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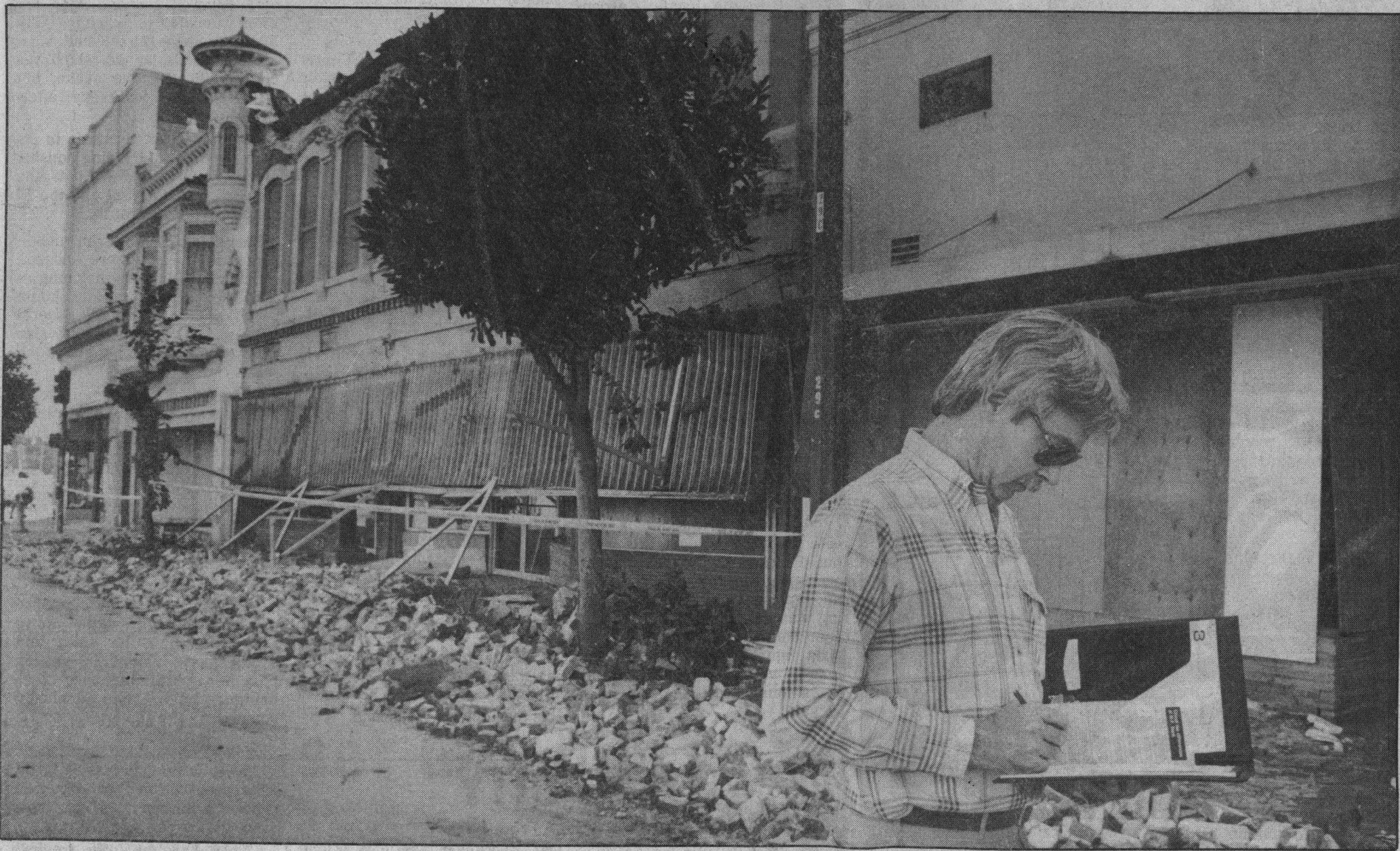
Watsonville, Calif., Friday, October 20, 1989

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Much of the downtown is gone



Church's fate still in doubt; water restored

By CHELA ZABIN
STAFF WRITER

Many of Watsonville's downtown businesses and treasured landmarks are facing demolition and housing plans are being made for the hundreds of people left homeless by the quake, city and county officials said today.

