

We're outta here!

WE'RE

Scared residents move on

By KEITH MURAOKA
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Most of us are still jumpy after last month's 7.1 temblor here.

And it appears that plenty of us are so scared we're leaving town.

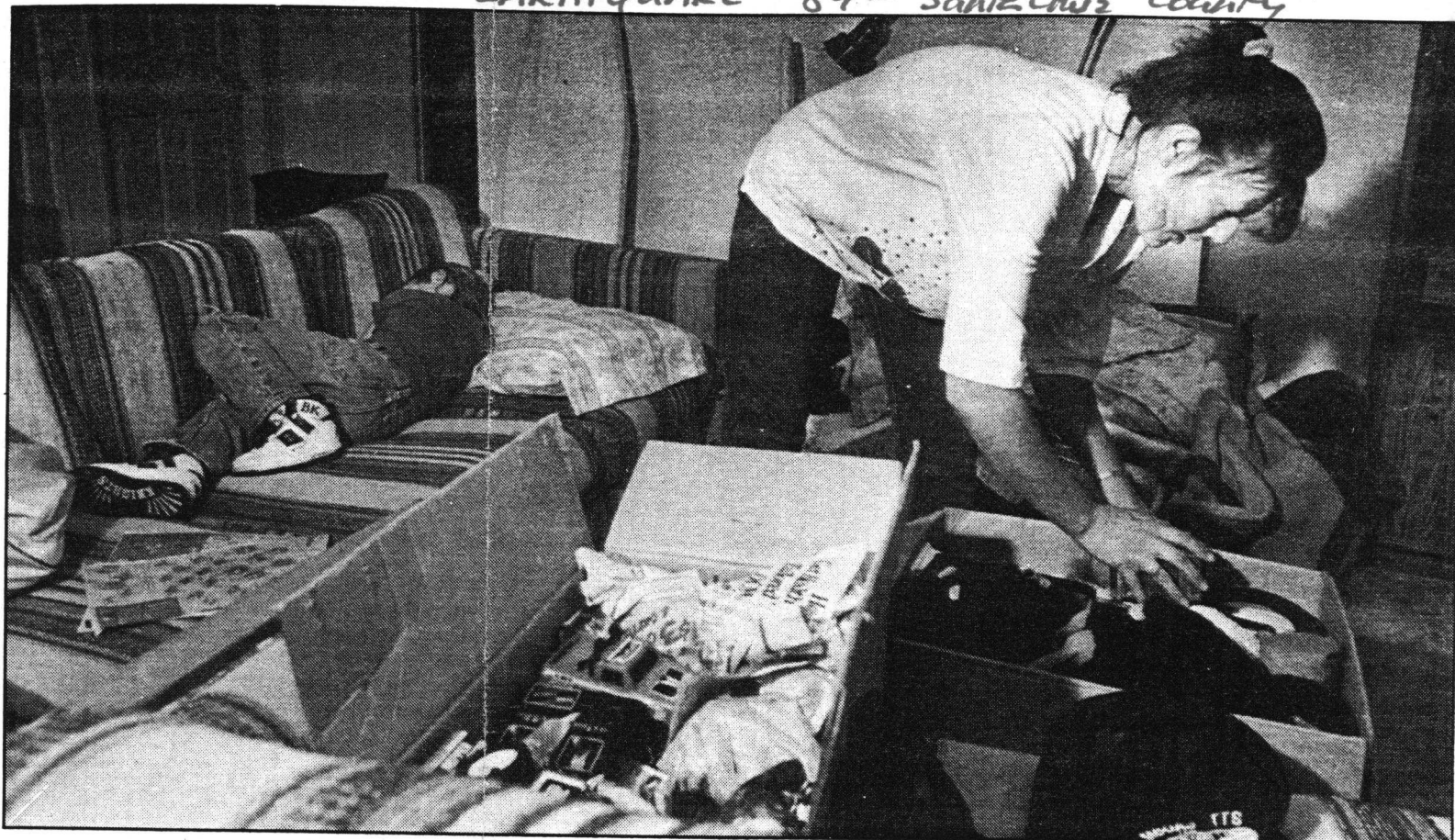
"I'll just be glad to get out of here," said Tracy Warren, who has already left Live Oak with her children for Sacramento.

