

IMAGES 6.7

*Photographs of the
January 17, 1994 Earthquake
by the Staff of The Signal,
Santa Clarita Valley's Newspaper*

\$9.95





Talk about a rude wake-up call. The Santa Clarita Valley, like much of Southern California, was jolted from slumber at 4:31 a.m. Jan. 17, 1994, by a profound reminder of nature's destructive power.

Since then, the quake and its aftermath have dominated our lives. Homes have burned, belongings have been crushed, freeways have crumbled and the valley has united on the long road to recovery.

This book is The Signal's look back

at the Jan. 17 earthquake and its destruction. For the most part, the pictures — more than 100 of them — will tell the story of how the quake affected the SCV, and how its residents responded to the challenges posed by disaster.

The images range from tragic and surreal to heartwarming and uplifting. Each photograph serves as a reminder of that fateful morning, when our alarm clocks were pre-empted by Mother Nature.

Tim Whyte
Signal Managing Editor
Editor, "Images 6.7"



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With sunrise came a clearer view of the damage — and the realization that recovery would be an arduous process

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THE DAYS AFTER

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, residents began picking up the pieces and relief flowed into the valley. As the days turned into weeks, the expression "earthquake stress" was coined and everyone dealt with it in their own way

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Stopped cold

A car sits amid rubble after Highway 14 slammed down onto Interstate 5. *Photo by Rich Shveyda*

Cover: The Highway 14-Interstate 5 interchange is reduced to rubble after the earthquake. *Photo by Rich Shveyda*

Page three: A child's doll lies near the edge of a collapsed Interstate 5 overpass. *Photo by Shaun Dyer*

Page four: Santa Clarita resident Randy Good (left) talks about quake damage with neighbor George Colvin. *Photo by John Demos*

IMAGES:

6.7



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4:31 a.m., Jan. 17, 1994

Images of the earthquake: Violent shaking, severed gas lines, fire, sirens, buckled roads, crumbling walls and tumbling freeways.

Darkness.

Registering 6.7 on the Richter scale, it was one of the largest quakes ever to hit Southern California, and the darkness that made it so eerie was a saving grace.

The quake killed two people in the Santa Clarita Valley — including one who died of a heart attack — and 61 in the entire Los Angeles area. But the toll would have been worse had it occurred much later than 4:31 a.m. As it was, the devastation was severe, and the recovery to be long and arduous.

“There wouldn’t be any place that I would imagine doesn’t have a broken window or something wrong with it,” sheriff’s Detective Jerry Johnson said.

Johnson’s assessment would ring true in many areas of the valley. The following accounts of the quake, and the events that followed it, were reported by The Signal’s staff beginning just minutes after disaster struck:

MOBILE HOMES BURN

The rest of the Santa Clarita Valley went dark after



Final try

A Greenbrier Mobile Home Park resident tries to douse flames with a garden hose.

MARK SABBATINI

the earthquake. But the Greenbrier Mobile Home Park exploded into a deadly glow.

Fourteen homes burned to the ground at the park, in the 21300 block of Soledad Canyon Road. The shaking knocked homes off their foundations, tore gas lines open and set homes ablaze.

The fires sent up a tower of smoke and flames, an orange glow visible throughout much of the valley in the predawn darkness.

“I don’t know where to



Engulfed

Another Greenbrier home goes up in flames.

GARY THORNHILL



RICH SHVEYDA

Dousing the flames

Firefighters Steve Toledo and Pat Perez battle a blaze at Greenbrier Mobile Home Park, where 14 homes burned to the ground when gas lines were severed by the earthquake.

go,” said Mary Flickinger, an 82-year-old resident whose mobile home burned. “I just grabbed two things: clothing ... and a little box of valuables. I don’t even have a purse or identification or anything. They’re all burnt up.”

When firefighters arrived, there was little they could do for homes already engulfed, so they concentrated on saving those not yet on fire.

“You just pick out one fire at a time and work on it,” said fire Capt. Steve Reese.

FREEWAYS COLLAPSE

Perhaps the most lasting image of the January 1994 earthquake is that of the Highway 14-Interstate 5 junction, where steel and concrete came crashing to the ground.

