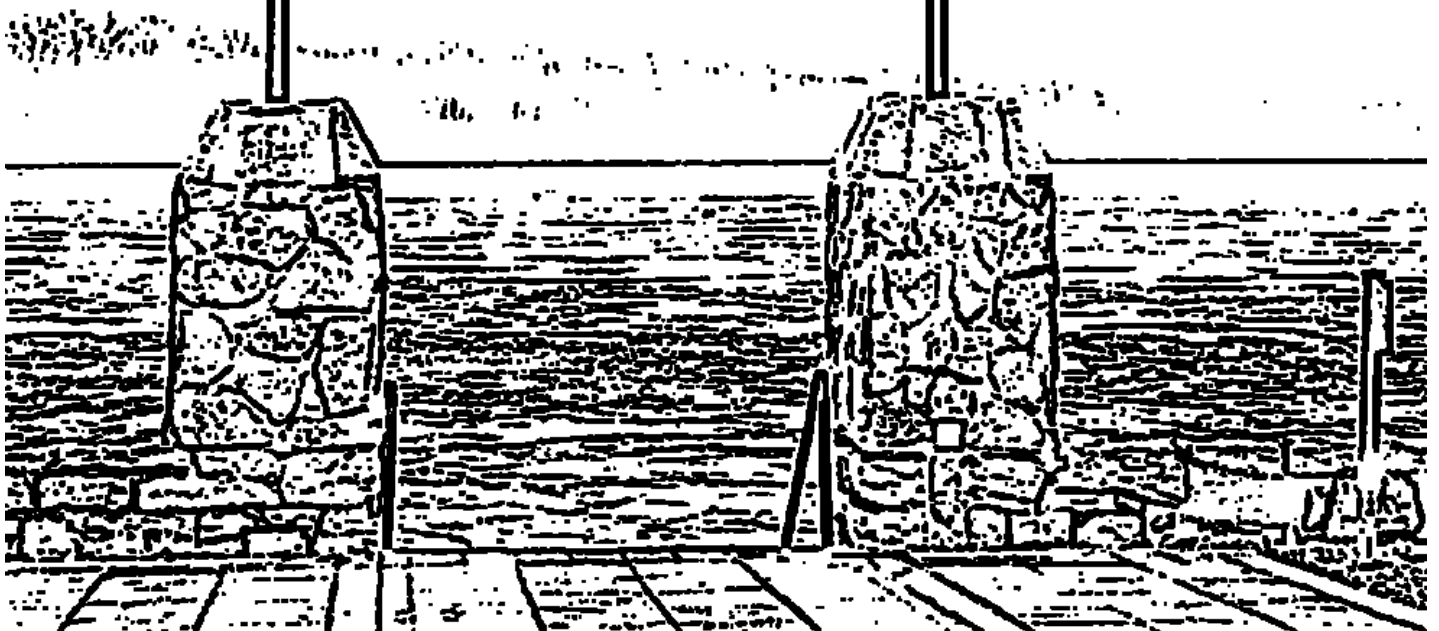
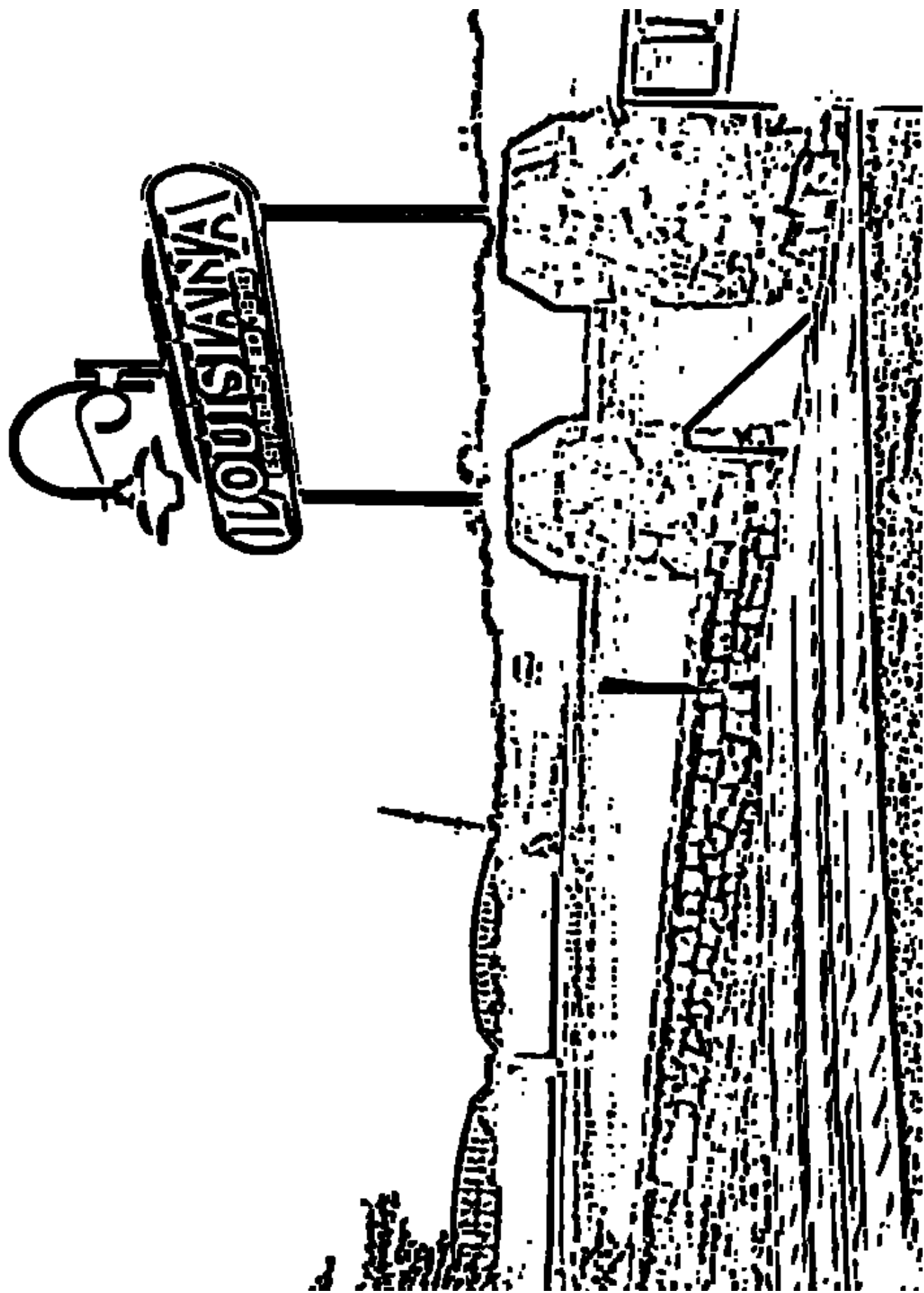


