

Weather

Fair Through Friday

With Warm Days

And Cool Nights

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Santa Cruz

124th Year No. 20

Thursday, January 24, 1980

RR - Earthquake

5.8 Earthquake Rocks Northern California

An unusually long-lasting earthquake rolled through Santa Cruz County at 11 o'clock this morning, setting buildings swaying, but apparently causing no damage.

Seismologists at UC Berkeley reported the quake registered 5.8 on the

Richter Scale and lasted 15 to 20 seconds. It was centered near Livermore, where reportedly six persons sustained minor injuries, including one man who fell from a ladder in his apartment.

In Livermore, there was damage to

some buildings, gas leaks at two schools and at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, where nuclear research is conducted. Lab workers were evacuated because of gas leaking from damaged pipes, but an of-

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North State Earthquake

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ficial told the Associated Press there was no damage to the reactor. Other minor damage was reported in Modesto and Stockton, where one old hotel was evacuated because of structural damage.

A quake with a reading of 5 is capable of doing considerable damage, and one of 6 can do severe damage.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system immediately halted all train service for 45 minutes. Service was resumed after it was determined that the system had suffered no damage.

Reports to The Associated Press indicated the temblor was felt over a large area of Northern California — from Monterey and the San Joaquin Valley to Santa Rosa — and as far away as Carson City, Nev.

The quake produced a rolling mo-

tion through Santa Cruz County, but was not accompanied by the usual concussion or shock feeling.

Margaret Perry, chief dispatcher at the county Emergency Center, reported receiving numerous calls from residents "asking did you feel the earthquake?" or "was there an earthquake?" but she said there were no reports of damage.

Department of Forestry Dispatcher Ed Pope said there were no reports of damage in the Felton Ranger Unit area, which covers Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties.

A Santa Cruz Police dispatcher also reported receiving numerous calls, including one from a resident who said he was awakened when a glass clock fell off the wall in his residence.

An earthquake that measured 5.9 on the Richter scale hit San Francisco last Aug. 6. That quake, centered near

Hollister, was one of the strongest since the great earthquake that leveled much of San Francisco in 1906.

The Richter scale is a measure of ground motion as recorded on seismographs. Every increase of one number means a tenfold increase in magnitude. Thus a reading of 7.5 reflects an earthquake 10 times stronger than one of 6.5.

The earthquake of 1906, which occurred before the Richter scale was devised, has been estimated at 7.9 on the Richter scale.

Only four quakes greater than the Aug. 6 one have struck the San Francisco Bay area in this century. Other such strong tremors were a 1911 quake estimated at 6.6, which was centered near Hollister on the Calaveras Fault, and two temblors of a 6.1 magnitude centered off the coast of Monterey in 1926.