

Aptos development moves forward

Old hospital project restarted

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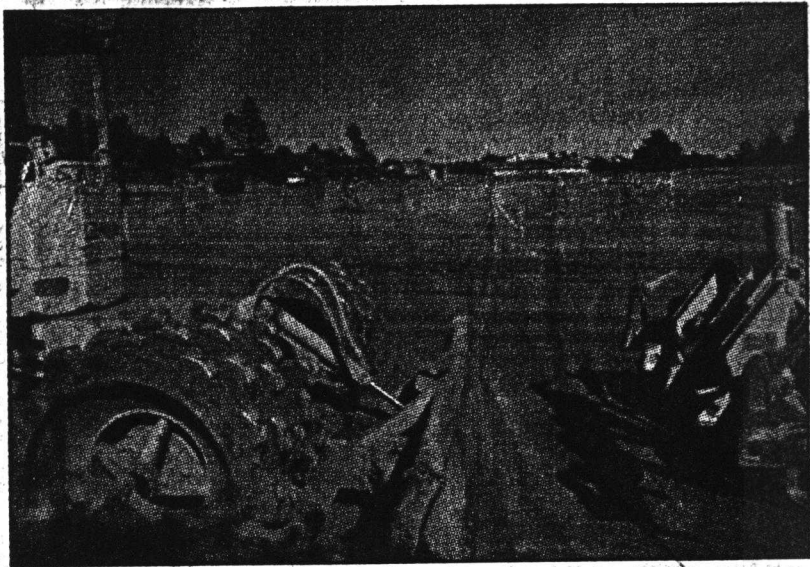
APTOS — Crews have broken ground in preparation for a new housing development and retirement center in Aptos.

Pleasanton developer North Brook Homes plans to building 58 homes and a retirement center that will house up to 86 non-ambulatory elderly patients. The project site, owned by Oliver DeSilva Inc., is on the south side of the 2400 block of Soquel Drive.

Although street improvements have already commenced, the project still must gain the county's approval for several plan changes before actual building may begin.

The site was initially approved by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors for development when it was previously owned by Watsonville Community Hospital. The supervisors approved the 12.5-acre parcel for 28 townhouses, 32 single-family homes and two 15,000 square-foot medical office buildings.

The hospital was issued a permit in March, 1993, but construction was never started. The hospital instead sold the property to a group of investors who then sold the property to North Brook



Tarmo Hannula

Heavy duty earth-movers line the property in the 7400 block of Soquel Drive in Aptos where Granite Construction crews have begun clearing the land for a housing development.

Homes.

The site is still approved for the original plan, but North Brook Homes has filed changes. According to county planning department officer Mike Ferry, the property owners have changed the application to reflect their present design and must gain county approval before actual construction can begin.

Ferry said that he sees no major hitches and is confident the project will go forward.

"They've got some real nice ar-

chitecture and it repeats the theme of Aptos Center," Ferry said. "They have done great land use planning and I think it will be a real nice addition to the area."

The project's developer, Gary Brooks, could not be reached for comment.

Changes to the street and property now under way include the addition of sidewalks, curbs, a bus turnout and other frontage improvements. Other improvements include a storm drain, sewer trunk line and an on-site loop road.