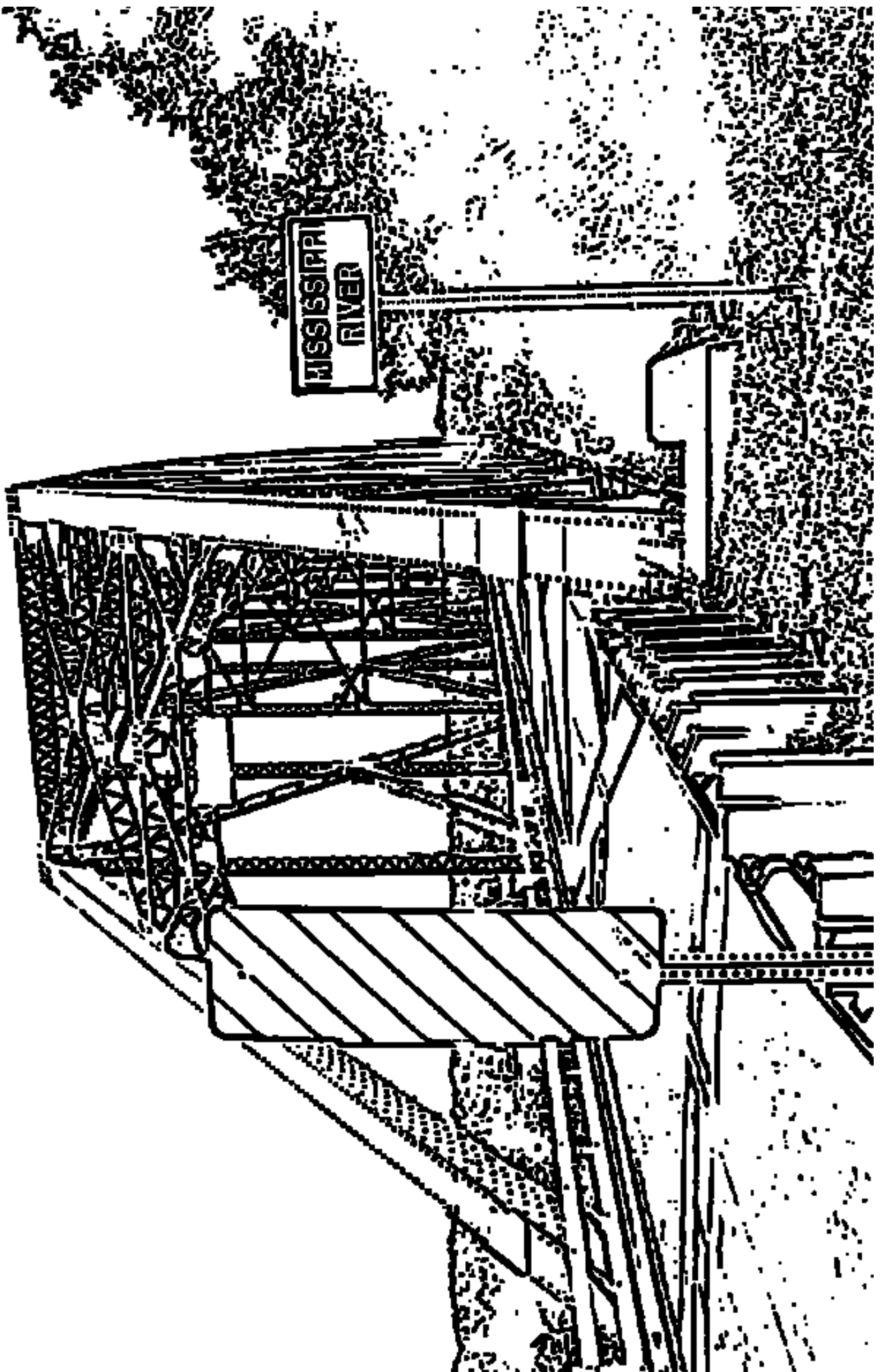
Champ Clark BRIDGE

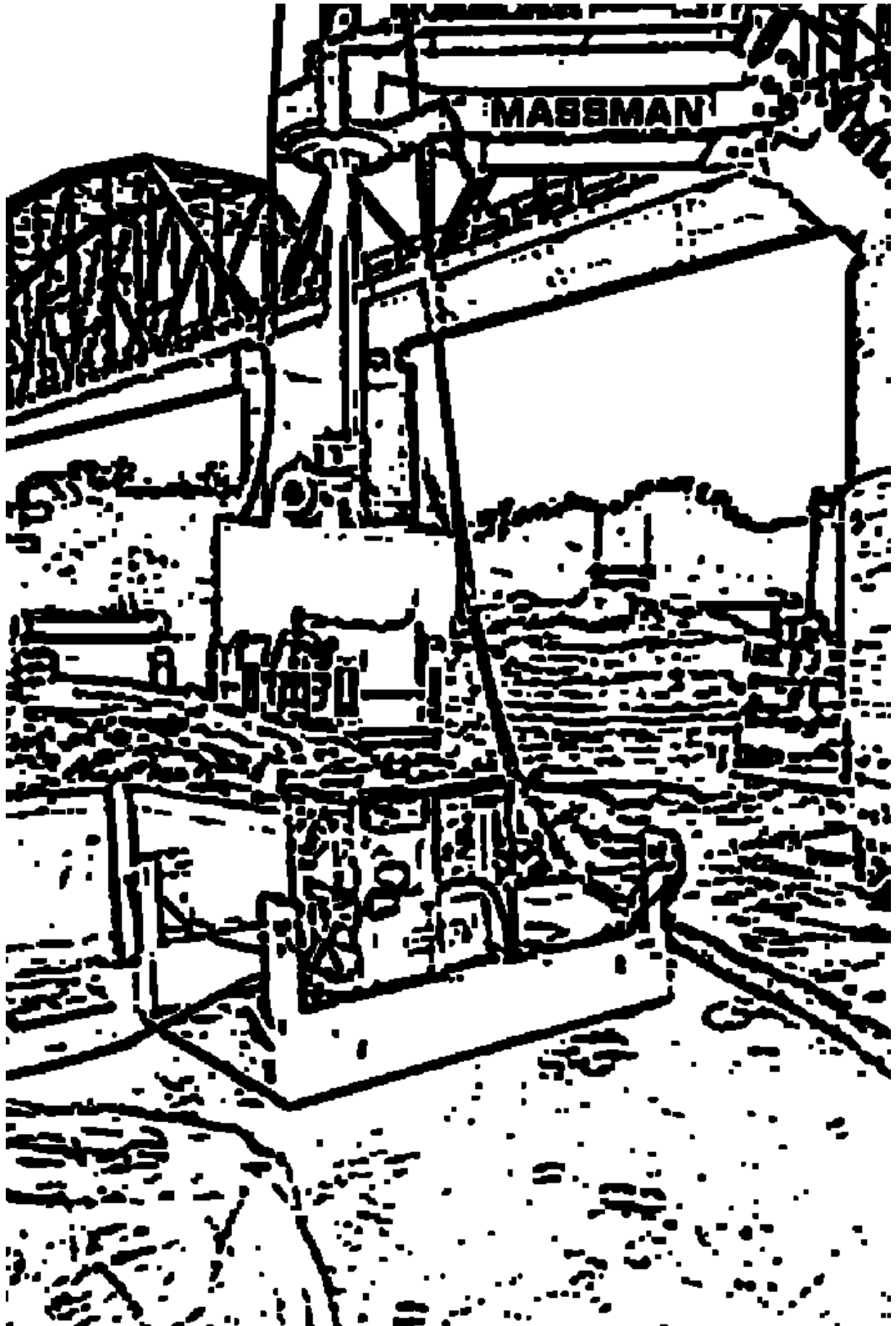
U.S. 54 OVER THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

