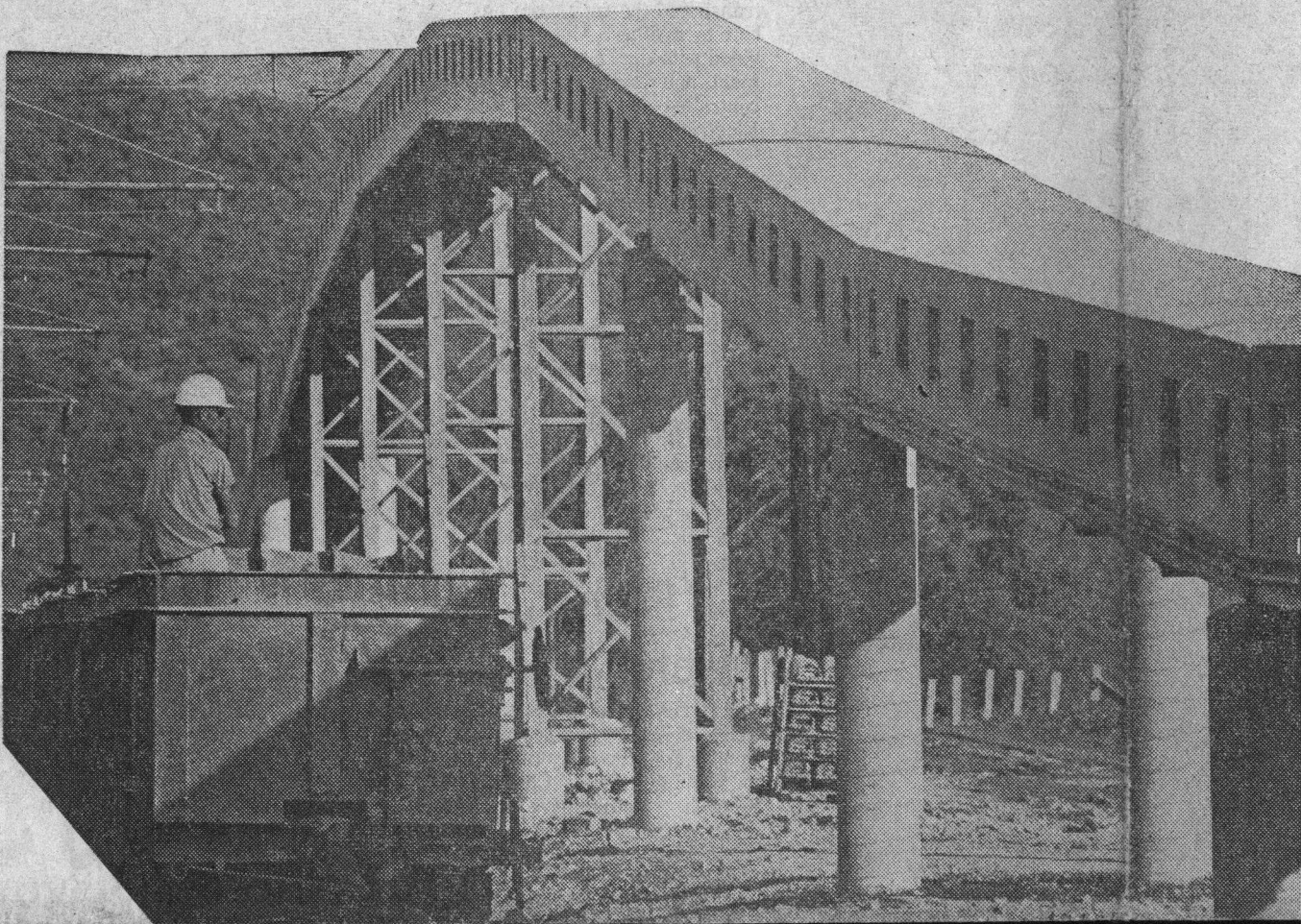
