An aerial view of the collapsed highway

Times-Standard, Eureka, California, Sunday, November 9, 1980

By Times-Standard staff

An earthquake that is believed to be one of the two or three strongest to ever hit the North Coast awakened Humboldt County residents early Saturday morning, causing widespread minor damage and injuring at least six persons.

The 7:27 a.m. quake—centered in the ocean about 40 miles southwest of Eureka—shattered glass in homes and businesses and apparently caused the failure of a portion of the Tompkins Hill overpass on Highway 101 north of College of the Redwoods, officials said.

At least six persons were injured when the rolling motion of the quake—estimated to have lasted between 40-60 seconds—collided the southbound portion of the overpass, plunging a compact car and light pickup truck about 30 feet to the roadway below, authorities said.

At least two other persons were treated at local hospitals for possible heart attacks. Another unidentified man was treated at Redwood Memorial Hospital in Fortuna for a cut on his hand.

"when he jumped out of his window in panic," according to the hospital staff.

Most of the major damage apparently was confined in an area stretching along the coast roughly from Table Bluff to Trinidad, according to William Chambers, head of the Humboldt Office of Emergency Services.

Power failures were reported in the Eureka, Arcata and McKinleyville areas immediately following the quake. Roughly 7,500 PG&E customers lost power initially, a spokesman for the utility said. But electricity and gas services were restored in most areas by mid-morning Saturday.

The Humboldt Bay nuclear power plant apparently weathered the quake with no significant structural damage.

"We've gone through and looked at it and it appears there's no physical damage at all," PG&E spokesman Al Sorensen said.

Most of the damage in the area reported was confined to broken windows, toppled clothes, cracked chimneys and the like, officials said. But at least two homes in the Fields Landing area were jarrered from their foundations by the force of the quake.

There also were several reports of minor gas line breaks. No serious damage resulted from the ruptures, however.

Possible structural damage was reported at the Humboldt County Courthouse. Signs located on the elevator, sheriff's office windows and at the Fourth Street entrance said the jail was closed to visitors because of "possible structural damage" to the elevator. The sign on the elevator said it could be used in an emergency.

County spokesman could not be reached for comment on the signs and it was not immediately clear when normal elevator service in the building would be restored by Monday.

The Louisville-Pacific and Crown-Simpson pulp mills located on the Samoa peninsula reported "considerable equipment damage within the plants," Chambers said.

At Humboldt State University, only minor damage was reported. John Parrish, an RSU police dispatcher, said structural damage at the university was confined to a few cracks in second-floor arches at Founders Hall. Parrish said the building was closed for inspection Saturday.

"They handled it well in the dorms," Parrish said. "Everybody was cool and collected."

County officials said the Eureka Veteran's Building was temporarily closed Saturday afternoon due to possible structural damage. A 400-person wedding reception had been scheduled.

Mike McGuire of the county Office of Emergency Services said a structural engineer was scheduled to inspect the building Monday. Vital services such as power and water apparently survived the quake in relatively good shape, according to Chambers. No major water mains were damaged and the Eureka water supply was said to be in "fine shape," he said.

In an unusual incident, Big Delta Police Cpl. Patrick White was transporting a prisoner to the Humboldt County Jail when the Tompkins Hill overpass collapsed.

"I noticed some blue lights out toward the ocean, presumably caused by swaying power lines," the vehicle drilled a bit," White said.

While White was investigating the accident scene, someone apparently released his prisoner, Rick A. Withrow, 18, who had been arrested on outstanding warrants. A Humboldt County Sheriff's deputy contacted Withrow with his mother near the accident scene. White said, and took him into custody again. Withrow will now face 30 escape charges, in addition to the other warrants, White added.

After the earthquake had passed, Dr. Roy Wittert and his wife, Faye, were surprised to find that 20,000 square feet of recently installed glass and aluminum greenhouses had escaped without a scratch.

"Not a pane of glass, not even a cracked piece of glass," was found at the greenhouses located at Sequoia Orchards on Table Bluff Road, Wittert said.

