

*Santa Cruz Sentinel*  
*Thurs. Jan. 10, 1974.*

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30s to low 40s.  
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# Quake Hits Central Coast

For the third time in little more than three months, moderate earthquake has hit the Central Coast area, shaking Santa Cruz County at 4:23 a.m. today.

It was about the strength of the previous quakes, registering 4.3 on the Richter scale at the University of California seismograph station in Berkeley. It was centered about seven miles east of Watsonville along the San Andreas Fault, site of most of California's temblors.

No reports of damage were noted.

A quake of 4.25 magnitude occurred at 3.07 a.m. Oct. 3, 1973, centered between Aptos and Morgan Hill on the San Andreas, and another quake hit Nov. 12 at 10:16 a.m., with estimates of strength between 4.0 and 4.5, centered in a normally quiet earth fault in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Los Gatos.

The significance of the series of earthquakes is uncertain, but Gary Griggs, assistant professor of earth sciences at UCSC, noted that "it is common for there to be a series of foreshocks and aftershocks accompanying major earthquakes."

He added this does not necessarily mean a major quake is coming, but agreed that "something is going on" because of the frequency of moderate shocks.

Another theory on earthquakes holds that the strains placed on the earth's crust by the gravitational pull of sun and moon triggers earthquakes, Griggs explained.

The sun and moon were in direct opposition Tuesday, in a line with the earth which produced unusually high tides. Such a lineup has occurred only 20 times in 300 years. Another series of high tides is expected Feb. 7, and again July 29 and Aug. 17.

In addition to the San Andreas earthquake, the Berkeley station said there was a major earthquake of 7.4 magnitude in the New Hebrides in the South Pacific at 2:04 a.m. today. This is roughly 1,000 times stronger than the Santa Cruz area quake, since the Richter scale is set up so that each number indicates a strength ten times that of the last number. A quake of 4.5 is ten times stronger than one of 3.5, for instance.