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# Felton hall dispute heads toward court

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Sentinel staff writer

FELTON — A court date may be the next step in the long-running insurance dispute that has slowed rebuilding of the town's Community Hall.

Attorney Charles Perkins, who represents members of the Felton Community Club, said Tuesday that a recent mediation session before retired Judge Henry Broderick in San Francisco failed to produce a settlement.

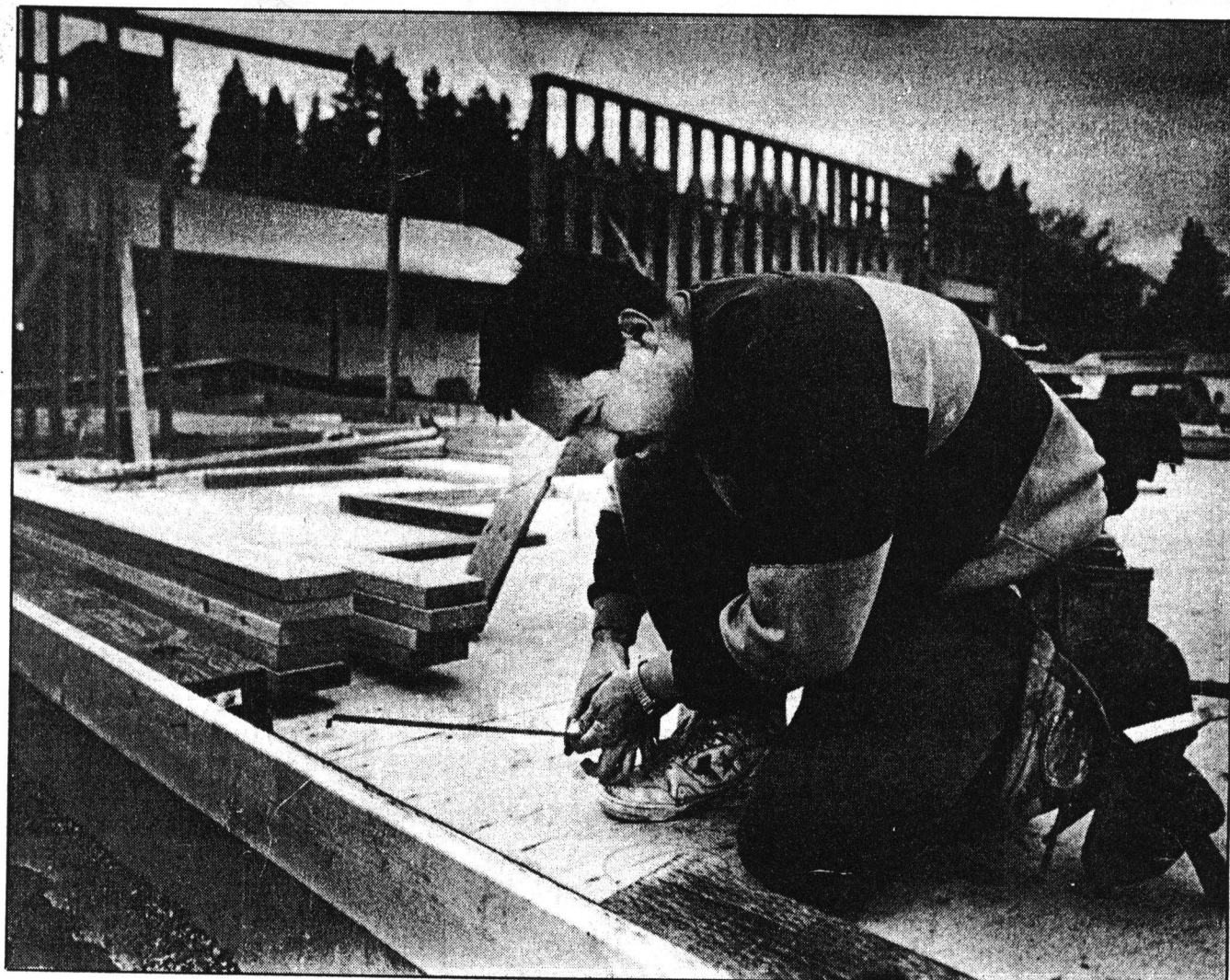
The mediation effort, Perkins said, was required before a lawsuit could go to trial. He said a trial date may be set when the two sides meet for a legal conference March 6.

The club's dispute with its former insurance carrier, Transamerica and Rittenhouse Insurance, is over the cash settlement offered after the 1990 fire that destroyed the Community Hall.

According to club president Gene Martin, the company paid some \$200,000 on the claim, but members believe more is due.

The dispute hasn't stopped the club from scrambling for ways to finance the ongoing rebuilding effort. On Tuesday, workers began putting up the framework for the new center's walls as Phase 2 of the \$500,000 project continues.

Members of the club loaned the \$17,000 necessary for this phase of the 5,600-square-foot project, and they hope to be repaid with money from an



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Dave Davis Jr. works on Felton Community Hall; building continues despite insurance-money fight.

additional insurance settlement.

In addition to the loan, contractor Dave Davis of Castle Construction

and building-material suppliers have reduced their rates or donated materials.

The club's next meeting will be Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Felton Fire Hall.