

Quake Leaves Slight Damage In Lomita Area

At 12:42 A. M. Friday Lomita had one of the hardest quakes ever felt here and yet there was practically no damage and no one injured. In the drugstores a small amount of damage was done by falling bottles, whereas in 1933 the amount of breakage was large.

In 1933 many chimneys were down or out of line but not Friday morning.

At 1:35 there was another slight quake which woke some sleepers.

A peculiarity of the Friday early quake was its sickening twisting motion, which left many people with severe headaches. A decided roar was heard and the quake lasted a number of seconds but as lights went out and clocks stopped the exact length of the shock here could only be estimated.

Most electric clocks stopped and other clocks became erratic.

Lights were out but a short time. Telephone service was excellent in spite of the many calls. State guards, Veterans and firemen were on the job, checking damage and danger of fire.

Most people kept their heads, thinking that such a heavy shake might be followed by a worse one and the best thing to do in a quake is to keep your head.

GARDENA QUAKE DAMAGE WILL RUN \$200,000

Nature wreaked her vengeance upon Gardena Valley last Friday morning in a rocking 20-second earthquake which left wreckage conservatively estimated between \$100,000 and \$150,000 in Gardena alone. Despite the temblor, hardest since the big quake of 1933, and second one to strike the valley in three weeks, stores in Gardena were able to open for business Friday morning.

Within two days cleanup crews had removed debris from the streets, and today, less than a week after the quake, repairs have already made a sizeable start on repairing the buildings, tearing out and rebuilding walls, plastering shattered ceiling, strengthening supports, replacing broken plate glass and other necessary jobs.

Authorities attributed the fact that no one was hurt by falling bricks, plaster and glass, to the lateness of the hour. There was one report which sent deputy sheriffs to Western avenue, between 150th and 160th streets, to locate a man buried under a fallen wall, but it turned out to be a false rumor.

At 168th street and Western avenue, a fireway fell from the two-story Carrell building and went through the roof of the one-story Samura Trading Company building next door. Yukio Tamura an employee who was sleeping in the building, experienced what will probably be the narrowest escape of his life. Bricks, mortar and plaster piled up only a few feet from his bed and smashed several hundred dollars worth of stoves, refrigerators, and other household stock.

The east wall of the two-story Bank of America building, Gardena boulevard and Vermont avenue was reported on the point of collapse, and masonry trim on the front of the building was loosened. Work is already under way to put the building in first class shape.

A fire wall on the west side of Kurata's Department store, crashed to the sidewalk below.

An oil pipe snapped at Figueroa and 190th street, flooding the street, with crude oil. On 190th street, west of Figueroa, a two-foot crack showed in the pavement.

Four brickyards in Gardena Valley reported heavy damage, from chipped bricks, Higgins' Brickyard estimating damage at \$2,000. The old "Jin Jitsu Palace" at 1640 West 165th place, suffered bad cracks and fire walls toppled. The one-story brick building at 16522 South Western avenue had a corner badly cracked and shifted out of line.

Board of Education Engineers made an immediate inspection of all schools, closing Gardena Elementary school until further notice. School was out for 310 pupils Friday and Monday, but arrangements have been made to send them to the other nearby schools until the building can be thoroughly checked and repaired. At Gardena high school, books fell off shelves in the library, a few dishes were broken, and minute cracks appeared in the plaster, it was reported, but there was no serious damage. Denker avenue, Chapman, Amestoy, 184th Street Schools and the Spanish American Institute reported "no damage."

All Gardena Elementary school pupils are asked by the board of education to assemble at the school Monday morning, Nov. 24, by 11:30 a. m. They will then be transported by bus to the Amestoy Avenue school for half-day session. Gardena pupils will then continue to attend the Amestoy Avenue school, it was announced.

Wall bulged out nearly an

When the fire wall of the Masonic Temple on Sartori ave. fell in on the former A & P store location Friday night this is what happened. The roof collapsed under the tons of rubble and collapsed and bulged out the wooden front doors. The store had been vacant since the A & P moved to its new location on El Prado.

Experts Lend Aid In Drafting New Structural Law

(Continued from 1-A)

to conference with the Los Angeles architects. After incorporating suggestions as offered by the experts, who donated their services without cost to the city, the revised ordinance was finally adopted just before midnight.

Refreshments Served While the architects and engineers labored over technical phases of the building code, members of the city council ordered coffee and sandwiches prepared, and a lunch was enjoyed by all who remained to witness the closing session.