LOUISIANA
ESTABLISHED 1818









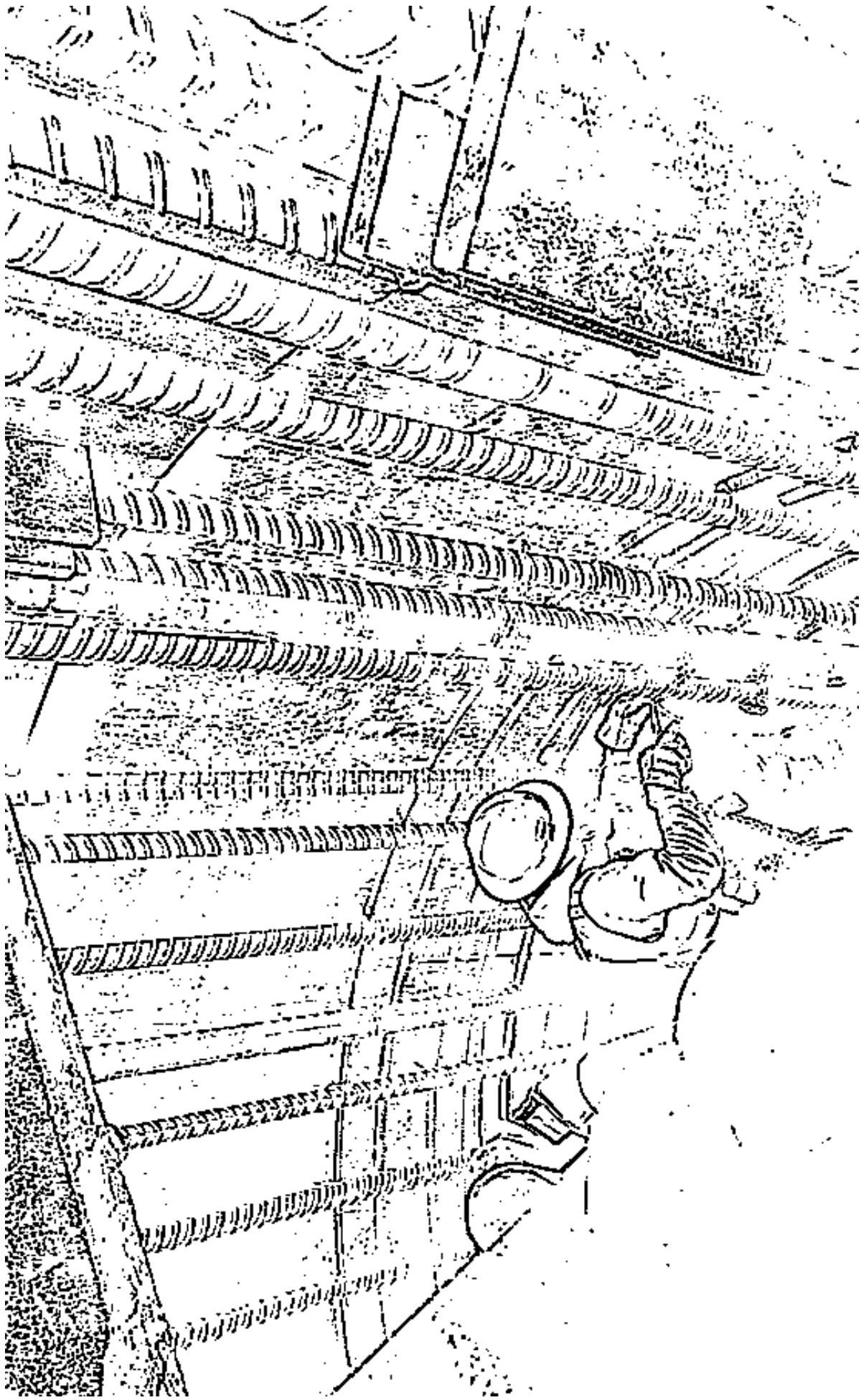
First, we drill rock out of the river bed for the drilled shafts.



Once all the rock is drilled we pour the concrete.

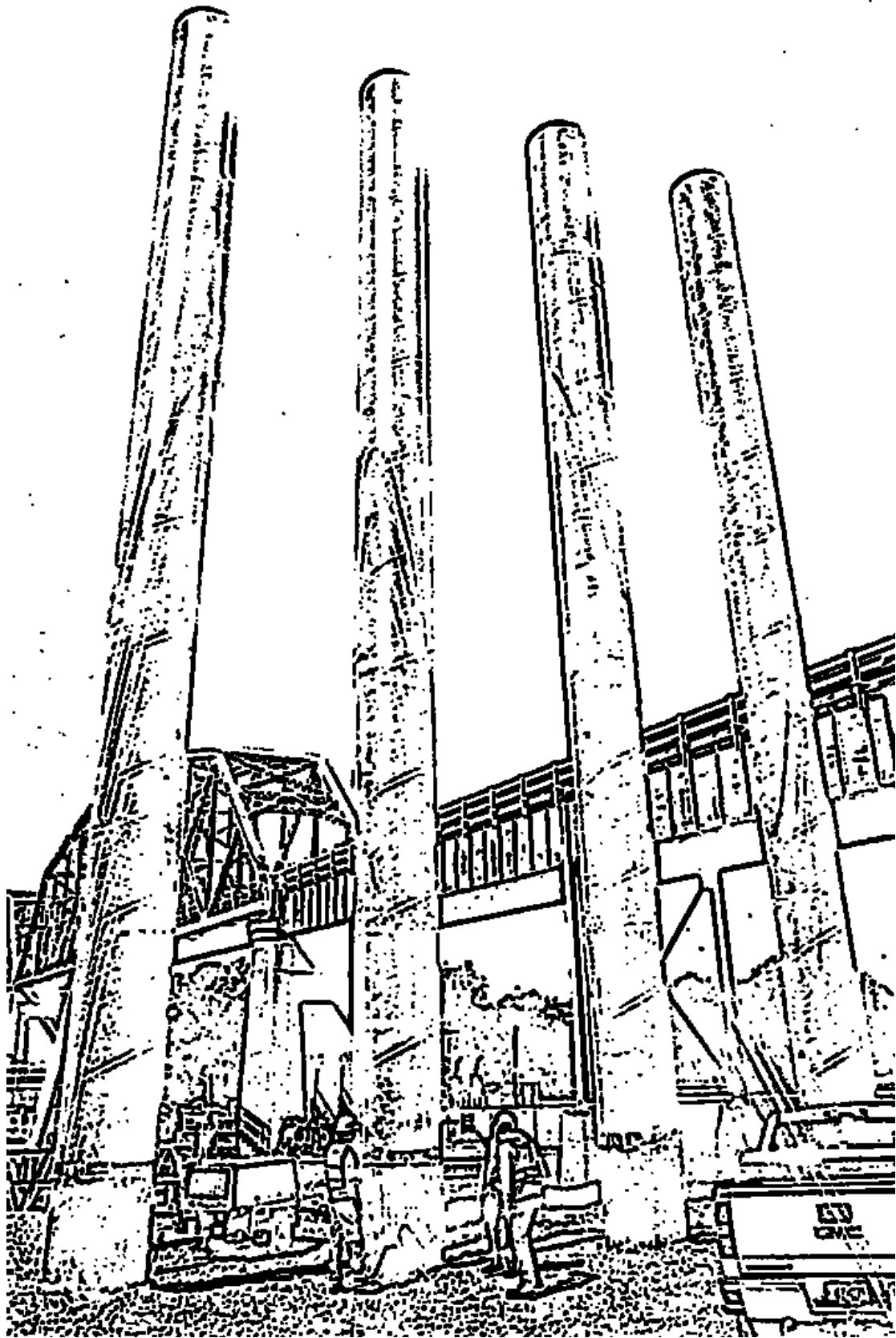


This is a picture of the rock we drilled. It is very big. This rock is about the size of a car.