"Needless to say, we are elated," he added.

Charles Hatch, who lives on a third-floor apartment in a building located at 5th and A Streets in Eureka, marveled at the force of the quake.

"I was standing in the doorway between the kitchen and the living room and I could see the wall just fly back and forth," he said.

Considering the magnitude of the quake, Chambers said he was surprised that more damage had not occurred.

After meeting with Humboldt County Sheriff Gene Cox shortly after the quake struck, Chambers said it was decided it would not be necessary to declare a "state of emergency."

"I discussed it with Sheriff Cox and we determined that the local agencies had the situation well in hand. No outside assistance was required," Chambers said.

"We've had more damage from smaller quakes."

Officials reported that the quake was felt within a 200-mile radius of Eureka with reports of the Humboldt County rocking an area bounded roughly by Grants Pass, Ore., to the north, San Rafael to the south, and Redding and Chico to the east.

The exact intensity of the earthquake was not immediately clear as several reporting stations ranging from Japan to Golden, Colo. reported differing magnitudes ranging from 6.6 to 7.1 on the Richter scale. Jim Scalfini at the Ferndale seismograph said he did not get a complete reading because the magnitude of the earthquake broke the equipment.

A San Francisco radio station was flooded with calls after the quake struck and several callers from the Humboldt Bay area expressed concerns about a possible tidal wave.

Although Pacific Telephone reported no major damage, the company had asked callers to keep long distance calls to a minimum because the circuits were jammed.

Barbara Stewart, a spokesman for Northwestern Pacific Railroad, said Saturday the company did not know the extent of damage to track lines beneath the collapsed overpass.

The railroad also was checking its track between Eureka and Willits, but early reports indicated no significant damage had occurred at that point.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Earthquake coverage was compiled by Times-Standard staff members Mike Mooney, Larry Parsons, Bruce Taylor, Heidie H. Holmblad, Cheryl Gibbs and Pat Murnan. All photographs were taken by Neil Gilchrist, staff photographer.)
6 hurt, 2 kids critical

Two Europa children were critically injured yesterday when their parents' car careened over an embankment near the bridge. The family was thrown over the side of the bridge and one child was injured. In another area of the city, a group of adults were injured when their vehicle careened off the road and into a nearby body of water. The injuries were reported to be non-life-threatening.

Nuke plant weathered quake

People's reactions varied

When North Coast residents were suddenly awakened by the thud of the ground, they were initially confused and unsure of what was happening. Many people were initially unsure if they were dreaming or if the earthquake was real. The shaking lasted for several minutes, causing panic and confusion among the residents. Some people felt that the earthquake was the result of an earthquake, while others believed it was caused by an explosion or a natural disaster.

KING SALMON-Saturday morning's earthquake knocked the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. two-fifths of its lights out. The earthquake, estimated at magnitude 6.5, was felt by residents throughout the region.

The quake was felt by residents of Humboldt County, who were awakened by the shaking. The earthquake was reportedly felt by residents of Eureka, McKinleyville, and other nearby areas.

The earthquake was also felt by residents of nearby counties, including Douglas and Del Norte. The shaking was described as moderate to strong, with some reports of damage to buildings and structures.

Eight people were reportedly injured during the earthquake, including a child who was critically injured. The child was transported to a hospital for treatment.

Times-Standard, Eureka, California

Quake pushes homes right off foundations

FIELDLANDS-Mary Brabson was standing on the porch of her house in the Fieldlands neighborhood when the earthquake struck. She watched as her house began to shake and then collapsed onto the ground. Her house was destroyed, and she was left without a place to live.

In another part of the city, a group of buildings collapsed onto the street, causing a large amount of debris to fall onto the road.

Many residents were forced to evacuate their homes, and some were left without power or water. The city's emergency services were swamped with calls for help, and rescue workers were called in to assist.

