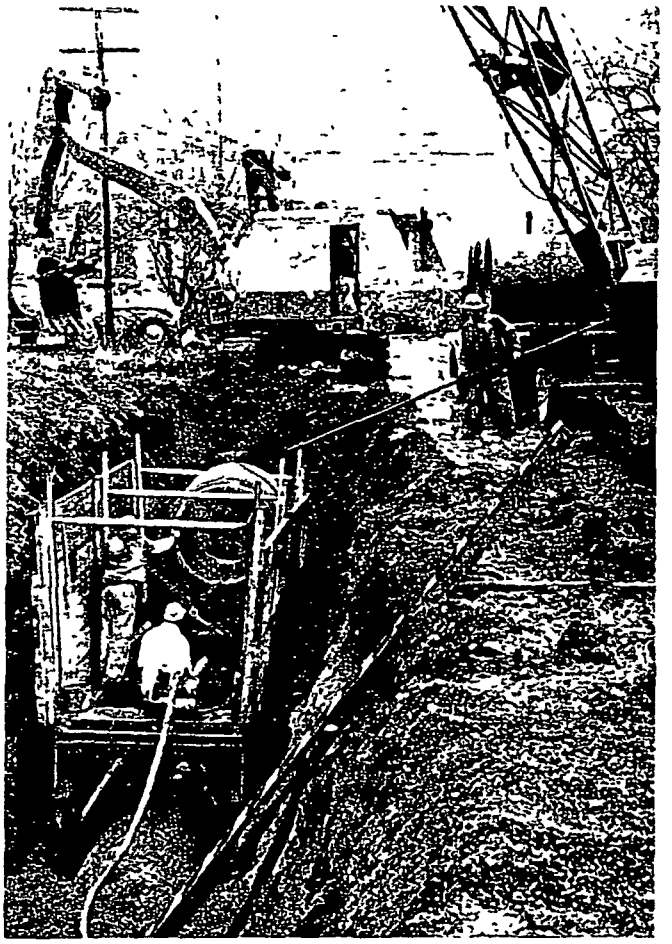


FIG 17-7 —Sliding trench shield is moved forward by back-hoe Bottom and top sections are joined by large hinge pins

Courtesy Safer Oregon, *Oregon State Industrial Accident Commission*

and suspend a man if he should lose his grasp Many safetymen consider such devices preferable to cage guards, where allowed by the code (See N S C Data Sheet 606, *Fixed Ladders and Climbing Devices*)

Other types of climbing safety devices are rung grippers and rung hooks These require no attachments of any kind on the ladder and are not to be used in lieu of cage guards as provided in the ASI Standard A14 3, *Safety Code for Fixed Ladders*

The rung grippers are of stainless steel and latch on to the rungs automatically They unlatch with gentle hand pressure but will stay latched if the climber falls They come with a safety belt attached by adjustable webbing straps They have strap loops over the hands to prevent them from falling off the hands but from which the hands can be withdrawn leaving the grippers attached to the rungs

A variation of the rung grippers is a ladder belt with one or two snap hooks attached This is not primarily a climbing safety device but provides a means of securing a climber to a ladder and freeing his hands if he is to work from a ladder

Nonslip bases and safety tops

It is recommended that all portable ladders be equipped with nonslip bases or that the bottoms of the ladders be held, tied, or securely anchored to prevent slipping

Some companies replace the top rung on a