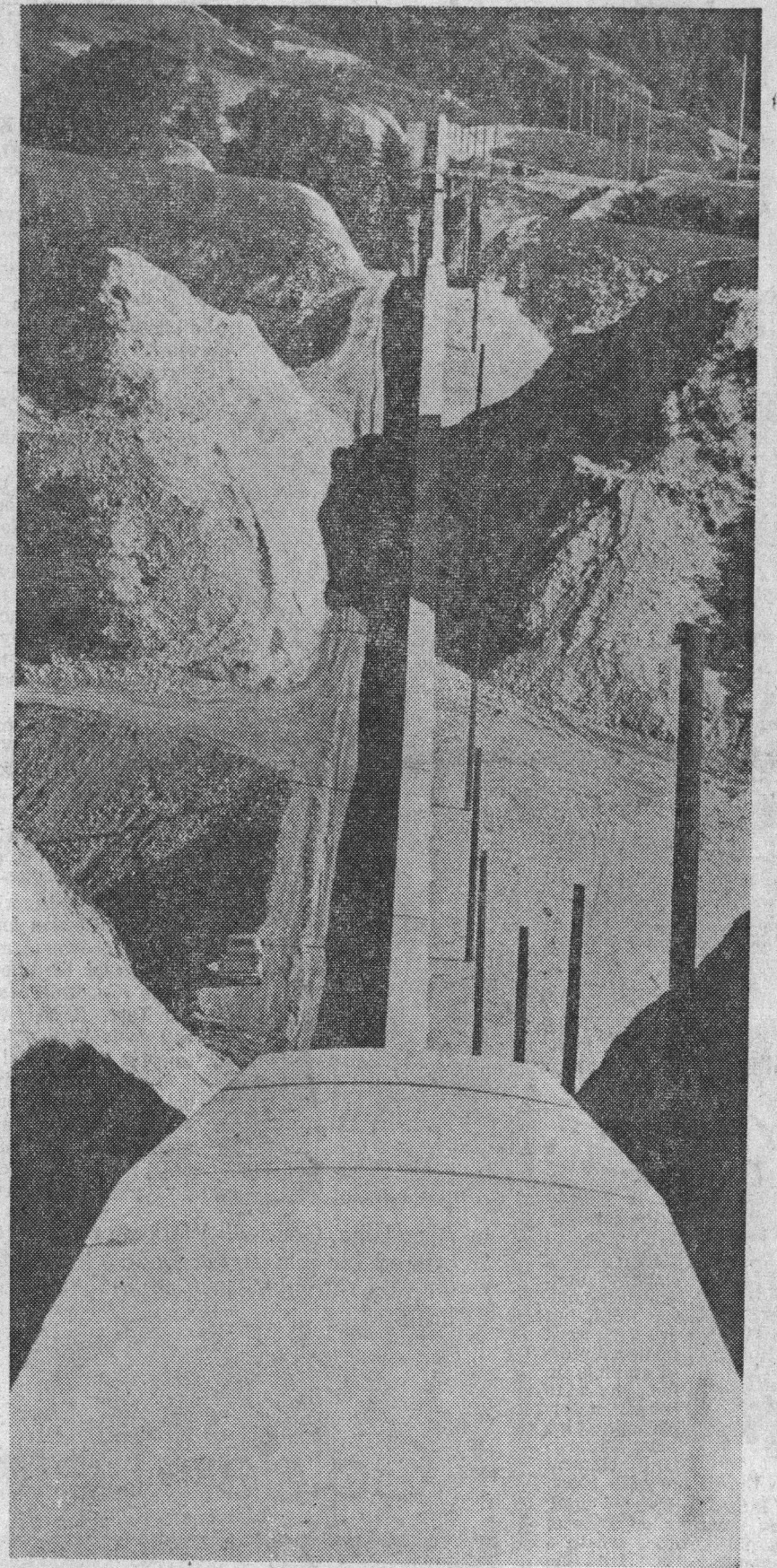