According to a press release from the County Office of Emergency Services, all of the unreinforced masonry buildings on the 400 block of Main Street will be demolished. But Watsonville City Clerk Lorraine Washington said the list of which Main Street buildings will need to be torn down won't be available until this afternoon, when inspectors finish their assessment. Special structural engineers had been dispatched to St. Patrick's Church and Ford's for a final evaluation of the damage to those buildings.

Washington said city officials met with Bishop Thaddeus Shubsda and the Rev. Michael Miller of St. Patrick's Church yesterday to talk about the probable demolition of the church. Washington said that as of yesterday it was likely, but not completely certain, the church would be destroyed. The bishop and Miller have agreed to take whatever steps necessary for public safety, she said.

John Metz, an insurance salvage appraiser from Dallas, takes notes on damage on Main Street yesterday.

Kurt Ellison

10-20

The cleanup continues

Raw sewage pouring into Monterey Bay

By BOB SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The cleanup and recovery continued today in Santa Cruz County from Tuesday's earthquake and the aftershocks that followed.

Repair crews are still trying to repair breaks in a major Mid-county sewage transmission pipeline that is spilling millions of gallons of raw sewage into Monterey Bay daily.

The breaks in the East Cliff sewage transmission line occurred at the mouth of the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz and at Schwann Lake near the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor in Live Oak.

The line, designed to carry upwards of 7 million gallons daily in dry weather, carries the untreated sewage from Live Oak, Capitola, Soquel, Aptos, Rio Del Mar and Seascape to the Santa

Cruz regional treatment plant at Neary's Lagoon for treatment and disposal into the Pacific Ocean.

The county environmental health department has posted the beaches as unsafe from New Brighton Beach State Park to Lighthouse Point in Santa Cruz. People should not enter the ocean water for any reason, health officials stressed.

Public works officials said last night that repairs should be completed by late today.

County environmental health officials said today that the water from the Soquel Creek, Santa Cruz city and Scotts Valley water district is safe to drink without first boiling it or treating with a disinfectant, such as household bleach.

Residents should continue to boil or disinfect water from other water systems or private wells,

including the city of Watsonville.

Residents can continue to obtain bottled water at the Corralitos CDF fire station 121 Eureka Canyon Road and at Salud Para la Gente, 10 Carr St., Watsonville. You should bring your own containers and there is a two-gallon limit per person.

The California Homemakers' Association, 547 Airport Blvd., Watsonville, is distributing bottled water.

The death toll in Santa Cruz County now stands at five. The dead include:

Sean McCormick, 21, and Robin Ortiz, 22, killed in the collapse of the Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Co. building on the Pacific Garden Mall.

Dale DeBenedetti, 27, of Watsonville, killed on Highway 1 in Capitola when his auto struck three panic-stricken horses on the freeway.

Elida Ortega, in her early 40s and a resident of Riverside Drive in Watsonville, killed by falling debris while she stood in front of the Bake-Rite bakery on East Beach Street in Watsonville.

Catharine Treiman, 75, of Scotts Valley, killed inside Ford's Department Store in Santa Cruz.

The three county hospitals reported, as of 8:15 p.m. Thursday, that they have treated more than 671 minor injuries and 191 major injuries. Fifty-eight people were admitted to the hospitals for treatment.

Aftershocks continued to rock Santa Cruz County this morning but there were no reports of new, major building damage or injury.

Geologists believe they have located the epicenter of Tuesday's quake on the Santa Cruz Mountains summit north of the

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'Hidden impacts' of big quake will affect the area for years

By BOB SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Damage estimates in Santa Cruz County continue to rise today as government officials reassess the impact of Tuesday's earthquake on the county.

But there are hidden impacts — mostly economic ones — that will affect the county and its residents for months, if not years, to come. The following information was supplied by the county Office of Emergency Services.

The closure of Highway 17, which could last until December, will affect tourism, local employment and local residents who hold jobs in Santa Clara County.

The county and the cities will suffer directly through the loss of tax revenues.

Property tax rolls will drop as homeowners, business people and others file for reduced assessments (see related story).

Others simply will postpone paying their taxes. Past experience indicates that tax delinquencies will increase significantly in the next few years. Revenue losses, county officials reported, may reach several hundred thousand dollars a year, or more.

