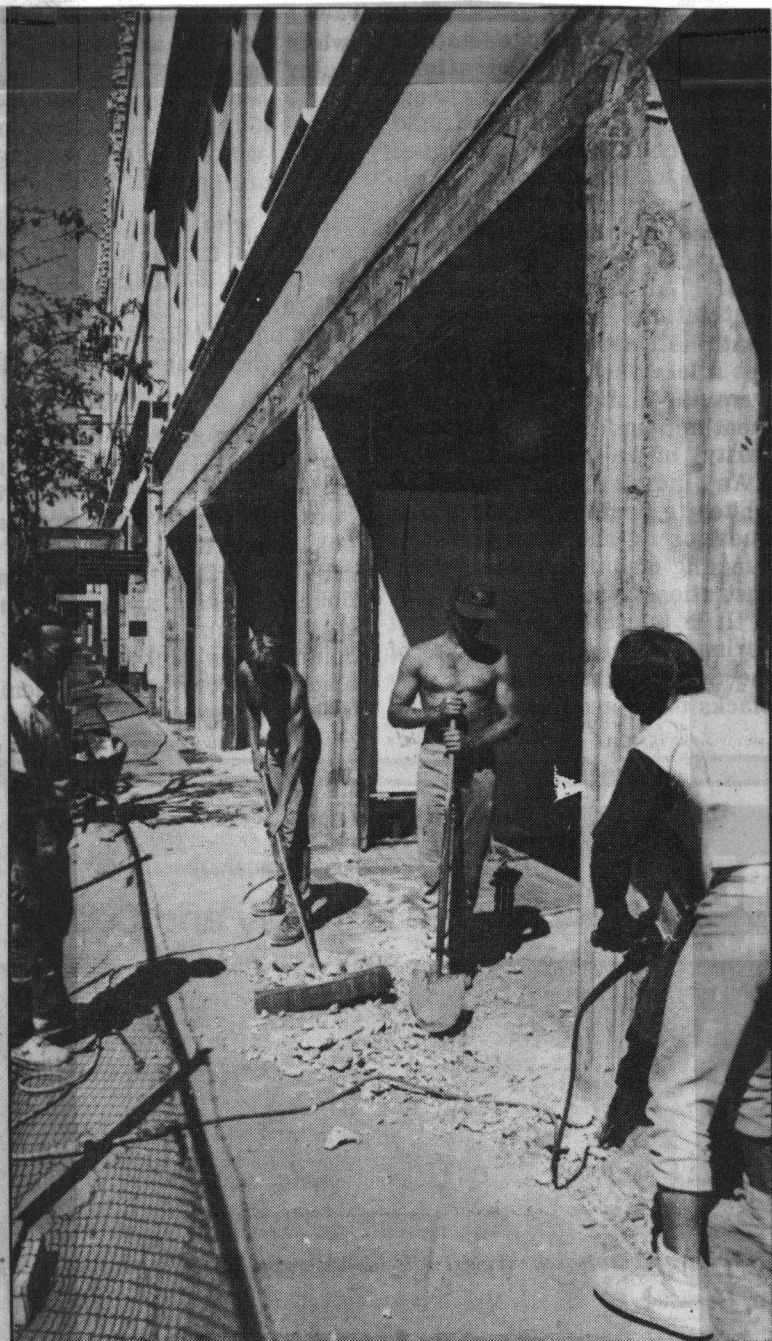


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Crew at work on hotel's rear buildings.

Sam Vestal

Resetar Hotel getting facelift

Remodeling work, to include new commercial space and improvements to the outside of the building, has begun on the Resetar Hotel.

The hotel was purchased last fall by McKenzie-Smith Real Estate Investments, an Orinda firm which has converted the Palomar hotel in Santa Cruz to senior housing.

The firm also plans to convert the Resetar to senior housing once the necessary permits are secured from the city and the Santa Cruz County Housing Authority. Meanwhile, the hotel continues to operate as usual, said John Kiekhefer of McKenzie-Smith.

The current work involves

preparing 7,000 square feet of ground-floor space along West Lake Avenue for commercial use. It's been more than two years since that space has been used.

Kiekhefer said the space will be divided into shops ranging from 650 to 1,400 square feet; the developers plan to set the exact sizes after they've found tenants. The initial work should be done by August, Kiekhefer said. A rear entrance to the shops from the parking lot will be built.

The work on the outside of the building will include new storefronts on West Beach Street with canvas awnings to replace the metal ones.

REFERENCE