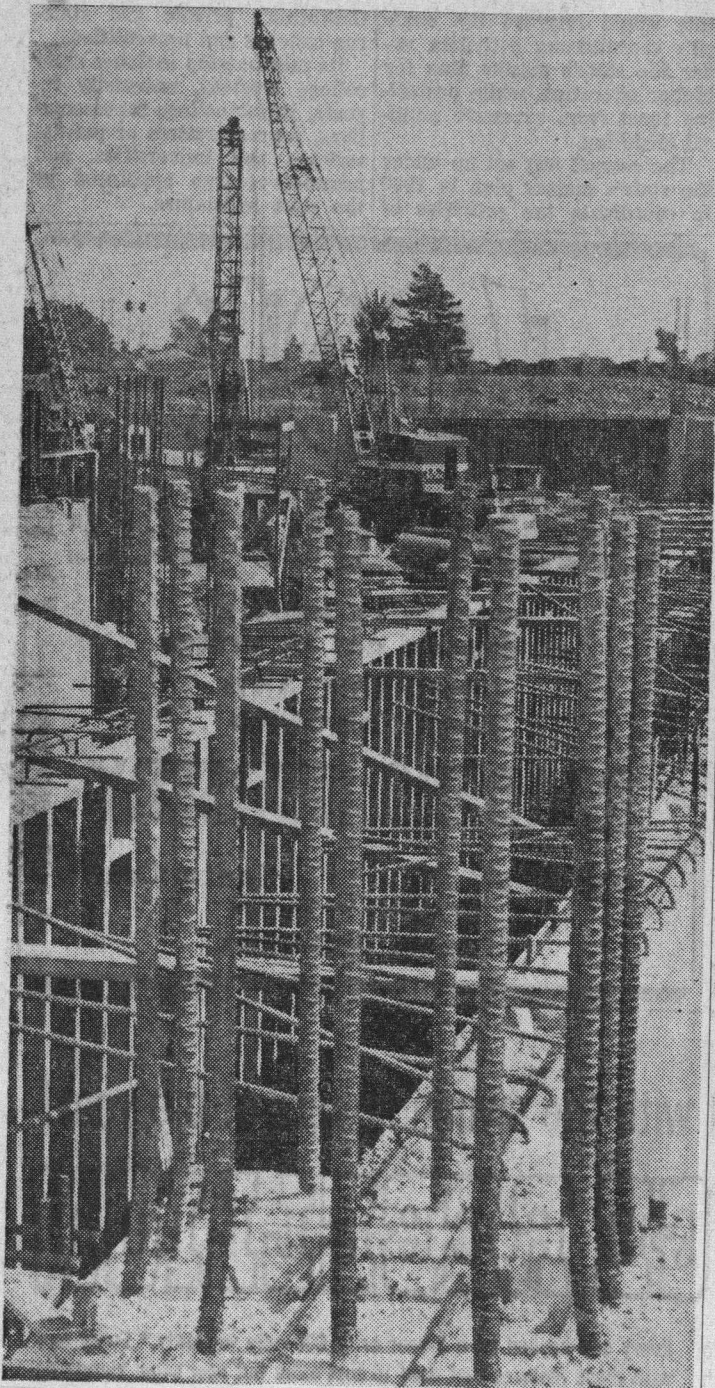


New Courthouse Is Going Up—Behind That Long Wall



Framed by a mass of reinforcing steel jutting up from the walls of the new courthouse, two cranes and a caisson digger, center, work in the basement "pit" of the office building.

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A broken pier casing requiring this special equipment to remove it. General superintendent Marshall Feldman explained that the A-frame is

now used to extract the casings, since two crane booms snapped in earlier attempts. More than 100 tons of pull is exerted by pulley in the A-frame. A caisson digger,

which drilled in the casing, is in the background. After the casing is in place, it is slowly removed as concrete is poured into the cavity.

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

Passing motorists can see little more than one long, jutting concrete wall on the site of the county's new courthouse complex at Ocean and Water streets.

Behind the wall, which will become the ground floor of the single-story courthouse itself, half a million dollars worth of construction equipment is hidden, working feverishly to keep the project up to schedule.

Some 108 of 600 calendar days allotted to the project have elapsed, and it is now 15 per cent complete.

Prime contractor Werner Jasper says he hopes to present the finished project to county supervisors by Christmas of 1966. By next July, all building walls should be in place.