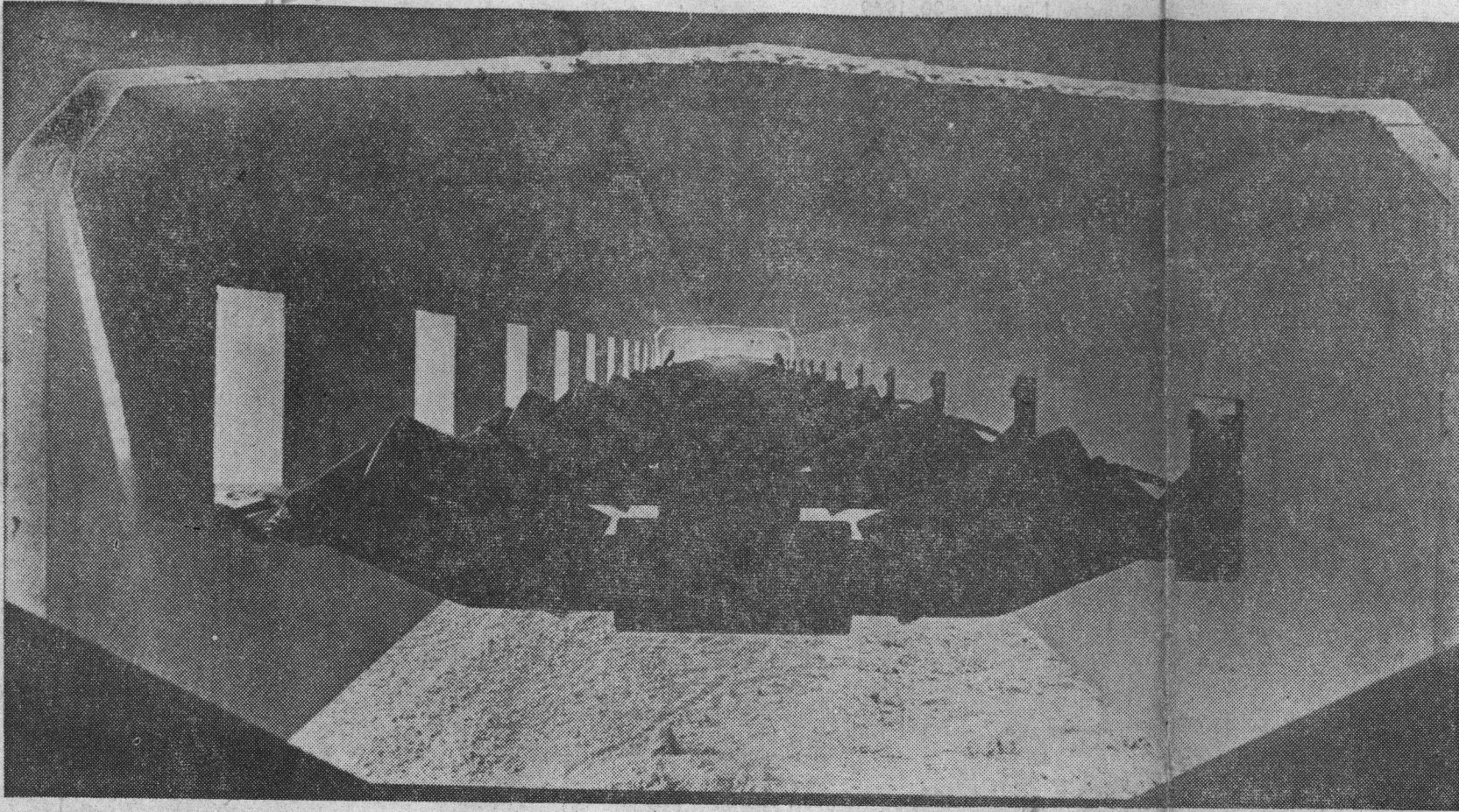


