

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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The Call=Chronicle=Examiner

SAN FRANCISCO, THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1906.

EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE: SAN FRANCISCO IN RUINS

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION HAVE BEEN THE FATE OF SAN FRANCISCO. SHAKEN BY A TREMOR AT 8:15 O'CLOCK YESTERDAY MORNING, THE SHOCK LASTING 45 SECONDS, AND SCOURGED BY FLAMES THAT RAGED DIAMETRICALLY IN ALL DIRECTIONS, THE CITY IS A MASS OF SMOULDERING RUINS. AT SIX O'CLOCK LAST EVENING THE FLAMES BRUTALLY PLAYING WITH INCREASED VIGOR, THREATENED TO DESTROY SUCH SECTIONS AS THEIR FURY HAD SPARED DURING THE EARLIER PORTION OF THE DAY. FOLLOWING THEIR PATH IN A TRIANGULAR CIRCUIT FROM THE START IN THE EARLY MORNING, THEY JOCKEYED AS THE DAY WANE, LEFT THE BUSINESS SECTION, WHICH THEY HAD ENTIRELY DEVASTATED, AND SKIPPED IN A DOZEN DIRECTIONS TO THE RESIDENCE PORTIONS. AS NIGHT FELL THEY HAD MADE THEIR WAY OVER INTO THE NORTH BEACH SECTION AND SPRINGING AHEAD TO THE SOUTH THEY REACHED "O" ALONG THE SHIPPING SECTION DOWN THE BAY SHORE, OVER THE HILLS AND ACROSS TOWARD THIRD AND TOWNSEND STREETS, WAREHOUSES, WHOLSALE HOUSES AND MANUFACTURING CONCERNS FELL IN THEIR PATH. THIS COMPLETED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENTIRE DISTRICT KNOWN AS THE "SOUTH OF MARKET STREET." HOW FAR THEY ARE REACHING TO THE SOUTH ACROSS THE CHANNEL CANNOT BE TOLD AS THIS PART OF THE CITY IS SHUT OFF FROM SAN FRANCISCO PAPERS.

News From San Francisco - April 18, 1906

The two letters must have reached Richard M. Smith the same day, arriving at his Westmere Ranch, on the coast south of the Highlands, by stage from Monterey.

Both were posted at San Francisco on Friday, April 20, 1906, and, since one arrived at Monterey by train two days later, on a Sunday, its an acceptable guess the other did also. They probably went down the coast by stage the next day.

Undoubtedly, these were the most welcome letters Mr. Smith received in his lifetime; they told him his three daughters had survived the San Francisco Earthquake of April 18 without harm.

Attention of association directors was focused on these letters this past summer by a query from Mrs. Vesta Bauman of La Redwood, the granddaughter of Mr. Smith. Sometime ago she gave the letters to the association, and she asked what use had been made of them.

They are framed, the directors were told, and are hanging in the Casa Serrano headquarters. Copies are on file in the Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library.

On the envelope of one letter it is noted that it was received at Monterey April 22, 1906. It is dated April 20, two days after the quake, and it reads: "Dear Sir, As I happen to see a chance to write a few letters and knowing the girls would not, I

took the liberty to let you know that they are absolutely safe and not suffering. They will be home as soon as possible (three or four days). Hoping you will pardon me, Respectfully, Dan Zirker."

But one of the girls did write, on the same Friday, in fact; and it is the second letter given by Mrs. Bauman. It is dated "Frisco Friday," but there is no salutation. It reads: "Prene, Nita and I are safe and at Souras. I am now in line for bread and they told us we could write. The trains are so unsafe and so terribly crowded that we are afraid to try to go and while all our clothes are burned and the Empress to the ground, We thank God we are uninjured. Starvation all around us, We will be home as soon as possible. Love to all and if anything further should happen remember we are all together. Eva."

While these letters may be just tiny footnotes to the tragic story of the disaster that struck San Francisco early that spring morning, the fact that they have been treasured by generations of one family serves to illustrate the importance of news — fast, accurate news.

A Montereyan attending school in Massachusetts at this time read in Boston papers that Monterey had been inundated by a tidal wave. The telegram she received two days after the quake telling her all was well also became a treasured memento.