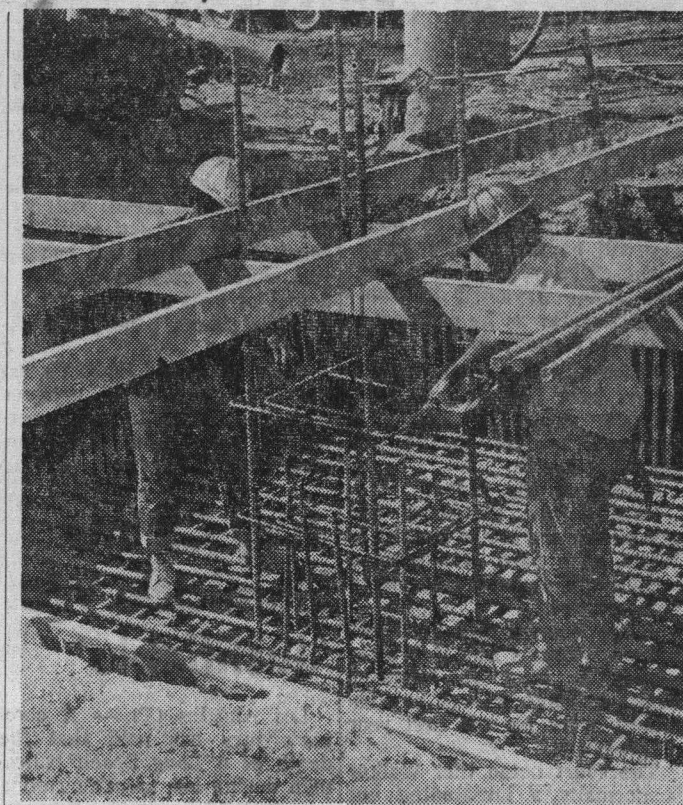
Early in the project, a crisis threatened serious delays. The sinking of 240 concrete piers ran into unexpected difficulty when soil tests failed to reveal the true depth of the mushy, mudlike river bed of sand and gravel.

The piers form the base of 64 "pads" that will support the enormous load of a five-story concrete office building and the courthouse. Almost every pier had to be sunk to twice its design depth to reach firmer soil, in some cases 40 feet down.

Because of the depth, steel casings for the piers often snapped, and huge crane booms collapsed trying to drag them out. Concrete is poured into the casings as they are removed.

Contractor Werner Jasper ordered his men to work around the caisson drillers, however, and kept the job right on schedule.

"We don't expect such difficulty again, because the sub-



After sinking the piers in squares of four or five each, a "cap" is placed over them to take the load of building columns. Wiring for the col-

umn is taking place here. Cement will be poured in to form the cap, which takes the brunt of structural loads.

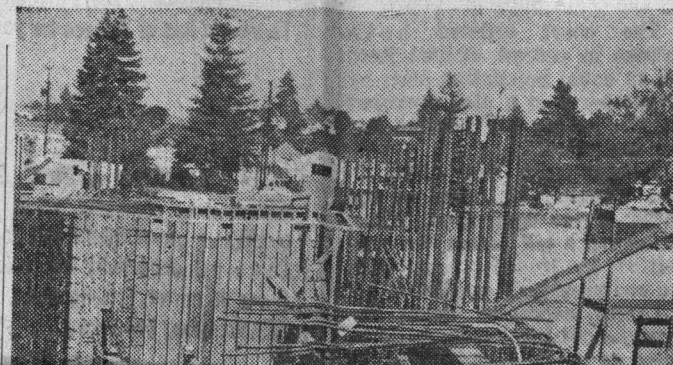
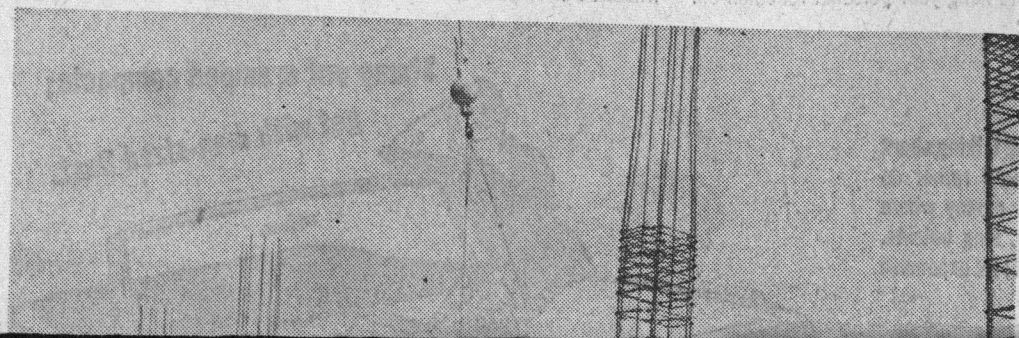
soils are the most uncertain part of the overall project," architect Burton Rockwell explains. "Things are actually looking quite good."

