

Volunteers finish quake's work

Club members help victim raze house

By MARIA GAURA
Sentinel staff writer

SCOTTS VALLEY — Beverly Lovell was nearly killed when her Cadillac Drive home collapsed in the Oct. 17 earthquake. Pinned beneath a skylight, Lovell was pulled to safety by her neighbor, Bill Brooks, moments before the house toppled into a steep canyon.

Lovell returned to her home Friday for the first time since the quake, and could hardly believe her eyes.

"It was hard to come back," she said. "But I knew there would be people here, and I knew I could handle it."

After reading of her dramatic rescue, Kiwanis Club member Bob Jolley rallied his club members to help Lovell back to her feet. More than 400 Kiwanis members from as far away as San Diego volunteered their weekend to remove the rubble of Lovell's home from the canyon, leaving her with a clear property and a chance to rebuild.

With no earthquake insurance, Lovell couldn't afford the cost of demolition, which runs in the tens of thousands of dollars.

"What do you think, hon?" Jolley asked, giving Lovell a hug. "We'll get you home out of the canyon



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Beverly Lovell watches Kiwanians load the remains of her Scotts Valley home into a dump truck.

Lovell is walking without a limp now. Her cuts and broken bones have mended, and she's planning to return to work soon, after a five-month hiatus. She was amazed and almost tearful at the hundreds of strangers who had rallied to help her.

Volunteers in hard hats swarmed

into pieces that could be hoisted by crane and loaded into a large dump truck. Workers gathered in the parking lot of the Granite Creek Business Park and were ferried by vanpool to the homesite. Piles of new shovels, rakes, hard hats, safety glasses and dozens of other donated items were distributed to

the workers, and refreshment tables offered snacks and coffee.

The Lovell house is the Kiwanis' first demolition project, and several others are scheduled in the area.

"I'm going to rebuild, and I'm going to do it different next time," Lovell said.