



PLACENTIA COURIER

SANTA ANA CANYON—OLINDA—ATWOOD—LA JOLLA—YORBA—CARBON CANYON—RICHFIELD—COYOTE HILLS AND RICHFIELD OIL FIELDS

Volume XXVII

Placentia, Orange County, California, Friday March 4, 1938

Number 29

If you expect to run for office this summer and want advertising space in Huntington Beach News, or almost any other newspaper, take along the cash to put right on the barrel head. That is a rule of Jim Farquhar, writer of Oil, and publisher. Seems in the last campaign he extended credit to Don Wilkie, a candidate for sheriff of Orange county. After a couple of years Farquhar grew restive and filed suit for the sum. It was found in the law books that if an editor extends credit to political candidates for advertising he is subject to a jail sentence, and if candidate fails to pay the bill he also can be jailed for paying the bill. In this instance help of the court was asked and permission given for payment of the amount without the sentence. Joker is that the bill has not been paid.

Charles B. Driscoll, born on a Kansas farm and formerly of Wichita, Kansas, Eagle, has been named to continue the New York column formerly handled by O. O. McIntyre. * * * San Juan township comprises almost one-third of the area of Orange county, with John Landell dispensing justice in the Mission town. * * * Charles M. Vernon, editor of Yorba Linda Star, has insisted for months that Highway Patrol officers never visit that community. One did last week, writing a dozen tickets for prominent citizens who passed up stop signs. Created quite a stir. * * * Dave Brann of the Auto Club is ready to boost for an "Iron lung" in Orange county. Recently when his youngster was in need of help the inhalator squad of Fullerton arrived in the nick of time and pulled him through. Brann is ready to buy any kind of emergency equipment, regardless of name. * * * Watch for the largest citrus acreage in the

PRAISE IS GIVEN COURT SYSTEM IN STATE

JUDGE J. B. TUCKER SPEAKER FOR C. OF C. LUNCHEON—TO MOVE CAFE

Because the American system of justice is based upon common law and California has been able to attract to the bench and legal profession high-minded persons, the ordinary citizen can depend upon the courts in this state, in the opinion of Judge J. B. Tucker, Santa Ana attorney, who was speaker for Placentia Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday noon. In stories illustrating various court cases he intimated such might not be the case in some eastern states and in Mexico.

Pointing out vagaries of the divorce law, the inheritance tax and other questions of law, Judge Tucker illustrated some of the things confronting the ordinary citizen. He cautioned his listeners about signing notes or checks, buying stolen goods and allowing the use of an automobile.

He answered a number of questions relative to points of law and the discussion was interesting. Chairman Dave Brann of the highways committee reported adversely on proposed Congressional legislation designed to cut down the apportionment to California highways of Federal moneys. A resolution opposing the reduced amount was adopted.

It was announced the Ann Marie cafe building is to be moved 20 feet

RESUME SCHOOL MONDAY

Regular school sessions in the Placentia Unified district will be resumed, as far as is possible, on Monday morning, March 7, according to announcement of Superintendent A. P. Patten, Thursday night.

Classes were dismissed Wednesday morning, due to torrential rains and bad roads, and the flood which damaged La Jolla school and surrounded the Richfield school, made holding of classes impossible on Thursday and Friday.

Three of the frame buildings at La Jolla were moved from their foundations by flood waters, and washed across Blue Gum street.

Five Inches Of Rain Sets 24 Hr. Record

A record rainfall which brought 5.26 inches to Placentia district Thursday, as a part of the 9.29 inches which fell during the storm, was the Placentia portion of the general storm which enveloped all Southern California. Last season at this time the figure stood at 22.09 inches, following the freeze and heavy rains. Total rainfall for the present season including the showers of Thursday is 21.03 inches, according to records kept at Placentia Mutual Orange Association.

Despite the heavy rainfall in Placentia district little damage resulted until the Santa Ana river went on a rampage and tore through groves to form a second stream.

The flood in Santa Ana river was caused by heavy rainfall in the

Flash Flood of Santa Ana River Sweeps Death and Destruction Through Groves East and South

Little Damage In Placentia Due to Rains

Little damage was done in the vicinity of Placentia by the record rainfall of Tuesday and Wednesday, and residents retired Wednesday night thinking they had everything under control. When the flash flood in Santa Ana river broke over near Yorba bridge and swept through the countryside it caught rural residents unprepared, and this storm water caused much of the damage.

Flooded basements, stormy spots orchards and ordinary damage resulted from the rainfall but because of its position above the river bed the community escaped flooding.

Without train or mail service, residents devoted their time to aiding stricken ranchers south of town, and driving on paved highways to view flood damage. Telephone service was on a partial basis outside cities could call Placentia but

A flash flood in Santa Ana river which sent a surge of yellow silt-laden water roaring over Yorba bridge, into orange groves and down through Atwood and south of Placentia toward Anaheim and the ocean, brought death and destruction to a wide area south and east of Placentia Thursday morning at 2 o'clock.

Bodies of seven persons drowned in the torrent near Atwood and at La Jolla settlement south of Placentia had been recovered Thursday evening, while many additional persons are reported missing. Whether they escaped and went toward Anaheim and Fullerton is unknown, and it is expected other bodies will be found when a search is made of the devastated area.

More than two-thirds of the small residences in the south part of Atwood were swept away, being carried across fields westward toward Placentia. Ranch homes in the Orangethorpe section were moved, many of them torn to pieces and the entire center portion of La Jolla district was swept away.

Hundreds are being cared for in Placentia American Legion hall, at Yorba Linda, Fullerton and by friends and relatives. Due to bridges being out, communication suspended with Santa Ana, there is a real emergency. Damage is estimated at many thousands of dollars with railroad washed out, bridges gone, homes demolished.

The storm here was part of a general disaster which swept all the Los Angeles area doing untold damage and resulting in the death of almost 100

Placenta. They only receive \$5 per month, instead of \$10. "And say your sorry, too," he declared. Here 'tis. . . . General Motors is toying with the plan to bring out a new automobile powered with a Diesel engine. Name would be Olympic. . . . Placenta station of Santa Fe Railway did more business in January than Orange, Santa Ana, Fullerton or Anaheim. Just thought you might be interested. . . . At Monterey citizens hold a "snack of the month" contest. Newspaper helps service clubs find most reputable building in city and when it is awarded the honor, citizens tear it down. . . . Manager C. D. Stephens of Southern California Water Co. added a new porte cochere to Placenta office building. Patrons can now open screen door during rain storm without having a deluge down the back of their necks. . . . Frank B. Anderson, editor of Sausalito News, who is recuperating in Phoenix, was interested in Arizona newspaper articles relative to California voters abolishing horse racing in this state. If race track gambling should be voted out in California the Arizonans will enlarge their tracks, because racing helps the winter tourist business.

For the benefit of cats and alligators at Valencia high the following is from Send, Swing and Stomp column of Huntington Beach News. "Lee Mann, heard at the Fireman's ball, signs for new Huntington Beach pavilion. Means there will be a goodly amount of jiggers and Big Apple strutters hanging round the jerm, cause Lee has a solid band that doesn't try to get flashy but can really pour out the send ditties."

Some kind of a new jargon developed by youngsters who follow the fortunes of swing music and the popular bands.

Build New Derrick On Bradford Lease

C. C. M. Oil Company, operating the Bradford-B lease, has torn down the old wood derrick on B-5 well and will replace it with a new steel derrick. The well has been a producer for years.

A number of the older wells where wind has damaged the derricks are to be torn out and new steel derricks erected.

to require a month and the building is being moved as part of the widening program for Santa Fe Avenue between Melrose and Main.

WARNING—BOIL WATER!

While there was no communication Thursday with Santa Ana County offices, it was understood that Dr. E. H. Sutherland had issued a county-wide warning to boil all water intended for drinking purposes.

Dr. Sutherland feared danger of contamination from flood conditions for the next few days.

The Hester family, a mother, father and four children were taken from the roof of a house on Walnut street and given shelter at the Dr. E. H. Brunemeier home.

Gabriel Leyha of Atwood was sent to a Fullerton hospital with a possible hip fracture.

Brea Lions To Give Program For Rotarians

A delegation of Brea Lions club members will return a visit made to that city some weeks ago by providing the program for the luncheon of Placenta Rotary club at Ann Marie tea room, Friday, March 4. A large crowd is anticipated.

Fred Chamberlen, principal of Orangethorpe elementary school, was speaker last Friday, discussing the legal question of whether single or married women make the best teachers. He stated a survey shows there is little to provide an opinion and the courts have invariably held that ability should be the only basis for selection or dismissal of instructors. Chamberlen was introduced by Hi Smith, of Fullerton. Both men resided in Coachella valley nine years ago.

The new electric clock presented to the club was officially dedicated by Dr. D. J. Brigham. President E. A. Eisenacher, who knew how to pronounce the Pennsylvania Dutch names of towns in which Bruce Miller lived as a boy, provided much fun in a birthday greeting.

An exhibit of Lincoln pictures, later shown at Bradford Avenue school, was displayed by Guy Gilbert, member of Santa Ana club.

flash of flood which raced toward the ocean. At the Pacific Ocean outlet the river spread for miles in each direction and caused much damage, taking out sewer lines, bridges and highways. In the vicinity of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach heavy loss is reported.

Homeless And Hungry Flood Victims Given Aid At Placenta Legion Hall

"Serving in peace as in war," members of Placenta Post of the American Legion and of the Legion Auxiliary, made a field hospital of their Legion Hall on West Chapman Avenue starting at 3 o'clock Thursday morning, when the Santa Ana river started to inundate La Jolla and Atwood.

Many families who had lost everything they owned in the world, except the clothes they were sleeping in, were given shelter and food, and as rapidly as possible provided with clothes. Many Placenta citizens and organizations aided the Legionnaires in providing for flood sufferers. Food was cooked in church kitchens as well as at the Legion hall, and closets of many a Placenta housewife answered the emergency call for warm clothing and blankets. Mrs. T. L. McFadden,

head of Placenta Red Cross, gave all assistance possible. Mrs. Augustá Day, Placenta school nurse, worked tirelessly and other teachers of Placenta schools aided with the work and Placenta merchants secured much of the food stuff used.

An incident which brought tears to the eyes of even the more hardened rescue workers, illustrated the honesty of one Mexican youth. Entirely without clothes, he was supplied by Leon T. Gillilan, who drove his truck all day in the work. On one of the return trips, the young man met Gillilan and offered him a dollar bill. "This was in the pockets of the pants you gave me," he said.

Beds were provided on the floors, and all possible temporary help given more than 500 people.

An Emergency Meeting Today!

As president of Placenta Chamber of Commerce and utilizing that organization as a nucleus I am calling an emergency meeting of residents of Placenta district to be held Friday afternoon, March 4, at the Chamber of Commerce office, to make plans to meet the emergency confronting our community.

It is to be hoped that every organization will be represented and that plans for providing housing for several hundred people can be worked out. They are our people and cannot continue to sleep in schools, American Legion hall and with friends. Their homes in Atwood and La Jolla have been swept away and many are in dire need of clothing, furniture and bedding.

Anyone having used supplies of bedding, blankets, furniture, etc., can bring them to American Legion hall in Placenta where it will be distributed to the needy.

The meeting will be held at 2 o'clock.

