

MARINA DISTRICT, OAKLAND WORLDS APART

Quake creates two classes of homeless

By KEN MACQUEEN
Southam News

OAKLAND, Calif. — It is a cliché to say that an earthquake is a great leveller. But some clichés are true.

At 5:04 p.m. Tuesday, the second worst earthquake in California history created two classes of homeless.

On one side of San Francisco Bay — within sight of the undamaged Golden Gate Bridge — are the homeless of the Marina District, a funky, affluent neighborhood of yuppies and the wealthy retired.

Across the Bay in Oakland — in the rough areas of downtown and the poor residential and industrial section along the collapsed Highway 880 — is a second concentration of heavy damage and despair.

On Friday morning, television showed the plight of one well-dressed resident of the Marina District.

Like the occupants of at least 50 buildings in this district, he has been given 15 minutes by San Francisco Police to get personal possessions out of his shattered Victorian apartment.

The building must be demolished and the man is caught in a horrible, televised game of beat the clock.

He scrambles gingerly outside with delicate furnishings. He appears at a second-storey window, dumping suitcases, dress shirts and a rainbow of sweaters to the street.

Across the bay in Oakland, is Victor Mendonca.

He is one of four men standing in front of Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, which has been converted into an overflowing Red Cross disaster shelter.

"All of a sudden I'm homeless and I don't know how to handle it," he says. He is helping three companions drain two bottles wrapped in brown paper.

The alcohol has not improved their mood. Overhead is the clatter of helicopters: U.S. President George Bush is touring the highway collapse about 10 blocks away.

"Tell George we need money," says one keeper of the bottle.

"The rich people are going to get the money," says Mendonca. "We're gonna get shit."

He is already planning a return to his condemned apartment. He will sneak past police lines to grab his fishing rods and tackle.

He will also take his favorite piece of art, which shows a cat staring hungrily at a goldfish bowl. "Just

like a cat to do that," he says.

These, then, are the two sections of the Bay area hit hardest by the earthquake. Until the disaster, the Marina District and West Oakland had nothing in common. Even now, they move in different orbits.

A detached house in the Marina District costs between \$400,000 and \$1 million. Or at least they used to. Baseball great Joe Dimaggio lives there. Or at least he used to.

San Francisco had an elaborate system in place within two days of the quake to inspect the district and return as many people home as possible.

The people of the Marina District are hurting. Some seem in a daze as they walk the fringes of their damaged neighborhood.

It is no less real, or tragic, than the people of Oakland.

If there is a difference, it is that perhaps the City of Oakland is not jumping as high, or as far, for its homeless.

When Carol Tiger, 52, snuck back to her condemned fifth-floor apartment, she certainly didn't have a policeman and a building inspector along for protection.

She grabbed her valuables too: some long sleeved sweaters for her and husband Benjamin. His two pairs of steel-toed boots so he could go back to work at the shipyards. The life insurance papers from the sock drawer.

She didn't get her photo album and she didn't dare retrieve his tools, far too heavy for the weakened stairs.

"I think I made the last trip in there I'm going to make," she says. "I came out and I was just bathed in sweat."

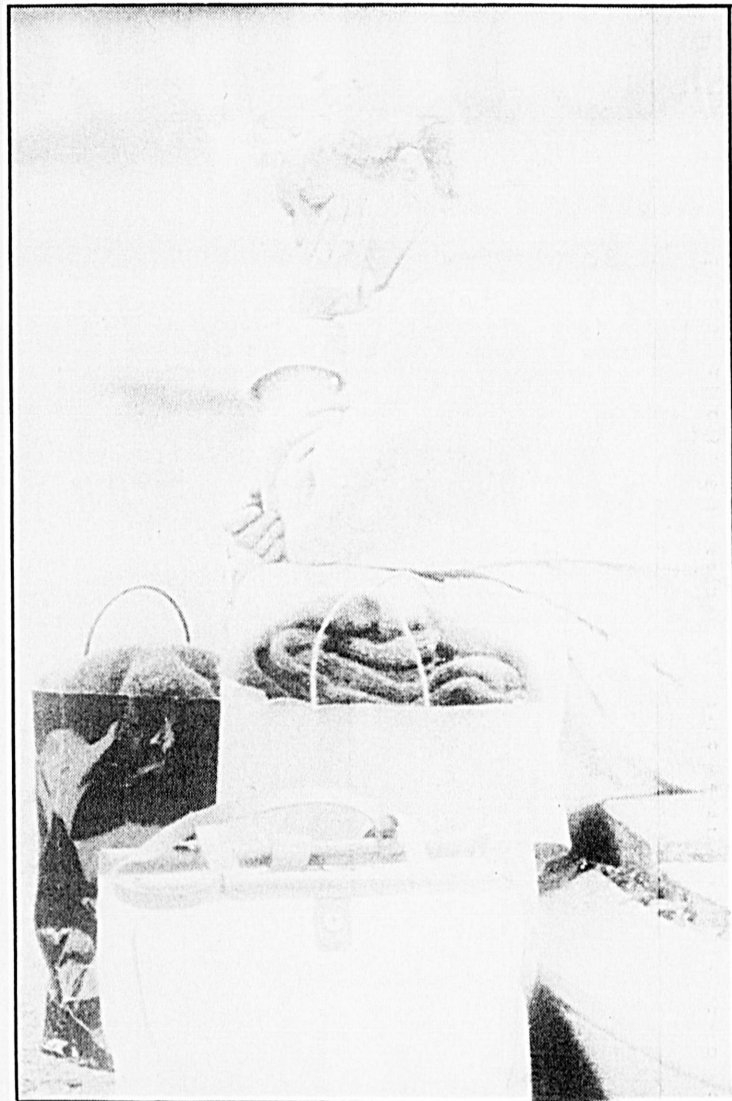
Red Cross shelter manager Joan Rick estimates there are 1,800 homeless in Oakland shelters.

