures, dimmers, and adjustable lighting on a track in the lobby ceiling for special art illumination coordinate with the functional yet unique architecture of Observer's new building.

The expertise of Cates electricians and the cooperation of Don Cates, Sr. and his management team had a great deal to do with meeting the scheduled moving date in mid-February of this year.