A 75-foot-high overpass connecting Highway 14 to I-5 collapsed at the onset of the quake, crushing cars and causing the death of Clarence W. Dean, a 46-year-old Los Angeles police officer who drove his motorcycle off the

severed bridge shortly after the quake.

Miraculously, there were no other fatalities on local freeways.

Traffic came to a screeching halt as several hundred feet of the overpass crumbled, choking off the valley from points south.

“The freeway started buckling and then the whole section in front of me just went over the edge,” said Mark Southerd, a San

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“You just pick out one fire at a time and work on it. Our big thing was to keep the ones next door from catching.”

*Steve Reed
Fire captain*



Mopping up

Firefighters Steve Toledo and Pat Perez (above) work to keep the flames from spreading as day breaks over Greenbrier Mobile Home Park. Perez (left) prepares to move from one flaming home to another.

Photos by SHAUN DYER



“I don’t know where to go. I just grabbed two things: clothing ... and a little box of valuables. I don’t even have a purse or any identification or anything. They’re all burnt up.”

*Mary Flickinger
Greenbrier resident*

Cleanup

Firefighters sift through debris of a scorched mobile home to make sure embers will not start a new fire.

SHAUN DYER



SHAUN DYER

Embers

Lynne Prichard (above) helps hose down the debris of a friend's Greenbrier mobile home. A firefighter (right) performs the same task at another home. Hundreds of mobile homes valleywide were tossed from their foundations by the quake.



KEVIN KARZIN

“I knew I had a problem when I got south of Lyons (Avenue) and hundreds of cars were going the other way and I was the only one going southbound. I thought, ‘Whoa! I’d better slow down.’ ”

*Rick Miler
CHP officer*



Rolled

SHAUN DYER

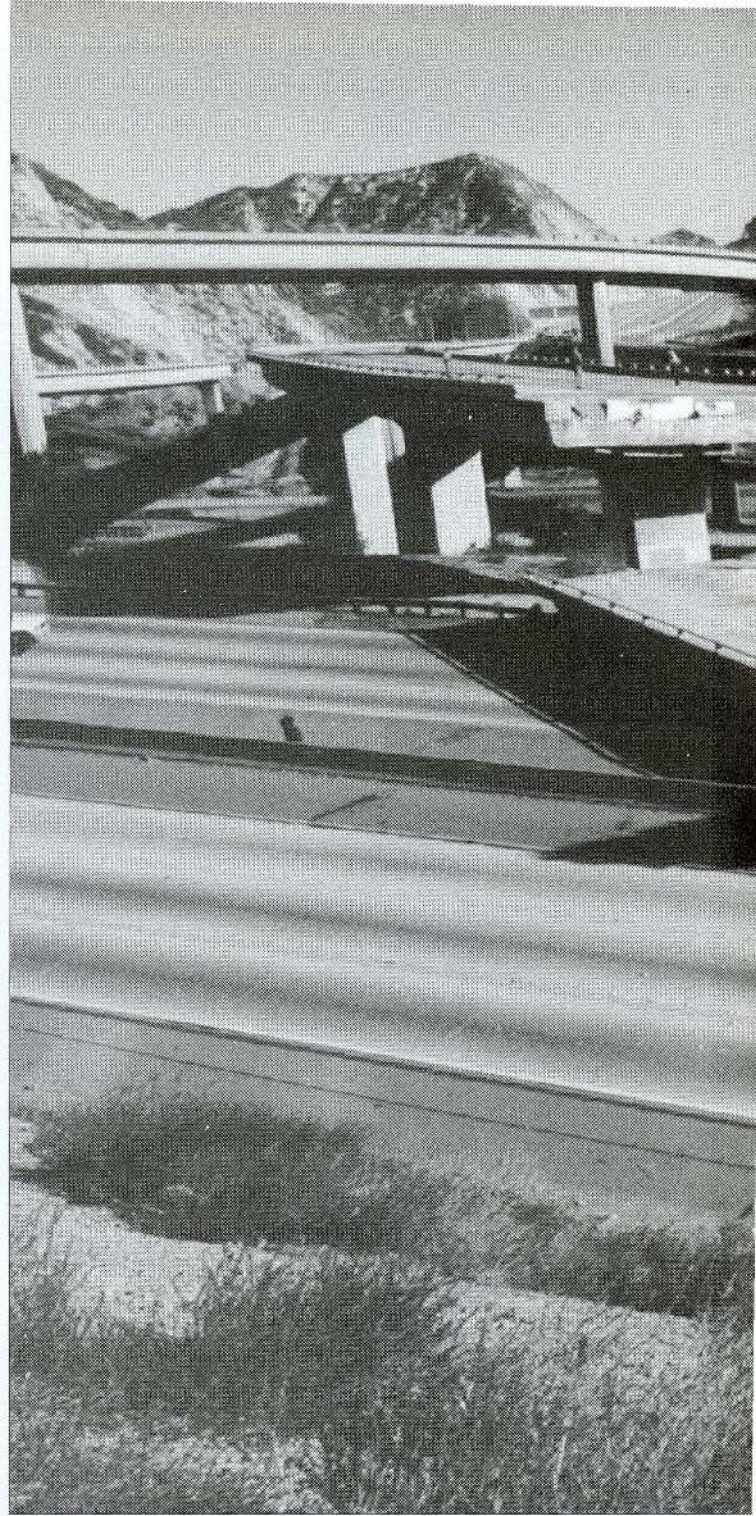
This van was among the vehicles that tumbled when the Gavin Canyon bridge collapsed onto The Old Road.