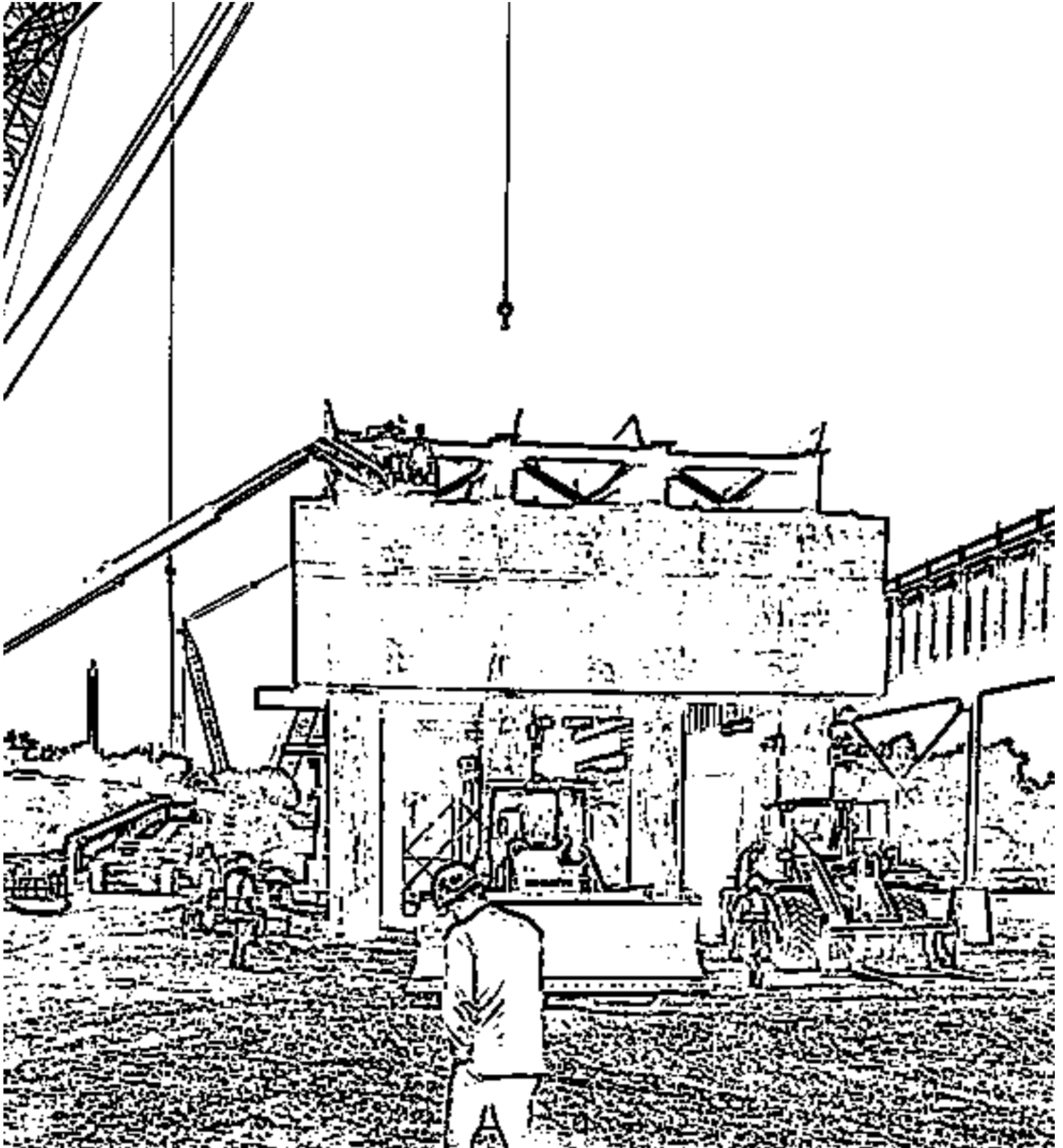


Once we have poured all the drilled shafts with concrete, we then begin work on the struts and columns. The struts are the big blocks of concrete that connect the two shafts together.

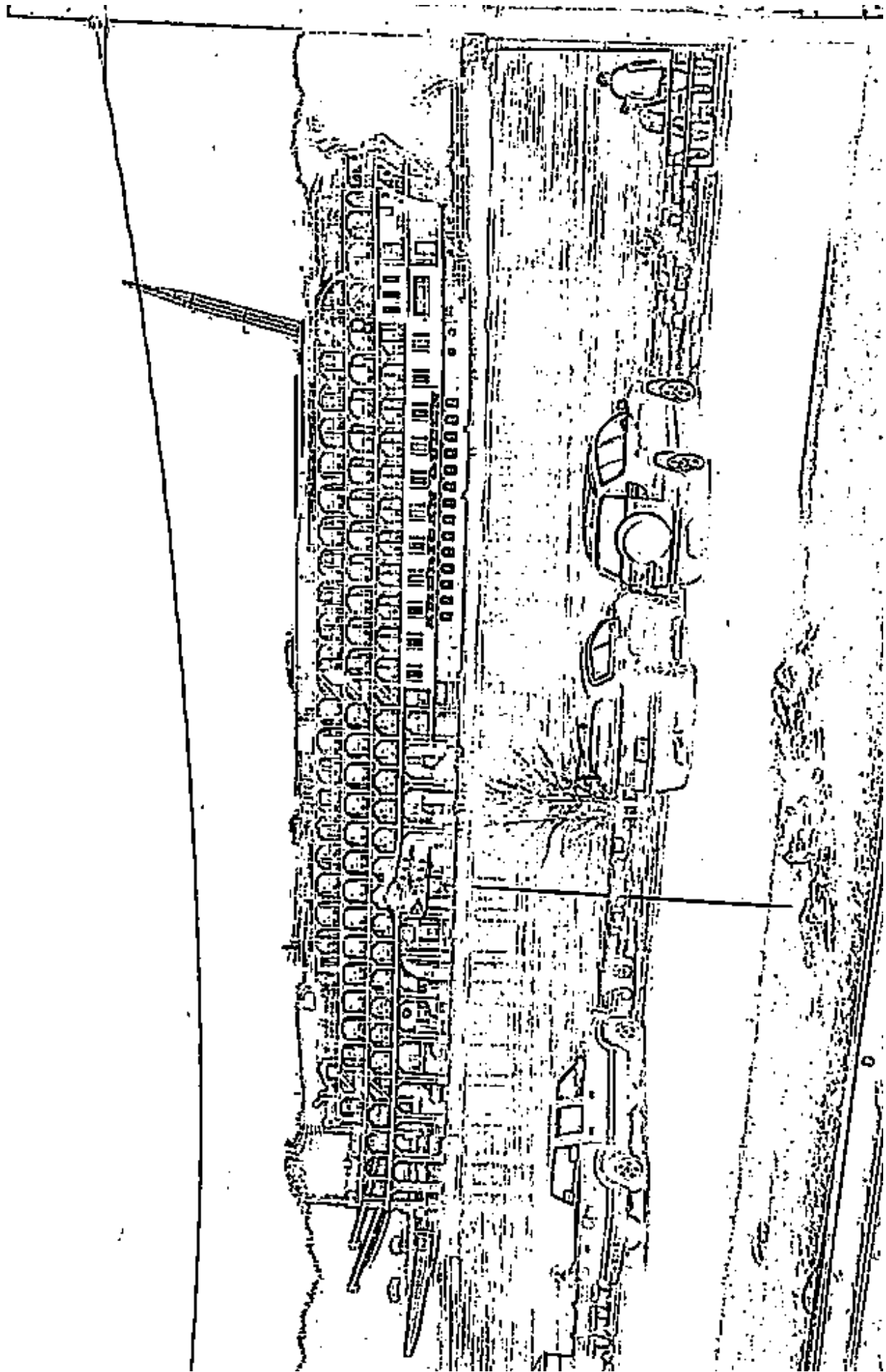
The columns are the two cylinders above that.



On land we drove large pipe plies in the ground. They are 4 feet in diameter. Some kids could stand in them!