Times-Standard, Eureka, California

Quake one of worst in Humboldt history

Saturday's earthquake was one of the worst in the history of Humboldt County. The shaking lasted for several minutes, causing panic and confusion among the residents. Some people reported feeling the earthquake for more than 10 minutes.

The earthquake was reportedly felt by residents of Eureka, McKinleyville, and other nearby areas. The shaking was described as moderate to strong, with some reports of damage to buildings and structures.

The earthquake was also felt by residents of nearby counties, including Douglas and Del Norte. The shaking was described as moderate to strong, with some reports of damage to buildings and structures.

In addition to the damage caused by the earthquake, the shaking was also felt far beyond the county. The earthquake was reportedly felt by residents of San Francisco, Oakland, and other nearby cities.

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More aftershocks are expected

November 9, 1980  Times-Standard, Eureka, California

More aftershocks from Saturday’s earthquake and aftershocks are expected nightly, Eureka’s city manager said Sunday, while adding that the shaking is likely to continue for two weeks.

The last major earthquake in the area was in 1980, and it was the most damaging earthquake in the state in 1980. The Magnitude of the earthquake was 7.1 on the Richter scale.

The next major earthquake will likely be in 1982 and will have a Magnitude of 7.0 on the Richter scale.

The shaking is expected to be strongest in the area between Eureka and Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The earthquake was centered near Eureka and was felt in the area from Eureka to Klamath Falls, Oregon.

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Powerful earthquake rocks West Coast

Tremors rattle towns in Oregon

By DAVID EINSTEIN

EUROKA, Calif. (AP) — The most powerful earthquake to hit Northern California in more than a half-century shook a 500-mile stretch of the Pacific coast early Saturday, knocking homes off foundations and injuring five people when a car and truck plunged from a collapsed highway overpass.

Scientists said the quake measured between 6.8 and 7.1 on the Richter scale, and one resident of this coastal community said it "felt like the end of the world." But overall damage was slight in the largely rural area.

The tremors were felt in several southwestern Oregon communities, chairs, desks and beds shook in Brookings, Klamath Falls and Medford, witnesses said.

"One guy called this morning to complain that he had been thrown out of his waterbed," said Terri Yock, a dispatcher for the Brookings Police Department. "You bet we felt it." Ms. Yock said the shaking began about 2:29 a.m.

"It woke me up," she said. "The doors were rattling and the bed was shaking.

Similar tremors were felt in Klamath Falls and Medford, although there were no reports of damage or injuries. "It was kind of moderate," said Kathy Davis, a Klamath Falls police officer.

Carlene Hunt, a Medford Police Department dispatcher, said her switchboard became quaky, and with calls, more "till we could handle" shortly after the quake.

"I barely felt it," she said. "I think it was aftershocks." Police officials in Roseburg and Eugene said the quake wasn't felt that far away.

Mayor Bob Iles of Rogue River said it felt "like a train coming through the town.

"I felt the house move," Iles said. "The windows were making kind of a tick-tock noise.

"Could you tell me what happened last night?" Ruth King of Grants Pass asked in a call to the sheriff's office.

She said she was awakened when her house "began moving.

Wagner, 47, a native of the Grants Pass area, said it was the first time he had felt an earthquake in the area.

"The candy dish lid was shaking," Wagner said. "As you see southern California residents can thank a gymnast, a hiker and a fisherman for saving them.

"I used a fire extinguisher to put out a fire," said the gymnast, a hiker who hitchhiked into town and a fisherman who was fishing at the time.

The southbound lanes of the highway were closed, said the volcano. The earthquake hit at 1:12 p.m. and was felt 20 miles away.

Monday, November 10, 1980

Quake victims are 'improved'

The two men who survived the November 10, 1980, earthquake in California have been discharged from the hospital after being treated for injuries sustained in the temblor.

Robert Lee, who was working at the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. substation when the earthquake struck, and his wife, Sherry, a nurse at the hospital, were both injured in the disaster.