This student was mailed the newspapers available, together with the admonition from her mother that she not show them to her schoolmates or friends. "You must hide them," were her mother's instructions about the papers, "from your eastern friends. Don't let them know we have such things."

Of course, newspapers and wire services were doing their best under the most frustrating circumstances to tell the "eastern friends" and their local readers the story of the quake and the fire that followed. Many mistakes were made and many rumors reported as fact, but on the whole newspapers performed well. With all communications of the city destroyed, one of the first stories reportedly was filed to the world by a United Press correspondent who hiked down the peninsula to San Mateo. Telegraph service was restored quickly across the bay, however.

There was no newspaper published in San Francisco on that April 18, nor for a considerable time thereafter. But on Thursday, the day after the quake, a combined issue of the San Francisco Call, the Chronicle and the Examiner hit the streets. Somehow, the papers had set up a joint shop in Oakland, and the reporters carried or sent their stories of the quake and fire across the bay by boat.

The banner headline of this paper read: EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE: SAN FRANCISCO IN RUINS. Other heads read "No Hope Left for Safety of Any Buildings - Blow Buildings Up to Check Flames — Whole City Is Ablaze - Church of Saint Ignatius is Destroyed - MAYOR CONFERS WITH MILITARY AND CITIZENS — AT LEAST 500 ARE DEAD - ENTIRE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO IN DANGER OF BEING ANNIHILATED - Big Business Buildings Already Consumed by Fire and Dynamite...30,000 Smaller Structures Swept Out and Remainder are Doomed - PANIC-STRICKEN PEOPLE FLEE.

In this edition also was a report of a meeting called eight hours after the quake by Mayor E.E. Schmidt. The mayor apparently got right down to business.

"No time was lost at the meeting," a reporter wrote, "and almost the first words spoken by the Mayor breathed strongly of the grimness of the disaster and its accompaniments.

"'Let it be given out,' said the Mayor, sternly, 'that three men already have

SAN FRANCISCO IS A MASS OF RUINS

San Francisco, April 18.—Earthquake and fire today have put nearly half of San Francisco in ruins. At least 200 people have been killed, a thousand others injured and the property loss will exceed \$200,000,000. The number of people are homeless and destitute and all day long streams of people have been fleeing from the stricken districts to places of safety.

FIRST A SHOCK AND THEN FIRE

It was at 5 o'clock this morning when a terrific earthquake shock shook the whole city and surrounding country. One shock apparently lasted two minutes, and there was almost immediate collapse of flimsy structures all over the city. The water supply was cut off, and when fires broke out in various sections there was nothing to do but to let the buildings burn. Telegraph and telephone communication was shut off for a time. The furious fires have been raging all day and the fire department has been powerless to do anything except to dynamite the buildings threatened. All day long explosions have shaken the city and added to the terror of the inhabitants.

SEVERAL OTHER SHOCKS OF EARTHQUAKE

Following the first shock, there was another within five minutes, but not nearly so severe. Three hours later there was another slight quake, and reports from districts outside of San Francisco indicate wide-spread damage.

THOUSANDS HOMELESS IN THE STREETS

Tough, the fire casts weird shadows across the worn and panic-stricken faces of the homeless who are wandering the streets or sleeping on piles of mattresses or clothing in the parks or on sidewalks in those districts not yet reached by fire. Temporary morgues were established, only to be razed by the flames. The rescue of those buried under the toppling structures and falling walls is impossible.

been shot down without mercy for looting. Let it be also understood that the order has been given for all soldiers and policemen to do likewise without hesitation in the cases of any and all miscreants who may seek to take advantage of the city's awful misfortune. I will ask the Chief of Police and the representatives of the Federal Military authorities here present if I do not echo their sentiments in this?" "

The combined newspaper reported that at 9 o'clock, Wednesday, less than four hours after the quake, "under a special message from President Roosevelt, the city was placed under martial law. Hundreds of troops drove the crowds back, while hundreds more were set at work assisting the police and fire departments. The strictest orders were issued, and in true military spirit the soldiers obeyed. During the afternoon three thieves met their death by rifle bullets while at work in the ruins. The curious were driven back at the breasts of the horses that the cavalymen rode and all the crowds were forced from the level district to the hilly section beyond to the north."