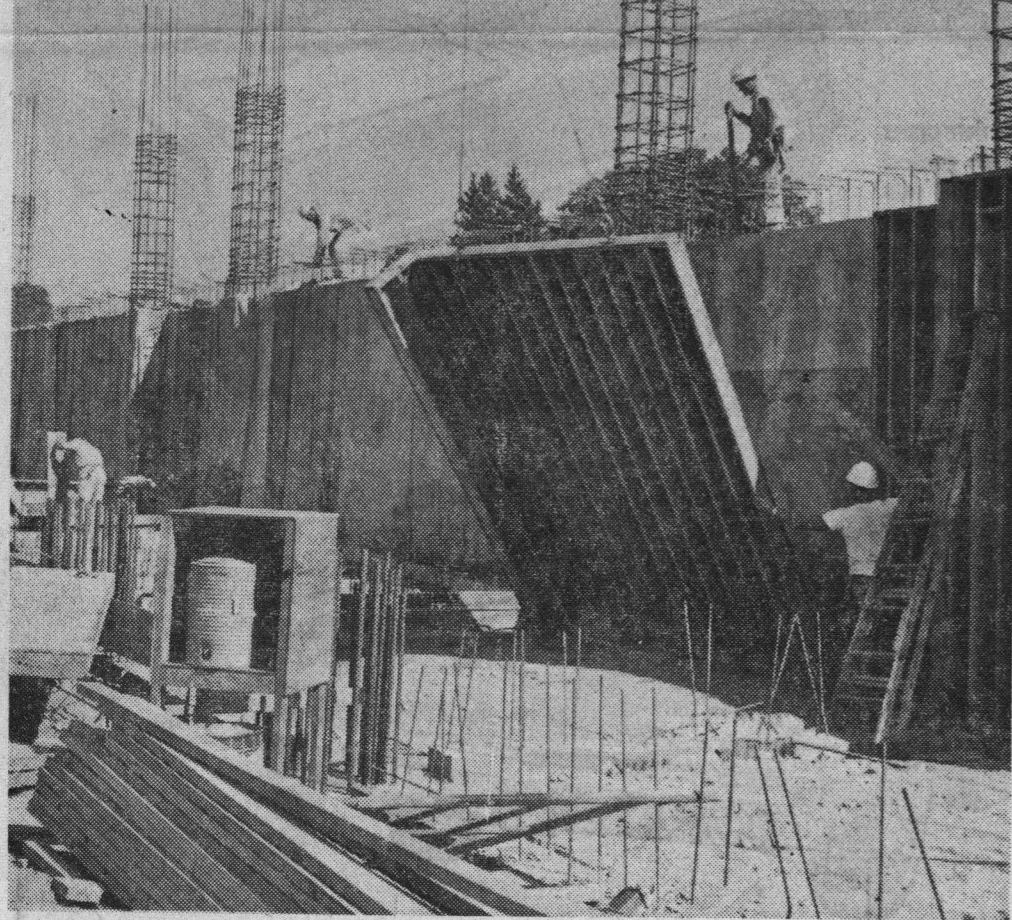
Walls for the holding cells and law library in the courthouse basement and the emergency civil defense operating center in the basement of the five-story office building are now almost complete, as are the concrete pilings. A total of 4000 cubic yards, or 30 per

cent of the poured concrete, is now in place.

Meantime, in Sacramento, the pre-cast wall sections are being poured. The walls will later be shipped to Santa Cruz for assembly on the job. They will be dipped in muriatic acid to give each section a uniform appearance and thus avoid the usual blotchy look of drying concrete.

Marshall Feldman is general superintendent and Bill Shaffer is county project manager and chief inspector on the job.