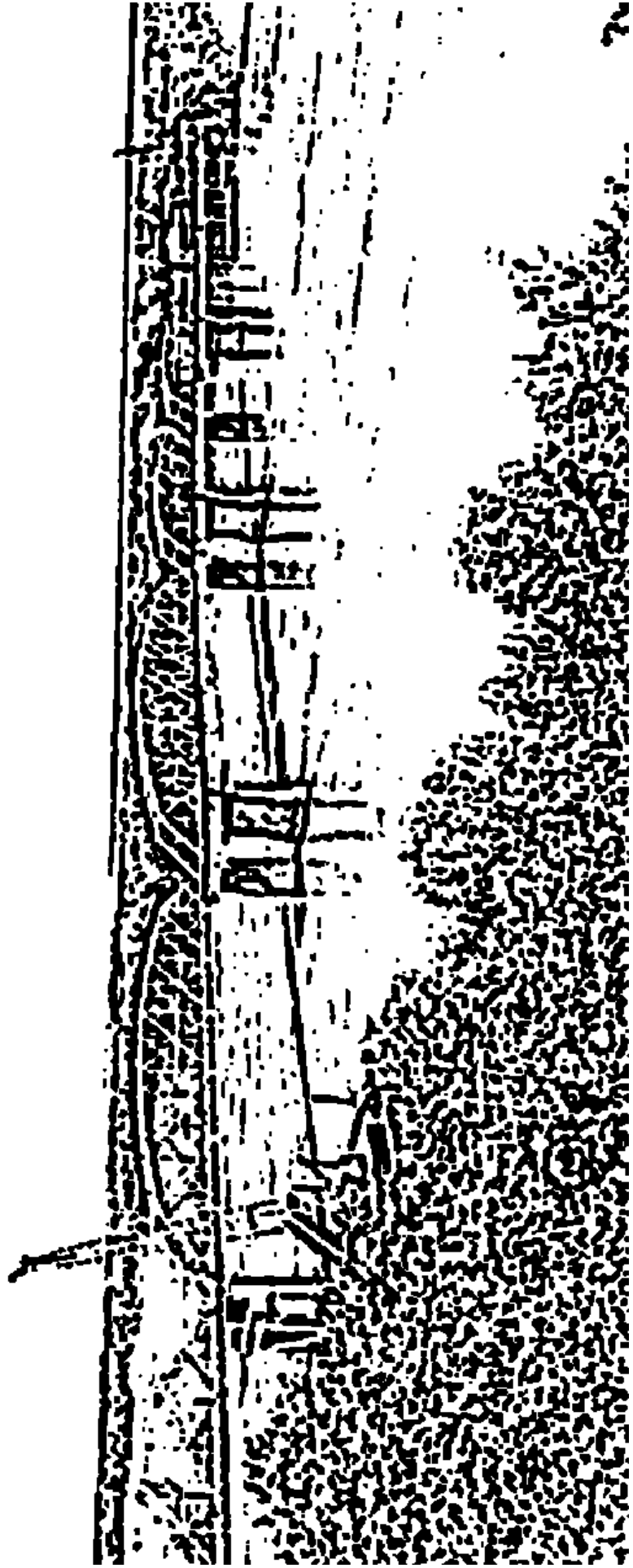
Once all the pile is driven and all the columns poured, we can then pour the cap of each pier. The cap is just like a cap you put on your head, it goes on top.



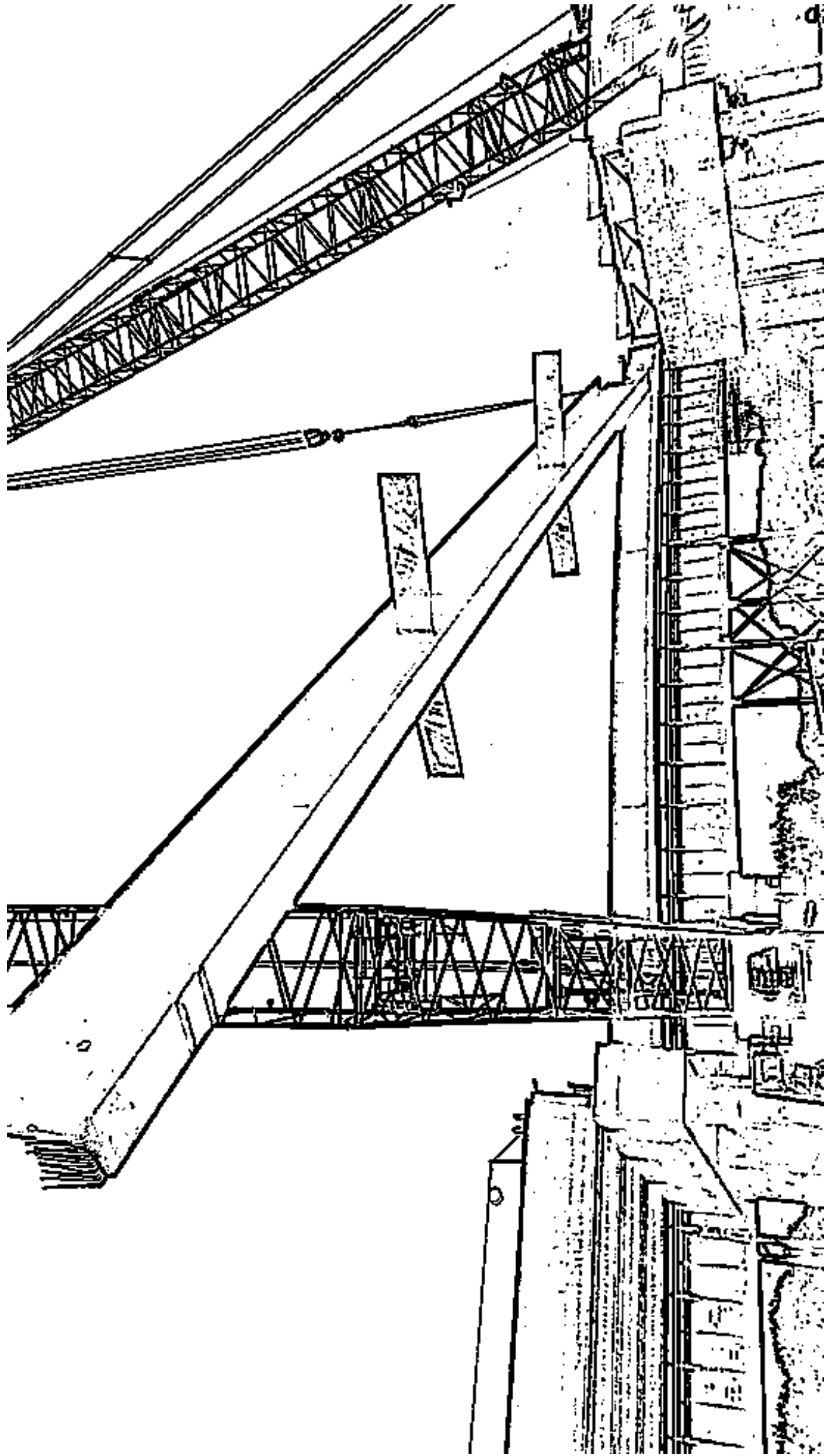
Many cool things use the river for travel, like this paddleboat!



