



Slides in Felton

FELTON — Big slides hit Felton after the deluge Friday. One closed Highway 9 at Paradise Park, above, for what one Caltrans worker said could be several days.

At left, Dr. Karl Palmberg and his wife, Laura, look up at the mudslide which came within feet of smashing into their Farmer Street home late Friday afternoon.

Neighbors Jill Hendersen and Maria Orozco said they could feel and hear the slide as it rumbled and crashed down the hillside. The pair knew the sound immediately — they lost their home on Bear Creek Road in the Storm of '82. They were less than enthusiastic about staying below the hillside that still stood Friday, as county geologists told them it too was in danger of failing.

Palmberg said he was napping in his house when the slide, which came down in two sections 1½ hours apart, began.

Rene Gladu, shown below, lives with the Palmbergs. He saw trees on the slope began to move and realized it was beginning to slip, said Palmberg. He ran in front of the slide to reach the house and awaken the sleeping man to rout him out to safety.

"That was pretty brave of him, I'd say," Palmberg said.

As he related the story Saturday morning, he shouted to be heard over the crashing trees and snarling chainsaws of tree-felling crews. They cut away the tangle of redwood trees which had come across the road still standing, and leaned over Palmberg's house and that of his neighbor, Lillian Kamp.

Kamp's house also sustained only light damage. She was not home when the slide occurred.

