Loma Prieta Mill Buried In 1906 'Quake |



By Margaret Koch Sentinel Staff Writer

Exactly 58 years ago today at 5 o'clock in the morning California stood on its ear.

Today is the anniversary of the great quake which cracked the earth and rendered the state helpless for hours. San Francisco burned. What didn't burn was shaken down. Or dynamited. The quake also buried a group of Santa Cruz County lumbermen at Loma Prieta Lumber mill in Hinckley gulch. They

were asleep in a bunkhouse when the earth above them ripped loose and slid down to bury them alive.

Eye-witnesses said that both sides of the narrow canyon appeared to crush together and a mass of earth estimated at 100 feet in depth filled the canyon, crushing the cabins where the men slept.

The mill buildings and road shown in the old photograph above, were submerged in the flood of earth.

Doctors were sent to the scene, also wagon loads of laborers to dig the men out. But when they arrived, they could see it was impossible to reach the buried men. One of the rescue party was Mike Bergazzi who lives at 814 Pine street today.

Buried in the disaster were Foreman Walker, J. O. Dunham (the engineer), H. E. Estrada, Alex Morrison, Gus Vollandt, Frank Jones, Fred Peaslee, A. Buckley and Charley June (the Chinese cook.) Walker, Buckley and Peaslee were married men. Also buried was the huge yellow dog which belonged to the foreman.

Most badly damaged building in downtown Santa Cruz was the Hihn building, corner of Walnut avenue and Pacific. It lost about half of its second story rear brick wall which fell in. Injured was a Mr. Heathcote who was ill in bed in Dr. P. T. Phillip's office. His bed was filled with bricks.