Davenport



*Photos by Pete Amos
Text by Don Righetti*

Big Belt In The Mountains

A kind of Central Coast answer to BART will swing into action next March 22 when Pacific Cement and Aggregates at Davenport switches on a mammoth belt conveyor for the first time.

The big belt crawls over three and a half miles of extremely rugged terrain from PCA's new shale and limestone quarry to the main plant. Engineers say it is the most complex terrain traversed by an overland conveyor in the Western United States, if not the entire nation.

The conveyor, mostly housed in a pre-stressed concrete cover, will carry 1000 tons of material an hour on its 36-inch belt. A planned landscaping operation will screen the installation from Highway 1 with trees.

The conveyor starts at the limestone quarry. About half way back to the plant it passes the shale portion of the operation. Each point is equipped with crushers which smash the rocks to six inches or smaller in diameter. At each crusher is a storage silo 100 feet high and 36 feet in diameter. The limestone silo holds 3,000 tons of material, while the shale silo stores 1,900 tons. The rocks are loaded onto the conveyor belt by feeders and the material is stockpiled at the plant for the manufacture of cement.

PCA turns out three million barrels of cement a year.

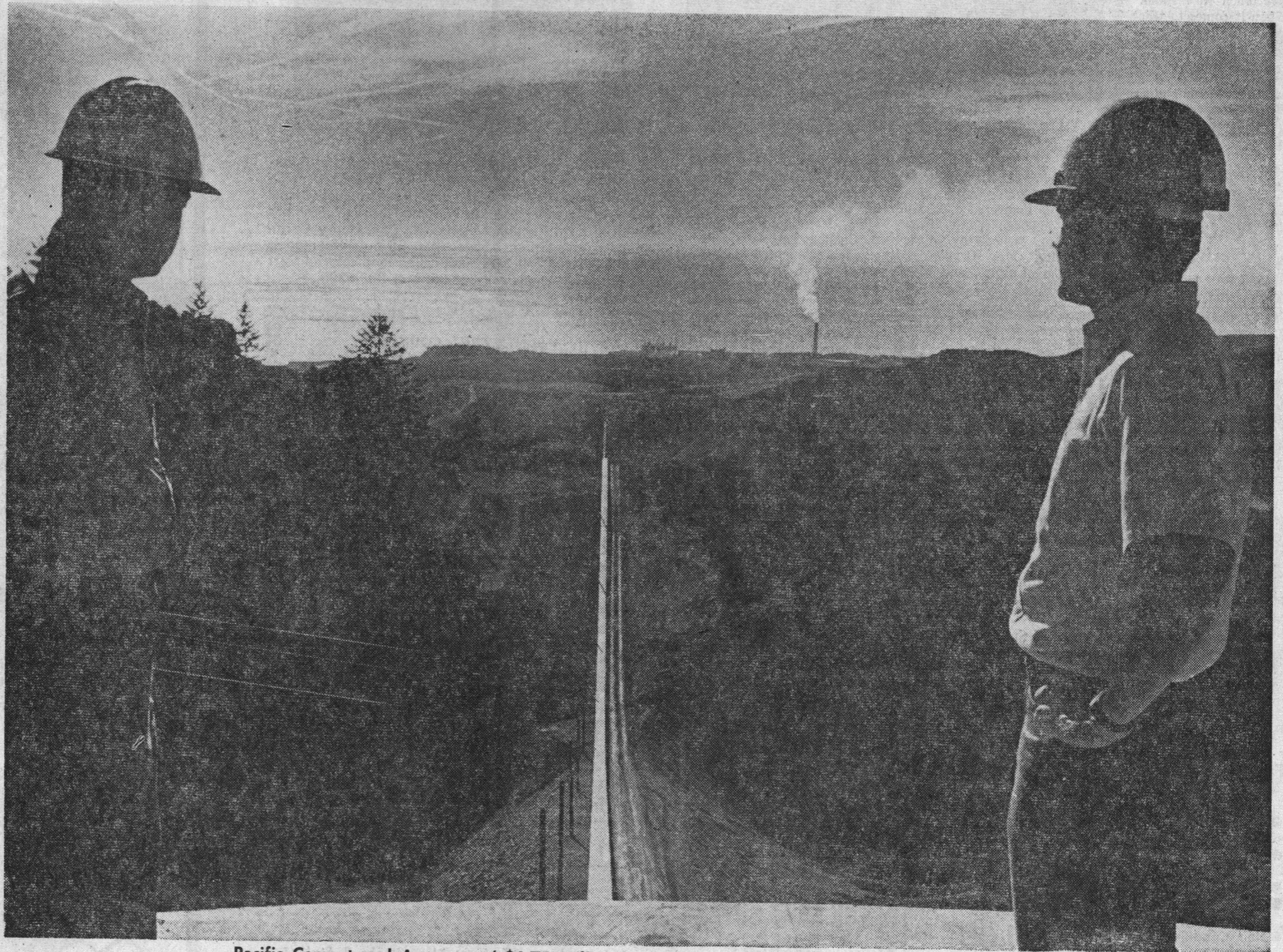
The limestone crusher will be mounted on railroad tracks. At 300 tons, it will be the world's largest semi-portable crusher.

With the opening of the new quarry, PCA's old San Vicente quarry operations will be abandoned. Also to be discarded is the 600-volt overhead railroad which has hauled the limestone to the plant since the 1920s when the rail system was brought to Davenport from Alaska where it had hauled gold ore.

The total cost of the conveyor project is \$6.75 million.

PCA engineers, headed by H. L. Gas-

(Continued On Page 20)



Pacific Cement and Aggregates' \$6.75 million conveyor crawls from the company's new quarry operation three and a half miles to the main plant (note smokestack in background). The

conveyor crosses some of the most rugged terrain ever traversed by such an installation. Some 800,000 cubic yards of earth were moved in its construction.