The papers reported some 5,000 federal troops were in the city the night after the temblor, but the first units to respond from the Presidio of San Francisco were on duty only an hour after martial law was proclaimed. Troops were from the Twenty-second Infantry of Fort McDowell, according to the report, and from the First, Ninth and Twenty-fourth Light Batteries, mounted and dismounted.

The combined paper also took note of the destruction of the water system, a fact survivors of the quake and fire discussed for years.

"The water supply was entirely cut off," the paper reported, "and maybe it was just as well, for the lines of fire department would have been absolutely useless at any stage. Assistant Chief Dougherty supervised the work of his men and early in the morning it was seen that the only possible chance to save the city lay in effort to check the flames by the use of dynamite. During the day blasts could be heard in any section at intervals of only a few minutes, and buildings not destroyed by fire were blown to atoms. But through the gaps made, the flames jump and although the failures of the heroic efforts of the police, firemen and soldiers were at time sickening, the work was continued with a desperation that will live as one of the features of the terrible disaster. Men worked like fiends to combat the laughing, roaring, onrushing fire demon."

It was, in fact, the dynamiting of buildings that broke up Mayor Schmidt's meeting of 1 p.m. the day of the quake.

The mayor had just issued orders that all householders "remain at home at night for protection of their families and property during the continuance of the trouble and excitement" when "the explosion of a heavy charge of dynamite used in

blowing up a building a block away brought glass and cornice work in the Hall of Justice crashing down."

The mayor was urged to seek safety, "Your life is too valuable, Mayor," said Mr. Harvey, "at this dreadful juncture, for unnecessary risk to be taken."

"To this all conceded, and a few minutes later an adjournment was taken to the center of Portsmouth Square, across Kearney street. There, in close dangerous proximity to a great pile of dynamite, brought thither to be used for the necessary destruction of buildings, the Mayor and his officials continued for some time longer to discuss the disaster."

Reporters and editors who put out that makeshift combination of the Call - Chronicle-Examiner could be proud of their accuracy and restraint. In that first edition, the dead were estimated to be "at least" 500 and the monetary loss at \$200 million. The World Almanac today reports 452 were killed in the earthquake and fire and sets the property loss at \$350 million.

TODAY'S NEWS...
Keep in step with the future
Don't lead in the old
line of The Evening Tribune

THE EVENING TRIBUNE

CIRCULATION...
of the Evening
Tribune
For Week Ending
April 12, 1906

VOL. XX—NO. 11

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1906

25 CENTS A MONTH

CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO IS VIRTUALLY DESTROYED

The Greatest Disaster Since Galveston Flood---Worst Earthquake in
America Since Charleston Calamity---Tall Buildings Tottered
and Fell, Flames Adding Terror to Destruction

ENORMOUS LOSS OF LIFE REPORTED

Morgues Are Filled to Overflowing—Property
Loss Roughly Estimated at Forty Millions
—Water Mains Burst and Fire Depart-
ment Is Hopelessly Handicapped

Associated Press Special Telegram Wire

The city of San Francisco is a roaring cauldron, raging flames, started by the collapse of great buildings as a result of the earthquake, rating their way through the wholesale and retail business district unchecked by a fire department rendered helpless by the breaking of water mains and seemingly defying all attempts to stay their progress by the use of dynamite.

FIRE THREATENS TO COMPLETE RUIN

Whole City Will Be Destroyed Unless Wind
Changes—Streets Filled With Panic-Stricken, Half Dressed People—Entire Business
District Practically in Ruins

Associated Press Special Telegram Wire

Reports from elsewhere in the state were not as accurate, however. "From Santa Cruz, Monterey, Gilroy and Hollister," reads an inside story, "come reports that all these cities have been completely wrecked, the damage at Hollister being greatest, even all of the frame residences at the place being razed to the ground."

Damage was fairly heavy in the Santa Cruz—Watsonville area, lighter in Salinas and very light in Monterey, although a couple registered at Hotel Del Monte was killed by a falling chimney. But none was as hard hit as indicated by that report.

Although cut off from the outside world for hours, San Francisco was heard from in time for the San Diego Union to publish several stories Thursday morning with datelines from the stricken city.

