EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER

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EARTHQUAKE

The Salina Utah Earthquake 29 January 1989

University of Utah Seismograph Stations; Dept. of Geology & Geophysics; Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-1183 USA.

- 29 January 1989, 21:06 MST.
- 38°49.47'N, 111°36.84'W
- 24 km depth (poorly constrained)
- magnitude (M_L) 5.4

- 26 km southeast of Salina, Utah; 216 km south of Salt Lake City, Utah.

- Widely felt: Felt strongly thoughout central and northern Utah. Reported felt as far away as Flagstaff, AZ, Grand Junction, CO and Rock Springs, WY. No significant damage reported.

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President's Message

A Common Voice

Honorary Members, Past Presidents, Members, Guests and EERI Staff Members, it is a great honor for me to accept this position as President of EERI. However, I have been told by every Past President and have observed over the last year that there is more work and responsibility than there is honor. Fortunately, I did not accept this position only for the honor; I accepted it for the opportunity to make a difference.

Over the last several years, I have perceived a growing uneasiness in the earthquake hazard mitigation community. Increased competition for decreased funds has both positive and negative aspects. On the positive side, individuals do more for less money. On the negative side, the competition, on occasion, has become unprofessional within and extramural to our profession. Further, it has caused self-serving acts by individuals and groups of individuals, many within EERI. Although the internal bickering has been attributed by many to our "engineering mentality," the result is that we do not present a "common voice" for action. We should relegate our personal goals and their differences with the common goals to the minor positions they deserve. My goal as EERI President is to create a common voice, and to convince each of you that the welfare of the people in earthquake country throughout the USA and the welfare of all USA taxpayers depend upon achieving this common voice.

Let me use a very narrow example to illustrate my point: A large size shaking table, say 100 feet by 100 feet. A part of our community says that such a facility is essential to verify new design and construction techniques. Others say, "Nonsense. We can do the same thing with model size static or pseudodynamic tests and supercomputer analyses." While these groups argue, others say those funds would be better spent in implementing what we know now. Who is correct? At this time it doesn't even matter because the three groups will continue to argue their positions, and the people they should be serving pray that the earthquake will not occur.

Where is our plan to achieve maximum earthquake hazard mitigation in the least possible time, with the least possible expenditure of funds? The funds here are not just the federal or state research funds, but construction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and tax funds - the cost to society. Within the next two years I want EERI to have common voice goals to be achieved, and a plan in which governmental agencies, professional associations, businesses, universities, and individuals can contribute their best talents to achieve these goals.

I have asked Tom Tobin to chair the Public Policy Committee and have charged this committee with the task of identifying these goals and to recommend to the EERI Board of Directors mechanisms to assure that the identified goals are our common voice. This is not an easy task; it is one which will require input from each concerned EERI member. I charge each of you to involve yourself in this process and to encourage five of your closest colleagues to become involved. Help us focus our abilities, energies, and money on the most important common goals for the welfare of our fellow citizens. I look forward to your active participation in this process.

--Bob Hanson.

(Condensed from luncheon presentation during the Annual Meeting in February.)

Cathy L Stark; Dept of Geology & Geophysics; University of California; Berkeley, CA 94720.

Arturo Tena-Colunga; 3147 NCEL; Univ of Illinois; 205 N Mathews Ave; Urbana, IL 61801.

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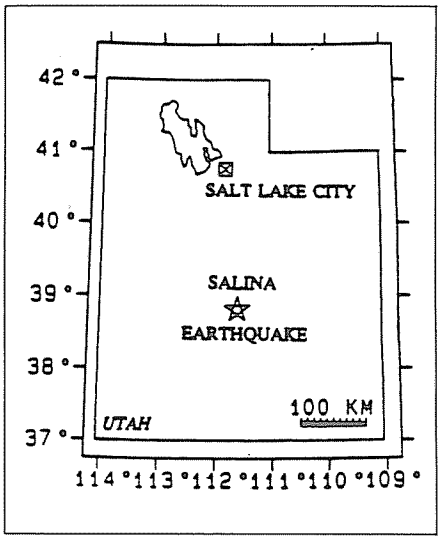

• Largest earthquake in the Utah region since 27 March 1975 Pocatello Valley earthquake on Utah-Idaho border, magnitude (M_L) 6.0. (On 14 August 1988 a magnitude (M_L) 5.3 shock had occurred 75 km to the east-northeast and beneath the San Rafael swell of the Colorado Plateau.)

