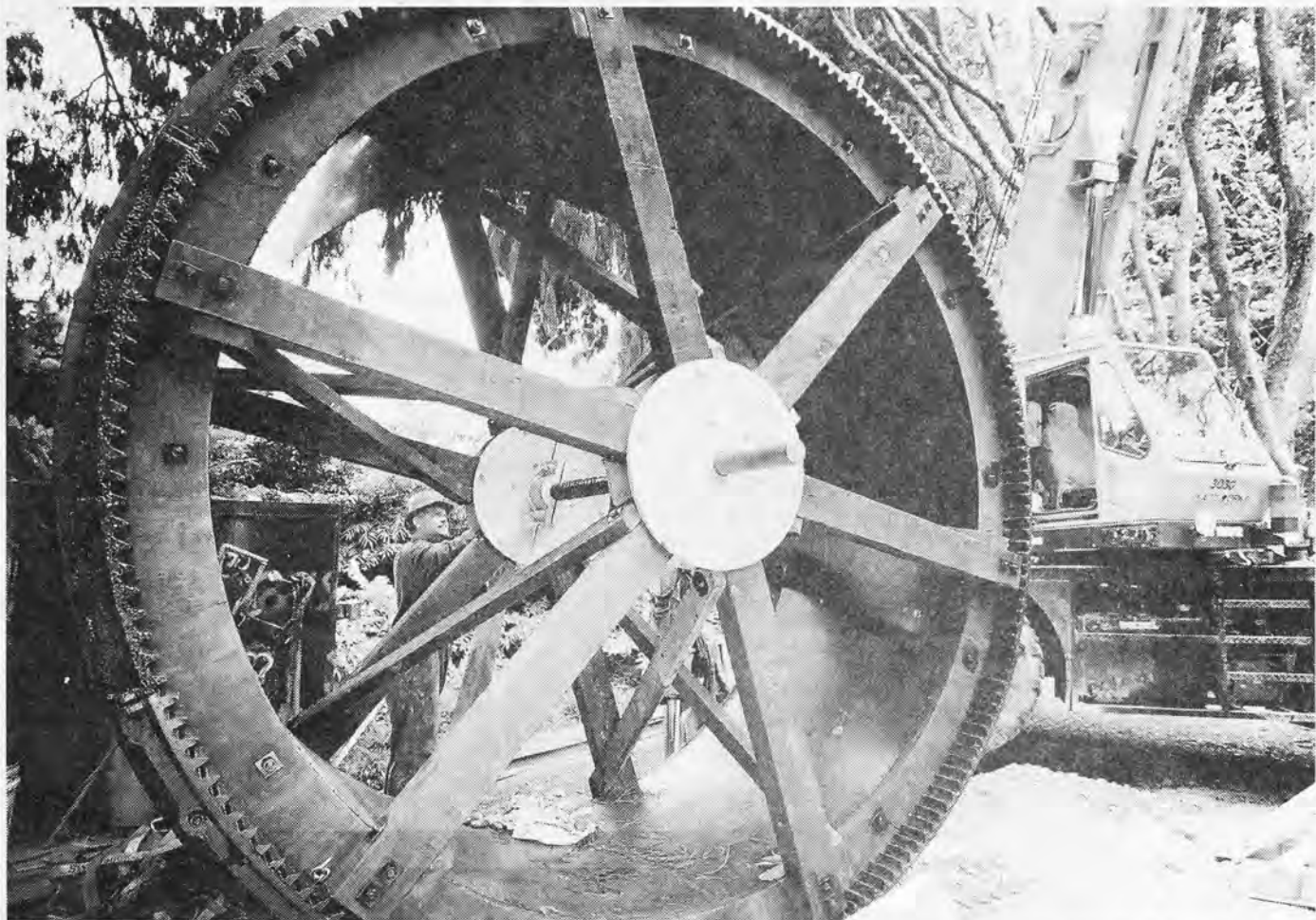


1/11/05

Wheel's return set in motion



BIG WHEEL: Engineer Ken Kowalchuk cleans the shaft of Pukekura Park's new giant waterwheel in preparation for the fitting of bearings.

The 3.6-metre high, 1.6m wide wheel is to be lifted into position by crane today.

It replaces a 30-year-old waterwheel — one of Pukekura Park's most popular features — which was removed late last year because it was in a bad state of repair and constantly breaking down.

Designed by New Plymouth engineer Michael Lawley, the new

wheel was constructed in a shed on Mr Lawley's rural Kent Rd property and was carted on the back of a truck to the park yesterday.

The plan is to get the wheel back in motion in time for the Festival of Lights in December.

Photo: MIKE SCOTT