



—San Diego Union Staff Photo

Holes in side of California Tower are for chutes through which work-

men dispose of old walls removed from inside of tower in repair work.

Balboa Park Tower Gets A Facelifting

By DAVID FARMER

Workmen are replacing the walls of the famous California Tower in Balboa Park.

They are also fixing a roof so it can't "rain" any more inside the dome of the Museum of Man.

Daniel Cole, senior structural engineer for the city, said the old plastered walls of the tower are being torn off to protect the public.

"Several years ago, it became apparent that the shell of the tower was weakening," said Cole. "Patches of plaster were falling to the ground."

SHELL REPLACED

The shell around the first seven floors of the nearly 50-year-old tower will be replaced with gunite concrete 4 to 6 inches thick in an \$80,000, six-month project.

The decorated topmost portion will be strengthened with steel to withstand an earthquake. The colorful tiles on the dome atop the Museum of Man also will be fastened down with new grout.

Cole said museum director Clark Evernham requested that louvers be installed in a cupola on top of the dome.

MOISTURE COLLECTED

"The air masses inside the dome collect moisture. It is possible, with a change of temperature, for it to rain inside the museum," said Cole.

Cole said workmen are removing the inside wall surface of the tower first. Then they will remove the outer wall and leave the skeleton bare temporarily.

Art Gussa of El Cajon is the contractor. Ferver-Dorland and Associates are structural engineers.

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