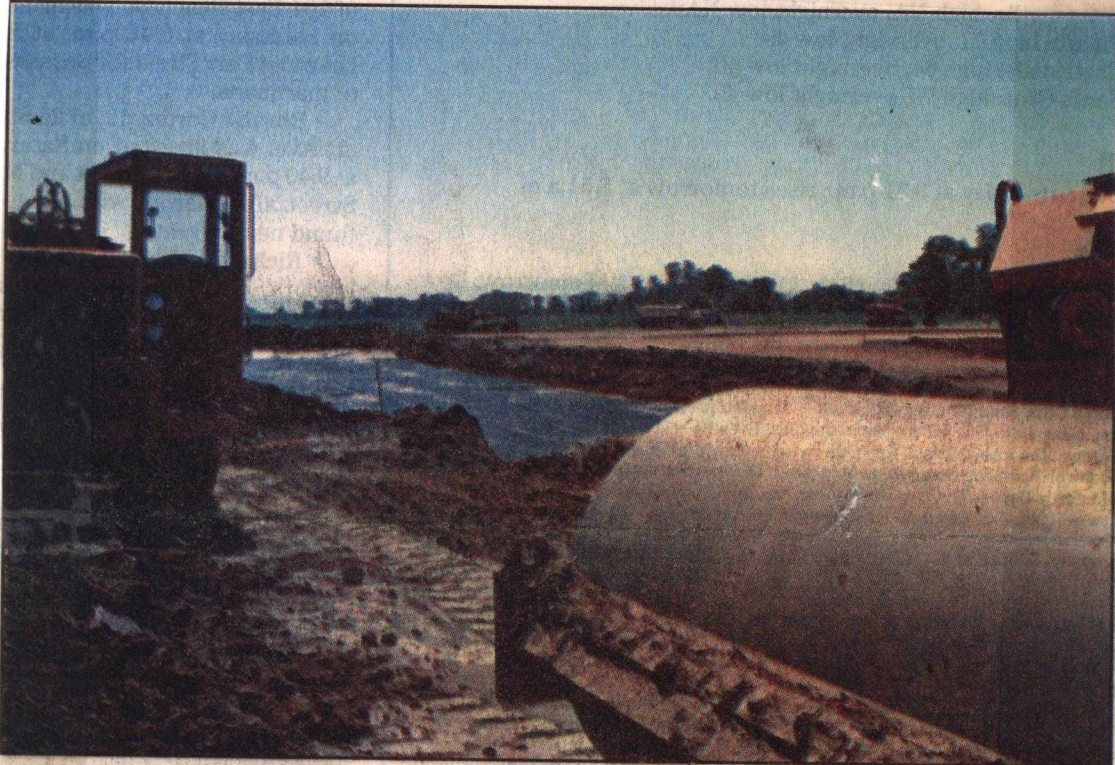# Breaking old ground

Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Land surrounding the old Watsonville Hospital at Green Valley and Holohan roads is being graded Monday for a new Housing and Urban Development 82-unit apartment complex. The hospital is being renovated to accommodate office space for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.

Old hospital site under transformation

By JOHN VIEIRA
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF WRITER

WATSONVILLE — For the next several months, commuters driving by the old Watsonville Community Hospital on Green Valley and Holohan roads will see the construction of a new housing and office space development.

Called the Northgate project, the development will include office and warehouse space, 82 affordable apartment units and an additional commercial building to include a drive-through restaurant, gas station and car wash.

Currently, the San Jose Construction company is in the process of grating the area of land for the apartment complex. Once that is complete, the foundation will be created and walls will go up in the next month, according to Dana Riley, assistant project manager.

Inside the old hospital, construction workers are in the process of laying out a new concrete floor on the ground level of the building. Also, the fourth floor of the building is being renovated with new walls, carpeting and lighting. According to Riley, the floor renovation is expected to be completed by Oct. 1.

On May 25, the Watsonville City Council approved the modified plan with an additional 82 parking spaces to accommodate the expressed needs of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, who will be using the first two floors of the old Watsonville Hospital.

By adding the additional spaces, approximately 13,000 square feet of open space was lost along Corralitos Creek. The additional parking spaces created along Corralitos Creek will use "turf-block," which will allow the growth of grass and would be maintained as landscaping to offset the loss of open space within the project.