New Piers First Part Of "Stop-Erosion" Plan

Work began yesterday morning on the first of a new series of piers which are to be built along the lakeshore to eliminate a continual eroding of the campus by the lake.

Present plans call for three 180-foot piers to be completed "before freezing sets in" behind Garrett. "This area," according to Mr. M. E. Eckberg, superintendent, building and grounds, "is in such a condition as to make the completion of these piers almost an emergency."

"The water has eaten to within 40 feet of the buildings in some places, and," he predicted, "if not stopped soon will threaten the footings of Garrett.

"We can't get it completed fast enough."

Work the past few weeks has awaited the completion of several wooden "cribs" upon which the heavy piledriving equipment is being floated. As soon as these were set up yesterday, work began on the first of the three steel jetties.

Jetties Planned

In addition to five more piers scheduled for next spring, Northwestern's contract with the Thatcher Construction company, Waukegan, calls for three short jetties to be sunk near the North Quad water storage tank and parking lot.

"When we finish the Garrett jetties," Eckberg explained, "the North Quad area will be the worst point of erosion. If the winter weather favors us, and the lake ice packs solidly, there is a good chance that the contractor will be able to begin work on these piers as soon as he finishes those behind Garrett. If the ice forms the way we hope it will, he will be able to drive his equipment out on it, without wasting time erecting 'cribs.' If that doesn't happen, we will have to postpone the project until May, when it will be at the head of the list."

Hope for Continuous Beach

Also scheduled for 1948 are four jetties behind Fisk, running from 150 to 180 feet in length. "The erection of these are last on our list, however," Eckberg pointed out, "as there is no appreciable erosion along here."

The Fisk piers are to be constructed with the intention of forming a bathing beach along the shore. Ultimately, the entire shore will be a sand beach, according to buildings and grounds predictions, but that will not be "for some time." This might have been a reality this summer had the steel shortage not forced a work stoppage, Eckberg explained.