Sales tax revenue, a revenue mainstay for the county and the four cities, will be affected as visitors stay home and residents buy less.

The county will be faced with increased expenses for general assistance, health care and other health and social services for children, the elderly and the sick.

Deed transfer fees from the sale of real property and vehicle license fees from the regional drop in automobile sales will both drop.

Cities face similar and also different problems in their future.

Watsonville city officials estimate \$75 million in economic losses, including lost sales tax revenue, a decline in its transient occupancy tax (motel) and loss of parking revenues.

Watsonville will be demolishing all reinforced masonry buildings in the 400 block of Main Street.

Eighty-five percent of the mobile homes in the city are off their foundations.

There is unstable water pressure in the city's water system. Pajaro Dunes residents are without water. The Pajaro Bridge is going down. Amesti Dam is buckling. Only one of the two main routes into the city is open.

Santa Cruz has suffered building damage estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars to its downtown area and to homes. Thirty percent of the downtown area will have to be demolished.

Highway 17 won't open for 2 months

Highway 17 will not be reopened between Santa Cruz and the Santa Clara Valley until early December, state transportation officials said this morning.

A Caltrans spokesman in San Francisco said initial damage estimates for the highway are now at the \$6 million level.

She said most of the damage was done by landslides along virtually the entire mountainous section of the highway — from Highway 9 in Los Gatos to Granite Creek Road in Scotts Valley.

A major slide, reportedly involving hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of earth, is at Glenwood on the Santa Cruz side of the summit.

Highway 9 remains open between Santa Cruz and Los Gatos. The Ben Lomond bridge on the state highway was closed yesterday and traffic diverted along Lower Glen Arbor Road. The detour was still in effect this morning but traffic was moving both north and south.

In the Watsonville area, there is no estimate of when the Harkins Slough bridge over Highway 1 will be reopened.

Highway 129, closed for repairs before the earthquake, will not be reopened before the end of October, at the earliest, Caltrans said this morning.

Highway 152 between Watsonville and Gilroy remains open.

Highway 1 north of Santa Cruz is open all the way to San Francisco and Highway 92 from Half Moon Bay to I-280 is also open, CALTRANS said.

forecast

Mostly cloudy tonight with a 30 percent chance of rain. Overnight lows in the 50s. Rain likely tomorrow.

Details page 11.

Watsonville business owners and city officials were scheduled to meet this afternoon to talk about the downtown. Business people were hoping to discuss a range of issues, including getting into condemned buildings to salvage items, the building or rebuilding process, and what funds might be available to them for reconstruction, Charlene Shaffer, executive director of the Watsonville Chamber of Commerce said.

The chamber's office is closed but Shaffer can be reached at her home at 761-1660.

At least 150 homes are completely uninhabitable, Washington said. One of the hardest hit areas was Jefferson Street, where many old Victorians caved in. Eighty-five percent of the city's mobile homes have come off their foundations. Losses to homes have been estimated at \$30 million.

Inspectors will continue to do house-by-house inspections today and will also be taking the names of people who are homeless.

Washington said the city will be setting up registration tables at the shelters to find out how many people are actually without a home. She couldn't give an estimate of how many were homeless in the city, but said about 500 people are staying in shelters each night. City officials are working with several social service agencies to plan permanent housing for people, she said. The National Guard Armory will probably be used in the meantime for longer-term housing.

The city has heard that many residents aren't aware of emergency services or of the state of things in Watsonville, she said. City workers will be going to each city block today and giving information on water, power and housing over bullhorns in Spanish.

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Is Bush here? Nobody really knows

President Bush was scheduled to be in Santa Cruz this morning, but at noon the Pacific Garden Mall was so tightly cordoned off that his presence could not be confirmed.

Bush landed at Moffett Field over the hill at midmorning, and was scheduled to inspect earthquake damage in Northern California.

The schedule called for him to fly to Scotts Valley by helicopter late this morning, then take a motorcade into Santa Cruz.

At noon the mall area was totally cut off, and the sound of sirens could be heard. It was not known if they were the Bush motorcade or something else.

If the president was here, there will be a full report in tomorrow's paper.