

The Day 'The City' Shook and Burned . . . April 18, 1906



San Francisco, known always to old-time Californians as "the city," looked like this just before the debacle. Every building in this panoramic photo was either leveled or gutted.

Earthquake!

Sixty years ago tomorrow California stood on end in a violent dance of death and destruction.

On April 18, 1906, the most powerful earthquake in the memory of living man shook San Francisco into a crumpled and smoking caricature of itself.

The 650-mile long San Andreas fault unleashed its power in wave after wave of terror that left hundreds dead and millions of dollars in damage.

Buildings fell. The very earth opened in its tortured writhing. San Francisco lay in fractured ruins. Then the fire started and the city's water supply failed.

Text by Margaret Koch

All Photos from the
Roy Boekennoogen Collection





Gutted shells, looking down Third street.

Tree'n'Sea Living

the march of flame. It did no good — the flames leaped hundreds of feet at a time.

Other areas of the state were hard hit but no place suffered as San Francisco did.

Santa Cruz had fallen chimneys, cracked concrete, broken dishes, splintered wood walls. But curiously enough, the worst disasters in county occurred not in thickly populated mote mountain spots. Eight sleeping at Loma Prieta lumber mill in Hink-

Two men were lost at a shingle mill on Deer Creek above Boulder Creek when another earth slide covered James Dollar and James Franklin.

As a last crazy, curious touch crazy, a third land slide created a growing at odd angles in northern Santa Cruz county. For years the place was

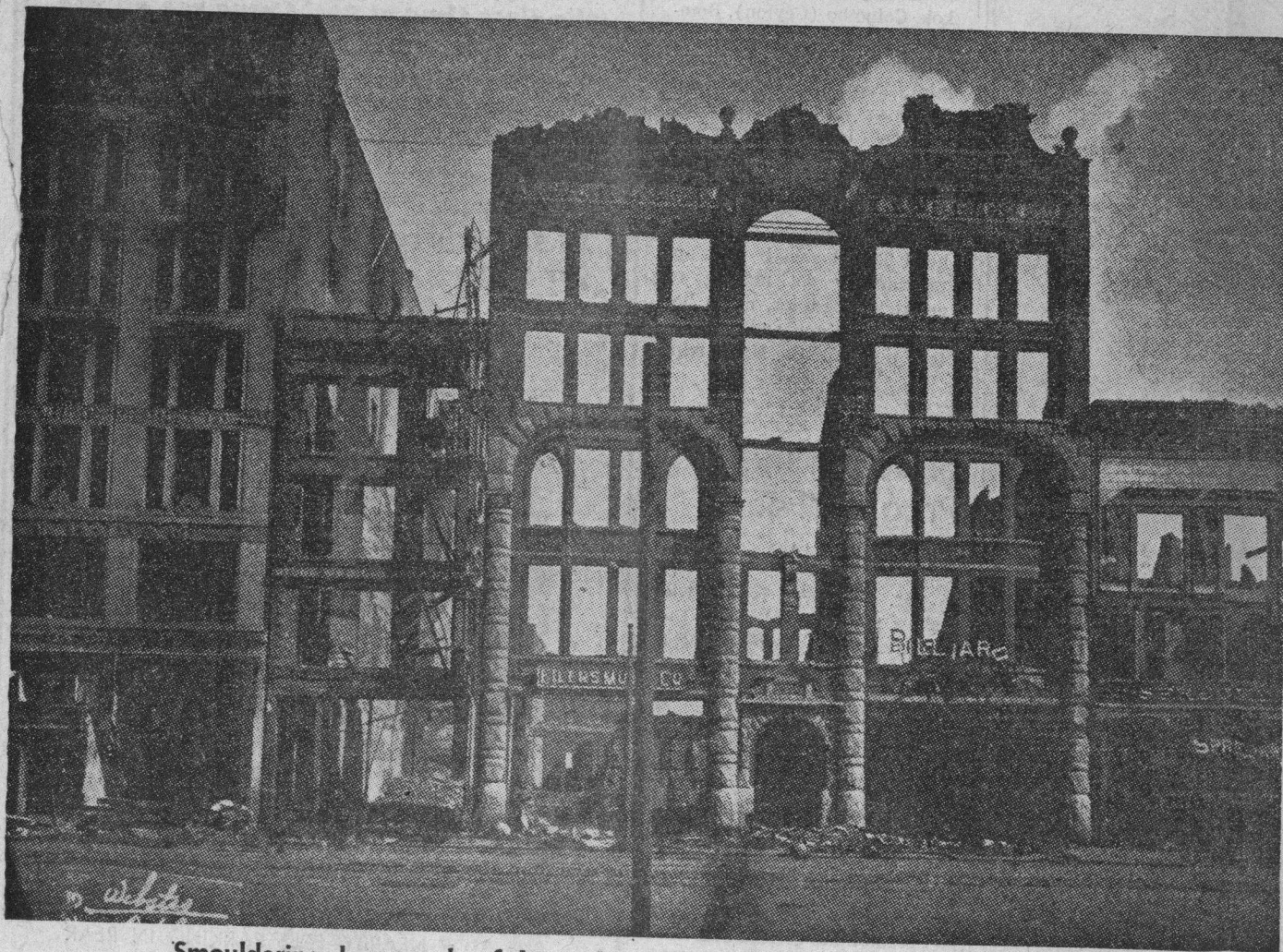
Santa Cruz areas but in remote men were buried alive ley Basin.

gle mill on Deer another earth slide

in a world gone thick jumble of trees all ern Santa Cruz county. For called the "Crazy Forest."



Bread lines formed in San Francisco's ruined streets.



Smouldering lace work of burned buildings on Market street above Third.



Some clung to the few possessions they were able to save . . . a sewing machine, pair of crutches, trunks.