

'Pile-Driving' Ceremony Marks Start Of Capitola Wharf Repairs

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The long-awaited renovation of the Capitola Wharf — one of the oldest wharfs on the West Coast at 123-years-old — officially began Friday with a "pile-driving" ceremony as some 100 persons watched.

The storm-damaged wharf is presently closed to the public. Actual work on the wharf is expected to begin in 30 to 45 days when materials arrive. Renovation is hoped to be completed by June, in time for the summer tourist season.

Dignitaries made up much of the gathering Friday. The entire Capitola City Council, led by Mayor Jerry Clarke and City Manager Steve Burrell, were on hand, as were members of the Planning Commission, city staff, Chamber of Commerce Central Coastal Commission, state Wildlife Conservation Board and the Alan R. Barreca Construction Co. of Redwood City.

Clarke, acting as master of ceremonies, gave just recognition to Burrell and Rick Karleen, the former leaseholder of the wharf who gave title to the city in exchange for concession rights. Burrell has been in-

strumenta instrumental in gaining state funding, having been involved in another wharf renovation when he worked for the city of San Clemente.

Clarke called the renovation "something we've been aiming for a long time." Burrell echoed his sentiments, saying, "We're happy to get it going."

Total cost of the renovation has already gone up \$130,000 from the city's original estimates to \$623,251. The City Council recently approved the added costs in order to replace the entire deck of the wharf.

Original renovation plans had called for only replacement of part of the deck. According to Burrell, however, since the cost breakdown came in lower than was thought, it was decided this would be the best time to do all the work.

The city already is in the process of seeking funding assistance for the added costs. Presently, the state Wildlife Conservation Board is paying for 75 percent of the original \$492,325 cost. The city is picking up the rest.

Chester Hart, executive officer of the Wildlife Conservation Board, attended the ceremony. He noted that additional state funding "was certainly within the realm of possibilities."

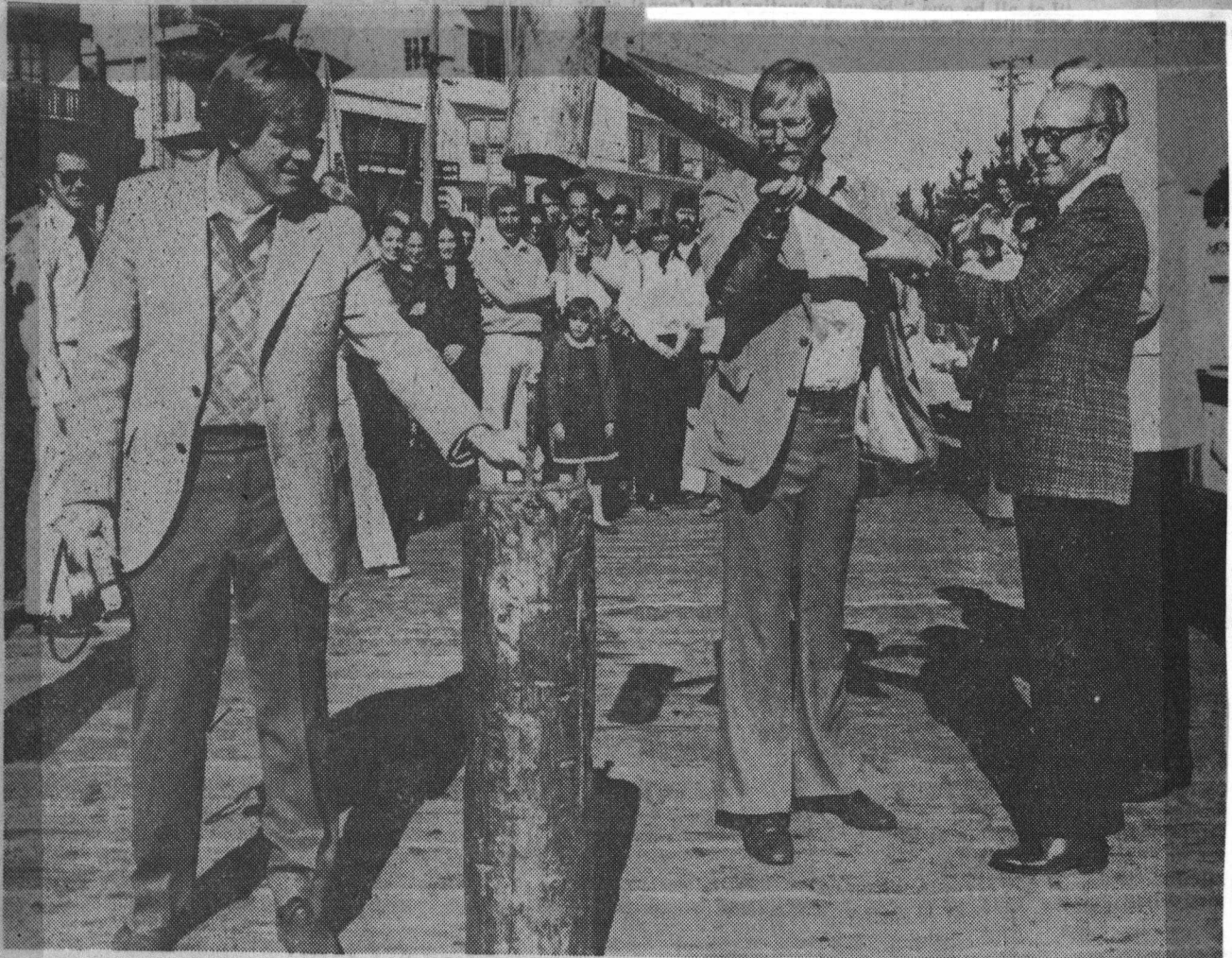
The proposal will now return to the board.

Alan Barreca, the owner of the contracting firm in charge of the renovation, termed the Capitola Wharf repair work as "unique." Having had experience in renovating other wharfs, he explained that Capitola's is a little more run-down with "quite a bit of work to do."

Renovation involves the replacement or repair of about 70 pilings, including all sub-structural work. The pilings, explained Barreca, some of which will be 60 feet long, make up a relatively small part of the repair. The sub-structural work that includes timber measures, pile caps, stringers and decking would be the most difficult part, added Barreca.

The old buildings on the wharf will be demolished, with newer ones to be rebuilt. The Central Coastal Commission has already given approval for the demolition and storage of materials near the wharf's entrance.

New buildings, which must get Coastal Commission approval probably in January, will include a snack bar, storage building, bait/tackle shop and public restrooms. A boat launching facility and mooring area also are planned.



City Manager Steve Burrell holds golden spike for hammer-wielding Mayor Jerry Clarke and Chester Hart of the state Wildlife Conservation Board.