• Largest historical earthquake under the High Plateaus of the Basin & Range - Colorado Plateau Transition Zone.

• Foreshocks: None recorded.

• Aftershocks: Relatively few and small. Through 28 February 1989, 48 aftershocks had been recorded. Largest aftershock on 27 February 1989 at 8:13 MST, magnitude (M_L) 4.2, felt in four counties.

• Strong ground motion records: Recorded at an epicentral distance of 60 km to the north-northeast by the US Bureau of Reclamation at Joe's Valley Dam: maximum horizontal acceleration on the crest of the dam was 0.1 g and less than 0.05 g on rock at the base of the dam.

In Memoriam

Robert Ketter, NCEER Director

Robert L. Ketter (EERI, 1987), Director of the National Center for Earthquake Engineering Research and Distinguished Service Professor of the State University of New York, died suddenly of a heart attack on April 18, 1989 in Buffalo, New York.

Ketter, a Leading Professor of Engineering and Applied Sciences, served as President of SUNY Buffalo from 1970-1982.

NCEER, the first national earthquake engineering center, was established by the National Science Foundation in September 1986 with Ketter as its first director. NCEER consists of more than 80 researchers in its core facilities at Cornell University, Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory of Columbia University, Lehigh University, Princeton University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and SUNY Buffalo.

Born on December 7, 1928 in Welch, West Virginia, Ketter received his Bachelor's degree at the University of Missouri in 1950, and his M.S. (1952) and Ph.D. (1956) degrees from Lehigh University.

The recipient of numerous honorary degrees, Ketter was an honorary professor of engineering at Beijing Polytechnic University and an honorary fellow of the China Academy of Building Research. The author of numerous technical papers and books, in recent years Ketter channeled his efforts into increasing awareness of the earthquake threat in the eastern United States.

Ketter is survived by his wife, four children, and ten grandchildren.

On behalf of EERI, we extend our condolences to the Ketter family and to our colleagues at NCEER.

Great Lakes Chapter

The Great Lakes Regional Chapter of EERI presently has 95 members. The Chapter consists of the following officers and directors:

President: Robert D. Brown (1989-90); Vice President: S. L. Chu (1989-90); Secretary/Treasurer: Satyendra K. Ghosh (1989-90); Past President: Hal Iyengar (1989-90); Directors: Mahjoub Elnimeiri (1989-92), Phillip L. Gould (1987-90), Jamshid Mohammadi (1989-92), Sharon L. Wood (1987-90).

Committees: Liaison to Professional Societies: Phillip L. Gould; Membership: Sharon L. Wood, Shih-Lung Chu; Program: Mahjoub Elnimeiri, Jamshid Mohammadi; Public Relations: Gilberto F. Pineda, Robert B. Johnson; Research: Surendra K. Saxena, W. Gene Corley.

In 1988, the Chapter, in cooperation with EERI's Continuing Education Committee and the Illinois Institute of Technology, held a 2-day course on Strong Ground Motion - Seismic Analysis, Design and Code Issues on May 13-14, at IIT in Chicago.

A dinner-lecture event, with cosponsorship by the Structural Engineering Association of Illinois and the American Concrete Institute, on Seismic Isolation For Buildings, was held in Chicago at Como Inn on October 18, 1988.

The Chapter's 1989 scheduled events include the Briefing of the Armenian Earthquake held at IIT on March 30, 1989, and a one-day symposium on Earthquake Engineering Structural Dynamics highlighting ongoing research activities in Missouri universities held at Washington University in St. Louis, MO on the same day. The former activity was organized by Prof. S. K. Saxena, and the latter by Prof. P. L. Gould. The Chapter is presently planning to have a FEMA Training Session, a dinner-lecture event and several research seminars during 1989.