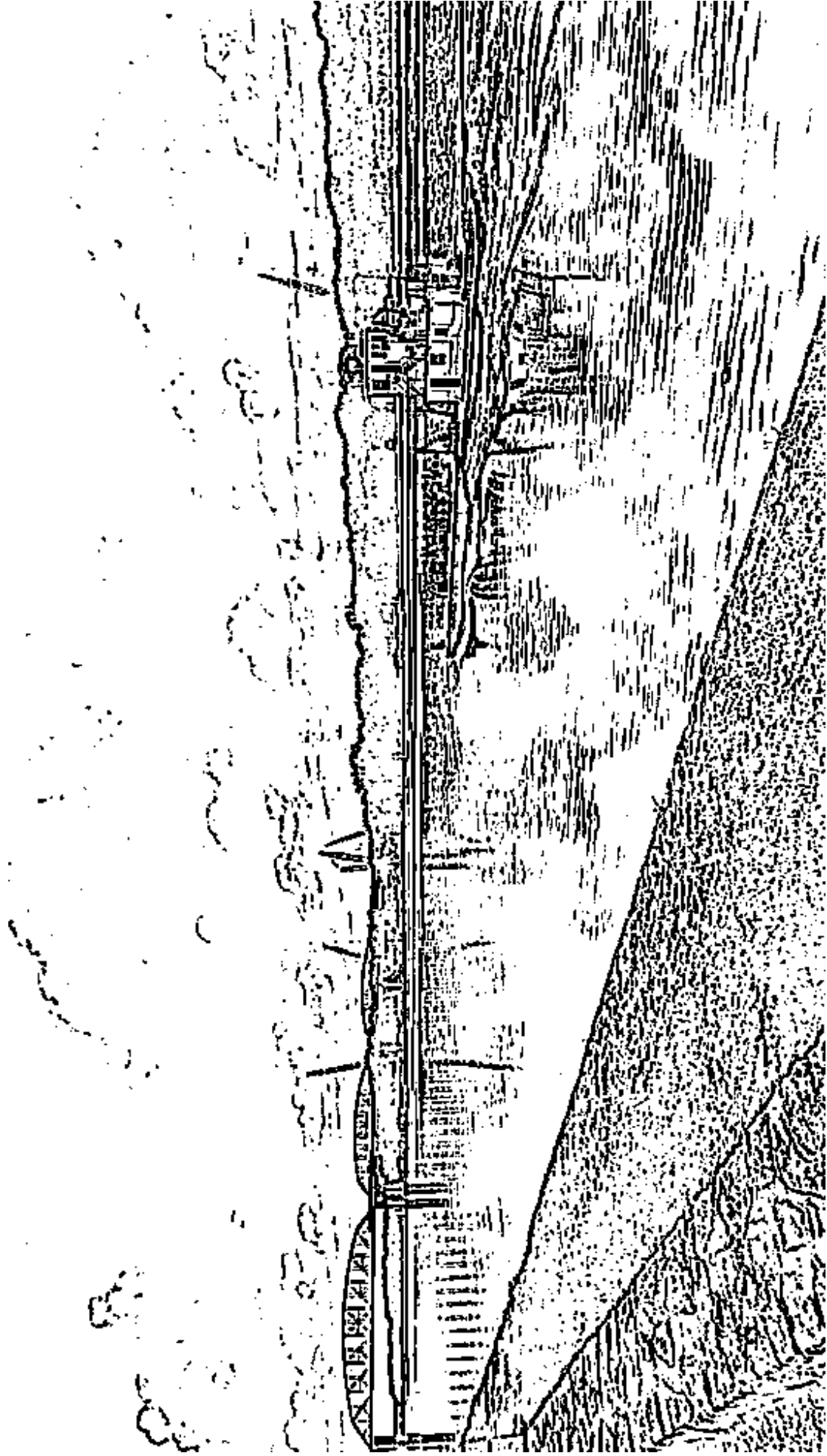
In the spring of 2018 we celebrated getting all of the piers above water. This is a tough job.



We are coming along; all of the piers are complete and ready for the crew to begin placing the girders.



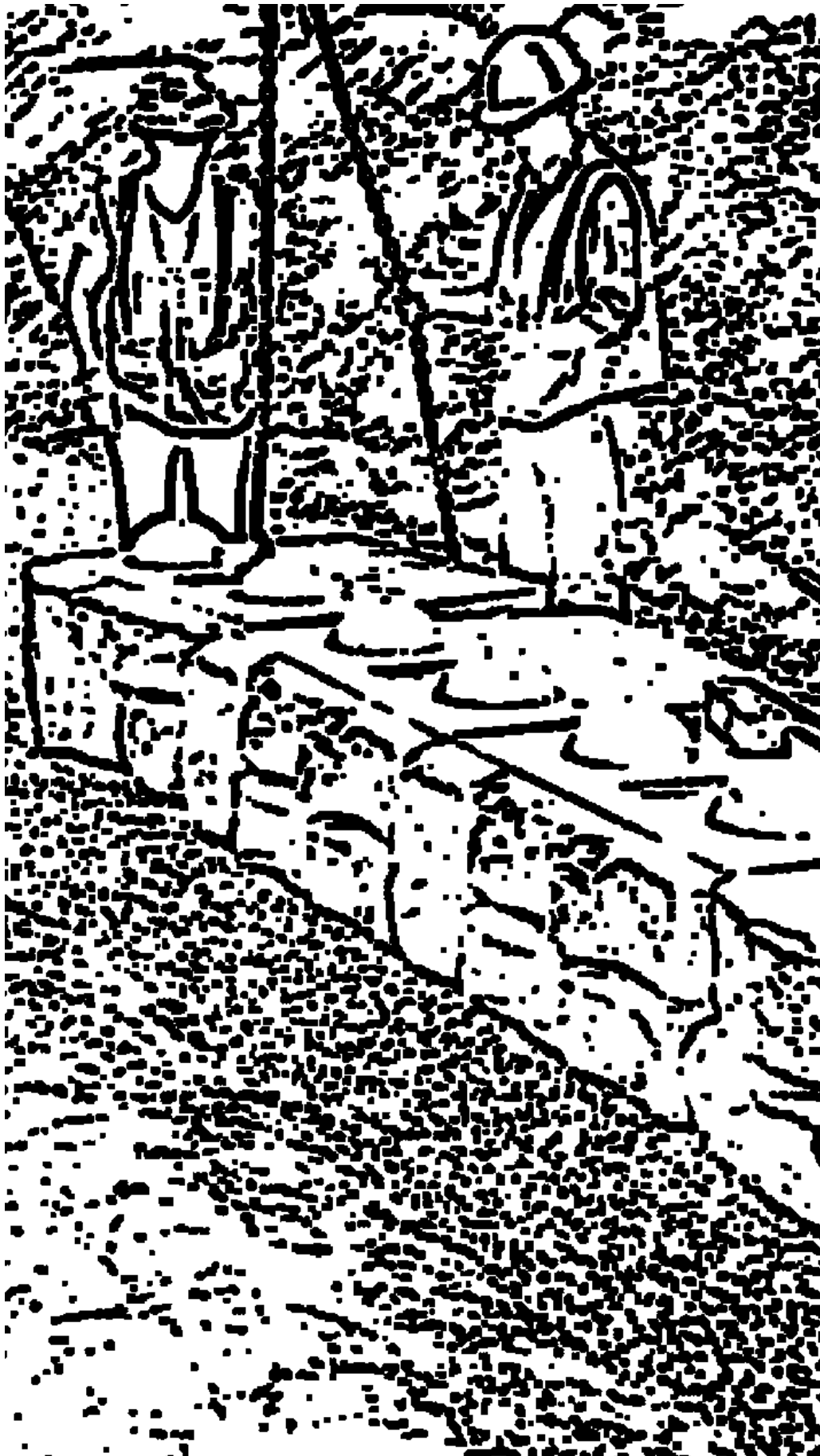
Here the cranes are setting one of the concrete girders.



