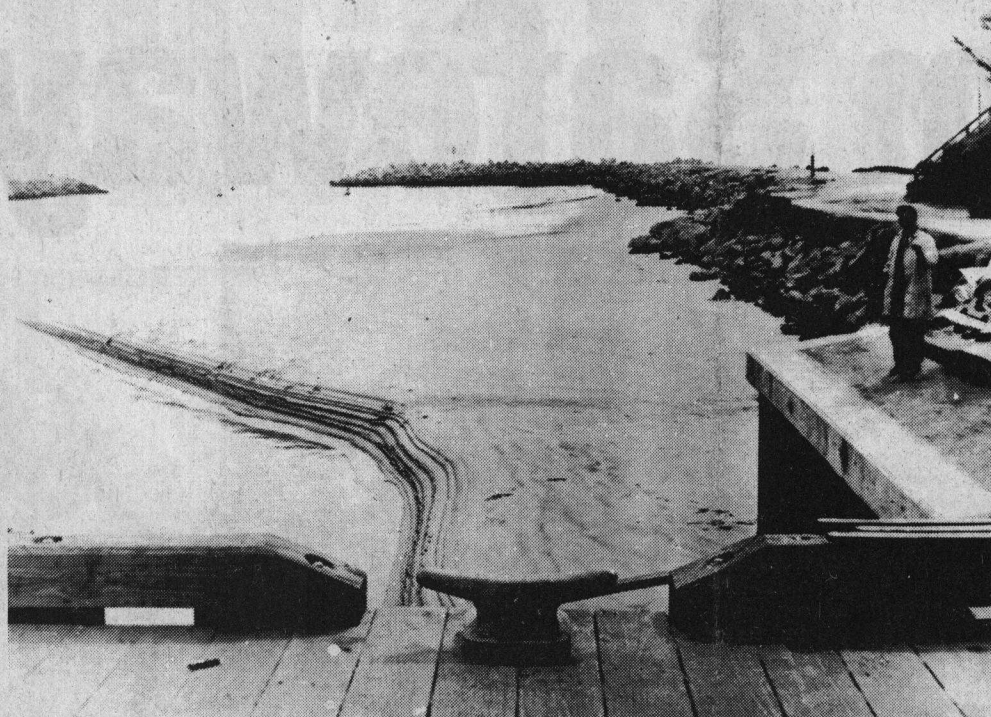


# Yacht harbor dredging menaces Twin Lakes beach

Twin Lakes state beach will take another blast of sand and muck from the bottom of Santa Cruz Yacht harbor now that a Richmond firm has started preliminary work for dredging the harbor, which is partially blocked by a sand bar.

Last year more than 55,000 cubic yards of foul smelling black sand and muck were dumped on the beach, closing it to swimming for a period and causing concern from beach front property owners.

Dredging of the harbor channel has been an annual affair since the 1000 foot long main jetty was first put up in 1964. Because of ocean currents sand, by the thousands of



**SAND BAR TO BE DUMPED ON BEACH** -- This sand bar across part of the 360 berth Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor will be eliminated later this month when a Richmond firm begins dredging 70,000 cubic yards of what the Army Corps of Engineers labels as "material" from the harbor and dumps it on Twin Lakes State Beach. Each year increasing amounts of sand, sedimentary rock and an evil smelling black material are taken out of the channel and dumped on the neighboring beach. The problem might be eliminated if a sand bypass plant were built on the jetty (see background) and sand were sent around the harbor to Twin Lakes, minus the muck. But, so far the Army has failed to act on the project -- News Photo.

tons, sweeps into the harbor and must be dredged out. At present a sand bar has developed across a large part of the 30 foot deep channel, forming a small beach in the harbor.

Effluent taken from the harbor bottom is sent along a half mile long metal tube until it is dumped in front of Schwann Lake. Last year Parks and Recreation rangers went along the beach from the jetty to Black Point telling swimmers to stay out of the polluted waters.

In addition to the sand (which is as clean as any other sand in the area) sedimentary rocks, and a foul black muck which looks like it came straight from an East Bay tidal flat are mixed in the tube and dumped on the beach. It is the muck which causes consternation for local residents.

By the time the dredging job is complete the already less than white sands of the beach will be blackened again. By next winter much of the muck will have washed away, but the rocks taken from the channel bottom stay. A dip in the water at Twin Lakes (if you dare) finds the ocean bottom like a sharp rock field, rather than a sandy floor.

Apparently the yacht harbor, a boon to local fishermen, boating enthusiasts and some businesses, is the main concern of the Army Corps of Engineers, which is in charge of the harbor channel. According to Col. Frank Boerger of the Corps' San Francisco office, "in spite of the inconvenience caused to those who use the harbor at this season, we can't risk working in winter weather conditions with incoming swells which will not allow dredges to operate."

Since the problems of Capitola's beach (or lack thereof) also seem to be connected to the jetty, the installation of a long promised, but as-yet-unbudgeted, sand bypass plant might solve the problem.

If built, the bypass plant might also ease another problem for Twin Lakes area residents, and that is a fast dwindling beach. In pre-harbor days the area had a beach the size of the present Seabright beach. Seabright beach was then rather thin and in winter

## Last visit of lodge official set for Apr. 17

Plans for the last official visit of Mrs. Martin Blake-nore, district deputy president, on April 17 were made by members of Martha Washington Rebekeh lodge at its last meeting in Soquel.

All members are encouraged to attend today's meeting.

Members enjoyed their annual Easter Hat Parade at the last meeting with prizes being awarded Mrs. Margaret Lake (prettiest), Mrs. Olga Drunsfield (most original) and Mrs. Helen Williams (funniest).

The hall was decorated with hats of all description. Judges were Alonzo Brown, Mrs. Elna Jensen and Edward Dugan. Mrs. Dunsfield was chairman, assisted by co-chairmen, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Mary Potts, Mrs. Ruth Duffey and Mrs. Jensen. Coffeemaker was Edwad Dugan.

## Friendly Thimble

Friendly Thimble club of Santa Cruz will hold a dessert-luncheon business meeting April 19 at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Roy Reid, 307 Market st., Santa Cruz.

often non-existent.

With construction of the jetty the tides so to speak, have turned. Now Seabright has a wide year-round beach and Twin Lakes' cliff-top home owners often find winter waves thrashing at cliffs in front of their homes.

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