



From left, Dale Dillon, Sally Davenport and John Zivanovich watch the dismantling yesterday.

Kurt Ellison

Fate of St. Patrick's still unknown

Work continued today on the dismantling of the steeple at St. Patrick's Church in Watsonville, but there is still no decision on the fate of the church.

Workers began the dismantling yesterday, a process that will take two to five days, said the Rev. Mike Miller, head pastor at St. Patrick's.

The steeple will be taken down in sections, Miller said, so it can be preserved.

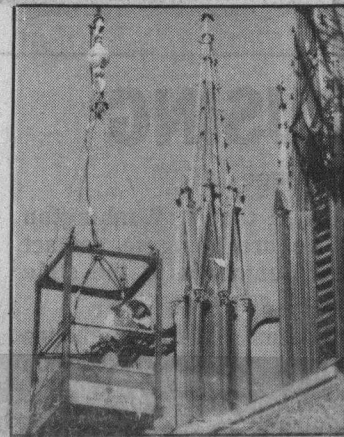
Four structural engineers have inspected the church, Miller said, and will meet together to pool their thoughts. The Monterey Diocese has a

three-member administrative team that will decide the church's fate; one of the members is the Rev. Declan Murphy, who was head pastor at St. Patrick's until early this year.

The church, built in 1901, was serving 4,000 worshippers each weekend. St. Patrick's services are now being held in the gym at Moreland Notre Dame School, across the street from the church.

"The crowds are coming back," Miller said. "We had 3,500" last weekend.

The southbound lanes of Main Street will remain closed until the steeple comes down.





Diane Varni

In pieces

Workers steady St. Patrick's main spire after it was removed yesterday afternoon. A meeting was scheduled

for today to discuss the fate of the rest of the 88-year-old church on Main Street in Watsonville.