CUT OFF

When the quake struck, several key access routes to the Santa Clarita Valley were blocked as overpasses and bridges came tumbling to the ground. One person was killed, and several others hurt, but it was clear the death toll would have been much higher had the quake occurred just a couple of hours later, during the morning commute. In the weeks that followed, commuters would try alternate means of getting to work — or they'd just sit in traffic, realizing things would not be the same for some time to come.



SHAUN DYER



Crumbled

For some, the most frightening image of the earthquake was the Highway 14-Interstate 5 interchange. Sections of the overpasses were jolted to the ground. Shortly after the quake, Clarence W. Dean, a 46-year-old Los Angeles Police Department officer, fell to his death when he drove his motorcycle over the edge, still cloaked in darkness.



RICH SHVEYDA

“The freeway started buckling and then the whole section in front of me just collapsed. My tires were on the edge and I just put the car in reverse and backed away from it.”

*Darryl Merrill
Palmdale resident*

“I heard a screeching sound and then the motorcycle officer just went over the edge.”

Mark Southerd
Motorist



Fallen

RICH SHVEYDA

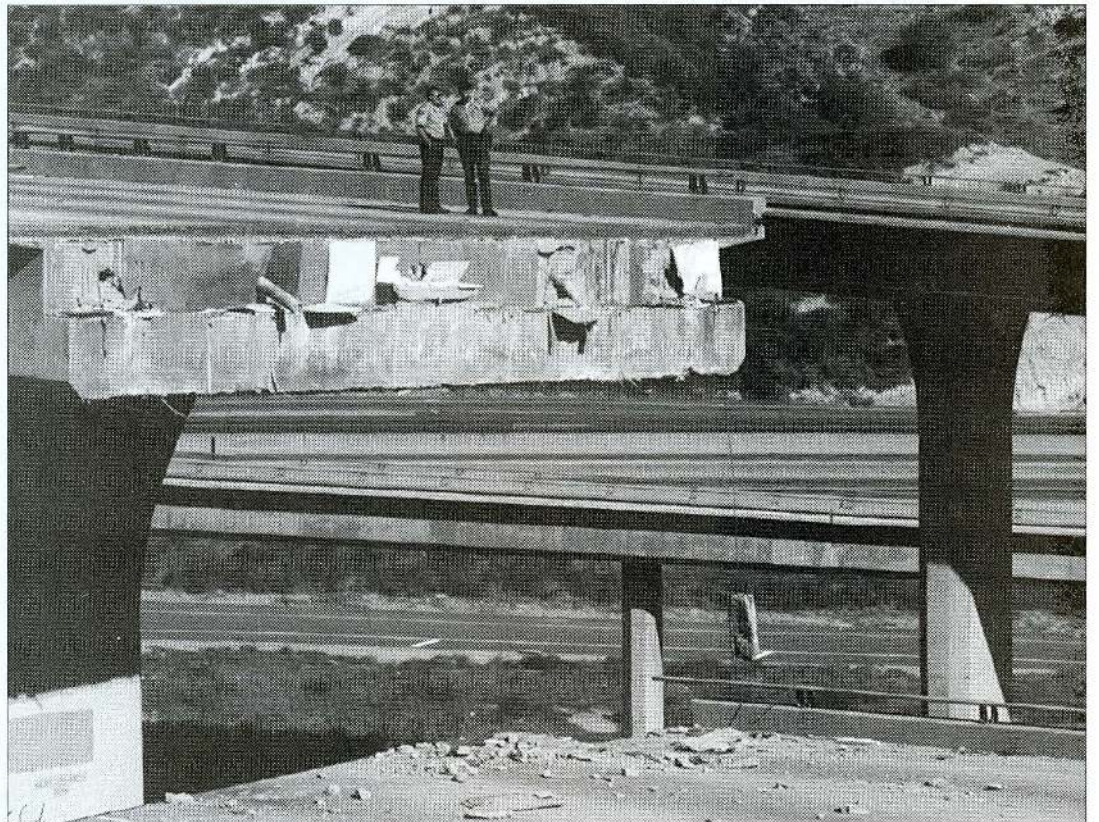
Police officers investigate the scene where the Highway 14 transition to Interstate 5 crumbled and LAPD Officer Clarence W. Dean was killed when his motorcycle went over the edge.