FRANK ROSPAW, President

Ana River

Both highway bridges and the Santa Fe railway bridge between Olive and Atwood are washed out, as a result of the flood which swept down the river early Thursday morning.

The Yorba bridge, eight miles east of Placenta, was not badly damaged except for 150 feet of the main structure, toward the south side, swept away at the crest of the flood. The approaches are in fair shape.

The Richfield bridge, on Jefferson street, was closed due to two spans near the south side being swept away by the river. The approaches are passable.

The Santa Fe Railway lost approximately six spans in the center of the bridge south of Atwood.

The main dike along the north bank of the river, east of Anaheim and largely financed by that city, was holding the flood water, as far as could be learned. The damage done in Atwood vicinity and south of Placenta was due to flood water which left the river bed at a point south of Yorba, coursing almost straight west through orange groves and being diverted by the various railroad tracks.

Highways in the vicinity of Placenta were largely open, though traffic was at a standstill due to deep water coursing over the paving which flooded motor cars. With bridges gone and Anaheim under water it was impossible to reach Anaheim or Santa Ana, though motor traffic to certain portions of Fullerton was not impeded.

MRS. CLINE SUFFERS BROKEN

LIMB IN FALL IN OFFICE

Mrs. Nellie M. Cline, Placenta City Clerk, who was just regaining her health from a long illness, following an automobile accident in which she was involved at Christmas time, last year, was again the victim of an accident last Friday afternoon.

Starting to rise from her desk, Mrs. Cline caught her toe on the desk, and was thrown to the floor, sustaining a fracture of the right hip. Mrs. Cline is at the Fullerton hospital, and her general condition is reported very good. The injured limb is in a cast, and she will have to remain in bed for some time.

dollars in damage and was

Rainfall in Los Angeles 61-year or train with eleven inches of rainfall within five days, seven inches in one 24-hour day.

The raging Santa Ana river swept through Riverside with loss of millions and a reported fifteen dead.

Howard Jerome Rides Floating Home in Flood

After spending four hours with his wife, small son and aged father, on the roof of his house, and seeing 700 chickens, 27 head of hogs, the furnishings of his new home and months of hard work on improvements swept away by the racing flood waters, Howard Jerome, Placenta merchant, is through living in the flood area.

Shortly after 2 a. m. Mrs. Jerome was awakened by a roar. She awakened her husband who rushed to the door, to be met by a rush of six inches of water. He awakened his small son, Donald, and father, Henry S. Jerome, age 82. He called to warn Lyle Culp, who has been staying at the Jerome ranch, but Culp, with only one leg, but plenty of determination, had taken refuge on a pole supporting a swing which was only temporary safety, however, and in a few seconds was swept down by the force of the water.

Culp floundered helplessly until he lodged against a rose trellis. Jerome extended the straw end of a broom to him, and aided by others of the family pulled Culp inside the house, where the water was knee-deep.

In the meantime, the flood had lifted the house, and was carrying it down stream. As the occupants watched, they could see the H. M. McCaulou house float ahead of them, and lodge against the Lew Holloway house. The Holloway family was on the roof, and as McCaulou stepped from a window into the water he was pulled to safety beside them.

The Jerome house moved about a block and a half and rested against the other two. Mr. and Mrs. Jerome and Donald, Henry Jerome, and Lyle Culp were all helped to the roof of the Jerome house where they clung until daylight and help in the form of a boat came.

Henry Jerome is suffering from a broken rib and McCaulou from (Continued on Page 8)

The known dead are:
Theresa Barragan, 19, Atwood.
Rudolph Barragan, 12, Atwood.
Estelle Barragan, 3, Atwood.
Tiburcia Casas, 11, Atwood.
Carmelita Montana, 8, Atwood.
Lydia Hernandez, 6 months, La Jolla.

Rolando Ritana, -12, La Jolla. Reported missing were Mrs. Frances Montano, and twin babies; Mrs. Tomosa Perez and two children; Jose Vargas and family and five children, the youngest a baby of 15 days; Mrs. Frank Ritana and three children.

Two of the first bodies recovered in Atwood were brought to Placenta to the office of Dr. Ralph A. Duncan. After being identified and when Coroner Earl Abbey reported by telephone he would be unable to reach Placenta the bodies were removed to Flanagan and Rosselot Funeral parlors in Fullerton.

During the afternoon three additional bodies were recovered in and near Atwood and were taken to McCaulou and Suters funeral home in Fullerton.

Fifteen were reported dead for North Orange county, but estimates are necessarily inaccurate, until the water recedes. It is feared that when rescue work is completed the crushed and demolished homes of Mexican families in the Atwood and La Jolla sections will raise the death toll.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mondotte, who have lived in the Atwood district for twenty years, reported they had never seen the water from the Santa Ana river at this point before. The water swept through their home and orange grove on south Van Buren street.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Linebarger at the corner of Highland and Placenta-Yorba Boulevard was one of those lifted from its foundations and inundated by flood waters.

The James Manassera residence east of Atwood was moved from its foundations and badly wrecked. The Geo. Henthorn residence was swept thirty feet into the orange grove.

Rev. and Mrs. D. J. Brigham were reported to have spent the latter part of the night on the roof of their home on Romneya Drive.



By MOLLY BURRELL

The multi-million dollar Signal Hill fire was history this week, but for early-day Fullerton residents it had revived memories of a similar disaster in Brea 32 years ago. The date was April 8, 1926, and the location was Union Oil's Stewart Station tank farm half a mile west of the town.

City Residents Recall 1926 Oil Tank Blaze

Lightning, Near-Cyclone Added To Fury of Conflagration

Lightning struck two 750,000-gallon crude oil tanks and a third flared up simultaneously at 9:30 in the morning. Nearly three weeks later, damage had mounted to \$5,000,000 and the countryside was blackened from the fire which at one time threatened to move down the hill into Fullerton.

"That one made the Hancock fire look like a bunsen burner," said W. W. Hay, Jr., 1801 Ladera Vista Dr., whose father marshaled fire fighters on the site.

The Hays, along with other families who lived on the company lease on Central Ave., evacuated immediately after the outbreak.

Mrs. Mabel Hay, 1817 Ladera Vista Dr., recalls rushing her son William Jr. and her daughter, Helen, to the Shaffer home on W. Imperial Hwy. and then rushing them away when a cyclone wind uprooted roofs, trees, chicken coops and anything else in its path.

In desperation, someone sent to a Hollywood studio for a wind machine with which it was hoped to shift the raging wind away from more storage tanks. Instead, the wind changed, more oil boiled out from the tanks, and the wind machine went up in flames, recalls Mrs. Hay.

Both Dr. McClelland and Mrs. Hay remember most vividly the uneasy quiet just before the storage tanks exploded.

"We heard a terrible rumbling and then shouts 'run for your life' and we did," Dr. McClelland remembers.

"The moment before the explosion there was an eerie silence, and I think I knew something terrible was about to happen. Next thing I heard someone yelling 'run for your life' and I ran to my car with my daughter. The wind slammed the door shut, threw me to the floor and knocked off one headlight, but somehow we made it to Fullerton," said Mrs. Hay.

The Brea fire hit the day after an identical lightning blast in the Union oil field at San Luis Obispo to make a double disaster unequalled in the state's history.

One of the first casualties of the raging fire was Dr. George McClelland's model T Ford which was flattened by a roof lifted from a W. Imperial Hwy. house.

Dr. McClelland, 140 Ramona Dr., had driven up from Fullerton to pick up his wife, Mary, who worked as a stenographer at the Union plant office across the street from where the Chicksan plant now stands on N. Pomona Ave.

The couple had gone to Mrs. McClelland's mother's home on W. Imperial Hwy. when the roof on the house next door to the Shaffers catapulted onto their car.

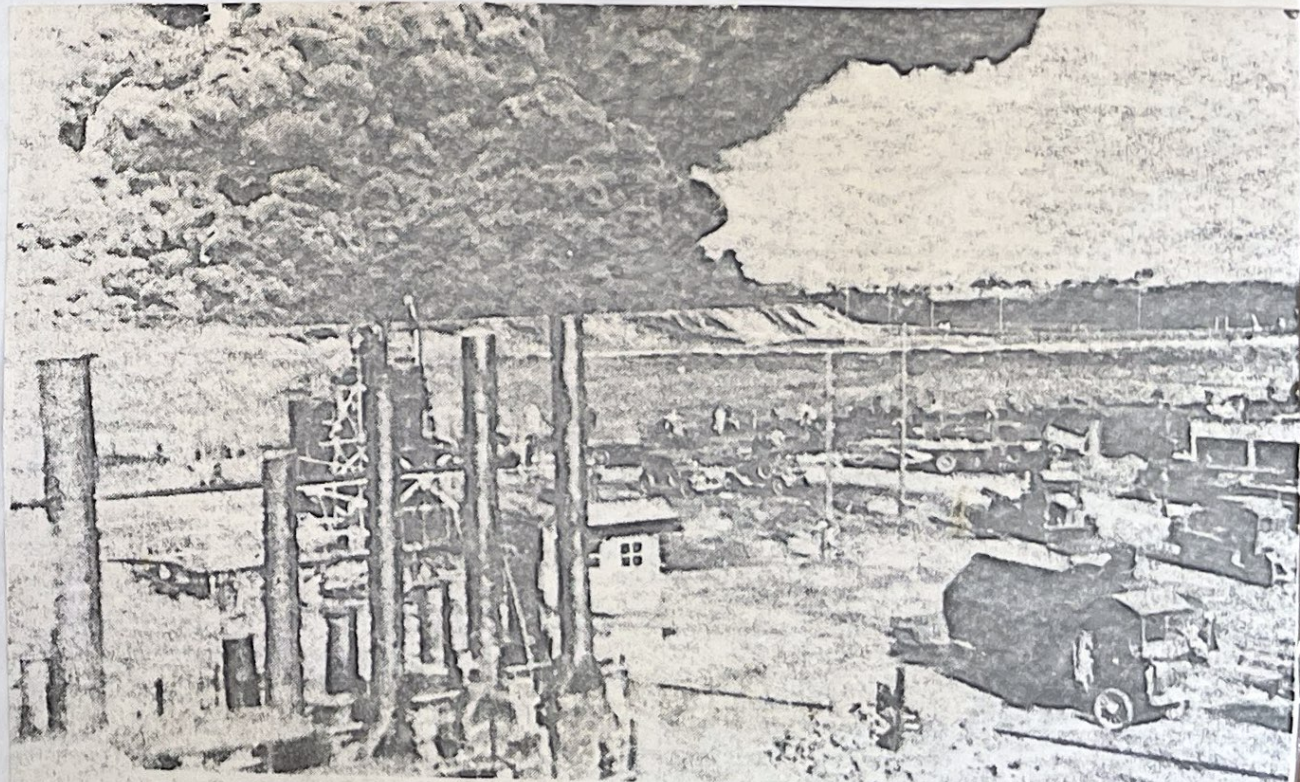
The incident happened at about 10 p.m. the night of the explosion and was one of many freak results of the sudden twister.

The wind had the force of a cyclone, and was remembered as a "black funnel" by Dr. McClelland. It resulted from the meeting of cold night air with the hot air which blew out when the storage tanks exploded.

