

Hawaii TRIBUNE-HERALD

59TH YEAR — NO. 67

HILO, HAWAII, SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 1982

5 SECTIONS — 64 PAGES 50 CENTS

Quake rocks Japan, tsunami dissipates

TOKYO (UPI) — A powerful earthquake measuring 7.3 on the open-ended Richter scale rocked northeastern Japan Sunday, injuring more than 30 people, collapsing buildings and triggering a 6-foot tidal wave offshore.

The tremor split open streets and wrecked walls in Urakawa on the northern island of Hokkaido, the hardest hit area, and the townspeople cautiously walked over cracks on the road surface in a drizzling rain.

(According to the Civil Defense office in Hilo, the earthquake was not of sufficient magnitude to generate a Pacific-wide tsunami.)

"Zoom, and everything began rolling from east to west," said Jun Honma of the Urakawa Town office. "Glass cups and windows broke one after another and I thought the house was going to fall down."

Hokkaido police said more than 30 people were treated at the Red Cross Hospital in Urakawa, a town of 19,000

people frequently hit by quakes.

The victims included an old man whose shoulder bone was broken by a falling restaurant wall.

Police said preliminary reports indicated many houses had collapsed and there was considerable damage to windows and furniture.

In Sapporo, 80 miles northwest of Urakawa, there were reports of gas leaks, apparently caused by the battering of the tremor.

At a downtown street, gas gushed out from underground and police sealed off the traffic from the area.

The Meteorological Agency said the quake occurred at 9:32 p.m. EST Saturday — 11:32 a.m. Sunday local time — and the epicenter was estimated to be at the sea bottom offshore of Urakawa in Hokkaido. The Japanese agency spokesman said the quake measured 7.3 on the Richter scale.

In Hong Kong, the government in-

formation service said the Royal Observatory measured the quake at 6.8 on the Richter scale. The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., measured the earthquake at 6.6.

A tidal warning was issued after the Maritime safety agency reported that it had observed a 6-foot high tidal wave offshore of Urakawa. But the huge wave apparently did not reach the shores and the warning was lifted about an hour and

half after the quake hit.

In Manila, the Philippines Weather Agency said a mild earthquake lasting 10 seconds shook Camarines Sur Province, 170 miles southwest of the capital, at 7:59 p.m. EST Saturday, about 90 minutes before the Japanese quake.

The weak tremor was also felt in Daet, capital of the adjoining Camarines Norte Province. No casualties or damages were reported.

Medium Quake Rattles Borrego Springs Area

By CHERYL CLARK
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

A medium-sized earthquake startled residents of Borrego Springs and parts of Imperial County shortly before 1 a.m. yesterday, rattling a few dishes and sending a few dogs barking into the night.

But the tiny temblor, whose epicenter was about 16 miles southeast of Borrego Springs at 12:53 a.m., only registered 4.5 on the Richter scale. Almost everyone who felt the brief swaying simply went back to sleep.

According to Kate Hutton, staff seismologist for California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, yesterday's earthquake was an average, routine California incident, "a good window rattler" that came nowhere

near the scale of the desert's 1968 quake that registered 6.4 along the area's Coyote Creek fault.

But Hutton said it is still too early to know on which faultline yesterday's quake occurred. She said it was so small that it probably did not break the desert's surface.

Mark Legg, a research assistant at UCSD's Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, said the quake probably straddled the San Jacinto or Agua Caliente faults in an area generally known as "Earthquake Valley," near Borrego Hot Springs.

He said he felt a slight trembling in his home in Santee.

Hank Roloff, resident manager of the Borrego Roadrunner Club, also took yesterday's temblor in stride.

"This was just a sharp shock," he said. "I've had a long history of being in earthquakes, and when you start to roll, that's when you start heading for the trees."

Roloff said he was in Anchorage, Alaska, during the 1964 earthquake that sent the Richter needle to 8.2. "That was a good one," he said. "The bluffs and the city caved in."

Sheriff's deputies in Borrego and fire officials reported no damage or injury from the Borrego shake, which lasted only a few seconds. Blanca Painter of the Anza-Borrego State Park said the quake woke her and shook her trailer but did not disturb her sleeping children.

"I just rolled over and went back to sleep," she said.

James Clavell of Borrego said his poodle let out a little bark when the temblor began, but he was not concerned.

"We could hear the lamp shaking," said Evelyn Sutton, who lives in a mobile home. "It lasted only a few seconds."

Borrego teacher Lynne Cronyn turned the incident into a field trip for her 28 eighth graders, about half of whom had felt their beds rocking and windows rattling the night before.

The class went hunting for any sign of surface rupture, climbed atop peaks and hiked all over Shelter Valley. "But there wasn't any sign," Cronyn said. "We just couldn't see a thing."

Losses Grow in Japanese Quake

Los Angeles Times
March 22, 1982 ☆

From Times Wire Services

TOKYO—Injuries and damage rose Sunday in a major earthquake that struck Japan's northern island of Hokkaido. At least 110 people were hurt by the quake, which registered 7.3 on the Richter scale, and there were police reports of landslides and homes destroyed in coastal fishing villages. No deaths were reported, however.

The quake, centered in the ocean 24 miles from the coastal town of Urakawa and about 90 miles southeast of the larger city of Sapporo, produced aftershocks throughout the area.

Quake Shakes Japan

As many as 31 aftershocks rattled northeastern Japan today in the wake of a major earthquake that jolted Hokkaido, the country's northernmost island. Meanwhile, on the island of Honshu, spring rains were blamed for a series of avalanches that killed 15 mountain climbers. In Hokkaido, more than 100 people were injured and 80 buildings toppled in Sunday's quake, which registered 7.3 on the Richter scale.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
Mon., March 22, 1982