

# EARTHQUAKE/5:04 P.M./TUESDAY/OCTOBER 17/1989







Sam Lowe, left, and Leanna Texeira survey ruins of a Marina District apartment building Saturday

Judy Griesedieck — Mercury News

# We Will Never Forget

STORY BY GARY BLONSTON

In the geological life of the planet, the earthquake that struck the San Francisco Bay Area on Oct. 17 was no more than a passing snap of the fingers. In human scale, it was an event more jarring and costly than this generation of Northern Californians might ever experience again.

It began 11 miles beneath the surface of

a nearly anonymous hump in the Santa Cruz Mountains, at 5:04 p.m. on a bright Tuesday afternoon. It happened as the Bay Area's workday was coming to an end, as people across the nation were tuning in for the third game of the World Series at Candlestick Park, as traffic was mounting on Interstate 880 in Oakland and life on Santa Cruz's Pacific Garden

Mall was easing into evening. It happened just as the experts said it would, give or take a few decades.

It lasted a long time, 20 seconds in some places, 30 in others, and during its relentless lurch and roll, 5 million lives stopped. When the earthquake was over, scores of those lives were not to start again.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2B

San Jose Mercury News