The cyclone tore off the roof of the G. H. Sutphen home at 218 W. Cedar and left a house full of new furniture exposed. The same thing happened at the W. G. Saunders home near Cedar St. The W. E. Sievers home near Cedar Ave. burned to the ground, along with an estimated five other homes, all of which ignited when burning oil flowed downhill and into them.

Unlike the Hancock refinery fire in Signal Hill, the Union fire was confined to the storage tanks for about 12 hours before the oil overflowed and spread fire across the countryside.

Like the Signal Hill disaster, the Brea fire brought firemen from Long Beach and Wilmington and volunteers from all over the Southland to try to control the blaze.

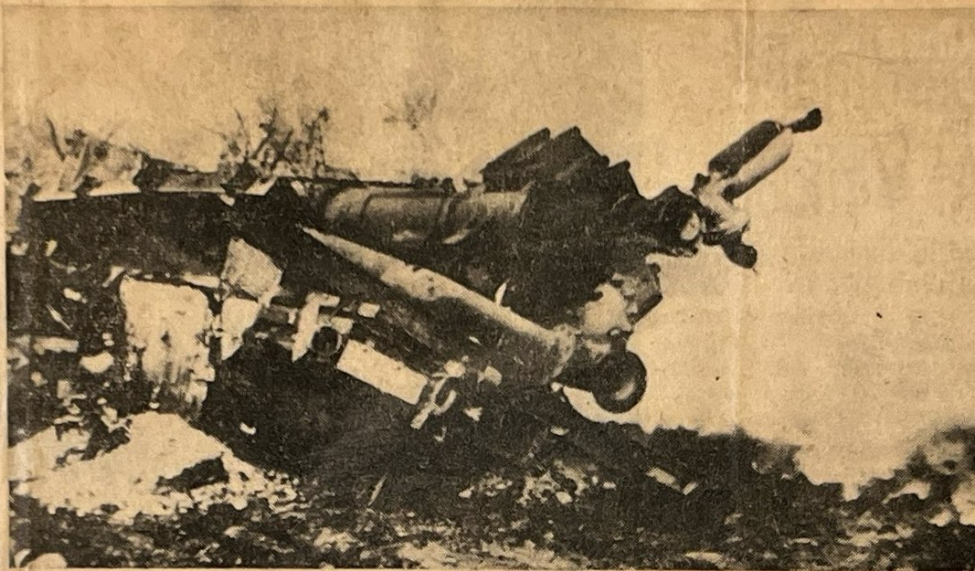


ROARING INFERNO — Firefighters and volunteers joined together in April of 1926 to battle an oil field blaze above Brea which caused over \$4 million in damage in two days and nights. No one was injured, however. (Photo courtesy of Frank Schweitzer Jr.)

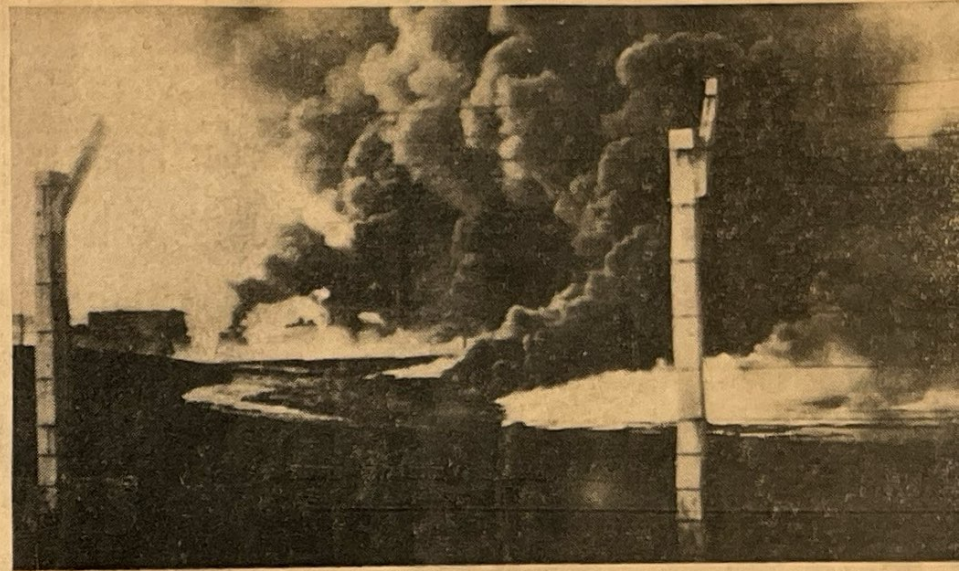
Brea Fire Bigger Than Signal Hill Disaster



EXPLOSION — Lightning hit oil storage tanks at Union field in Brea in 1926, touched off fire that burned nearly three weeks. Dr. George McClelland took these pictures during the blaze.



CASUALTY — This piece of heavy equipment was one of many charred by multi-million dollar oil field fire in 1926 which destroyed six homes, blackened vast area between Brea, La Habra.



INFERNO — Burning oil rolls across fields west of Brea during 1926 fire which caused over \$5,600,000 dam-

age, destroyed three 750,000 gallon storage tanks of crude oil at Union's Stewart lease.

Fire under a Revenge Attempt to Kill Mussolini

Evening Express

LATEST NEWS
THREE CENTS

Huge Brea Oil Fire Calastrophe Wipes Out Homes, Ruins Orchards



Large Gales in Descending
Battle to Impede Flaming
Flow From Burrowing Tanks

Large Gales in Descending
Battle to Impede Flaming
Flow From Burrowing Tanks

Oil Disasters Take Heavy
Toll of Lives Property

Police Are Ready to Testify
They Blushed at Desire

35 Seamen Missing After
Oil Tankers Caught in Explosion

EXTRA! EXTRA! — This was the headline in the now-defunct Los Angeles Evening Express almost 50 years ago to the day that a huge fire engulfed the oil fields surrounding Brea. (Photo courtesy of Frank Schweitzer Jr.)

In the first hours of the fire many residents who had had their windows shattered or their roofs blown off came to help the oilmen. Volunteers from all over the area rushed to the scene until almost 600 workers were battling the blaze.

Because of the continuing overflows and tremendous heat of the oil, it became apparent that the flames could not be put out. Hollywood movie wind machines were brought out but they were of no avail. Sheets of metal was placed in a ring about the overflows in an effort to contain the spreading fire but as Griffith says, the metal "flew up into the air like it was cardboard".

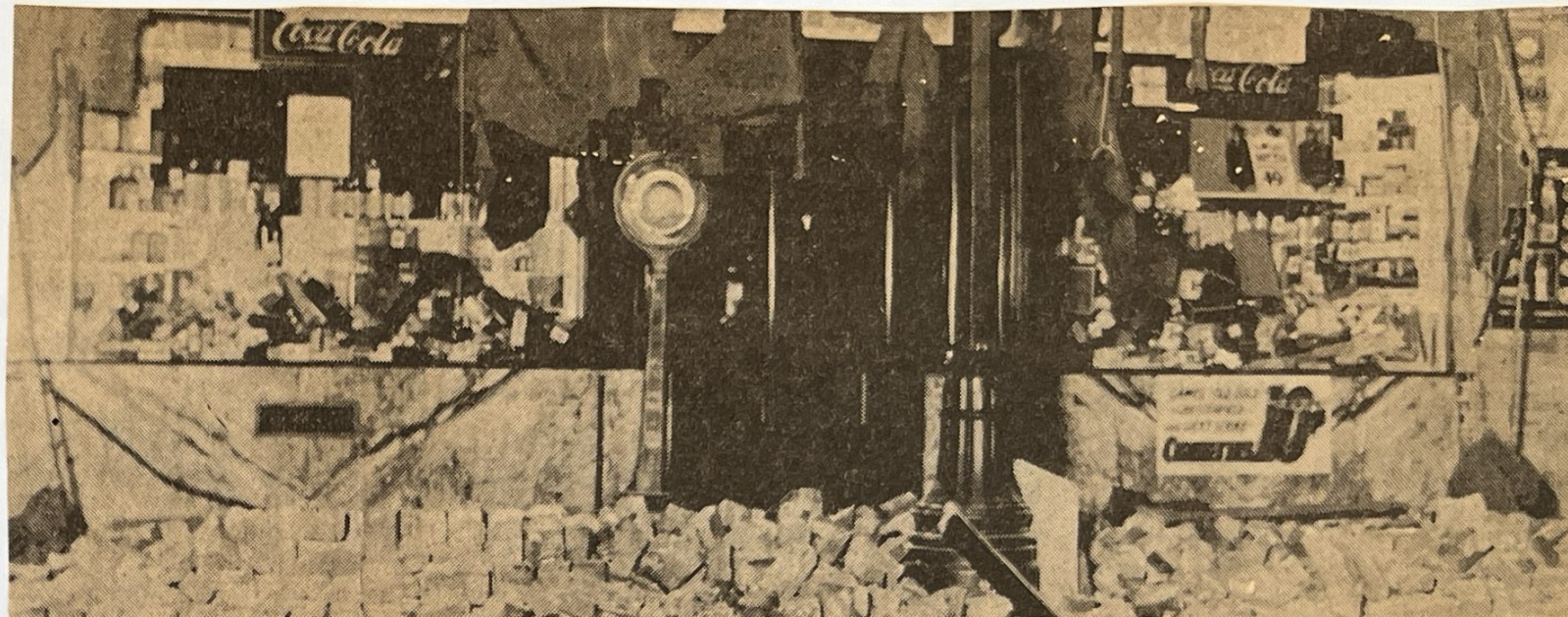
The entire area was close to traffic. The police department had to swear in oilmen who were unversed in law. No Bible could be found to swear the men in with so a dictionary was hastily substituted.

Finally, two days later, the fire burned itself out. The loss was termed the greatest due to fire since the blaze following the San Francisco earthquake in 1906.

Despite the fact that the devastation was enormous, almost \$4 million worth, not a single man was injured.



NO BUSINESS AT THE COURTHOUSE—The south entrance to the courthouse looked like this the day after the big quake. Other entrances to the building were also blocked off by debris. Succeeding temblors forced suspension of activities at the courthouse for several days. (Register photo)



WHERE SANTA ANAN DIED—Earl Wilson Adamson, 25, 1017 N. Ross St., was on his way home when disaster struck. Walking in front of the Richelieu Hotel, Adamson was buried under a storm of bricks torn loose from the building's firewall. The structure was at the corner of Fourth and Ross streets. (Register photo)



TWO DIED HERE — Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ellison, Oakland, had checked in at the Rossmore Hotel, 403 N. Sycamore, a few hours before the quake struck. Walking out the door of the hotel cafeteria, they were crushed under tons of concrete and brick sent tumbling by the first shock that struck at 5:55 p.m. (Register photo)



NERVOUS IN THE SERVICE—A Santa Ana motor patrolman investigating quake wreckage in the 300 block on Spurgeon street made a fast dash for safety when

one of the many after-shocks started rocking the area. Luckily no one was in the car when the huge chunk of concrete crushed it. (Register photo)

Damage in Santa Ana alone was estimated at more than a million dollars.

While Santa Anans and other residents of the county were licking their own wounds, it became apparent they had actually escaped the most vicious blows dealt by the mighty quake.