Most of the attention in Oakland has focused on the grim recovery work at the nearby highway collapse.

"People are totally unaware of what is happening here," she says of the homeless. "We need money, bad."

Further southwest, in the downtown, James Scott is sitting on the sidewalk in front of damaged Hotel San Pablo. It wasn't very nice before the quake, he says, but at least it was an occasional place to sleep.

He was homeless before Tuesday and now he has no place to sleep. Some things don't change.



An unidentified woman cries alone alongside her possessions.

Skeleton found in river

It will take some time to determine proper identification of a skeleton found in the Fraser River near Red Rock, say RCMP.

The skeleton was discovered at about noon Friday by three youths who were boating on the river about two kilometres from McKellar Road.

Local coroner John Wolsey will be determining the identity of the skeleton.

★ ★ ★

Results from an autopsy into the death of William Alan Cressman show the 30-year-old Prince George man died by hanging.

"Any other information, such as what he hung himself with, will not be released until the inquest," said Prince George coroner Elizabeth Noble, who conducted the autopsy Friday.

Cressman, who was discovered dead in his cell Thursday morning shortly after 3 a.m., had been picked up by Prince George RCMP for breach of probation.

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A single motor vehicle accident Friday took place shortly after 10 p.m. when a southbound transport truck went off the road and knocked over a B.C. Hydro pole.

Driver Donald Kerr, 41, of Sicamous, B.C., was not injured. RCMP investigators estimate \$30,000 to \$35,000 damage was sustained by the transport truck and the pole.

★ ★ ★

Four pedestrians escaped serious injury while crossing at the intersection of 15th Avenue and Johnson Street at about 8 p.m. Friday.

Prince George driver Sean Cowger failed to stop for the pedestrians and two of them, Linda Charlie, 31, and her nine-year-old son Kirk were taken to Prince George Regional Hospital and treated and later released.

Cowger has been charged with failing to yield to pedestrians.

RCMP caution pedestrians should be wearing white or light-colored clothing at night, especially at this time of year when night visibility is poor.

Clergy Comment

by PASTOR BILL MEIER
Evangelical Free Church

Can you imagine the dialogue between Job and God? Job astride the ash heap, his body covered with boils, his heart torn apart with grief over the loss of his children and possessions and his mind in turmoil because he can't make rhyme or reason out of his dilemma.

His three friends don't help much. They assume Job has committed some terrible sin, that he deserves all the vents that have happened. Job insists he is innocent.

As for God. He remains silent for a long time. His answers remain hidden from Job even though Job continually cries out in desperation. His friends sure don't answer for God. They assume God's silence indicates they are right!

Finally God speaks. Interestingly enough He does not give specific answers to Job's cry of "Why me?" Kind of like trying to explain to an ant how the space shuttle takes off into orbit and returns.

God, instead, fires questions at Job!

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?"

"Ever walked in the recesses of the deep?"

"Can you thunder with a voice like God's?"

Job shakes his head in dismay. "I don't know."

The questions in Job 38-41 continue. Job's head hangs lower and lower, his pride slips away. He begins to realize God's point.

"I have declared what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me which I did not know. I will ask thee and do instruct me," Job replies (42:3,4).

What's the point of this dialogue? God never answers Job's questions. He helps Job realize God's ways and thoughts are not ours. His knowledge goes far beyond our understanding. Some things we just cannot understand. That hurts our human pride does it not?