Nancy Riedeman of California Moving Service in Aptos reports she's had "several dozen" telephone calls from county residents who are so nervous that they're pulling out.

"A lot of them are moving to Oregon, (Lake) Tahoe or Sacramento — anyplace they think is out of the fault line," Riedeman said. "I feel like a counseling service sometimes. I've had to reassure people. Some have come in here literally in tears."

Regina Smith, president of Caparo Relocation — a na-

EARTHQUAKE '89 — Santa Cruz County



Tracy Warren, here packing belongings while her son Brandon naps, is moving from Live Oak to Sacramento.

Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

tionwide company that provides free information for newly-relocated residents — said they've had about 50 calls from area resi-

dents since their ad has been running in the Sentinel.

"Yes, I have been surprised at the reaction," Smith said by tele-

phone from her Philadelphia headquarters. "Most of the people have said they are moving just because of the earthquake."

According to Smith, callers are moving "anywhere from Hawaii

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to Vermont."

On Friday, Randy and Tracy Warren of Live Oak were packing a moving van en route to Sacramento. Tracy, along with their two children, has already moved in with her mother in Sacramento. They'll stay there until Randy — a heavy-equipment operator for the state — can get a transfer.

"It's been real bad," said Tracy, who admitted to being terrified during the Oct. 17 earthquake. "Like everyone else, I've been through little ones before, but nothing like this one. I never want to go through it again."

Tracy had to promise her 5-year-old, Brandon, that they wouldn't stay the night in their former home. "That was the only way I could talk him into coming back to help move," she said.

Kline Kemp, a truck dispatcher from Aptos, is also moving back to Sacramento. He said his wife was extremely upset about the earthquake and, they felt, "this was just a good time to leave." While he doesn't have a job yet, Kline said he has "two or three possibilities."

The Warren's and the Kemp's had lived in the Santa Cruz area for only 1 and 1½ years, respectively. But it's not just the newcomers who are leaving.

Longtime residents Dirk and Cindy Fors of Aptos are heading to Eugene, Ore.

"I've been here five years, but she (Cindy) has been here her whole life," said Dirk. "I'm originally from Chicago. We don't have earthquakes there."

Dirk explained that they had been planning to move to Oregon before the earthquake. "It (the

earthquake) more or less made up our minds that we should get out before another big one hits. I think our fear increased."

The aftershocks haven't helped their peace of mind either. The 4.4 shock Wednesday night came as the Fors were in a movie theater. "I thought for sure the roof was going to come down," Dirk said.

Riedeman, of California Moving Service, acknowledged that "some people can't handle the aftershocks."

Riedeman said their business was swamped soon after the quake from people who had to move because their homes were severely damaged. "Now I'm getting calls, especially with the aftershocks, from people who to move because they're afraid."

"I had one lady who was so

shook up, she was afraid she was going to have a heart attack," Riedeman said. "One guy came in to buy foam-packing material. He said he had lived through the Vietnam War, his father had lived through World War II and it was time for him to get out."

But, at least so far, area realtors say they haven't felt the crunch of earthquake-trembling residents who are moving away.

Sharon Lake, president of the Santa Cruz Board of Realtors, said, "I'm sure some (housing) inventory will be created as a result of the earthquake, but, speaking only from personal knowledge, I haven't gotten any new listings because of it."

Ralph Bargetto, vice president of the Santa Cruz Board of Realtors, agreed. "It's been a little slow since the earthquake, but

activity has just started to pick up," he said.

Both Lake and Bargetto recommended that area homeowners hang in there. Fear about home values plummeting because of the earthquake have not materialized.

Meanwhile, other longtime area residents scoff at those who are fleeing.

Phil Matthews, a resident of Ben Lomond since 1953, said bluntly that he never considered moving.

"I'm from the Midwest originally," he said. "Between the humidity in the summer and the snow in the winter, I'll take an earthquake any day. Hey, look at the weather right now. This is paradise. I don't want to live anywhere else."