This appeal appeared on the Register's front page the day after the temblor: "Residents of Santa Ana who have bedding that can be sent to Long Beach for relief of persons made homeless there through the earthquake are asked to notify the Salvation Army."

Three days after the first big rocker, temblors were still shaking the area, and according to the Register's report, "The more timid are still sleeping on cots in their back-

yards and sitting in their cars and chairs in their yards throughout the day."

A few more headlines from the March 13 edition of the Register:

"Santa Ana Doctors, Nurses, Rushed to Long Beach"

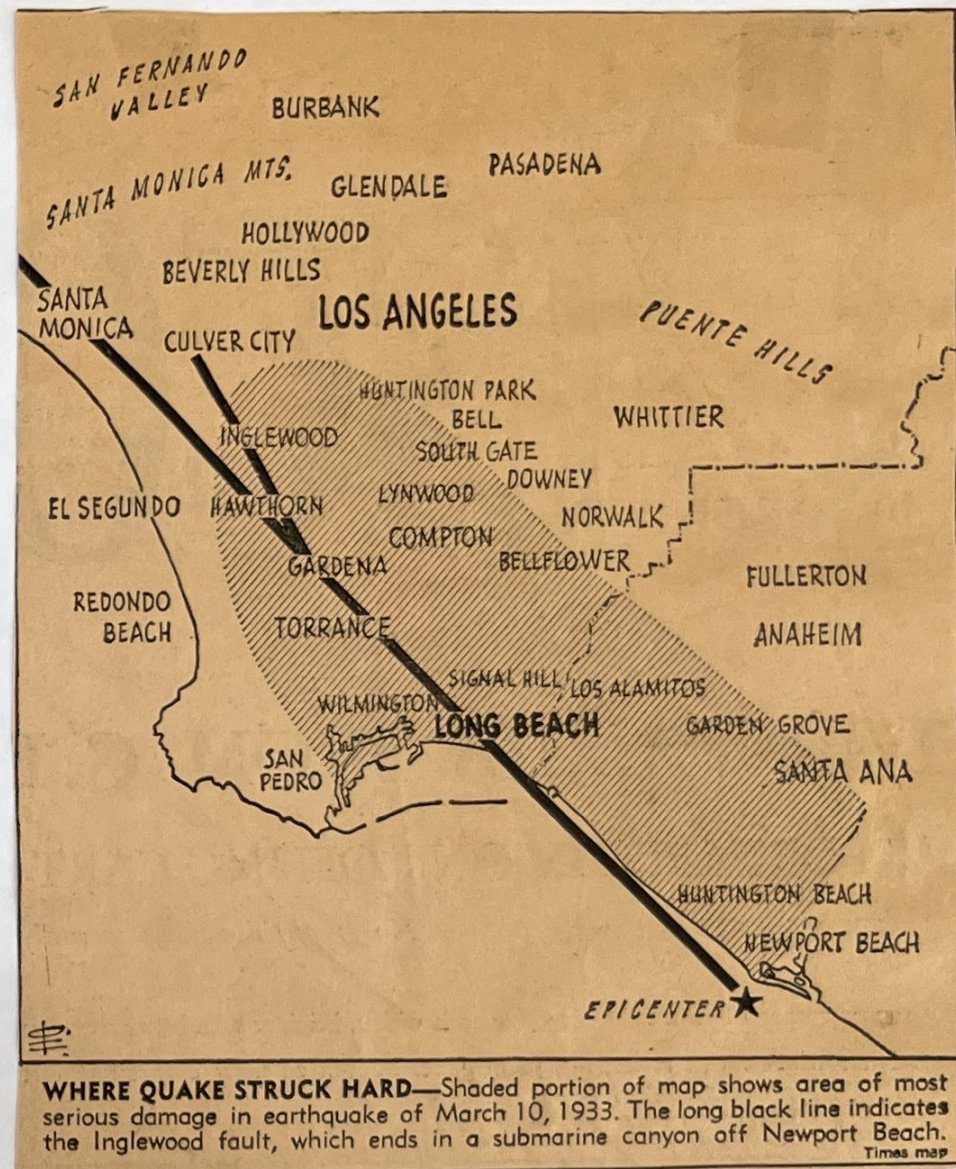
"San Clemente Opens Doors to Long Beach Sufferers"

"National Guard Brings Order After Chaos"

On March 14, another major "settling shock" struck Santa Ana, and the barriers that had been removed in the business area were again put up. The Courthouse, already badly damaged, suffered still further and was ordered closed. The board of supervisors, meeting in the damaged courthouse, fled to safety as the temblor struck.

The next day, March 15, the mop-up job got under way in earnest. Building inspectors spread out over the stricken area. Contractors were flooded with orders for repairs. Special building codes were adopted and rigid reconstruction rules enforced.

People began picking up their cots, sofas, rocking chairs, blankets and sleeping pills and moving back indoors. Minor settling shocks continued to jolt the area for many days, and the residents began to take them in stride. Instead of running for safety, the reaction was mostly, "Ho, hum. Here we go again."



WHERE QUAKE STRUCK HARD—Shaded portion of map shows area of most serious damage in earthquake of March 10, 1933. The long black line indicates the Inglewood fault, which ends in a submarine canyon off Newport Beach.

Times map

NIGHT OF TERROR FOR COUNTY

Mighty Quake Hit 30 Years Ago

EDITOR'S NOTE: Today marks the 30th anniversary of the mighty earthquake that brought death and destruction to a wide area of Southern California. While the quakes struck hardest in Compton and Long Beach, Orange County picked up its share of wrecked buildings and damaged homes.

By **TERRY STEPHENSON**
Register's City Editor

Friday, March 10, 1933, was just another day so far as news was concerned.

The Register's headlines dealt with the nation's financial

woes: "President Opens Few Banks Today . . . Banking System of Nation Under Direct Dominance of Roosevelt."

Another headline: "Chicago Mayor Cermak's Slayer to Die in Electric Chair."

(See Photos D-1)

Then at 5:55 p.m. the world began to crumble around the heads of Southern Californians.

The Register got out an "Extra." The new headline: "Quake Deals Death."

At the instant of the first big shock, three people died under

walls sent crashing to the streets in downtown Santa Ana. Two were killed in Garden Grove.

This was the beginning of a night of terror for thousands in Southern California and Orange County. Shock after shock jolted the area, and most people moved cots, blankets, sofas, chairs into the yards and spent sleepless hours praying and waiting for daylight.

The Register offices at Third and Sycamore streets suffered major damage as did a majority of the buildings in the

city. But newsmen went into the building, retrieved typewriters and desks, moved them into the street away from falling bricks, and went to work gathering what news they could about the disaster.

Two days later the United Press sent this story out over its wires:

"With bricks and masonry falling about their heads, the staff of the Santa Ana Register Friday night published an extra edition telling of the earthquake toll throughout Southern California. Recurrent shocks

made it impossible to remain in the city room, and desks and typewriters were moved to the middle of the street where the staff turned out copy with citizens looking over their shoulders. Lynotype operators and pressmen in another part of the building stuck to their machines."

Saturday after daybreak, the stunned citizens of Orange County began to take stock of the damage done by the mighty temblors.

Garden Grove, Orange, Santa

Ana, Huntington Beach — they looked like towns after major bombardments. Streets were covered with rubble; stores were vacant; police, Legionnaires, militiamen patrolled the areas guarding against looters, protecting residents against injury from crumbling walls. Only those who could prove they had valid reasons for being there were allowed past the barricades that were set up to isolate the business sections of the cities.



SCHOOL WAS OUT—Fortunately this school was out when Long Beach was rattled by a quake on March 10, 1933. Severe damage to schools was

general in every community where shock was intense. After quake Legislature passed Field Act which regulated construction of public buildings.

Times photo

Fullerton Residents Recall Long Beach Quake

By FRANCES PINKERT
News Tribune Writer

Moody March was only 10 days old on a day 40 years ago when the earth in Southern California heaved such a gigantic sigh that people today still talk about "the big earthquake of '33."

The day was Friday. Shortly after dusk, women were preparing dinner in their kitchens. Children, forced inside by nightfall, waited for fathers who would be home shortly, their day's work completed.

Then it struck. At 5:55 p.m., with the first tremor,

the earth began to roar. As new temblors followed by the score, they turned into a ritual of terror in which buildings rocked and weaved in a dance of destruction which spread death through a dozen Southern California cities.

When it was over, 120 persons were dead. More than 4,000 others sustained injuries of varying seriousness. Property damage ran more than \$60 million. In the Long Beach area, the epicenter of the quake, 2,100 homes and apartments were destroyed and 21,000 more were damaged.

The Long Beach earthquake was indiscriminate in its destruction. More than 200 schools throughout Los Angeles County were damaged or destroyed. Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach was a total loss.

Excelsior Union High School in the Artesia-Norwalk district was shaken to pieces and blackened by fire that followed. Huntington Beach High School was razed by fire which followed the quake.

TREMOR

Had the tremor occurred earlier in the day, when children were in school, the death

toll would have reached into the thousands. The structural failings of schools and other public buildings pointed up until the then unrecognized need for revised codes and stricter demands on quality of materials and workmanship.

The March 11, 1933, edition of the Daily News Tribune reported that no fatalities occurred in Fullerton and surrounding areas.

However, in nearby Santa Ana, three persons were killed by toppling buildings and the city was under martial law. One person was killed in Garden Grove by falling masonry.

While damage in Fullerton was not as severe as in the Long Beach area, the city grammar school had to be razed because of structural damage. Falling debris was reported at the Old California Hotel, now the Villa del Sol shopping complex, and the Dan Smith building at Spadra Road, now Harbor Boulevard, and Amerige Avenue.

The hotel's chimney crashed through the roof of the cafe kitchen, filling it with bricks and shattered building pieces.

Fred Strauss, who owned the Stein-Strauss store at Spadra Road and Commonwealth Avenue, recounted the damage done to his adjacent grocery and men's furnishings goods stores.

"It was quite an earthquake," he said. "I was still at the store and the old brick chimney came down. Shelving fell all over the place."

'RAN'

Asked if he was frightened when the chimney started to collapse, Strauss replied without hesitation, "Well, we ran like Hell!"

Otto Evans, a long-time Fullerton resident who celebrated his eightieth birthday last month, remembers the day well.

"I owned a candy and confectionary store on the corner of Amerige and Spadra," (the building is now Steele's Cafe) Evans said. "All the stores around were closed but I was still at the candy store standing behind the soda fountain talking to two friends, Ray Davis and Burt Galliers, when the earthquake hit.

"Don't you know, I jumped over that counter and away the three of us dashed out into the street when the building started to shake.

"There wasn't any damage to my store but when we looked across the street at the Harris drug store a cornice had fallen off the building. I decided it was time to lock up the store and go home."

Evans remembers arriving home to find the streets surrounding his home "loaded with automobiles" belonging to refugees from Long Beach and other cities whose homes had been damaged or destroyed.

"We kept the coffee pot on all night for the people. They were grateful but they were too scared to come inside even though we invited them."

The scene in front of the Evans' home was not unique. Many places in the area were inundated with the homeless.

Hillcrest Park was peppered with hundreds of terror-stricken Long Beach residents who fled the disaster area to escape toppling buildings and a reported tidal wave which never materialized.

SQUATTING

The figure was even higher in Long Beach, where 25,000 persons were squatting in the vicinity of Signal Hill.

