



# Town Clock Foundation

Granite Construction Co. workers Friday poured the base for the Town Clock around the Fred Morris Memorial Fountain at the plaza across from the post office. Bricks will go over what they're doing and into the four, 14-foot arches—the start of one of which is in the foreground—which will support the clock tower. The old clock is being reinstituted as a city Bicentennial project. The original clock was installed in 1873 on the Odd Fellows building next to the old county courthouse, which is now the Cooper House. It was paid for by a public subscription of \$1,000. Robert Darrow, coordinator of the current project, said it is estimated the cost of putting up the new tower to house the rejuvenated clock is \$89,000. The first clock and tower burned in 1899. Its replacement was installed, also at the Odd Fellows building, in 1900. It lasted until 1965, when the Odd Fellows remodeled the building. The city has subscribed \$27,500 in cash and services to replace it. That leaves the project about \$65,000 to raise by public subscription, Darrow noted. It has taken in

about \$22,500. But the Fourth of July target deadline is coming closer, Darrow reminded, and the effort is in dire need of further donations—particularly, of time and material. Electrical contractors in the area joined forces with the electrical workers union to donate all the needed wiring. Descending weights, like those in a grandfather's clock, will make the clock work. But an electric motor is being used to elevate the weights every three days. The fire code says the tower will have to have a fire sprinkler system, and George Wilson, Inc., has donated installation of that device. Tom Reese Construction Co. is general contractor for the job. Residents can have a personally inscribed brick set in the tower for a donation of \$50. Anyone wishing to donate to the project may do so by contacting Dorothy Trinidad of the city finance department. Denise Holbert is chairman of the Town Clock Committee which first contracted with the city to do the project.