One of the top stories was out of Washington reporting on a telegram sent by Gen. Funston, Army commander of the San Francisco area, to Secretary Taft. It read: "We need thousands of tents and all of the rations that can be sent. The business portion of the city is destroyed and about 100,000 people are homeless. Fire is still raging. Troops are all on duty assisting the police. Loss of life probably 1,000 best

part of the residence district not yet burned."

Another story, datelined San Francisco, reported on conditions at Agnew State Hospital: "Supervisor Fred Horner of Oakland who returned from San Jose in his automobile this afternoon stated that the Agnew asylum near the City is a total wreck; that many of the inmates were killed and that the remainder are running around terrorizing the community. The superintendent and his wife were both killed."

That Montereyan attending school in the east learned later that her brother was among Santa Clara College students who, together with Stanford University students, aided in relief work at the asylum. The students not only helped rescue inmates trapped in the rubble, but also undertook to help supervise those whose quarters had been razed.

While the San Diego Union had almost 24 hours after the quake before its Thursday morning deadline, its competition, The Evening Tribune, came out the evening of the quake, possibly 12 hours earlier, and its news coverage was more frantic. "CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO IS VIRTUALLY DESTROYED" read its banner headline. Another "The Greatest Disaster Since Galveston Flood — Worst Earthquake in America Since Charleston Calamity — Tall Buildings Tottered and Fell, Flames Adding Terror to Destruction.

And The Tribune went even further: It made the mistake of publishing a third-hand report that at least 20,000 persons died in San Francisco.

Closer to the epicenter, the Press Democrat of Santa Rosa emphasized local news and public service in its evening publication the day after the quake.

Item: A telephone office for points south to Sausalito has been established on a tree in the rear of the old office. For points north on the old Dr. Finlaw office.

Item: An illness should be reported to the Information Bureau in order that physicians and proper attendance may be provided.

Item: A temporary post office has been established at the corner of Fifth and Mendocino streets.

That paper also noted with gratitude the help sent Santa Rosa by Ukiah, a carload of provisions; Petaluma, two carloads of provisions and physicians; and Sebastopol, a fire engine.

The paper also published a list of the dead and injured.

The Press Democrat

VOL. XXXII

SANTA ROSA, CAL., APRIL 19, 1906.

NO. 93

A DREADFUL CATASTROPHE VISITS SANTA ROSA

A frightful disaster overtook Santa Rosa yesterday. Just as the dawn was breaking, a mighty earthquake struck the city. It came with awful force and suddenness, hurling many people from their beds. Before the terrified community could realize what had happened, the entire business section was a mass of ruins, every residence had been more or less damaged, some being completely wrecked, and ap-

William Peacock, contractor, San Francisco.

Mrs. William Peacock, wife of the above.

Eli Loeb, merchant, Third Street.

Mrs. H. H. Moke, wife of undertaker.

Miss Louise Moke, daughter of the above.

Miss Willie Reid, school teacher.

W. H. Mallory, of Vallejo.

S. H. Look, proprietor Look's Shoe Store.

Ukiah Sends Provisions

A carload of provisions for distribution by the Relief Committee were sent here this morning by the citizens of Ukiah, headed by Mayor Weldon.

Holding the Inquests

Coroner Blackburn is holding the inquests over the remains of the unfortunate victims this morning in the lecture hall of the Christian Church.

Status of Maritime Museum Building Fund And The New Museum Project

A new and larger museum building is an important objective of the Monterey History and Art Association. As set forth in the NOTICIAS for March 1978, the Board of Directors established a building fund for the purpose of helping to finance a new museum building - with the anticipated cooperation and assistance of the City of Monterey and/or the State of California. The original building fund amounted to about \$50,000, on September 1, 1979, it was \$75,045.32.

From the beginning of the museum project in the late 1960's officials of the city, county and state have been helpful and cooperative in the establishment and operation of the Maritime Museum. However, at this time the new building project is temporarily, but seriously, stymied — in that a building site in the downtown area of Monterey has not yet been determined or secured.

Our fine national collection continues to grow, while our present quarters (5,000 square-feet on the ground floor of the Old County Building) are already inadequate. The museum has become a recognized cultural community asset. We have made an excellent start on what should become one of the best maritime museums in the United States. We need at least to double our present space. If necessary, we can remain in our present cramped quarters until 1990.

