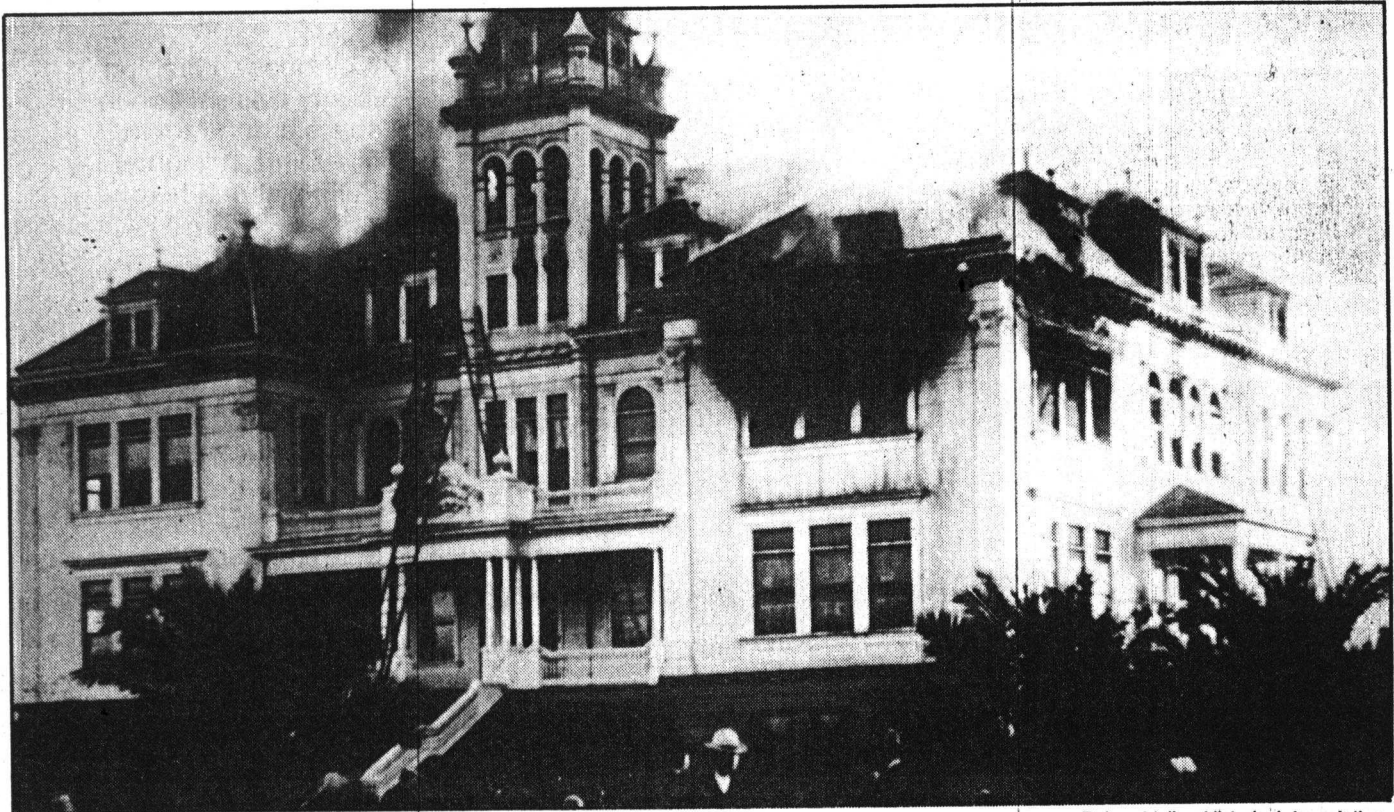


Remembering earthquakes past



Pajaro Valley Historical Association

Watsonville firemen battled the blaze at Moreland Notre Dame Academy on April 18, 1906.

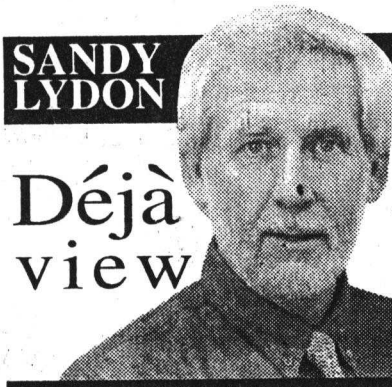
Today, five years following the earthquake that originated in the heart of Santa Cruz County, the quake has become known as the "San Francisco earthquake of 1989." We know better. Sure, the sexiest images of the earthquake — the collapsed deck of the Bay Bridge, the Cypress Freeway, a trembling Candlestick Park, the Marina district fire — came out of San Francisco and Oakland, but WE were at ground zero.

A similar thing happened following the 1906 earthquake. The damage to San Francisco was fearsome, but most of it was caused by the fire that followed. Many other cities along or near the San Andreas fault were devastated by that earthquake, now estimated to have been 8.3 on the Richter scale.

Santa Rosa probably received the most severe damage with over 50 Santa Rosans killed in a demolished downtown. Hollister and Salinas also got hammered. The damage in Santa

**SANDY
LYDON**

**Déjà
view**



Cruz County was not as severe, but as always, we took our lumps.

This dramatic photograph was taken about an hour after the quake, and it shows Watsonville firemen putting out a fire in the upper story of the Moreland Notre Dame Academy, which stood just across Main Street from St. Patrick's Church.

The fire began when chemicals that

fell out of a storage cabinet ignited. No one was injured in the fire; by 7:30 a.m., it had been extinguished. Within a week the good sisters had resumed classes in temporary quarters across the street, and life went on.

Oh, there were lengthy discussions about safer buildings, better insurance coverage, and better emergency planning. But, as the memory of 1906 faded, not much changed around here.

It may be painful and depressing to keep the memory of the Loma Prieta earthquake alive, but we must. That's the price we pay to live in this most gorgeous spot on God's green earth.

If you have a favorite photograph you would like to see used in this column, or one that you would like some help identifying, send a copy (never send original photographs) to Déjà View, Sandy Lydon, care of The Santa Cruz County Sentinel, 207 Church St., Santa Cruz, Calif. 95060.

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