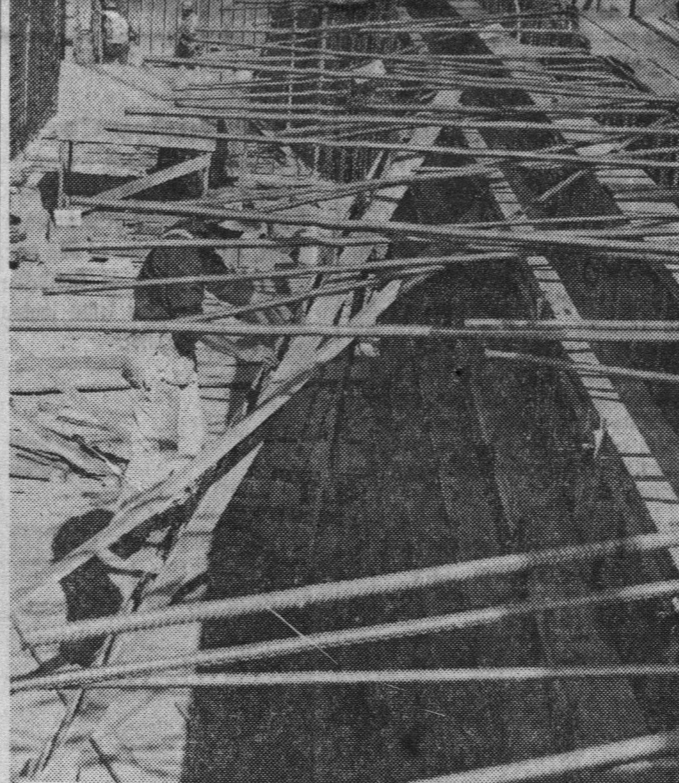




The "walls" come tumbling down as a crane lifts away a molding form (note cables

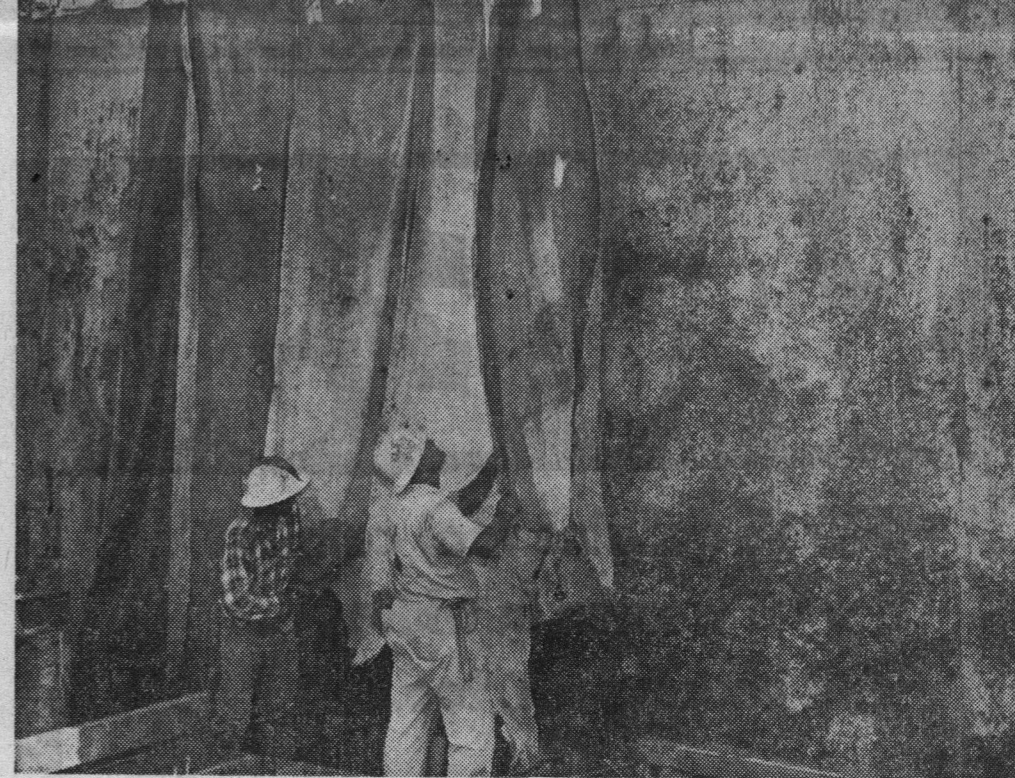
and drop ball at top of picture) around which the actual walls of the office building basement were poured. The

forms are then altered by carpenters and used elsewhere in the building.



"Watch your head" is the word when working here. Reinforcing steel seems blown like grass by a high wind over the basement walls of

the courthouse. Workmen have placed the hundreds of tons of steel carefully and the walls are ready to receive their load of concrete.



They're not covering up errors, but protecting a newly-poured wall section from too-quick evaporation, which

might ruin the finish or even crack a section if the concrete dries too quickly. Prime contractor Werner Jasper claims that an epoxy process

developed by his firm leaves the surface almost glass-smooth, ready for painting or attractive in itself.



Topping off the concrete pour for one of 240 concrete piers sunk deep into the earth is the operation shown here. Crews have almost completed the sinking of the piers,

which cost \$60,000 more than expected. Subsoils for the piers were much softer than anticipated, and each one was sunk nearly double the design depth.

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