Stranded

When the Gavin Canyon bridge on Interstate 5 collapsed onto The Old Road, several vehicles tumbled with the bridge to the road below, and several vehicles were stranded on the bridge's remains. All of the motorists survived.

Photos by
SHAUN DYER





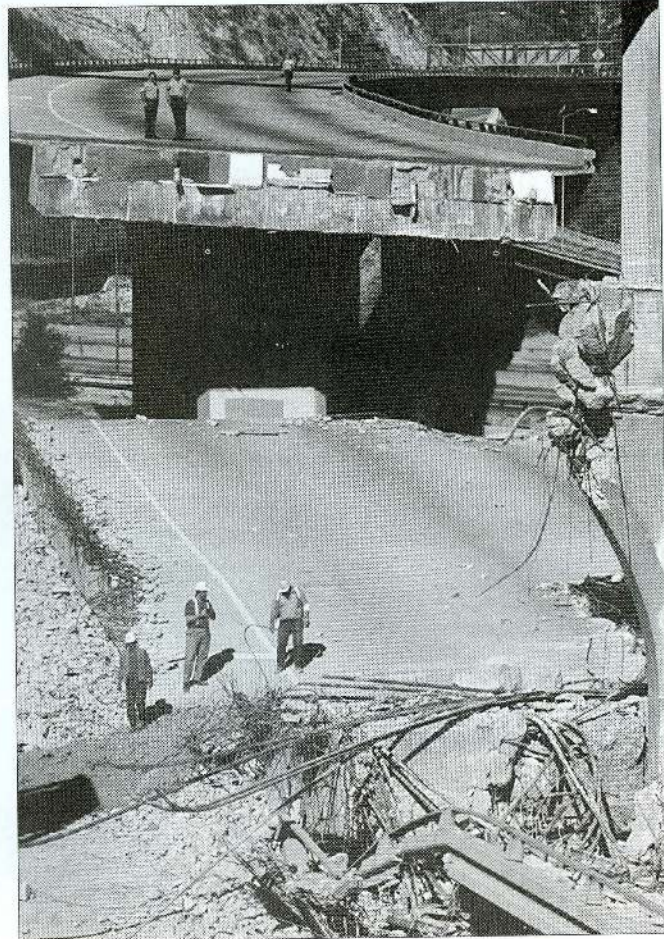
RICH SHVEYDA

Concrete and steel

Parts of the Highway 14 overpass (above) fell onto several cars, but all of the occupants were pulled out alive. As word of the collapse spread, emergency workers gathered (right) to seal the area and keep motorists safe.

“It was just ‘kaboom!’ It sounded like a building crumbling.”

*Caley Brown, 15
Nearby resident*



SHAUN DYER



KEVIN KARZIN



SHAUN DYER

Chipped

Gas rises from a broken gas line beneath Lyons Avenue (above), where the road buckled and stopped a Frito-Lay driver from finishing his delivery rounds. The driver slammed on his brakes when he saw the newly created holes in the ground, but could not stop in time and three of the truck's tires were blown out. Among the broken water lines in the SCV was the Los Angeles Aqueduct pipeline (left), which serves Los Angeles residents.