Among the architects who assisted in drafting the history making ordinance were, H. Sage Webster, William Mellama, Ben Wiseman, Wm. D. Coffey, K. Barchibanian, George J. Fosdyke, Frank H. Cannon and Jack H. Pine.

Friends of Mrs. Willis M. Brooks will be sorry to know that during the recent earthquake many of the teapots in her unique collection were broken.

Mrs. Lora Cusick entertained as her Sunday guests, Mr. and Mrs. John Crumb and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Varmiza, all of Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Crook of Los Angeles and Charles Muffly of Glendale were visitors at the C. M. Crook home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Parsons of Los Angeles visited Mrs. F. H. Clark here Sunday.

Earl Hepburn and Mrs. Carl LaPoint of Long Beach were special guests of the J. J. O'Tooles.

inch at the Gardena Valley News office, and the rear wall showed daylight through large cracks in the bricks and plaster and will have to be torn down.

The mayor of Redondo Beach with a car of ladies attempting to drive into the city early Friday morning was stopped and asked where he was going. Said he: "To Torrance hospital to see some sick folks." The officer in charge replied: "Turn around. If I let everyone through who used that excuse that hospital must be as large as Los Angeles county's."

One of the best was the scores of tourists who wanted to get into the city and told the police they wanted to see Sam Levy. "Never heard of him," said the officer, "turn back."

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Queer Quirks of Quake Quoted

By ROXIE SLEETH

Jack Nolan, worker at the National Supply Co., will think twice before worrying about a mashed fender hereafter. According to Miss Edna Mullin, the car brought in to Mullin's garage for minor repair was completely demolished.

Mrs. Nell McCotlogue of 1028 Portola ave., collector of China and glass baskets had just one broken and that she says was one of the costliest.

Mrs. Annie Perovich, 2967 Carson st., says: "I lost all the dishes my mother gave me when I married and this house is bad."

Harry Abramson of the National Home Appliances Co. rushed to his place of business to find the door ajar and the radio playing "My Sister and I."

W. C. Silence will wear a cap when he is on duty at the fire department in future. Says he: "Falling plaster doesn't feel so good on the bald head."

Adelle Parks, 1418 Marcelina ave., laughs: "I am now an experienced brick dodger. You should have seen Fay and I come down those apartment steps!"

Mrs. O. W. Hudson, 1753 Andree ave., stated: "I always have been lucky. I wanted to get the fireplace out of one of the many small rental homes for years. It fell clean as a whistle. Now I can use the bricks for a retaining wall."

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Photo courtesy L. A. Times on Sartori ave. fell in on the former A & P store location Friday night this is what happened. The roof collapsed under the tons of rubble and collapsed and bulged out the wooden front doors. The store had been vacant since the A & P moved to its new location on El Prado.

Many Agencies Quick To Offer Assistance Here

Working calmly and efficiently under difficulties made even tougher by the throngs of sight-seers, local and outside, police and relief agencies "had the situation well in hand" within 12 hours after the first shock Friday.

Before dawn, Police Chief John Stroth had received offers of assistance from Sheriff Biscailuz, Inspector Walter P. Greer of the state highway patrol; Clem Peoples, chief of the criminal division of the sheriff's office, Inglewood, Redondo Beach and Los Angeles police departments.

Added to these proffers of emergency police service were the patrol division of the Southern California Automobile Club and volunteered offers of fire equipment and men from surrounding departments.

Red Cross on Job But first on the job was a score or more of American Legionnaires and Sons of the Legion. These men and boys responded within an hour after the fire department siren had wailed its eerie wailing six times. They went right to work to patrolling the business area and several had narrow escapes from being struck by falling bricks.

Mrs. Rose Connelly of the American Red Cross told Chief Stroth early Friday morning that her organization was ready to send food, clothing and beds to help the Mexican people who had been evacuated from the Pueblo when gasoline fumes from the General Petroleum's quake-split tanks engulfed that district.

Members of the Torrance Women's club offered to start a canteen to feed city workers who had labored Friday night clear streets and alleys.

Stroth Gives Orders All police and firemen were summoned to duty, many of them being called for at their homes because of lack of phone communication early in the morning.

All of the emergency units, local as well as outside, placed themselves under Stroth's command and took their orders directly from him. The disaster set-up, long a project of the American Legion and its Auxiliary, functioned exceptionally well, according to Commander Larry Larava.

Guests at the L. G. Finlayson home Sunday were Mrs. Catherine Casper, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lins and children, Betty Jo and Gregory, all of Culver City.