Brea housed refugees from the Long Beach area in the Boy Scout building and private homes. The old Brea American Legion Hall, now the police station, was used to house some quake victims from the beach cities.

Although the building sustained minor damage as a result of the quake, meals were still served to more than 75 refugees at a time.

American Legion posts from the area sent volunteers to Long Beach to implement martial law. One of these volunteers was a Fullerton man, Homer Bemis, who recalled the three nights he spent at the beach city.

"I was assigned to the railroad yards when authorities had run in Pullman cars to take care of the women and children who had been driven from their homes," he said.

"I remember every time there was a doggone shake, the cars would erupt with screams from the people. They were so frightened they

really became hysterical."

Bemis' wife, Mary, who was living in Long Beach when the quake hit, gave a first-hand account of what happened in one part of the disaster area.

"My family and I lived on 16th Street, close to Walnut Avenue," Mrs. Bemis recalled. "There was a high-tension wire down and we were warned to get away immediately.

BRICK BY BRICK

"We sat in a vacant lot all night along with other people from the neighborhood. We gathered around a huge bonfire and watched the elementary schoolhouse across the street fall apart, brick by brick.

"The next day, my sister and her husband came from Glendale and took us to their house for a week. When we left, there was a custard pudding in the oven. When we came back home, the oven door was open and how that custard hit the ceiling, I don't know!"

The March 10, 1933, temblor

which centered in Long Beach could not be classed as a major shock, seismologists have since stated. The largest known earthquakes anywhere in the world have been close to 8.5 magnitude on the Richter scale. Seismologists have set the magnitude of the Long Beach quake at 6.3.

A comparison of magnitudes and the damage caused by quakes provides a clear illustration of the difference between earthquake magnitude and earthquake intensity.

The Richter scale is a measurement of the earth movement at the epicenter and it does not take into account damage to property or loss of life.

The San Francisco earthquake of April 18, 1906, in which 450 persons died and 28,000 buildings were destroyed, took place before Richter, of Caltech, had developed the Richter scale. A study of its effects, however, has led seismologists to set its magnitude at 8.3.

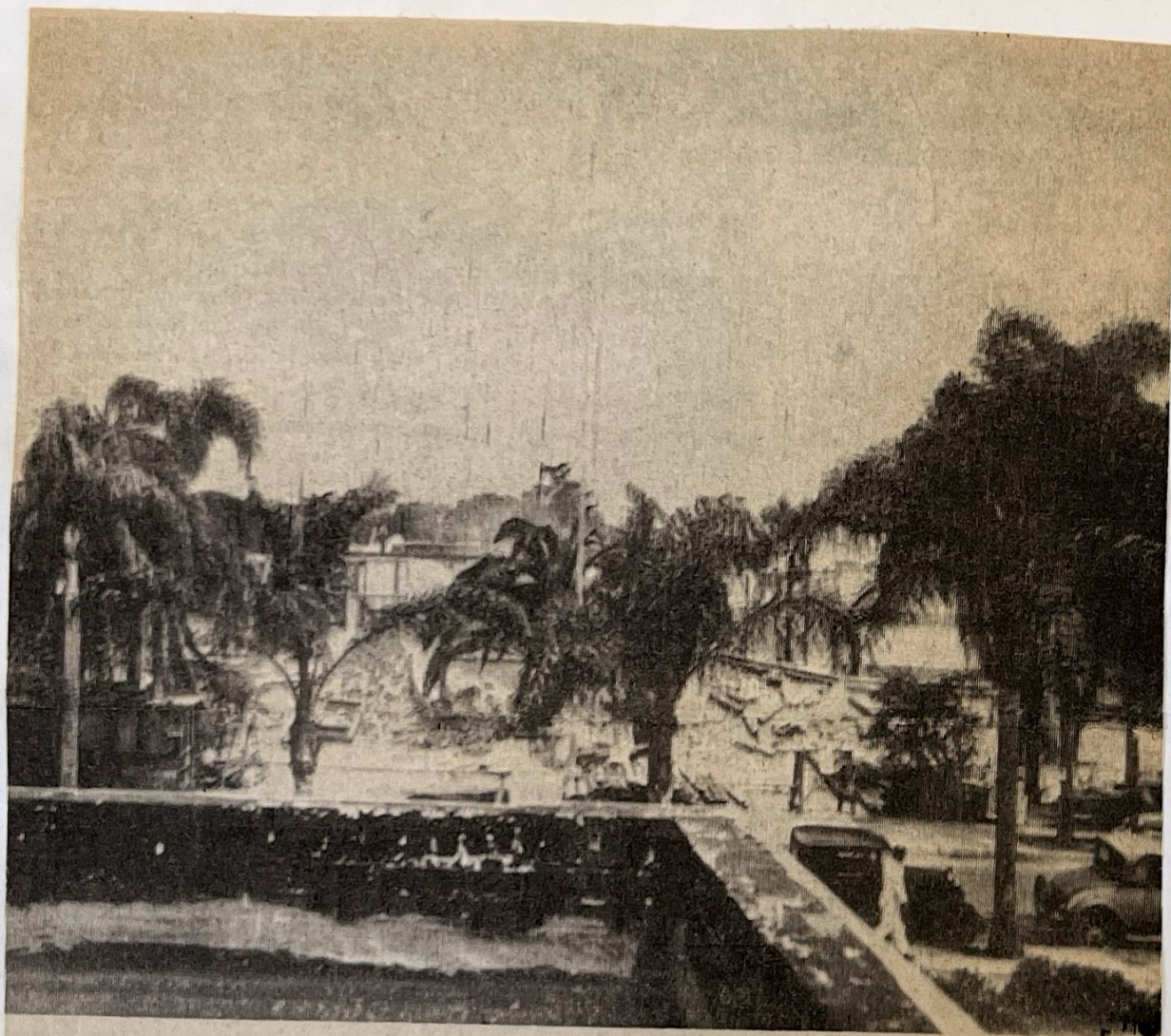
GOOD FRIDAY

The Good Friday earthquake in Alaska in 1964 was magnitude 8.4 on the Richter scale. In that quake, 131 persons died.

The two most damaging earthquakes in California in recent years have both been in Southern California — the Long Beach quake (with the previously stated 6.3 magnitude) on the Inglewood Fault, and the Tehachapi quake (the greatest California quake in half a century with a 7.7 magnitude) on the White Wolf Fault.

Still, the Long Beach quake was not considered a "great quake," in terms of magnitude, even though it damaged and destroyed thousands of buildings in southwest and central Los Angeles County and killed more than 100 persons.

But even though the experts do not classify the 1933 seismic disaster as a "major shock," in the memories of many who witnessed the events, the impact cannot be measured.



News Tribune Photos

GRAMMAR SCHOOL SHAMBLES — Wrecking crews leveled the city grammar school after it sustained structural damage in the

earthquake of 1933. A tent school was located on the site until the construction of Wilshire School.



EARTHQUAKE — The March 10, 1933, earthquake, the most severe in Southland history, leveled

buildings in Compton and Long Beach. This Fullerton grammar school later had to be razed.

"The department, however, has the legal and a moral obligation to follow through on this matter. Continued use of these buildings in their present condition is a real risk to owners, employes and members of the public who come on or near the premises.

Property Owners Not Happy

"No one can predict when the next major earthquake will occur. Knowing one will occur sometime, we must work in advance to lessen the risk of death, injury or property damage."

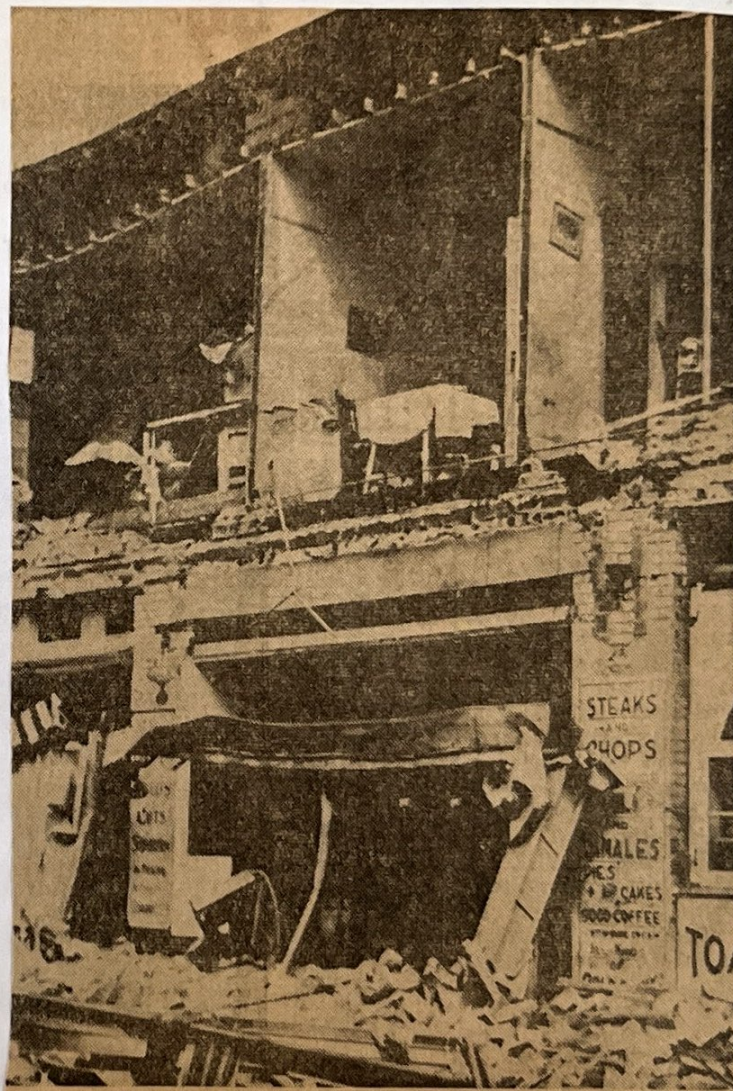
Scores of property owners facing condemnation of their buildings or expensive repairs because of the program are not happy. They have formed an association to express their indignation, to ask for time and to seek financial aid in their dilemma.

At a recent City Council meeting, spokesmen for the owners described the code-enforcement effort as "arbitrary," "unreasonable," "an invasion of human rights" and "a threat to making Long Beach a disaster area."

Source of Income

They said many of the buildings are the only source of income for elderly owners who run the risk of losing their life savings and the only quarters where pensioners can rent for \$50, \$60 and \$70 a month.

"Engineers in ivory towers think we should crank up the bulldozers and build the City of Oz right here in Long Beach," said Philip E. Poppler, one of the spokesmen and a candidate for city attorney.



ON THE PIKE—This is one of the 1,319 masonry structures hit when moderate quake shook Long Beach in 1933. This photo was taken on Long Beach Pike after quake that killed over 100 people.

Photo courtesy Jack Horner

Many Old Buildings Unsafe if Quake Should Hit Again

40,000 Perilous to Southlanders; Long Beach Acts

BY JOHN KENDALL
Times Staff Writer

In "Earthquake Country" you might think it would be folly, if not madness, to live or work in an old masonry building erected without thought of the forces exerted by earthquakes.

Yet, that's what thousands and thousands of Southern Californians do daily, either in apparent ignorance of the greater risks they run or because they have no other choice.

