

West Cliff Drive Undercut



Graphically illustrated above is the relentless wave action which Saturday night dislodged approximately 1000 tons of the rock underpinning of West Cliff drive between Stockton and San Jose avenues. Portions of the rock which have not been con-

sumed by Monterey bay can be seen. The road has been closed to traffic at that point. In close-up at right, dangling guard rail post and lip of the concrete street are seen. Street Superintendent Donald Bruce estimated that the street has been undercut almost to the centerline.

West Cliff Drive Imperiled As Waves Bite Into Roadway

By Jack Rannells

Realignment of West Cliff drive was being considered by city officials today to by-pass a section imperiled Saturday night when it was undercut by a 1000-ton rock slide.

Relentlessly hammering waves apparently took the gigantic bite between San Jose and Stockton avenues without notice as it was not reported until post-dawn hours Sunday. The section was closed to traffic.

About six feet of the shoulder disappeared with the slide, which is estimated to have cut the cliff base back to the street centerline.

A portion of the concrete street hangs over the remaining cliff.

Street Superintendent Donald Bruce warned that cracks appear along the street shoulder on both sides of the slide section.

City Manager Peter Tedesco, who viewed the slide area with Bruce and City Engineer Alex Russell this morning, said the section of West Cliff drive "will be closed until we can come up with a safe solution and put it into effect."

Tedesco said a logical solution for reopening the street is to straighten it out to avoid the hazardous cliff section. At least two private parcels apparently would be involved.

Russell is studying city rights of way in the area.

Tedesco said he also will contact the army corps of engineers to determine if the city will be credited for any immediate cliff erosion control work it might do at the actual slide area.

The small cove in which the slide occurred is one of nine West Cliff locations included in the federally approved \$1.5 Santa Cruz beach erosion project. The city presently is seeking state commitment for one-half of project expenses not borne by the federal government.

"There is no question but that any immediate action will have to be at local expense," Tedesco said today. "But we want to make sure that eventually the costs will be shared by the state and federal governments as part of the overall costs," he added.

Tedesco said erosion control probably would mean placement of heavy derrick stone foundation at the cliff base with a stone rip-rap lining over it.

Bribe Charges Against Board Are Retracted

Bribe charges levelled against a pair of unnamed members of the board of supervisors were retracted this morning by Mrs. Joseph Staron of Soquel when she appeared before the board shortly before noon today.

The board accepted the one-page typewritten letter of her retraction without comment. Supervisor Walter G. Merrill, liaison officer to the county planning commission, said later as far as he is concerned the matter is closed.

Mrs. Staron read the statement, signed by herself and husband, following a conference with District Attorney Nick Drobac and Merrill.

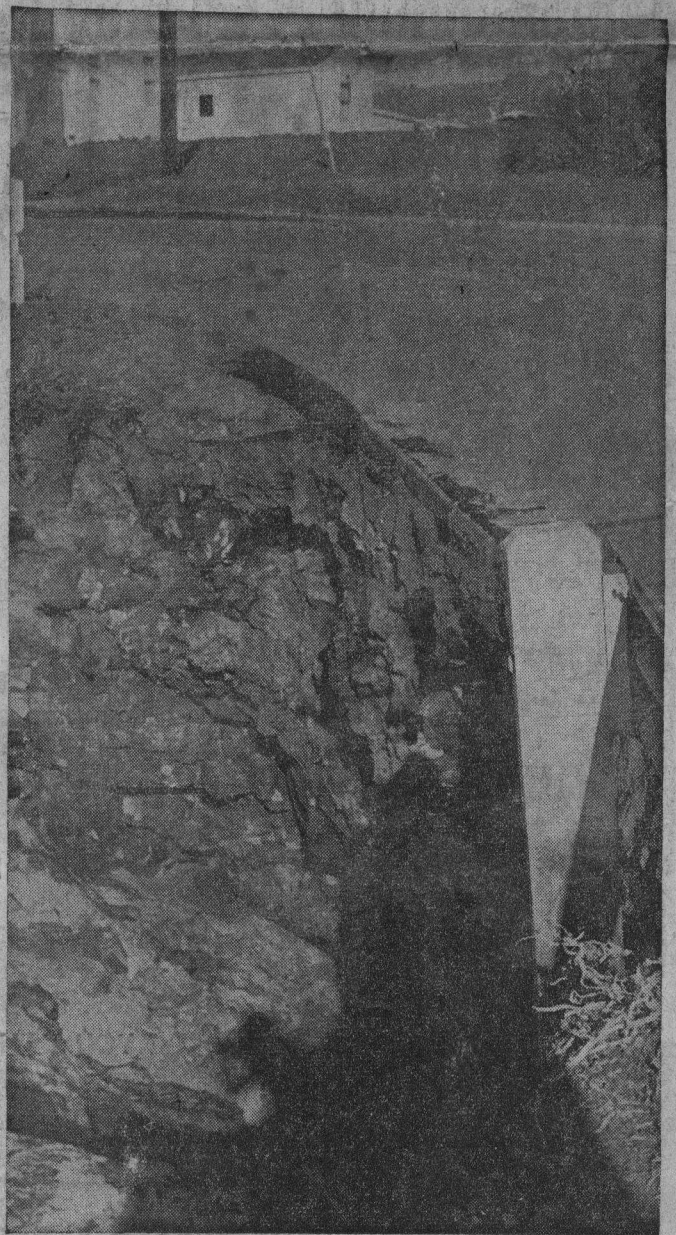
A check into the charges was requested by Merrill, who was the only supervisor at the planning commission meeting in which the charges were made.

"I certainly did not intend to cause any harm to anyone," Mrs. Staron declared. "I was angry at the way my husband had been treated and probably worded my sentence in a way that could be mistaken."

Mrs. Staron explains in the statement that she did not make any charges against anybody. She claimed the intention was not to create any impression of bribery or graft.

Winter Weather Blamed For Heavy Thanksgiving Toll

By The Associated Press
Traffic 437



85 Today

Winnie In Perfect Health As He Celebrates Birthday

By Eddy Gilmore

London (P).—Sir Winston Churchill's doctor pronounced his patient in excellent health today—the 85th birthday of one of the world's most amazing men.

The unannounced appearance of the doctor, Lord Moran, at Sir Winston's London house put gloomy expressions on reporters' faces until Lord Moran emerged smiling.

"Of course he didn't send for me," said the doctor in reply to

flavored cake featured—for about 20 people at his home tonight.

"And he plans to attend parliament before that," the spokesman added.

The four-tiered cake was baked from ingredients brought from more than 120 countries to signify greetings from friends all over the world.

A quiet day was planned for Britain's elder statesman. The beam on his face is as broad