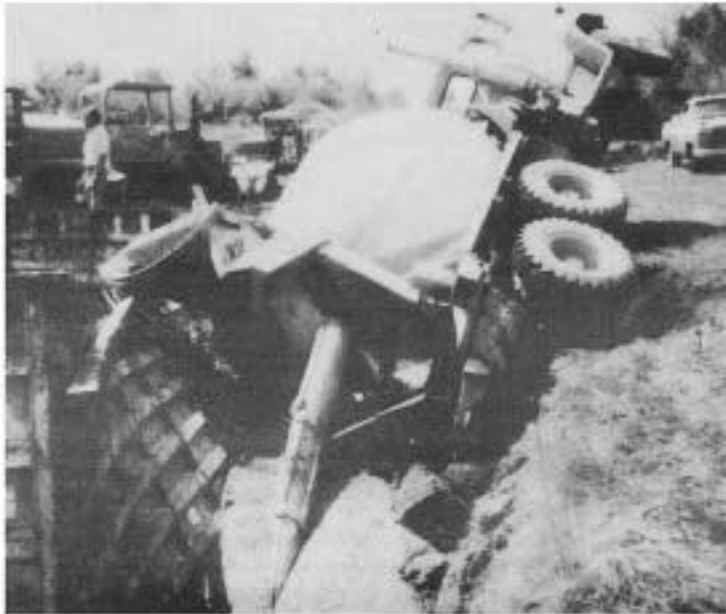


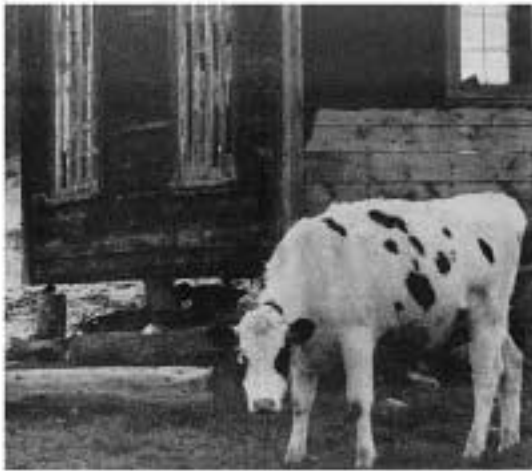
Foundation Portfolio



I Feel the Earth Move

The forms were half full when the builder warned the driver that things were looking a bit shaky. He started to pull away, but it was a little too late. Fortunately, no one was injured, and the mess was cleaned up and everything back on track in 2 1/2 hours.

But driving too close to a trench or an unbraced foundation can be dangerous and costly. The problem here was twofold. First, the driver was too close—only two or three feet—to the edge of the trench. Second—and more important—the mixer was positioned parallel to the trench, rather than backed in as it should have been. So when things started to go, there was no place to go but down.



Minimalist

Anchor bolts, rebar, frost heaves, wind loads, and building codes don't faze old Bessie here. Why, she's been engineering foundations this way since she was knee-high to a heifer. The post at the corner (with stone shim) is set on a slab of granite at grade that gracefully rides out the winter frost heaves with no complaints from tenants.



Between a Rock and a Hard Place

What do you do with a site that's higher than it is deep and filled from top to bottom with ledge? Leave it alone, if you're most people. But some see opportunity where others see only trouble. Take this site in Medford, Mass., just north of Boston. Note the massive retaining wall behind the foundation—and the blasting mat in the foreground.

The finished product (above right) is two side-by-side raised ranches with a mostly vertical front yard built of blast rock. One unit appears on the front cover of this issue. The other, shown here, awaits the final touches. Just watch that first step.