In the metropolitan area of Southern California there are an estimated 40,000 unreinforced masonry structures built before construction codes required that they be made resistant to earthquakes. No one knows how many were designed well enough to withstand the lateral forces of a quake.

But, experts say, thousands of them—built before 1933 with brick or hollow clay tile and wooden floors, joists and roofs—were designed only to bear the vertical load of the buildings themselves, not to survive the sharp back-and-forth acceleration of an earthquake.

Poorly Built and Unreinforced

What happens to poorly built unreinforced masonry buildings was demonstrated at 5:54 p.m. March 10, 1933, when a moderate temblor emanating from the Inglewood Fault shook this area.

More than 100 persons died, nearly 5,000 were injured and, in Long Beach alone, 1,391 unreinforced masonry buildings were damaged.

Buildings collapsed. Walls of brick broke up and tumbled into the street. People were killed and injured by debris falling from parapet walls and poorly supported cornices.

Assessing damage afterwards, a Joint Technical Committee on Earthquake Protection reported that loss of life or severe injury in well constructed buildings was very limited, if not absent.

The committee said, however, that Southern Californians had disregarded the lessons of quakes in San Francisco in 1906, in Inglewood in 1920 and in Santa Barbara in 1925.

Despite those damaging shakes, they continued to permit construction of buildings with inferior workmanship, poor quality mortar with a very low cement-to-sand ratio, inadequate anchoring and no provision for horizontal movement.

Warning Sounded for Future

Had the Long Beach quake been of greater magnitude than 6.3 or of equal intensity over a larger area, experts said, the damage to buildings of the "bearing wall" type would have been more widespread and total collapse more frequent. And, they warned:

"At some unknown time in the future an earthquake of major intensity will occur in this region, and unless existing evils are corrected by adequate protection against earthquakes, disaster must follow."

Something was done.

Building codes were tightened to require that new structures had to be built to resist lateral movement. School and public buildings were strengthened.

But owners of buildings constructed before the Long Beach quake were not required to make their structures earthquake resistant. In most cases in Long Beach the

damaged buildings were merely repaired.

You can see these old unreinforced masonry structures today—36 years older but still in use—not just in Long Beach but in almost any older business district.

Take a stroll in downtown Long Beach with the city's director of building, Edward M. O'Connor, 56, a 23-year veteran in the department.

The stocky, gray-haired official smiles and jokes as he swings along with a finger nail clipper in his left hand. Near City Hall, he stops, pokes the clipper between the bricks of a building and scratches lightly at the mortar.

"See how it crumbles," he says. "It comes out without effort. It's old. They say it was made with dirty sand."

Structure Repair Explained

On Pine Ave., one of the city's main business streets, O'Connor bustles into a one-story building and greets workers in the dusty interior. He explains how they are repairing the brick structure to make it earthquake resistant.

Rows of bricks have been chipped away in foundation-to-ceiling columns at five-foot intervals along both side walls. Steel, embedded in concrete, will fill the spaces to give the building rigidity.

A diaphragm, perhaps of plywood, will tie the four walls together. Its function is to spread the force exerted on one wall to the others. The roof will be anchored in the steel and concrete.

Back on the street, O'Connor points out a half dozen buildings condemned by the city, including a six-story hotel and a dilapidated ballroom.

"The monkey's on my back," he says. "If the building official doesn't do anything, nothing is done."

What O'Connor is doing is pressing a program to repair or demolish all the unreinforced masonry Type

III (wooden floors, joists and ceilings) in earthquake-conscious Long Beach.

To do that, he insists on enforcement of building regulations amended in 1959 to empower the city to require owners to eliminate or correct structures identified as quake hazards—even in old buildings erected before any construction rules about earthquakes.

As far as O'Connor is concerned the legal question involved was settled by the State Supreme Court in 1966.

Unsafe Buildings Surveyed

The court ruled that under the power to control a public nuisance Bakersfield could require a hotel owner to meet current fire regulations, although his aged structure met all existing statutes when it was built.

After that decision, inspectors surveyed all Long Beach buildings listed as unsafe in the 1960 census and inspected a 208-square-block downtown area. They found more than 880 unreinforced masonry Type III structures in the city.

So far, O'Connor's department has issued 114 letters of condemnation and 147 letters requesting either demolition or repair of the buildings to meet earthquake-resistant standards. Twenty-five structures have been demolished on order. Fifteen others have been torn down voluntarily.

"We are indeed sorry that you, as owner of a Type III unreinforced masonry building, are faced with what will naturally be a significant economic burden by reason of this code enforcement," says a letter signed by O'Connor.

Quake Disaster Struck 30 Years Ago Today

More Than 100 Died; Seismologists Say Building Safeguards Are Still Inadequate

BY GEORGE GETZE, Times Science Writer

Thirty years ago today, during 11 seconds of terror that began at 5:54 p.m., more than 100 Southern Californians suddenly died.

Nobody will ever know exactly how many died almost at once, as the earth shook along the little-known Inglewood earthquake fault, or how many died later of injuries suffered at that tragic dinner hour.

The Red Cross reported that 95 were killed and 4,911 injured seriously in the Long Beach earthquake of March 10, 1933, all but a handful of them in Los Angeles County. The National Board of Fire Underwriters estimated the deaths at 120.

In Southern Area

Most of those who died lived in the southern part of the county, in Long Beach, Compton, Bellflower, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Artesia and Norwalk.

C. F. Richter, Caltech professor of seismology who has "zoned" the county for possible earthquake damage, lists this part of the county as a high risk area.

Inglewood fault runs from west of Los Angeles International Airport to an undersea canyon of Newport Beach. In 1920, there had been a strong local shock on the fault, centered west of Inglewood, but the Long Beach quake of 1933 took Southern Californians by surprise.

Several Faults

Then, as now, people knew about the famous San Andreas fault which runs along the other side of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains. Then, as now, they knew little about the faults that cross the Los Angeles basin itself: the Inglewood fault, the Whittier fault, the Norwalk fault.

Earthquakes are a crude but effective way of testing structural weaknesses. In the 1933 quake wooden beams and floors acted like battering rams to knock down brick walls. In build-

ings where upper floors and roofs rested their weight on masonry walls the destruction was complete.

Big buildings with steel frames were not damaged much, although their heavy, ornate, over-hanging cornices fell into the streets to bury those who gave way to panic and tried to run into the open.

Law Not Enforced

It is almost impossible to estimate the damage such an earthquake would do today. State and local governments have adopted new building safety codes, but most seismologists feel they are not strict enough.

They are not always enforced. Many of the older buildings in downtown Los Angeles still have their great concrete and stone cornices hanging over the sidewalks. Children still go to schools that shake when students go from classroom to classroom.

The danger appears even more grave when it is realized that Dr. Richter, one of the most respected seismologists in the world, does not consider the Long Beach quake a "great" shock.

Dr. Richter developed the Richter scale for measuring the intensity of quakes at the source.

He believes that Southern California has not experienced an earthquake of great magnitude since Jan. 9, 1857.

That quake, centered near Gorman, opened great fissures in both the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys.

Earthquakes in 1812 destroyed many of the missions. Among those severely damaged were San Gabriel and San Juan Capistrano.

These historical records cause Dr. Richter and other seismologists to view the erection of taller buildings with some alarm.

Dr. Richter feels that although tall buildings would not fall down in a great earthquake their top stories would be wrecked by falling partitions and the hurtling from side to side of desks, chairs, water coolers and other office furniture.

According to Dr. Richter, these are the communities and districts with the highest earthquake damage risk: downtown Los Angeles east of Broadway and south of 6th St.; Vernon, Huntington Park, Maywood, Bell, South Gate, Compton, Downey, Lynwood, Lakewood and other cities south to Long Beach; Covina, West Covina, El Monte, Monrovia and Azusa in the San Gabriel Valley; Santa Ana, Anaheim, Buena Park, and Garden Grove in Orange County; the communities in the bottom land of the San Fernando Valley, and the beach cities between Playa del Rey and Redondo Beach.

Areas with less risk of

heavy earthquake damage are Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, Alhambra and Monterey Park; Santa Monica, San Pedro and Wilmington; Inglewood, Hawthorne and Gardena; Los Angeles north of 6th St. and west of Broadway, and San Fernando Valley communities on the slopes of the hills.

IN BREA

1933 Quake

Friday, March 10, 1933, the devastating earthquake that shook the city of Long Beach, causing loss of lives and property damage of great proportions, was felt throughout Orange County. Brea shook from the tremors as housewives were preparing for the evening meal. Radio appeals for help, set in motion a move for cars to bring people from the stricken area to find shelter here. Saturday morning the American Legion issued an emergency call over the city

fire siren, and a registration booth was set up in the Legion Hall. Eighty-five more refugees were moved here that day to find shelter in every available quarter. The Church of the Nazarene and the Christian Church both provided facilities for feeding the victims, and the Legion Hall extended the same service over the week-end.

Dr. Charles Westerout and Dr. W.E. Jackson went to Long Beach in answer to an appeal sent out by the American Red Cross for medical assistance. Dr. Glenn Curtis remained in charge of the emergency hospital, rendering aid to the shocked and injured people who found relief here.

The earthquake damage to public buildings in Brea left unsafe conditions in the school buildings, not unlike so many other buildings in the county.

Old-Time Breans Recall Disastrous Area Floods

As the first rains of the season came this week Brea old timers remembered the disastrous floods of a quarter of a century ago and earlier in the county's history.

Floods brought heavy property damage and took many lives during Orange County's history, and only in recent years has a drainage program been completed in an effort to avert repetition of past tragedies.

When the area was peopled by migrant Indians, the Santa Ana River literally "roamed the plains." Downpours that taxed Southern California's rivers and creeks caused the channels to change naturally.

Since there were no cities, the channels could find their way to the Pacific freely. The Indians merely scurried to the hilltops for protection.

The coming of civilization, however, brought the need for levees and other flood controls as the growing cities fought waters during periods of heavy rainfall.

Among the earliest of the floods in the county's modern history came in the winter of 1861-62.

Again, in December 1889, the rains came and flooded the San Gabriel, Santa Ana as well as the Los Angeles Rivers, sending them on a rampage. Bridges, houses, railroad tracks and farmlands were washed away.

Portions of Santa Ana were under nearly four feet of water. Train service to Santa Ana was

halted for a week while roadbeds were repaired and bridges replaced.

The winter of 1916 found two heavy rainfalls coming within a week of each other. The ground was unable to absorb more moisture and when the second downpour arrived, Anaheim, Santa Ana and Garden Grove were flooded.

Brea Creek Bursts Banks

But Orange County's most damaging and tragic flood came in March 1938.

A hint of the possible disaster came March 1, when weather gauges showed that 1.38 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. Flood waters were expected in the Santa Ana and San Gabriel Rivers as a result of a downpour in the mountains.

More rain came that night, dumping another 1.46 inches of water on Santa Ana, 2.24 inches in Anaheim and 2.33 in Fullerton.

Brea Creek burst its banks, flooding sections of Fullerton. Debris washed down from the mountains adding to the catastrophe. Timber smashed against bridge pilings, buckling the structures and wiping many out.

The disaster was countywide.

A footbridge over Oso Creek at San Juan Capistrano was washed away by the swirling waters, drowning two men on the structure.