Lee, a 33-year-old maintenance worker, was treated for a fractured rib and a broken arm. Sherry, a 26-year-old registered nurse, was treated for a concussion and a broken leg.

Both were discharged from the hospital on Monday after undergoing a series of tests and being cleared by doctors.

The couple, who live in nearby Eureka, said they were grateful to be alive and thanked the hospital staff for their care.

"We're just glad to be alive," Robert Lee said. "We're just glad to be alive."
Experts' View

State Warned

To Brace for

Rash of Quakes

San Francisco Chronicle

Mon. Nov. 10, 1980

By Stephen Magness

The massive earthquake that rocked the north state and southern Oregon early Saturday could portend a new era of California quakes, a government expert said yesterday.

The Eureka quake — the most violent in almost half a century, registering 7.0 on the Richter scale — is a sign that the "cycle of renewed (earthquake) activity seems to be re-started," said Robert E. Wallace, chief seismologist for the U.S. Geological Survey's Office of Earthquake Studies.

In 1979, California was struck by nine quakes that registered 5 or better on the Richter scale, and in the past 12 months there have been five quakes that equaled or exceeded 6 on the Richter scale, including the three at Mammoth Lakes last May, Wallace said.

"All of California has been lit up with these magnitude 6-7 earthquakes in the last year and a half," Wallace said. "There have been more quakes in the high five's and sixes than any time since 1980 in the Northern California area in the last few years.

The fault segments responsible for the recent California quakes of 1987 in Southern California and 1988 that devastated San Francisco, both estimated at 7.0 on the Richter scale have remained largely quiescent since, Wallace said.

"Despite its force, it did little damage, primarily because of the protective building and seismic retrofits that have been done in the area," he said. "The earthquake and its effects were not as severe as the 1989 Loma Prieta quake.

The Humboldt Fault Line marks the intersection of two powerful earthquake zones: the San Andreas fault and the Gorda Basin, which stretches from the coast 300 miles to the west.

While the North American continent slides northward, the San Andreas Fault Line is moving southward, nearly 3 inches a year, while the Gorda Basin is pushing eastward. As a result of these colliding forces, rocks on one side will slip suddenly, and when they suddenly slip, you get an earthquake," Wallace said.

"All of California has been lit up with magnitude 6-7 earthquakes in the last year and a half," Wallace said. "There have been more quakes in the high five's and sixes than any time since 1980 in the Northern California area in the last few years.

Although some reports yesterday blamed the quake as the most powerful in Northern California in half a century and the strongest in the area in 18 years, UC scientists doubted this.

"The seismograph readings showed the magnitude at 7.0 on the Richter energy scale of ground movement," said seismologist Dr. Robert H. Hagerman of the UC Berkeley seismographic station.

"The magnitude of 7.0 is not as high as one would expect for an earthquake of this size," Hagerman said. "It's more like the magnitude of a 6.5 to 6.6, which is what we normally expect for an earthquake of this size.

"The magnitude 7.0 is a good indication of the strength of the earthquake, but it's not as high as one would expect for an earthquake of this size," Hagerman said. "It's more like the magnitude of a 6.5 to 6.6, which is what we normally expect for an earthquake of this size.

Nuke plant found safe

Times-Standard, Eureka, California

KING SALMON — A federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspector toured the dormant Humboldt Bay nuclear power plant here Monday and confirmed earlier reports that the plant had not suffered any significant damage in the earthquake.

But local anti-nuclear activists used the quake to boost their call for the plant's permanent closure at a press conference Monday.

The community "made it clear that those people living nearby should be protected from the plant's permanent closure at a press conference Monday.

The nuclear power plant has been shut down since mid-October, and the plant's operators are re-checking the plant's seismic safety status.

The NBC staff has recommended approval of the extension, but the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has not yet issue a formal decision, according to Hanchett.

"The nuclear power plant has been shut down since mid-October, and the plant's operators are re-checking the plant's seismic safety status," Hanchett said.

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EARTHQUAKE!