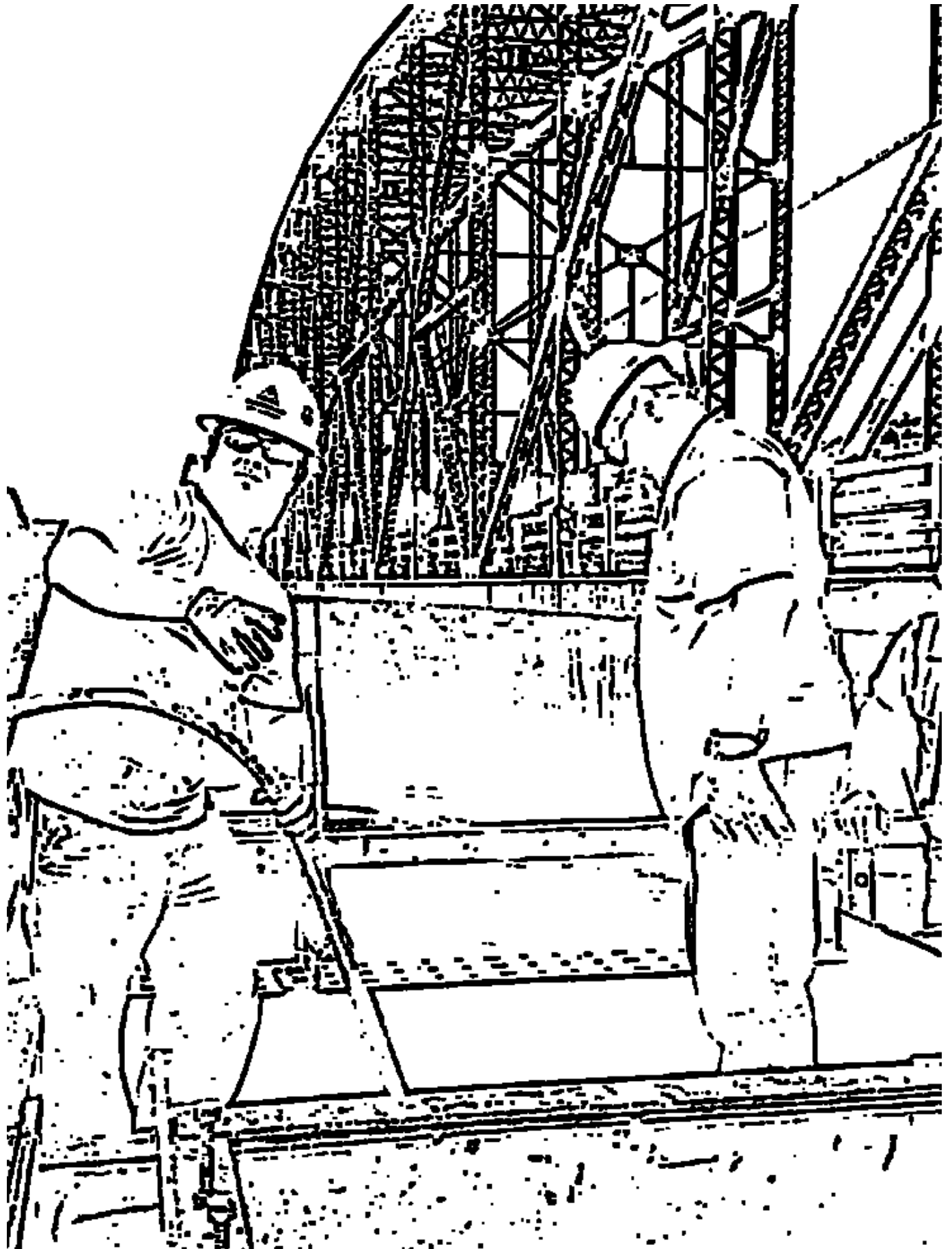
Here is a picture of the tug boat giving the crew a ride to the bridge in the morning.



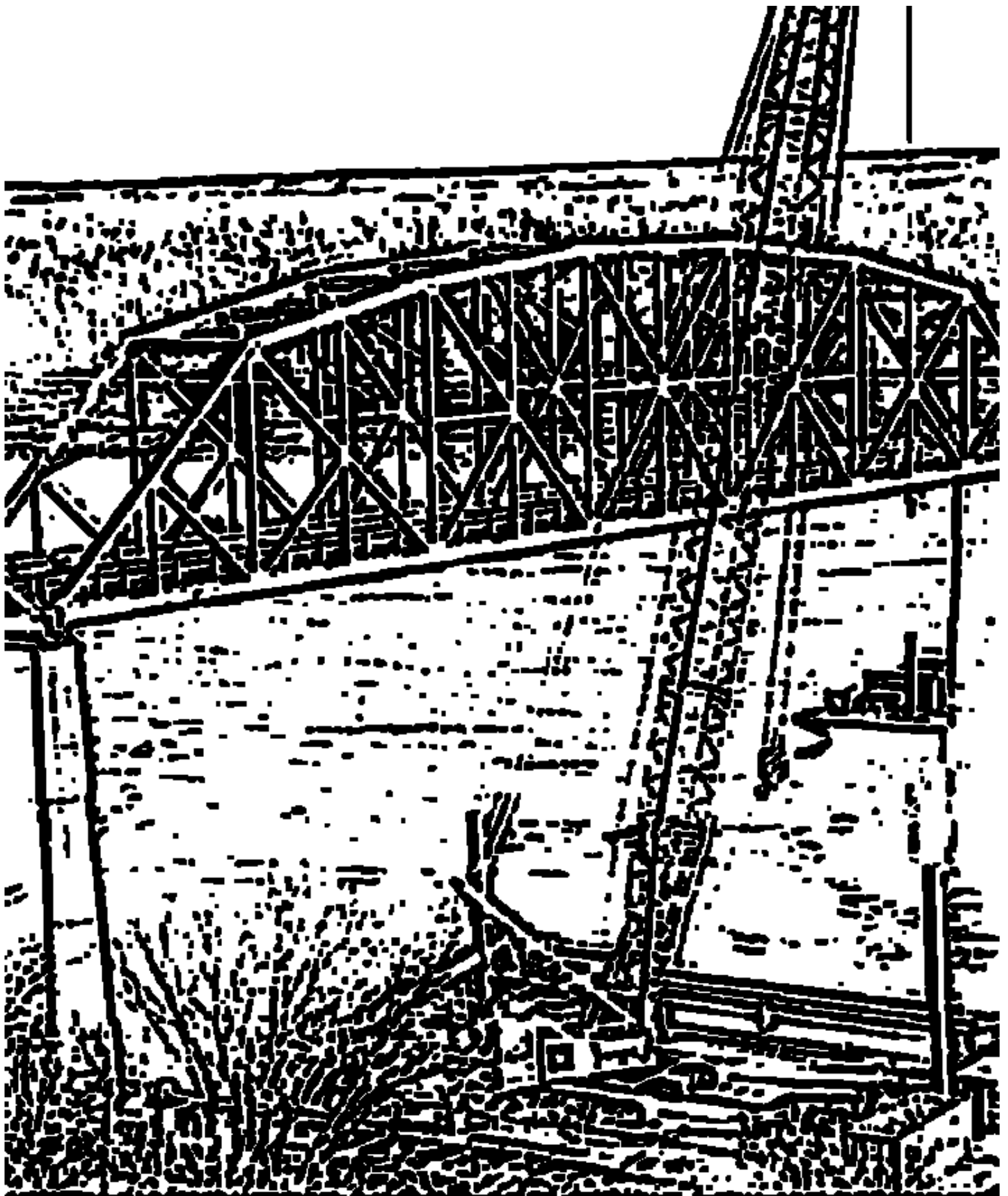
Here the concrete trucks are delivering concrete for the bridge.



The crew is setting the block for the retaining wall on the Missouri bluff.