Patients in Orange County General Hospital were moved to the second floor as the flood waters threatened the facility.

Families evacuated from their homes, were given shelter in churches, schools and business establishments while the Red Cross and American Legion helped provide care.

Emergency crews worked feverishly, piling sandbags along the rivers.

Highways were closed. Emergency crews worked on, piling bags of sand on the banks as waves of water rolled down the Santa Ana River.

Then at 2 a.m. March 3, the river broke through the bank at Atwood.

Placentia Police Officer Gus Barnes turned the red light on his car and with the siren screaming, raced through the community warning that the flood were coming.

Frightened residents ran for high ground trying to carry along as many of their belongings as possible.

Mothers screamed for their children in the darkness as the water churned through the Latin American La Jolla Colony near the river.

An eight foot wall of water swept through Atwood, knocking dozens of homes from their foundations. The same wall of water rolled on, smashing through Anaheim.

Neighboring Los Angeles County also was hit by the tragedy. Flood waters covered large areas and took our bridges.

The flatter portions of Orange County, near Westminster, Stanton and Huntington Beach, most agricultural at the time, appeared like a giant lake from the air.

The danger in this area was reduced, however, since the water spread because of the flatness.

Brea's Old Timers Remember Disasterous Floods Of 1938

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When the area was peopled by migrant Indians, the Santa Ana River literally "roamed the plains." Downpours that taxed Southern California's rivers and creeks caused the channels to change naturally.

Since there were no cities, the channels could find their way to the Pacific freely. The Indians merely scurried to hilltops for protection when floods came. Tepees are easier to move than block and stone buildings.

The coming of cities and villages however, brought the need for levees and other flood controls as the growing communities fought waters during periods of heavy rainfall.

Homes Washed Away

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B.P. Mon March 2, 1933

Quake
Pioneer Hall
Imperial Hwy.
La Vita Bev. Co.

Brea Old Timers Recall Quake That Shook City

A week from tomorrow is the anniversary of an event that Brea old timers will never forget.

Friday March 10, 1933, a devastating earthquake that was felt in Brea shook the city of Long Beach, causing loss of lives and property damages of great proportions.

Brea was shaken by the tremors as housewives were preparing for the evening meal.

Radio appeals for help, set to motion a movement of cars to bring 95 people from the stricken area to find shelter here. Saturday morning the American Legion issued an emergency call over the city fire siren, and a registration booth was set up in the American Legion Hall. Eighty five more refugees were moved here that day and found shelter in every available quarter. The Church of the Nazarene and the Christian Church both provided facilities for feeding the victims, and the Legion Hall extended the same service over the weekend.

Doctors Go To Scene

Dr. Charles Westerout, and W. E. Jackson went to Long Beach in answer to an appeal sent out by the American Red Cross for medical assistance. Dr. Glen Curtis remained in charge of the emergency hospital, rendering aid to the shocked and injured people who found relief here.

The Brea

VOLUME XIX

BREA, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Legislation And Taxation Topic At Woman's Club

COUNTY CLUB REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AT BUSY SESSION

Taxation and legislative measures pertaining to taxation was the topic of the address given before the Brea Woman's Club on Tuesday afternoon by Mrs. Agnes L. McEuen, Riverside, vice-president-large. Mrs. McEuen advocates the Reilly plan which endeavors to replace Amendment No. 1, the principal element of which plan would bring about a reduction of about 35 per cent in real and personal taxes, easing the burden of the property owner and creating venues of revenue more equitably distributed among the people.

Mrs. McEuen expressed herself not in favor of the consolidation of elementary and high school districts, not in favor of reducing the salaries of teachers, favoring the general fingerprinting of all residents of the United States, favoring the installment payment of taxes, favoring the rigid revision and supervision of the old age pension law which she declares is being constantly and shamefully abused. She strongly advocates a reduction in administration expenses all along the line and called on all club women to become informed in these matters. There is no such thing, she said, as an innocent bystander in a democracy. She called for optimism and courage, declaring there is not so much danger from an uprising of the reds as from the down-sitting of the blues. He was accompanied by her sister-in-law, Mrs. George French, also of Riverside.

The occasion was the Reciprocity Day program of the club and the meeting was held in the Congregational church. Although most of the twenty-two clubs of the county made reservations, not all came. Clubs represented and their delegates are given as follows: Laguna Beach, Mrs. W. G. Schmelzel, Mrs. F. D. Pettes, Mrs. O. S. Sarvell; Garden Grove, Mrs. W. O. Broady, Mrs. C. L. Pierson; Buena Vista, Mrs. J. H. Tanquary; Mrs.

Earthquake Items

DEEP SYMPATHY

John Wilholt, 46, of Long Beach, a brother of G. C. Wilholt of Brea who runs the Union Service Station at Pomona and Central was killed in the quake together with five other persons when his meat market in Long Beach collapsed last Friday. Funeral services were held in Long Beach Tuesday. Mr. Wilholt was also a cousin of Mrs. Fred Brambley.

SPLendid WORK

Saturday morning the Legion emergency call was sounded on the Brea Fire Siren. Reporting to sign Reverend Joseph Gray offered to initiate an emergency relief center here and enlisted the instant support of the other members of the Ministerial Association. Saturday night the headquarters of the Association arranged sleeping accommodations for 95 persons. Rev. Gray had started to take care of people from Long Beach Friday night when he threw open the Nazarene church. It the fires and accommodated a number of folks that night and fed them next morning thru the cooperation of Rev. J. Wesley Runyan who threw open the Christian church kitchen and served the folks hot breakfasts. Mrs. J. F. Bergman headed the Christian church workers. Saturday the Legion Hall was thrown open for registration of folks in the event that the Ministerial accommodations were inadequate for the large number. Under the efficient arrangements of Mrs. Vivian Nicodemus, 85 persons were placed in homes Saturday night in addition to the 95 placed by Rev. Gray's organization. Food was also served in the Legion Hall all day Sunday and breakfast Monday, as well as Saturday evening.

On Monday the Ministerial Association cared for some forty. Tuesday morning the kitchen was closed down, as the need seemed at least temporarily over. The Organization is still prepared to resume activities at a moment's notice if the need arises.

The response of the people of Brea to the call to service was the finest possible criterion of the warm-hearted sympathy thating throughout not only the state of California but the whole nation. Folks contributed money, food,

supplies, instructions about sanitary conditions, organizing and directing relief work and bulwarking confidence by spiking unfounded rumors—radio proved its indispensable function, in aiding reconstruction. KFOX had more listeners in for the 48 hours than ever before—or perhaps again.

The Progress has received an unconfirmed report that the Union Oil Station which Olie Cole took over the management for, in Long Beach last week was ruined in the quake. The Coles were in Brea Sunday.

Miss Dorothy Boyce has her sister, Eleanor and her grandmother who live in Long Beach with her this week. They all left Monday to spend the week at the home of friends in Fullerton.

Twenty people from Long Beach have registered at Casa Brea Inn.

Mrs. Clarence Reed and children, and Mrs. Boling and her children are staying at the home of Mrs. Reed's mother, Mrs. Ezra Law, until they can return to their home in Long Beach.

Mrs. William Lower, of Long Beach is visiting this week at the home of her brother, J. D. Neuss.

Brea doctors served a tour of duty at Long Beach. Dr. Jackson going over early Saturday morning. Doc Westerhout spent a couple of days there while Doc Curtis held the fort here. Doc Curtie answered an emergency call Monday afternoon.

Harlan Le Gro received letters from wholesale houses in several cities expressing the hope that their customers had weathered the quake. Several pharmaceutical houses offered to replace all medicines which had been in bottles and broken by the shock.

The famous Shorty McDonald, while on duty at the Long Beach Legion Hall witnessed the funeral of A. B. Stephens, a fireman who lost his life when trying to guide some hanging debris out of the way of pedestrians. Fireman's Post of the Legion at Long Beach led by their own Drum and Bugle

UNION OIL ON 5-DAY WEEK

News has just been received that the Union Oil Company of California will put into effect immediately a five day week basis for all present employees now on a four and a half day week basis. When work was scarce some months ago, the Company had to cut all oil field workers to a four and a half day week, to keep as many men as possible on the pay rolls. Over 1000 men will be affected by this new ruling—over 100 of them in this district. Practically all men will be affected by this new working plan.

Death Of G. W. Cullen Shock To Many Friends

George W. Cullen, a resident of the Brea-Olinda district for the past fourteen years, died suddenly Sunday at home. His death shocked his family and many friends, for while he had been in delicate health, his condition had not been thought to be so serious.

At the time of his death, Mr. Cullen was serving as Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Brea-Olinda Union High School District. He was a candidate to succeed himself on the Board.

Up to a couple of years ago Mr. Cullen lived on the C. C. M. O. lease in Olinda, when he moved to Brea, continuing in the employ of that concern. Mr. Cullen came from Logansport, Ind.

A Past Master of the Brea Lodge, Mr. Cullen was a member also of Al Malakiah temple of the Shrine Los Angeles and of the Long Beach Scottish Rite Consistory.

An impressive funeral ceremony was held under the auspices of Citrol Lodge No. 656 F. & A.M. on Wednesday of this week at McAuley and Suters Funeral Chapel. Interment was at Loma Vista Cemetery.

Mr. Cullen is survived by the

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Mrs. F. D. Peltes, Mrs. Ona Bar-
well; Garden Grove, Mrs. W. O.
Broady, Mrs. C. L. Pearson; Buena
Park, Mrs. L. H. Tanquary, Mrs.
C. B. Snyder; Anaheim Ebell, Mrs.
Leonard Evans; La Habra, Mrs.
Henri Clayton, Mrs. Henry G.
Bloom; Fullerton Woman's Club,
Mrs. Jennie M. Daniels; Orange,
Mrs. Earl Crawford; Placentia
Round Table, Mrs. Leon T. Gilliam;
Whittier, Mrs. E. J. Munger and
Mrs. A. E. Lohg.

Past presidents Mrs. I. W. Bar-
nett, Whittier, Mrs. Maybelle
Kuenzli, Los Angeles, Mrs. O. S.
Cloe and Mrs. John Cox, with
Mrs. W. E. Fanning and Mrs. F.
J. Schweitzer, were in the receiv-
ing line. The hostess committee
comprised Mrs. H. W. Hardy, Mrs.
W. D. Shaffer, Mrs. A. H. Brown,
Mrs. L. A. Snyles, Mrs. Cox and
Mrs. Charles Miller. Mrs. Shaffer
and Mrs. Brown presided at the
tea table.

The program opened with a per-
iod of silent prayer for the strik-
ers in the earthquake area. Mrs.
Glenn, Curtis favored with two
beautiful organ numbers preceding
the talk by Mrs. McEuen. Decora-
tions in the church parlors and on
the tea table were in the club col-
ors of blue and gold, iris, statice,
California poppies and acacia be-
ing used. About sixty were present.

Announcement was made of the
state federation convention which
will be held in the Fairmont Hotel
in San Francisco during the last
week in April. The 21st annual
convention of the Orange county
federation will be held in the San-
ta Ana Ebell club house on the
morning of April 21. A forum will
be devoted to the topic, "My Club
Has Served," a three minute
period being allotted to each of the
county club presidents. A luncheon
will be served promptly at noon
and in the afternoon those who
wish will join in the Riverside
county federation meeting in Riv-
erside for the afternoon. There,
Mrs. Grace Morrison Poole, gener-
al federation president will be the
speaker and it is the ambition of
every club to send as many mem-
bers to this meeting as possible.