6.8 quake shakes North Coast awake

by Bob Fryer

The strongest earthquake to hit Humboldt County in 50 years awakened thousands of residents early last Saturday morning, miraculously killing no one and causing minor damage to hundreds of homes.

The quake, measuring 6.6 on the richter scale, occurred at 2:27 a.m. and lasted for 33 seconds, according to an official at the US Geological Survey.

North and southbound traffic backed up on Highway 101 after the earthquake, which was felt as far as 100 miles away.

Several local residents were injured, two of whom were critically injured. They were riding in a car traveling on Highway 101 when the earthquake occurred.

The driver of the car, a woman from Eureka, was taken to the hospital for treatment.

The quake was also felt in Eureka, where several buildings were damaged.

The strongest earthquake in California in over 50 years occurred in 1966, according to the US Geological Survey.

Tremor illustrates strain on faults

The earthquake that shook northern California Saturday was the latest in a series of quakes that have hit the region in recent months.

The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado, which is located in the center of the state, said the quake was caused by a fault line that ruptured beneath the surface.

The fault line is one of several that lie beneath the state and are capable of producing large earthquakes.

The strongest earthquake in California in over 50 years occurred in 1966, according to the US Geological Survey.

Quake brings new rumblings about closing N-plant for good

Special to The Examiner

ARCATA — The Humboldt Bay waterfront power plant, proposed for closure this spring, is facing new threats after last week's earthquake.

The plant, which is located on the Humboldt Bay estuary, was shut down last month after a series of earthquakes damaged the plant.

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Quake shakes and shudders; little damage

"It was lightning," said a woman named Margareta, who lives southwest of Arcata. "It was so bright that I thought it was daylight."

Tom, 8-year-old twins, were taken to General Hospital where medical equipment was available to monitor heart rhythms. Tom, 8-year-old twins, were taken to St. Joseph's Hospital.

Tom Sr. was released from the hospital Monday morning, ready to return to his job as a police officer. His metal plates were removed and he was discharged with instructions to rest and avoid strenuous activity for the next three days.

Fourth Street Market had about $5,000 in broken bottles and had "quite a bit of stuff on the floor." Nelo Dal Porto said.

Other markets and liquor stores report modest damage and all were ready for business Saturday afternoon.

Geology place shaking

HSU's Geology professor Larry H Hình said the quake was "a small event" that occurred about 15 miles from the city. He added that the quake was felt by many people in the area.

How radio responded to the quake

At 2:27 Saturday morning, the largest earthquake to strike the region in 50 years surprised thousands of local residents out of their sleep. The shaking was felt as far away as Eureka and Arcata.

Radio stations in the area reported the quake immediately. The Humboldt County Emergency Management Agency activated its emergency response plan.

The quake was felt as far away as Eureka and Arcata. In Eureka, the local AM radio station, KIOO, was the first to report the quake. The station's emergency broadcast system was activated, and a public announcement was made.

In Arcata, the local FM radio station, KCSB, also reported the quake. The station's emergency broadcast system was activated, and a public announcement was made.

The quake was also felt in nearby cities such as Eureka and Arcata. In Eureka, the local AM radio station, KIOO, was the first to report the quake. The station's emergency broadcast system was activated, and a public announcement was made.

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Photos:
Donna Leeds

General mass movement of soil,
Big Lagoon Spit
[See also clipping from Times-Standard November 13, 1980]
Big Lagoon's
less than
$1 million

Quake tab
E Thursday, November 13, 1980

BY BRUCE TAYLOR
and LARRY PARSONS

Humboldt County super-
visors Monday received
their official briefing on the
earthquake which rocked the
Nestor Coast last Saturday
morning and caused less than
$1 million in damages.

A report from Public
Works Director Guy Kuistad
and County Services
Director Bill Chambers,
the board
allocated $37,000 for
emergency seawall repairs
on Kistad's home.

The damage—which left
about 75 feet of roadway
unpaved and which caused
the entire road to collapse
beneath the earthquake—was
either caused by the earthquake
or high seas the same night,
Kuistad said.

