

# Peninsula Land Mass Saved Day

By TOM HONIG  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Beach dwellers along the Santa Cruz County coast owe a nod of thanks to the Monterey Peninsula today following the Pacific Ocean's onslaught Sunday and Monday.

"The Monterey coast land mass slowed down the wind Monday, and that was wind that would have increased the water level by two feet or more," commented Robert Gordon, the county's disaster relief coordinator.

He said that the county has not made an official damage assessment as yet. However, he noted, "It will not be a million dollar kind of thing. The most expensive thing will be to put the Capitola Wharf together."

The condition of the wharf is a concern to both the county and Capitola. The wharf is leased from the county — despite its location in Capitola — and negotiations may open during the next few weeks to find out which agency will oversee the wharf in the future.

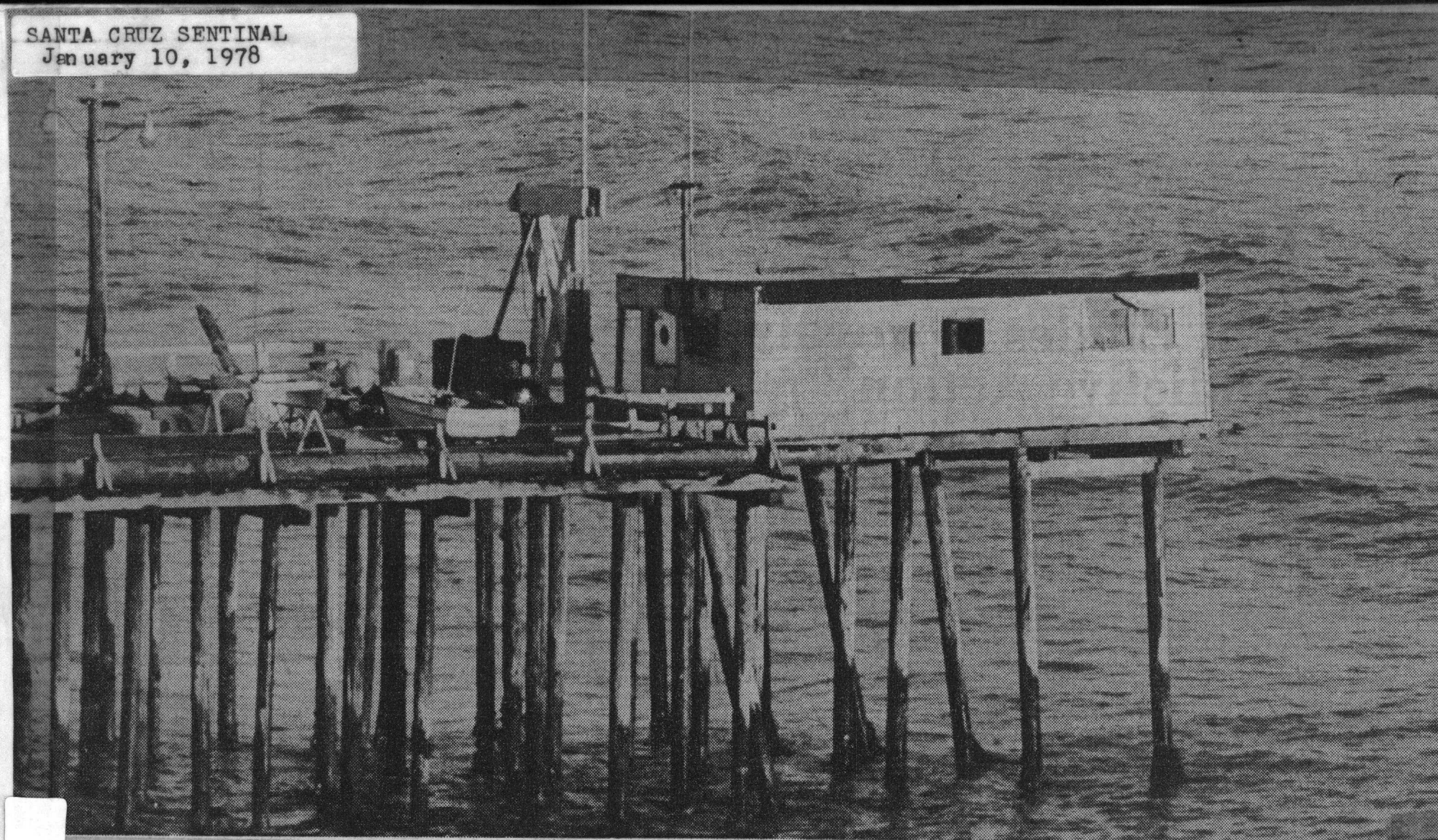
The old pier was weakened considerably by crashing weekend waves, as pilings washed away, along with various landings, docks and other appendages. A section of the structure was broken off Sunday, and a shed at the end of the wharf is teetering precariously over the water.

In Monday's Sentinel, John Otis was incorrectly identified as being a part-owner of the wharf. He had an interest in the operation of the wharf at one time, but does not presently.

At Monday's meeting of the Capitola City Council, Councilmen Ron Graves and Michael Routh expressed worry about the condition of the wharf. Graves said the wharf is a "major concern" of his, and Routh added, "If nothing is done, we're going to lose it."

Other than the wharf, most of the storm damage was confined to private residences. Homes in the Seacliff and Rio Del Mar area were flooded, and fences and decks near the water were washed away. But sandbags and barriers placed by residents and servicemen from Fort Ord kept damage from becoming serious.

Gordon said that there will be no concerted county mop-up effort, since most of the damage was done on private property. He said that none of the residents were forced to evacuate their homes during the high water. Most beach residents were warned of impending danger Sunday night, Gordon said, but the break from the weather meant that nobody had to leave their homes.



Following the Pacific's onslaught, the Capitola Wharf is suddenly a cause of concern.

(Sentinel Photo by Pete Amos)

Gordon explained that county officials feared the worst on Sunday night, when weather experts forecasted storm conditions to prevail alongside big tides. But the expected big winds didn't make it to the Santa Cruz coast. They slammed into the coast below Monterey from the southwest, and that coastline kept Santa Cruz protected. And by the time Monday's tide reached its high point, the storm had passed over the area, and major damage had been averted.

Capitola City Manager Max Kludt said today that damage in his city also was limited. He said the actual cost to the city — in terms of payment of overtime to city workers and clean-up costs — will not be more than \$2,000. He said that city workers are continuing clean-up operations today "just as part of their regular workday."

REFERENCE

CAPITOLA WHARF  
LIBRARY  
APR 10 1978  
DRIVE