Job states (42:5) "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear but now my eye sees thee."

Did God stand in front of job? No! He saw God through the eye of faith. "Though He kill me, I will still trust in Him," becomes real to Job.

I don't understand why things happen the way they do, why the world is unfair, why God remains silent, sometimes distant.

God chooses to not explain it at times because I just couldn't grasp it.

He wants me to respond with trust, faith. Does that ease the pain? Probably not, but it does rekindle my hope and that's enough to keep me going. It is not a blind leap of faith but a confidence placed in a God who has proven to be trustworthy in the end.

HAROLD MANN REGIONAL PARK

District moves to halt shore erosion

One side of Harold Mann Regional Park washing away and needs to be stabilized, says a parks coordinator.

The park is "eroding away at an accelerated speed", according to Keith Cupp of the Fraser-Fort George Regional District. Cupp told directors this week about 125 meters of the shoreline of the park, located east of Prince George along the Giscome Highway on Eagle Lake, is washing away quickly and needs to be shored up.

He attributed the erosion to removal of Willows, Alder, Dogwood and Poplar during construction in the area, coupled with high water levels and strong southwesterly winds each spring.

Directors approved his recommendation to re-vegetate the area by grassing to slow run-off and wave action while creating a natural shoreline and providing access to the water.

Necessary grading of the area will be done this fall during low-water season and the rest of the

BRIEFLY Region

job will be put out to tender.

Estimated cost is about \$9,050.

Other damages suffered in the park included a snow fence being used for kindling, picnic tables tossed into the lake and the "nightly disappearance of toilet paper."

In other regional parks, vandalism took a high toll this past summer even though the regional district hired security people to regularly check the areas.

Wilkins Park, in the Miworth area, was the hardest hit with an escaped campfire, smashed park benches and picnic tables and damages to footpaths by galloping horses.

McMillan Park, at the top of the city's cutbanks, had tables wrecked, burned and thrown over the bank as well as several fires lit and signs destroyed.

Berman Lake had a fire set in a

sawdust pile along with smashed tables while Ness Lake lost two water buoys and had anchoring ropes cut to release the dock out into the lake.

Directors feel the cost of security will continue to increase with stepped-up service necessary and is requesting security persons submit written reports on a regular basis.

Up to now, they have only submitted reports when requested.

The historic Huble homestead, located about 40 km north of Prince George is closed to visitors for the winter.

The historic farm setting, being restored by the Giscome Portage Historical Society in conjunction with Fraser-Fort George Regional District and the B.C. government, will reopen next May, according to Jim Scott, regional district director for Crooked River-Parsnip electoral area.

Scott told directors meeting Thursday the site received near 2,000 visitors this past summer, in-

cluding about 300 at the official opening in September.

The heritage farm site, located on the banks of the Fraser River, dates back to 1906 when Albert Huble began construction on the log farm house with hand tools.

Directors are anxious for the B.C. highway ministry to put up "Closed for the Season" signs so people don't make the four-mile trip into the site from Highway 97 north for nothing.

A proposed electrification project for the Norman Lake area, through FFRD, has been put on hold pending two studies.

Residents in the area opposing the project have asked for a study on the possible environment impact of bringing power to the area.

In the meantime, FFRD is conducting an economic analysis based on cost figures supplied by B.C. Hydro.

Directors agreed no further steps will be taken until both studies are completed.

McBride Hospital has sold its pharmacy to a private pharmacist who intends to take over the business at the end of this month.

The hospital established the pharmacy some time ago when the town was left without a drug store.

Haste needed on environment

We're running out of time to deal with the idea of sustainable development, according to UBC president David Strangway.

"From a social and political view we have only a matter of a few months to a year to capitalize on the idea before people become cynical," Strangway told The Citizen on Friday.

"From a physical view things are different," he said.

"In British Columbia we're in relatively good shape compared to the rest of the world, environmentally."

Strangway, speaking at the Association of Professional Engineers annual convention here, said one problem is that people have different definitions of "sustainable development."

"To a mining company it's being able to move on to another mine when this one is finished, to an environmentalist it may be only doing things to the earth which naturally heal. Most people's definitions fall somewhere in between."

"However, the Brundtland Report (for the U.N. by the former prime minister of Norway) has captured the public imagination in a way few documents have, and people are now searching for ways to be able to keep going, to be able to sustain activities, and that's new."

However, Strangway pointed out to the engineers, Mother Nature has done a lot of experimenting, with some of the effects erratic and catalysmic, like when the light of the sun was blocked out for more than a year several hundred thousand years ago, killing off the dinosaurs.