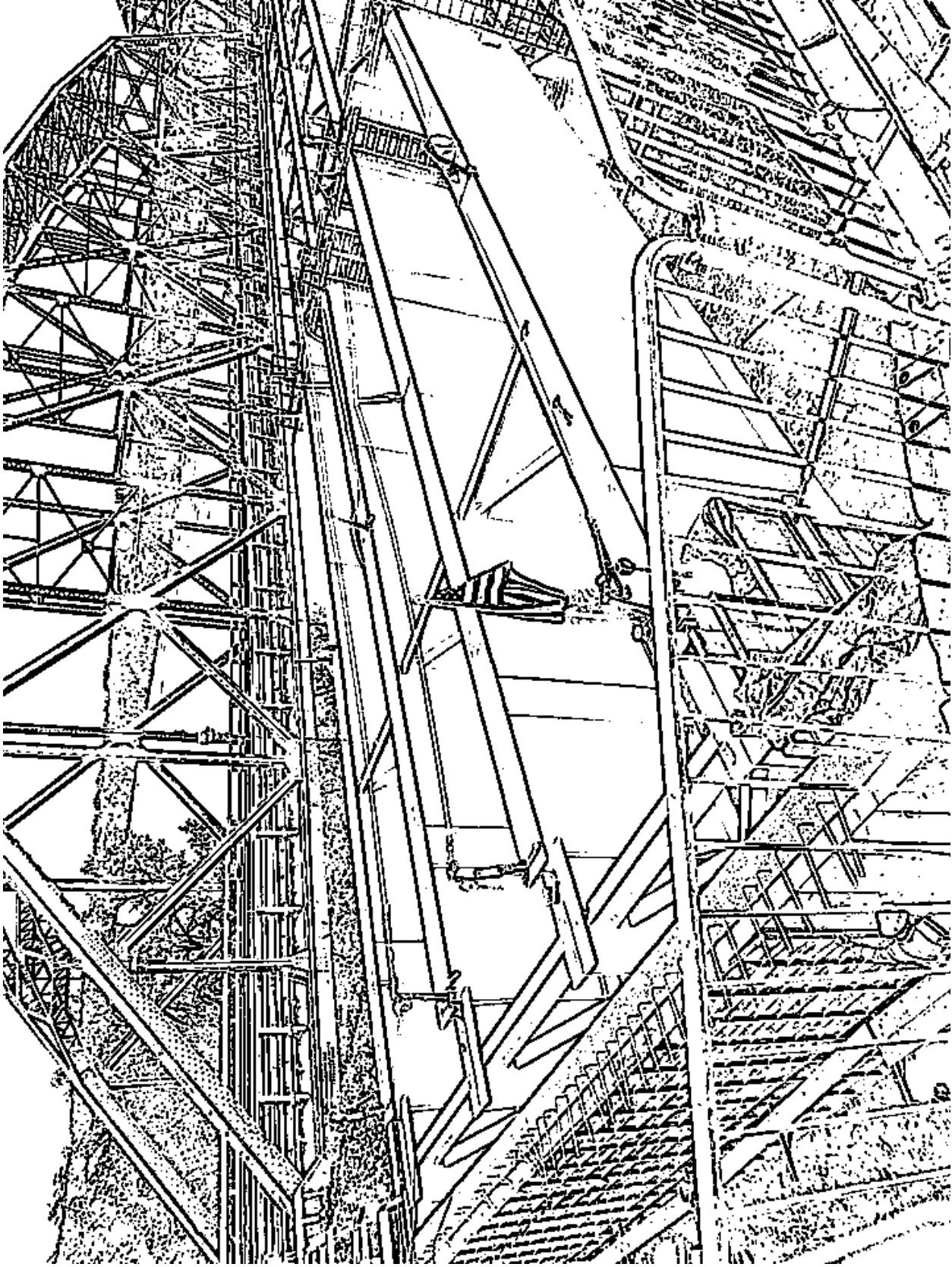


The crew is working hard to pour concrete on a cap.

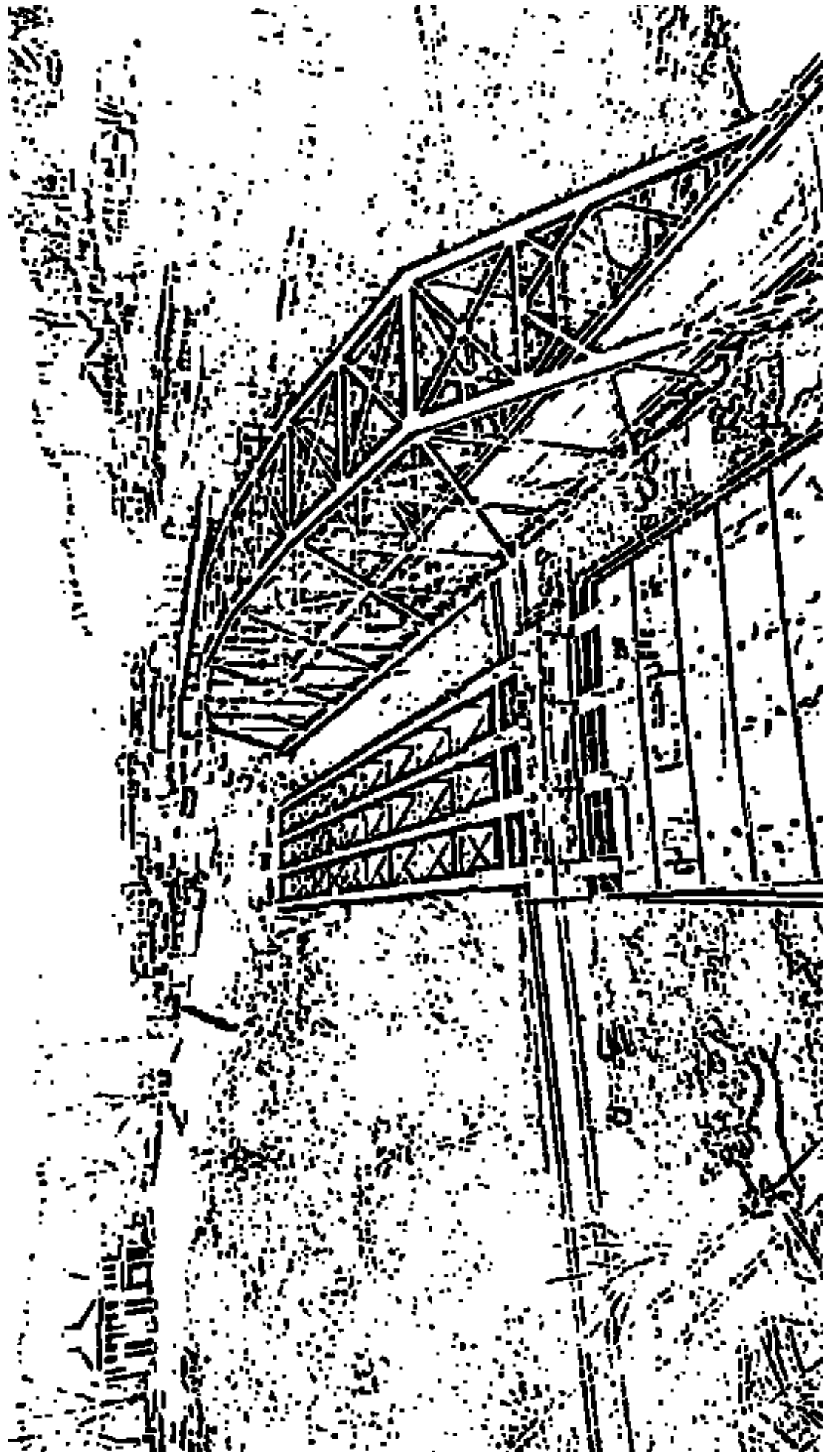




The inspectors are hard at work making sure all the bolts are tightened just right.



Here we celebrated placing the last section of steel with the American flag.



It won't be much longer and the bridge will be complete!



May 2019—Louisiana Elementary Visit