A combined meeting of the dis-
trict and county executive boards
will be held in the Orange club
(Continued on Page Four)

PLEASE

If your copy of the PROG-
RESS comes to you with a
wrong ADDRESS—will you
please advise us—as the new
Post Office regulations
charge us for wrong AD-
DRESSES. Thank you

Brea Progress

way; hearty sympathy existing
throughout not only the state of
California but the whole nation.
Folks contributed money, food,
sleeping accommodations, beds,
blankets and everything needed
during the emergency.

All bills contracted by the Min-
isterial Association in this work
have been paid from contributions
from unsolicited funds.

VISITS AUNT

Mrs. Bernice Davies, a niece of
Mrs. R. W. Spensley, who teaches
school in Long Beach is visiting
her aunt in Brea. Mrs. Davies was
knocked down by falling bricks,
on leaving a Cafe, but was fortu-
nately only bruised.

OLD FRIENDS

Ben and Lucy Sutton were in
Brea Sunday. Ben belongs to the
Gardena Post and with a group of
Legionnaires from there went over
to Compton Friday night. They
were sent to examine the debris of
a multi-story building which had
been leveled right to the street.
Ben said he and his fellow workers
unearthed two corpses—a young
man and woman. Compton's main
street was completely wrecked.

GUESTS FROM SANTA ANA

County Assessor James Sleeper
and Mrs. Sleeper are staying with
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Crookshank
at the Crookshank ranch while
their home is rehabilitated. Mr.
and Mrs. Crookshank were on the
front lawn at the time of the first
quake. The chimney crashed in
burying the bed in Mrs. Crook-
shank's room. Four truck loads of
bricks were removed from this one
room, according to the statement
from Conrad Crookshank. Mrs.
Sleeper and Mrs. Crookshank are
sisters.

Mr. and Mrs. Clem Baldwin had
25 folks in their home over Sun-
day. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Finch took
care of 15 persons over the week-
end.

Arthur Kelly who formerly man-
aged the Shell Station on Pomona
at Cedar and who now manages a
Shell Station at San Bernardino, re-
ported at the Legion Hall Sunday
to offer his services.

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Due to the large number of
absentees on Monday, the Board
of the Brea-Olinda High School and
Grammar Schools met and decided
to keep the schools closed all this
week and that this was to serve
instead of the regular spring holi-
day planned for a later date.

GOOD WORK

Radio Station KFOX at Long
Beach rates high praise for the
manner in which they carried on
for their stricken city. A couple
of walls in the Goodyear Tire
Building were out. Hanging tar-
paulins in the blank spaces and
working in a little tubby hole the
announcers stick at their job day
and night, broadcasting calls for

way of pedestrians. Fireman's
Post of the Legion at Long Beach,
led by their own Drum and Bugle
Corps and with its members in
firemen's uniforms put on an im-
pressive funeral service for its
comrade. The Chaplain of the Post
in uniform officiated at the services
which were held just previous to
those for the little four year old
girl, who was killed in the quake.

TOUCHES OF HUMOR

Oliver Crowell was in the bath
tub—and it wasn't Saturday either,
when the quake hit Brea Friday.
Both big toes crashed against the
foot of the tub—and then he skat-
ed back on his right ear to the
other end of the tub. Oliver was
not damaged, tho a bit shaken.

Doc Jarvis felt the earthquake
very nicely in the Sewall building,
but was not particularly worried
until stock in Le Gro's Drug store
beneath him started to dance off
the shelves and crash on the floor.
Then Doc decided to do an Annette
Kellerman from the second story
winder, but was advised by folks
below to hold everything. So he
is still with us, sound in limb and
full o' pep.

SCHOOLS TO RESUME MON.

The Brea Grammar Schools and
Brea-Olinda Union High School
were duly inspected and found
to be O. K. School will be re-
sumed Monday.

The P.-T. A. meeting scheduled
for Tuesday, March 21st at the
Laurel school has been postponed
until Tuesday March 28th.

Auley and Butera funeral
interment was at Loma
Cemetery.

Mr. Cullen is survived
widow, Mrs. Winifred Cull-
daughters, Mrs. Ray She-
Placentia, Mrs. Katherine
ta of Anaheim, and Mrs
Blenhger of Bakersfield,
sons, Lawrence Cullen of
W. Cullen, jr. of Fullerton
Cullen of Olinda, Donald C
Brea and William Cullen

Three sisters, Mrs. Mini-
ner and Mrs. Gertrude
Los Angeles, and Mrs.
Burke, Hollywood, also s

MRS. E. SHOCK BURIED LOMA VISTA TU

Mrs. Enola Shock, 77, a
of Brea for the past two ye
at her home 405 S. Mad
Sunday. Funeral services v
at 7 P.M. at the McAuley
chapel Fullerton. Rev. J.
yon of the Christian church
ated. Interment was at Lom
cemetery. Mrs. Shock is,
by her husband, Oliver S
and two sons, Bertram S
Willows, Calif., and Fran
of Lynwood, Calif. A sis
Etta Wright of Los Ange
survives.

LECTURE POSTPON

The lecture scheduled to
at the Santa Ana High Sc
day evening under the au-
the California Institute
ology has been postpon
the end of the series in I
Edwin Hubble was to hav
on Astronomy.



BRING HIM ALONG WHO?

That Man Who Never Goes
To Church

If he says the roof might fall in because
he is there, tell him we'll truss it up
specially for him.

March 19th — MEN'S SUNDAY
Brea Church Loyalty Campaign
ALL THE CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

Roommate Gets Bid Pick Officers

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lanners of 581 Jasmine Dr., have been invited to the Presidential Inaugural Ball.

A former roommate of Vice President-elect Hubert Humphrey when he and the former Minnesota Senator were attending pharmaceutical in Denver, Lanners saw Humphrey while

he was campaigning in Southern California, but had no idea that he and his wife would be invited to the inaugural ball.

Lanners, now a budgetary administrator in the Aerospace Division of Hughes Aircraft, has maintained contact with Humphrey since their school days in Denver in 1935 and 1936 and from time to time they have had brief meetings.

The Lanners, who have lived in Brea four years and have a 16 year old daughter Linda at Brea Olinda High School, are not sure they are going to be able to attend the inaugural ball. It all depends if Lanners can get away from his busy job in aviation.

"We would sure like to go," he says.

Rich Stephenson has been elected president of the Brea Junior Chamber of Commerce at the group's last organization meeting.

Other officers named were: Jimm Bog, state director; Lou's Mujica, treasurer; L. D. Strigel, internal vice president; and Ed A. Bunnell, external vice president.

Other business conducted included the setting of their dues rate at \$16 per year, final approved of by laws and constitution, and final arrangements for affiliation with the California and United States Junior Chambers of Commerce.

Plans for a charter night banquet were reviewed. It is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 6. Bunnell is the committee chairman.

26 Enrolled

Stephenson, reports that 26 men have already been enrolled in the group and that at least 15 more are expected to join at their next meeting Dec. 29. All men enrolled prior to charter night are entitled to special charter membership. The meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce office, 333 South Brea Blvd. at 7:30 p.m.

Membership in the Brea Junior Chamber of Commerce is open to young men between the ages of 21 through 35, regardless of occupational or professional classification. Purpose (Turn to Page A-2, Col. 5)

Brea's worst fire was April 8, 1926, when during a severe coastal storm a bolt of lightning struck in the Stewart Tank Farm setting fire to two large reservoirs and started a conflagration that consumed the refinery, built in 1911.

An explosion that occurred during the blaze collapsed roofs in the covered reservoir and shattered windows in Brea homes and business places.

1,000 Ft. Flames

Every oil worker from the surrounding fields was brought in to control flames. Early in the evening of the first day of the blaze a boiling, fiery mass of crude oil (about 1,500,000 barrels in the two reservoirs began to pour through dykes to the northeast and setting fire to a row of cottages. Another stream flowed along the P.E. tracks and into the orange groves of that area.

The boil-over was preceded by flames 1,000 feet in height and huge columns of black smoke.

During the night a third reservoir caught fire and the fire raged for two days.

Winds blowing at 40 miles an hour caught the terrific heat from the burning oil, uprooted trees and lifted the roof from the Sutphen home in W. Imperial.

The Southern Pacific responded with an engine to provide steam in controlling the fire, while Hollywood movie makers moved in with huge wind machines only to see them melt away under the terrific heat.

Storm Boosts Brea Moisture To 3.24 Inches

The La Habra - Brea area is being spared floods despite the large-scale rains which fell over the weekend.

And the weatherman says there's more to come.

According to the La Habra Fire Department, the storm was measured at 1.20 inches bringing the total for the year to 3.16 inches.

Total rainfall last year was 9.01 inches. The department said it doesn't keep comparisons of this year with last year at the same time.

The storm total was compiled from .65 of an inch which was dumped on La Habra on Sunday and .55 by 8 a.m., Monday.

In Brea, the fire department said its total is now 3.24 inches compared with 6.22 a year ago.

Brea's latest storm brought .95 of an inch. There was .39 Monday and .56 Saturday and early Sunday.

Neither city reported any damage although the sudden downpours, such as one about 6 a.m., Monday, swirled water and some debris into streets and cascaded water into catch basins. Flood control channels had up to a foot or more water in them.

The weather bureau said today the new rainstorm from the north whipped by gusty winds promises up to an inch of precipitation before skies clear.

Snow levels are expected to drop close to 4,000 feet.

Locally the area forecast is (Turn to Page A-2, Col. 5)

Brea To Enter New Pact For Fire Fighting

The City of Brea will enter into an agreement with the North Orange County cities of La Habra, Fullerton, Buena Park and Placentia and with the County of Orange as well as with the Chino Rural Fire District, for mutual assistance in fighting fires in the area. The participation of Brea in a revised mutual aid agreement was recommended to the council Monday night by Kenneth L. Staggs, the new Fire Chief. It parallels an agreement entered into in 1957, but includes rescue and other types of emergencies in addition to major fires.

"There are many advantages in this type of agreement," Chief Staggs pointed out, "since no city is financially able of providing sufficient men and equipment to combat the most severe fire situation that could develop in this area. We must all take advantage of the men and equipment in our neighboring communities. This keeps the cost of fire protection to a minimum while providing maximum protection for the people of our community."

Life's Little Dramas

The Christmas holiday is over, but life's little dramas continue endlessly. "Did Santa Claus get to your house for Christmas?" one five-year-old asked another.

"Yeah, and you oughta see the junk he left for me," said the second kid.

"He was at my house, too, and he did much better than last year! - day's know why?" said the first kid.

"No, why?" the second boy asked.

"Well, my pop left a martini for him, right where all the Christmas presents are."

The appearance of Santa

Claus at many places in Brea, was the first to be remembered for lots of little kids.

"At one Brea Home a three-year-old was given a children's party, and Santa Claus appeared replete in white whiskers and red suit.

Saturday morning the three-year-old went to a hall closet to get a dolly.

A half minute later she was in the living room dragging a red suit and long white whiskers.

"Look, mommy," she exclaimed, "Santy Claus left his skin!"