Since 60-foot seas were
foreseen for the past few days,
said, it wasn't known if the damage was
due to the earthquake or
the road's
Re pairs to the road were
usually necessary each year due to
the heavy pounding it takes from waves between
January and November.

Chambers reported
indeed had a "good picture"
of the quake within 15 minutes
of the quake because of
wrongheaded reports emanating from "outside news agen-
ties.

"We had to squelch reports of
a seismic sea wave... and
an evacuation... because of
how annoying it happens in
almost every disaster," said.
"It's a fact of life... we have
to have to continue to put up
with this kind of shit.

The OES is compiling a
countywide quake damage
reports... and I feel like
all reports of damage
estimated at about $10,000.

The supervisors praised
the OES for its response to
the quake.

Chairman Dave paranormal
Sara Kuistad said when Chambers
called to brief her shortly
after the quake occurred... I felt positive everything was
well handled; so I just went
back to the Homestead.

There was no major
damage to county facilities.

Chambers said the county-
owned Eureka-Mercatoare
Building suffered ar-
chitectural damage with
mezzanine-level pillars being
shaken loose. The building
was designed to be
weather-resistant... and
unlike the other pillars
were discovered and a structural
engineer inspected it. It
should be reopened later this
week after temporary repairs
are made to shore up
the pillars.

At the county-leased
Welfare Department
Building on Main Street,
Chambers said portions of
the suspended ceiling fell down
in three places, he said.

With a welfare department
of such standing by to protect
the confidential welfare files,
Chambers said he was
be up to allow building
Tom McClure's crew to go
repair the building to
continue cleaning up the disaster.

In the county courthouse,
the quake knocked the jail
elevator out of service for
three hours while one of the
building's two passenger
elevators was still on
Monday. Chambers said it
should be repaired today.

Chambers said the elevator
reparis should cost about
$300.

Incidentally, the board
has budgeted for repairs.

The OES is compiling a
room number in the elevator
carmatch with state
earthquake-insurance
mandates because the state has not
to pick up the tab for
the work.

The cost of installing the
carmatch with state
earthquake-insurance
mandates because the state has not
to pick up the tab for
the work.

In all, Chambers said the
carmatch suffered a
surprisingly light damage.

Law books were thrown off
the top shelves of the second-
floor law library and a
typewriter in a third-floor
office was knocked over when it
fell off a cabinet, he said.

A few minor cracks ap-
peared in the building but
fewer than after the last
major earthquake in January
1979, he said.

Kuistad said the new
Arcata-Eureka Airport ter-
minal sustained minor
damage with a crack in
a laminated beam and damage
to some of the windows.

A water line and sewer
were ruptured in Fields
Landing. South Broadway
was closed for a day while so
workers could repair the 1-
foot-deep sewer line, he said.

No sewage spilled into the
bay.

While the county's roads
and bridge appeared
in good shape, Kuistad said a
detailed survey of
infrastructure had not been
completed.

In other words, Saturday's quake shifted
thousands of tons of sand in the matter of
seconds.

The estimated two-week survey will include
information from selected areas of Aresca,
along with regional information in Humboldt.
County, Gary
Chairman of the department, said.

Lionel Ortiz, assistant director of Plant Operations,
said he was impressed with the minimal damage
on the roads considering the quake's magnitude of
6.6 on the Richter scale.

"Everything held together fine," he said. "The
construction in Siemens Hall and the Cypress
Dorms didn't shift around."

A crew checked the campus at daybreak on Saturday.
and said and a few broken windows were found in
Gust Hall. No electrical materials fell over in the
science building, he said.

Harland Harris, director of housing and food
services, said there were no problems with the
dorms.

We checked everything as quickly as possible," he
said. "And there was no damage. We're really
happy."

Carver said that most of the reports that he
has heard place the quake's epicenter between 30
and 40 kilometers northwest of Eureka.