

Land moved 3 inches, study finds

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By comparing radio signals coming from mysterious, star-like objects billions of light years away, scientists have determined that the Oct. 17 Loma Prieta earthquake moved the Monterey Peninsula nearly three inches north. A separate study measured precisely how fast two great plates of Earth are grinding together along the San Andreas Fault. The speed has held steady at 48 millimeters, or 1.89 inches, per year for 3 million years, according to geologists at Northwestern University. Geologists say this means the fault can be expected to crank out earthquakes regularly, rather than sporadically. Both studies relied on radio signals coming from quasars, objects far beyond the Milky Way. By timing the signals' arrival at various telescopes, scientists can calculate how the telescopes move with respect to each other.

BRIDGE OPENING: The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge will reopen at noon Nov. 17, almost exactly a month after the 7.1-magnitude earthquake forced it to close, the California Department of Transportation announced Thursday. A spokeswoman said

THE QUAKE OF '89

Caltrans is planning a ceremony to celebrate reopening the bridge, which was closed when a section of the upper deck collapsed. In honor of the reopening, State Sen. Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward) has asked Gov. George Deukmejian to approve a ceremonial walk across the repaired span.

HAVE SUITS, WILL TRAVEL:

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor earthquake can stay the well-appointed tailor from the well-dressed man. The Wilkes Bashford clothing store, concerned that its Oakland and suburban customers cannot reach its store in the quake-damaged downtown, will bring merchandise to their doorsteps. Beginning Monday, a luxury recreational vehicle staffed by a salesperson and a tailor will deliver custom-selected clothing to the homes of customers requesting the service, said Wilkes Bashford, the store's founder, who says business has been down 20 percent.

S.F. RAPPED: A group of San Francisco preservationists charged Thursday that hundreds of historic buildings are in danger of being needlessly demolished because ill-informed property owners are being forced into hasty ac-

tion. At a press conference in front of Saint Dominic's Church, Mark Ryser, executive director of the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, criticized the city's procedure for inspecting damaged buildings and said owners are not being given time to consider rehabilitation. "We haven't torn down that many buildings," responded Public Works Director Richard Evans. "Only those that pose an imminent life hazard or are a danger to adjacent property."

BART SURVEY: Next Tuesday through Thursday, BART plans to conduct a special passenger survey on board its system to gather information about new post-quake riders and their travel needs and patterns. Surveyors on the trains will try to hand out as many questionnaires and pencils as possible, even to standing passengers, a Bay Area Rapid Transit official said Thursday.

Mercury News Wire Services contributed to this report.