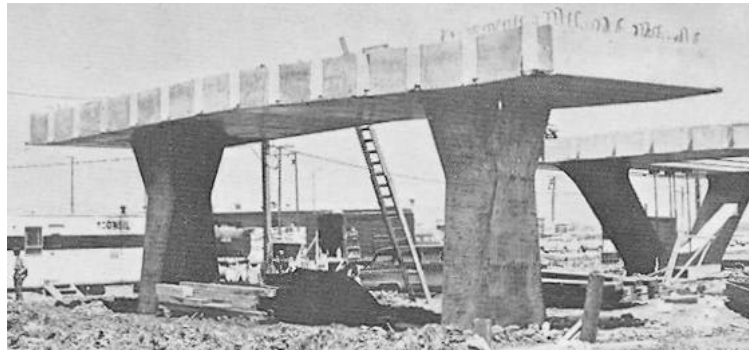


Wishbone and hour glass piers

The three reinforced concrete piers pictured on this page represent the interesting, functional and altogether pleasing solution worked out by a Chicago architectural firm to the problems of coping with poor bearing soil and supporting an elevated 60-foot wide vehicular roadway directly above an equally wide ground-level road. When completed the 4,000-foot long structure will provide two-level access to and from a pair of ultra-modern airline terminal structures at Chicago's O'Hare Field.

The three types of piers are appropriately described by the designers as wishbones, single hour glasses and double hour glasses. The piers were all formed with specially designed prefabricated steel panels which provided an easy means of both positioning and stripping. Even for the quite complicated wishbone pier, with its two tie-beam units, it was possible to strip, move and reset forms in only three 10-hour days. An important factor in speeding the work was that the forming units were built in large components which made it possible



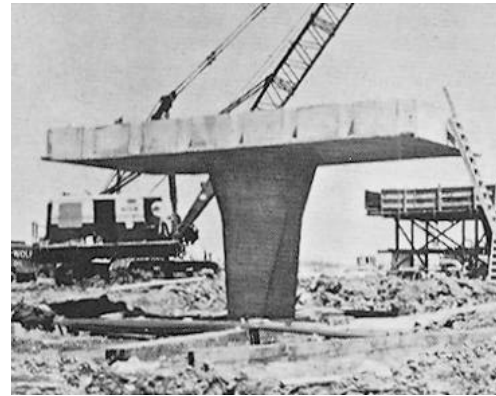
double hour glass

to form the wishbone piers with only 12 major parts, while the simpler double and single hour glass piers required only four and two parts respectively.

Prestressed concrete beams were bracketed right into the pier slabs to permit maintenance of maximum height for lower level traffic and retain minimum height for matching the elevated ramp with exits and entrances in the terminal buildings. In all the U-shaped roadway required 32 piers containing 7,000 cubic yards of concrete.



single hour glass



wishbone