Mrs. Eva Woods of Huntington Park, formerly of Torrance, was a guest this week at the William Gascoline home.

fall and all smash. Dirty ones stay put." So declared George Skidla of the Cherry Blossom Cafe on Sartori ave.

Mrs. J. B. Scotton, 1438 El Prado, marvels that a light globe fell from the kitchen ceiling fixture and didn't break.

While a long row of other medicine bottles tumbled to the floor at the office of Drs. Beaman and Easley, a group of alcohol bottles, standing right on the edge of the same shelf, remained unmoved. "It would never happen like that in prohibition days," commented a patient.

HERE'S MORE ABOUT

General Earthquake Report

(Continued from Page 1-A)

west, according to Cal Tech seismologists. Other lighter tremors—"settlers" as the experts call them—occurred after the 1:35 jolt and Saturday night. The initial tremor was reported felt, faintly, as far north as Santa Barbara and east as far as Riverside and south to Laguna Beach. Its epicenter was believed in Torrance, as Gardena suffered less than \$50,000 damage and that community was listed as the next-hardest-hit. Redondo Beach reported bricks knocked off several buildings.

All schools reopened Monday morning in Torrance but the Carson street school remained closed. The science building at the high school was also ordered shut off while plans were made for its complete reconstruction.

Picking out the worst-damaged structure in Torrance was no easy task as the destruction was so general. However, the American Legion clubhouse is considered as the greatest loss. This structure will probably have to be entirely rebuilt. Members of the local post's executive committee, headed by Commander Larry Larava, will meet this weekend to consider what's to be done with the clubhouse.

Newer Buildings Escape Structural Damage In addition to considerable structural damage, all of the Legion's dishes—but not the Auxiliary's—were shattered when they slithered out of cupboards. The large fireplace was thrust almost into the center of the main room and walls were cracked and dislodged from top to bottom. Trophies, estimated at \$600, were badly damaged—some beyond hope of repair. The Legion's valuable collection of World War I posters, many in frames and hung on the walls, escaped damage—they were not glass-enclosed.

Another structure that felt the full force of the impact was the Torrance theatre, whose walls cracked and cornices fell to render that entertainment unsafe. It was closed pending extensive repairs. The Grand theatre, completed in May 1933, escaped damage. Its reinforced brick construction rode out the quake in fine fashion. The new A & P Market on El Prado likewise came thru well, although the loss in foodstuffs was considerable.

It was damage of this nature, scattered and now invisible, that forced estimators to agree on the \$300,000 to \$400,000 calculation of the city's loss.

cracked and many a housewife mourned the destruction of china and glassware.

Estimates as to how long the first quake lasted ranged from a few seconds to 18 or 20 seconds. To a lot of residents it seemed their homes shook longer than that but 10 seconds is a long time for a quake. It was the third severest jolt to be felt here in five months and the worst since the 1933 temblor that killed 130 persons in the Long Beach, Compton and Harbor district.

Hotels and apartments on El Prado evacuated. Residents quickly and will need extensive improvements before they are made safe, according to city officials. Guests also fled the Torrance hotel, a landmark here, at Carson and Cabrillo ayes. Its front and rear walls were badly cracked.

No streets were damaged here although a crack appeared in the highway at Lomita Blvd. and Figueroa st.

P. O. Unscathed Several places which had recently undergone costly improvements and renovation suffered from the jolt. The Legion clubhouse was one, another was the Torrance Woman's club. This building on Engracia had wide plaster cracks and apparently considerable structural stress. Dr. O. E. Foss reported that he will have to refinish the interior of hospital office at the corner of Prado and Sartori ave.

Postmaster Earl Conner offered the lowest estimate of damage of any one in the city. "It will take about five or 10 cents worth of plaster to cover the few little cracks in the postoffice," he said.

Despite published and radio appeals to Southland residents, asking them to stay away from the city—at least until after the debris was cleared—thousands poured down on this community and walked around the business district Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Only those who could produce driver's licenses or motor registration slips with local addresses, or who claimed urgent business here were admitted through the police lines barring the highways into Torrance.

Some minor damage was reported by Rev. Harry H. Branton at the First Methodist church. The building was inspected Saturday by trustees. A large memorial window, installed by Mrs. Kemp Winkler in memory of her late pastor-husband, was broken in the basement chapel and a number of dishes in the kitchen were broken. A number of wall cracks appeared.

No loss was seen at the First Christian church. Rev. F. T. Foster said some dishes were smashed and his books were scattered about. Plaster cracks and some other damage was reported by Rev. C. N. Northrup at the First Baptist church. Other denominations having buildings here took some damage but none was closed.

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