

Earthquake 1989 - Santa Cruz County

Mayor's home falls victim to quake

By Robin Musitelli
Special to the Mercury News

Bulldozers have razed a roadway for a bypass around Scotts Valley's earthquake-cracked Granite Creek Bridge — right through the mayor's house.

THE QUAKE
OF
'89

Mayor Glennon Culwell's house behind the Scotts Valley Baptist Church on Granite Creek Road was the city's seventh structure claimed by the 7.1-magnitude earthquake on Oct. 17.

Public Works Director Robert Rockett delivered the gloomy news to Culwell af-

Scotts Valley bypass cuts through Culwell's land

ter determining there was no other place for a temporary bypass road except through the three-bedroom house.

It's not the sort of news a city employee looks forward to handing the mayor. But Culwell, a semi-retired Baptist minister, took the news in stride, said Rockett.

The Scotts Valley City Council approved the emergency bridge work last Thursday evening. Culwell voted for the general

emergency action that led to the condemnation of his house.

By Friday morning, the bulldozers were delivered to the site. On Saturday, city employees and friends volunteered their help moving the mayor, his wife Jean, daughter Janet and friend Naomi Lyall into a duplex.

And on Sunday morning the house was demolished.

"It happened so rapidly, sometimes now we wake up and have to think where we are," Culwell said.

The city will pay the Culwells' rent while they look for another home.

The Culwells and Lyall, a part owner of the demolished house, are to be paid a yet-to-be-determined price for their former home, based on an appraisal of its value before the earthquake.