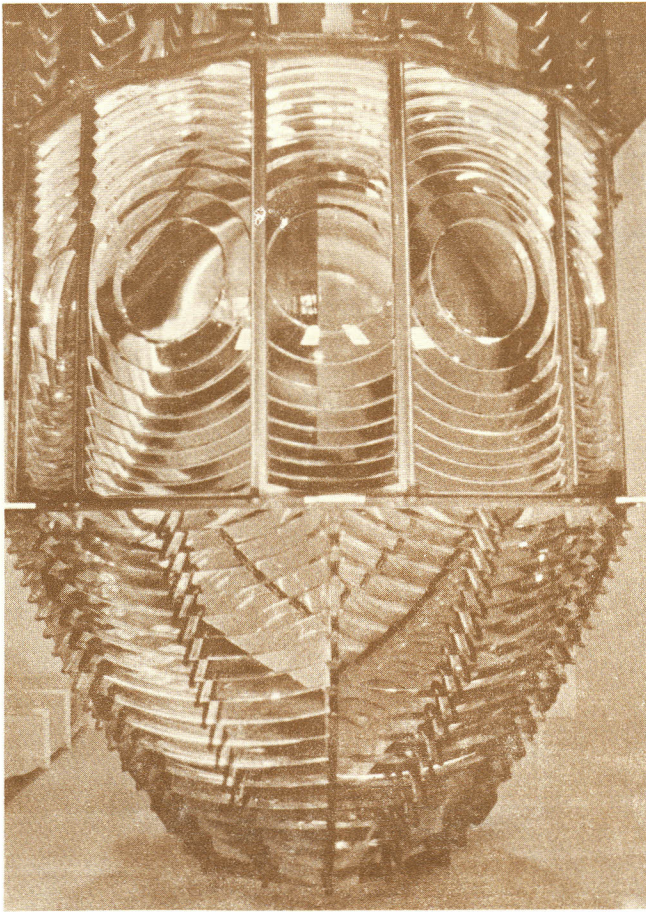
Information was received in 1977 from the San Francisco Foundation that \$300,000 can be counted on from Mewborn Estates funds for the new building, if satisfactory arrangements are made with the City of Monterey (or the State of California) for the achievement of this project. The initial problem was to obtain a site for the new building, preferably in the Urban Renewal area. This is still our problem.

After much detailed discussion between Association and city representatives, the City Council decided unanimously that the desired site on the Old Custom House Plaza should be leased "at the appropriate future time for the highest quality commercial development." This is not to say that the councilmen are opposed to our new museum building project. Quite the contrary, I felt that the councilmen were reluctant to refuse our request, especially since the building site had previously been offered to the Association at a very reasonable price by the Urban Renewal Agency — at a time when the Association could not buy it.

Then Prop. 13 came along, which necessarily influenced the city's actions in matters of finance.

The Association needs the cooperation of the city in building the new museum, wherever it may be located in Monterey. I personally believe that we shall have such assistance. The site upon which we had hoped to build was a part of the land now temporarily leased for hotel tennis courts - specifically about the size of one tennis court near the waterfront.

The president of the Association then addressed a letter to the local state



First order Fresnel lens, which for over a century guided mariners around Pt. Sur, now occupies an honored space among the many exhibits in or at the Allen Knight Maritime Museum.

representatives, asking for a building site on state-owned land in or near the Urban Renewal area. A reply from the district superintendent (Department of Parks and Recreation) was received after the matter was long considered. Although sympathetic to our need for a building site, it indicated none was available.

The new museum building project is still very much alive. It now appears that the site for the building may have to be determined and secured by the Association. However, the cooperation of the city and state is still needed and desired, so that the new Maritime Museum will become a reality before 1990.

Contributions to the Association for this building fund are tax deductible. Those wishing to augment this building fund should send their contributions to the Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd., marked Museum Building Fund, P.O. Box 805, Monterey, California 93940.

**Rear Adm. Earl E. Stone (USN Ret.)
Director, The Allen Knight Maritime Museum**

**THE EDITORS
MONTEREY HISTORY
AND ART ASSOCIATION**

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