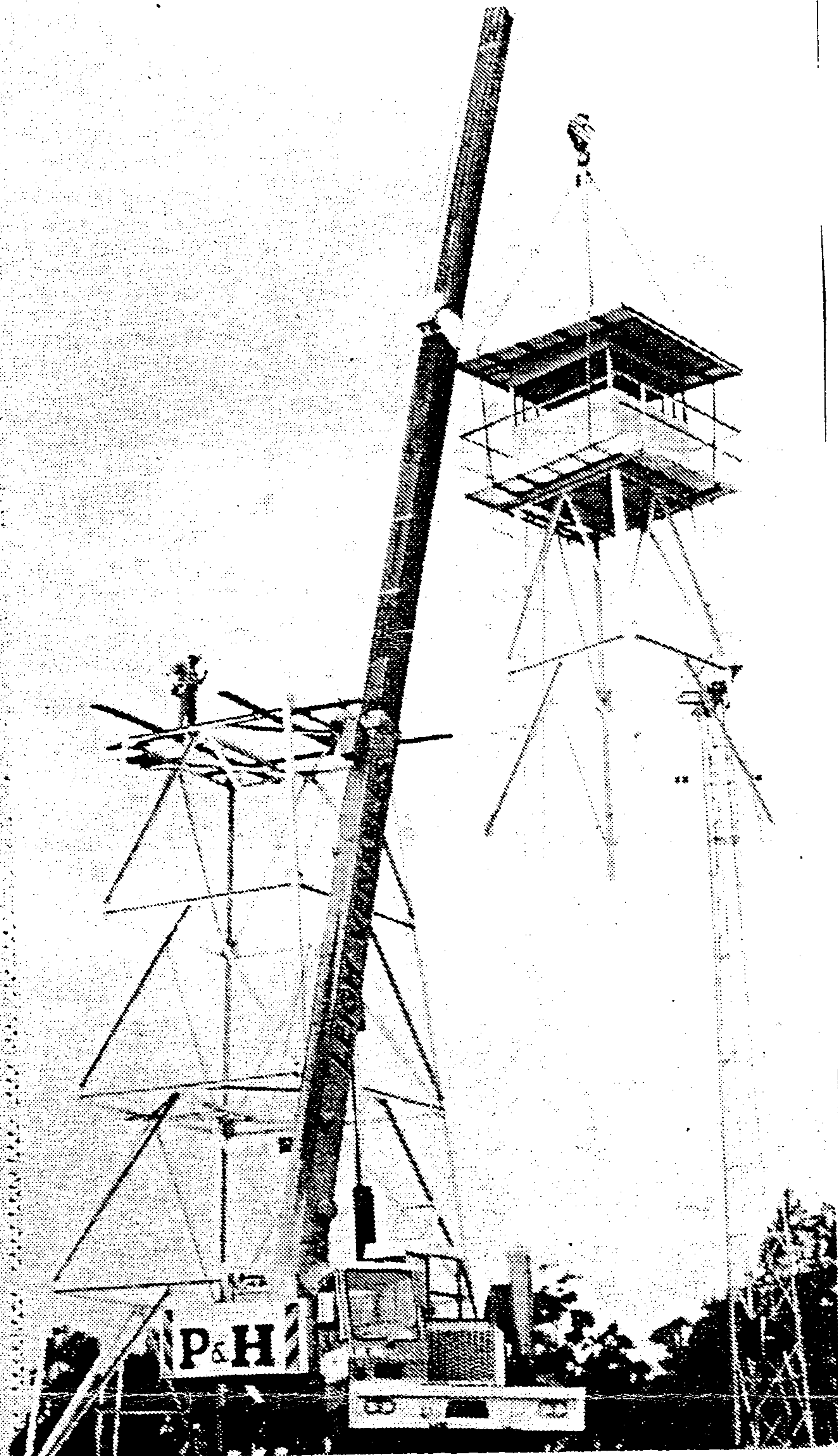


New Mt. Taylor fire tower

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A new 20-metre tall galvanised steel communications and fire tower again stands on top of Mt. Taylor. The old wooden structure was demolished several months ago due to deterioration of structural and supporting timbers.

Erection of the new tower took but a few hours on the morning of October 5. The tower was prefabricated in C.F.L. Benalla workshops and transported by low loader to Mt. Taylor in three sections.

The top section includes a fire spotting cabin, catwalk and radio storage security unit pre-wired and ready for

immediate connection to power supply.

Virtually the only work to be done following hoisting of the cabin into position is installation of window glass and marking of compass bearings around inner walls of the cabin.

Regional Fire Protection Officer, Mr Dave Hocking, said budgeted cost for the tower and associated works totalled \$50,000.

The tower should be fully rigged and ready for use by the middle of next week and will therefore be ready for the oncoming fire season, as indicated when the old tower was demolished.

The three sections of tower were hoisted into position using a mobile crane. Contract riggers quickly bolted the sections together.

Prefabricated sections arrived on site a week before erection but C.F.L. engineer, Mr Bruce Whitehead, together with construction workers considered it advisable to wait until suitable wind-free conditions prevailed.

As well as serving in the capacity of a fire spotting tower, the new structure enables an efficient communication coverage of a large area of Country Fire Authority and C.F.L. territory.