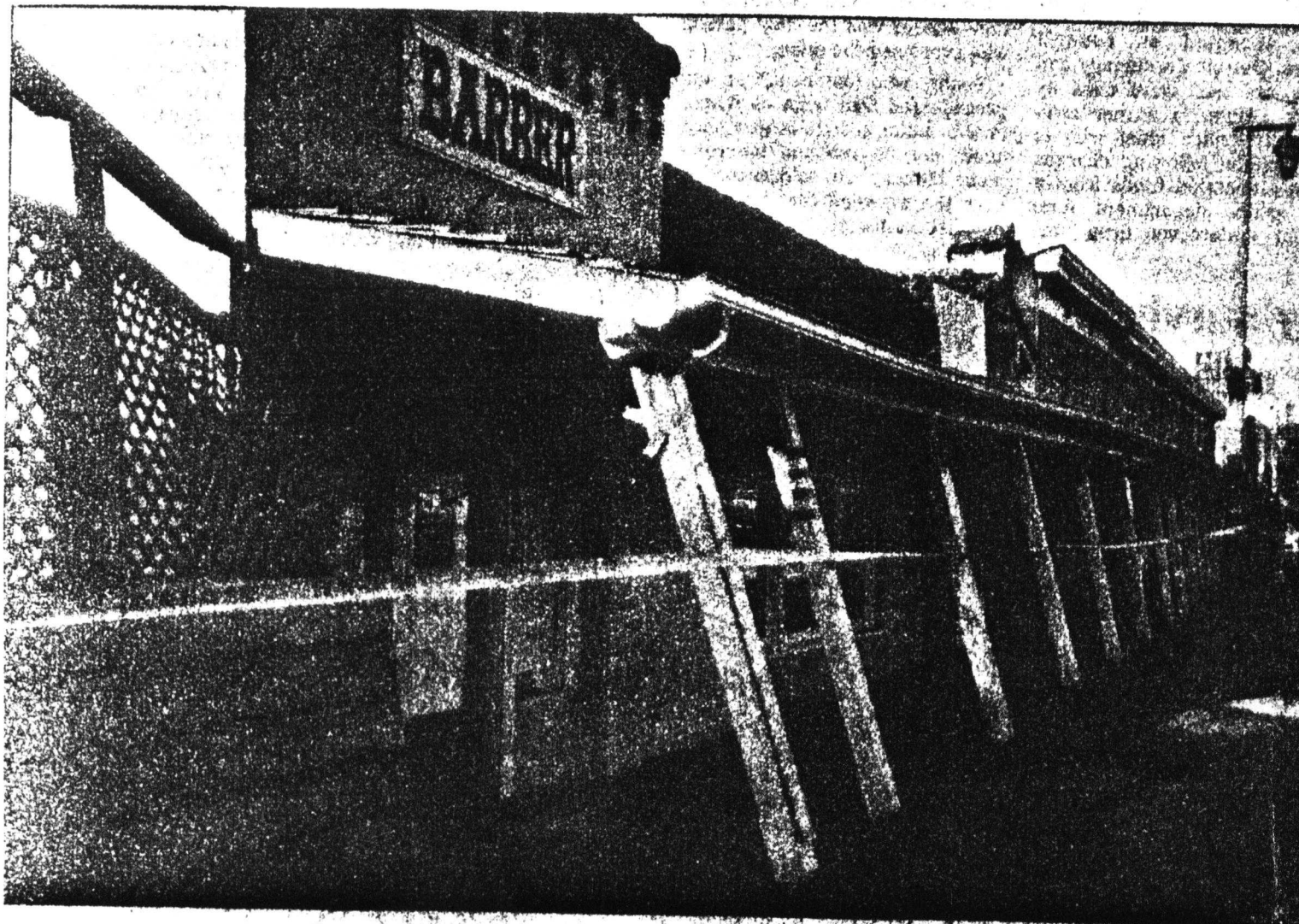


Aptos Village update



The Aptos Village barber shop, damaged in the quake, subsequently fell down the hill.

B-P file photo

Businesses recovering from quake slowly

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Progress has been slow but steady on repairing earthquake damage to a strip of Aptos Village businesses along Soquel Ave.

"This is not a hotbed of activity, but things are moving along here," said Jim Broadwell, owner of three buildings in the middle of the strip.

Broadwell and Bob Anderson, owner of buildings on the north end of the strip, said they intend to repair their buildings, but are waiting for all Business Administration plans to come through. The next step will be to get contractors out to do the repairs, a difficult task in these post-quake days of high demand for contractors.

The biggest problem I think we've had is getting people who can schedule you in," Broadwell said.

John Warren, program manager for community de-

velopment for the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, said his department's role has been to help the property owners make applications for repairs. Earthquake-related repairs will continue to get priority treatment even after the Planning Department starts processing all building applications later this month, Warren said, with a team of planners assigned solely to earthquake repairs.

The future is uncertain for buildings at the north end of the Aptos strip, owned by Salinas resident Anne Bass and her father, longtime Aptos resident Paul Johnston.

The Aptos Village garage and the gas station were repaired and back in operation more than a month ago, said Bass, who is trustee of the 5½-acre parcel she and her father own. She also paid about \$3,000 to retrieve some business owners' property from buildings that crashed into the gully nearly a month after the Oct. 17 quake,

she said. Among property retrieved was an antique barber chair owned by Howard Miller, who had run the Colonial Barber Shop since 1983.

Plans for the other buildings, which remain unoccupied, are on hold, Bass said. She's been unsuccessful so far in securing any money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to repair the buildings, she said, and the paperwork has been intense; she now has a three-inch stack of paperwork collected since the quake. Rainy weather has also contributed to the delay in repairing the buildings, she said.

It has been rumored around Aptos that Bass had sold the property, but Bass said that although she has had several offers since the quake, no decision has been reached.

For Bass, one of the saddest aspects of the quake has been the vandalizing of her father's house in Aptos, Bass said. She said vandals broke into the

unoccupied house and took drawers out of a vanity, threw scissors into the walls, broke glasses that had survived the quake and trampled a cash register her father had cherished.

"What the earthquake did take," Bass said, "the looters have destroyed completely."

Meanwhile, Anderson and Broadwell said they hope to get the earthquake damage to their buildings repaired within two or three months. Much of the repair needed is foundation work, which will require some of the buildings to be raised on jacks, they said.

Broadwell estimated it would be two to 2½ months before the owners of Cafe Sparrow would be able to move back. Bob Montague, who owns the restaurant with his wife, Julie, is working at another job until he can get the restaurant back into operation, Broadwell said, and his employees are waiting for the business to reopen.