He admitted to the group that, as

a geophysicist who headed the group which studied samples brought back by the Apollo astronauts from the moon, and in his studies here on earth, "I've concentrated on the first 4.5 billion years of our planet's history."

When asked if the rapid warming of the earth's atmosphere, now underway and called the Greenhouse Effect, is reversible, Strangway said he doesn't want to spread doom and gloom. He instead wanted to encourage people to do what can be done now, and deal with environmental problems and conflicts

and, most importantly, "to learn from the past, rather than repeat it."

On Venus, he said, there's proof of what the Greenhouse Effect can be like, with an atmosphere there warmer than the melting point of lead, melting the solder on a Soviet spacecraft which landed on the planet.

"There's an argument whether nature works by catalysmic events or as a continual process, but it doesn't really matter. Random events are a major part of the earth's processes."

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Weather

Immediate Prince George area: Increasing clouds today will lead to periods of rain beginning this afternoon, says the weatherman. Tonight clouds are expected along with showers and snow at higher levels.

Periods of rain are expected to continue Sunday with cloudy skies and a continuing chance of snow at higher levels.

Chances of precipitation are 90 per cent for this afternoon, 90 per cent tonight and 80 per cent Sunday.

Today's high should be 8, dropping down to an overnight low of 3. Sunday's high is expected to be 7.

Friday's high was 8.9 and the overnight low was 2.8. There was 3.2 mm of rain and no sunshine recorded at the weather office.

A year ago today the high was 12.2 and the overnight low was 4. There was 2.9 mm of rain and 3.1 hours of sunshine recorded at the weather office.

The sun will set tonight at 6:00 and rise Sunday at 7:52. Sunset Sunday will be at 5:58 and sunrise Monday at 7:54.

Chilcotin-Cariboo: Cloudy with fog patches this morning. Periods of rain this afternoon. High 8, tonight, cloudy with showers. Snow flurries at higher elevations. Low 4. Sunday, cloudy with a few showers. Morning snow flurries at higher elevations. High 7. Probability of precipitation 100 per cent today, 90 tonight and 80 Sunday.

WORD OF MOUTH

presented by
College of Dental Surgeons of B.C.

CHILDREN'S DENTAL EMERGENCIES

The beginning of a new school year brings to mind schoolyard activities and unfortunate injuries to the mouth that may be sustained from energetic play. When a dental trauma occurs as the result of an accident, a little knowledge may prevent permanent damage to your child's teeth and mouth.

Johnny falls on the school steps and bangs a front tooth, which later turns dark. The discoloration is an indication that the pulp, or soft inner tissue, of the tooth has been injured. The damaged pulp represents a possible source of infection that should be assessed and monitored by a dentist. Similarly, if the tooth is loosened in an accident, immediate attention is also required. The dentist may recommend attaching a splint to the tooth to prevent its loss.

What if your child has a tooth knocked out by accident? If it is a permanent tooth, there is a good chance it can be successfully replanted if you act quickly. A clean tooth should be placed back in the tooth socket — if it is not too painful and the child is old enough to hold it in place — otherwise, deposit it in a container of milk. In either case, do not clean or handle the tooth roots, and take the child and tooth to the dentist immediately. The child should receive professional attention within 30 minutes for best results; the prognosis, if treatment is delayed beyond 2 hours, is not good.

If your child knocks a "baby" tooth out, take him or her to the dentist as soon as possible for examination, but don't expect the tooth to be put back. Bring the tooth with you so the dentist can see if the whole tooth came out or whether it broke inside the gums. A space maintainer may be recommended to replace the tooth until the permanent tooth comes in, thus keeping the remaining teeth from drifting out of place.

Injuries that result in a broken tooth should be attended to right away. Gently clean any dirt or debris from the injured area with warm water. Apply cold compresses or ice to the face over the injured tooth to keep swelling down, and take the child immediately to the dentist for examination. A crown or cap may be required if the damage is severe, but minor restorations may be made by "bonding" plastic material to the tooth.

Nothing short of locking children in their room will keep them completely safe from oral injury. However, by teaching them to play safely in the schoolyard, while skateboarding, bicycling or diving into the swimming pool, you can help protect them. Discourage children from eating hard items such as popcorn kernels, ice or nuts. Make sure seat belts, sports mouthguards, and approved infant carseats are used. And if, despite your good advice, your child sustains oral injury, know what to do to give him or her the best chance for permanent recovery.

Information within this column is not intended to diagnose or plan treatment; readers should consult their dentist for individual dental care. Readers' questions are welcome. Please write: Word of Mouth, College of Dental Surgeons of B.C., 1125 W. 8th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6H 3N4.