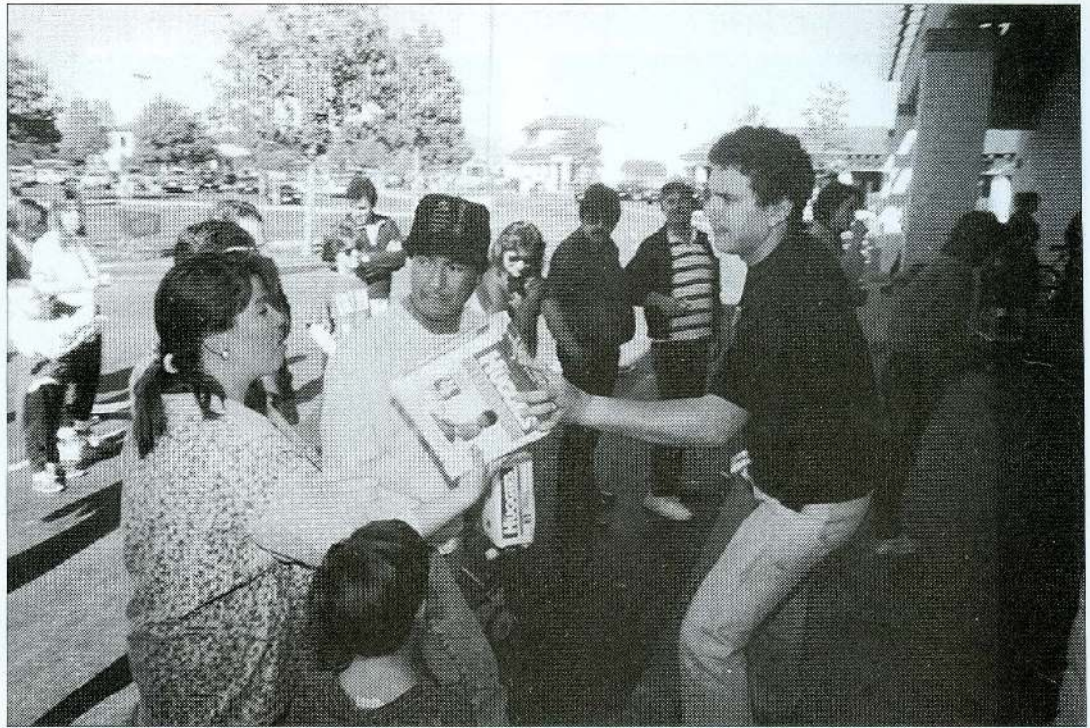
Fire and water

Firefighters (above) watch the street burn after telling a Valencia resident there is nothing they can do about the flames, spewing from a broken gas main beneath Golf View Drive. Water lines were also severed, prompting residents to get water from a variety of sources, including fire hydrants (right).





KEVIN KARZIN



JOHN DEMOS

Hand-out

Shortly after the quake, some businesses opened, started clearing away debris and provided emergency supplies. Among them was Long's Drugs (above), which gave away diapers and other items to residents in need.

DAYBREAK

As darkness turned to light, the magnitude of what had occurred became more visible. Power, water and gas lines were down, or broken. Roads were damaged and, in some cases, impassable. Residents scrambled to help themselves and each other, emergency workers established command posts and it was evident the recovery process would be a long haul.



JOHN DEMOS



KEVIN KARZIN



KEVIN KARZIN

Scattered

Throughout the valley, personal and business belongings were tossed and broken. The image of a refrigerator's contents dumped to the floor (above) was a familiar one to many residents, and the offices at City Hall (left) met the same fate as many others in the valley. Valencia National Bank (top, left), housed in the same building as City Hall, had no choice but to remain closed.



SHAUN DYER

Counting the losses

Firefighters finish their work at a burned-out Greenbrier mobile home as the owner watches.



KEVIN KARZIN

Dumped

This was a common scene, as mobile homes were tossed off their jacks.

“We just started shaking like crazy, and then things started bursting and popping.”

*Jerry Anderson
Greenbrier resident*

“I thought it was a train going by, then I heard my sister screaming.”

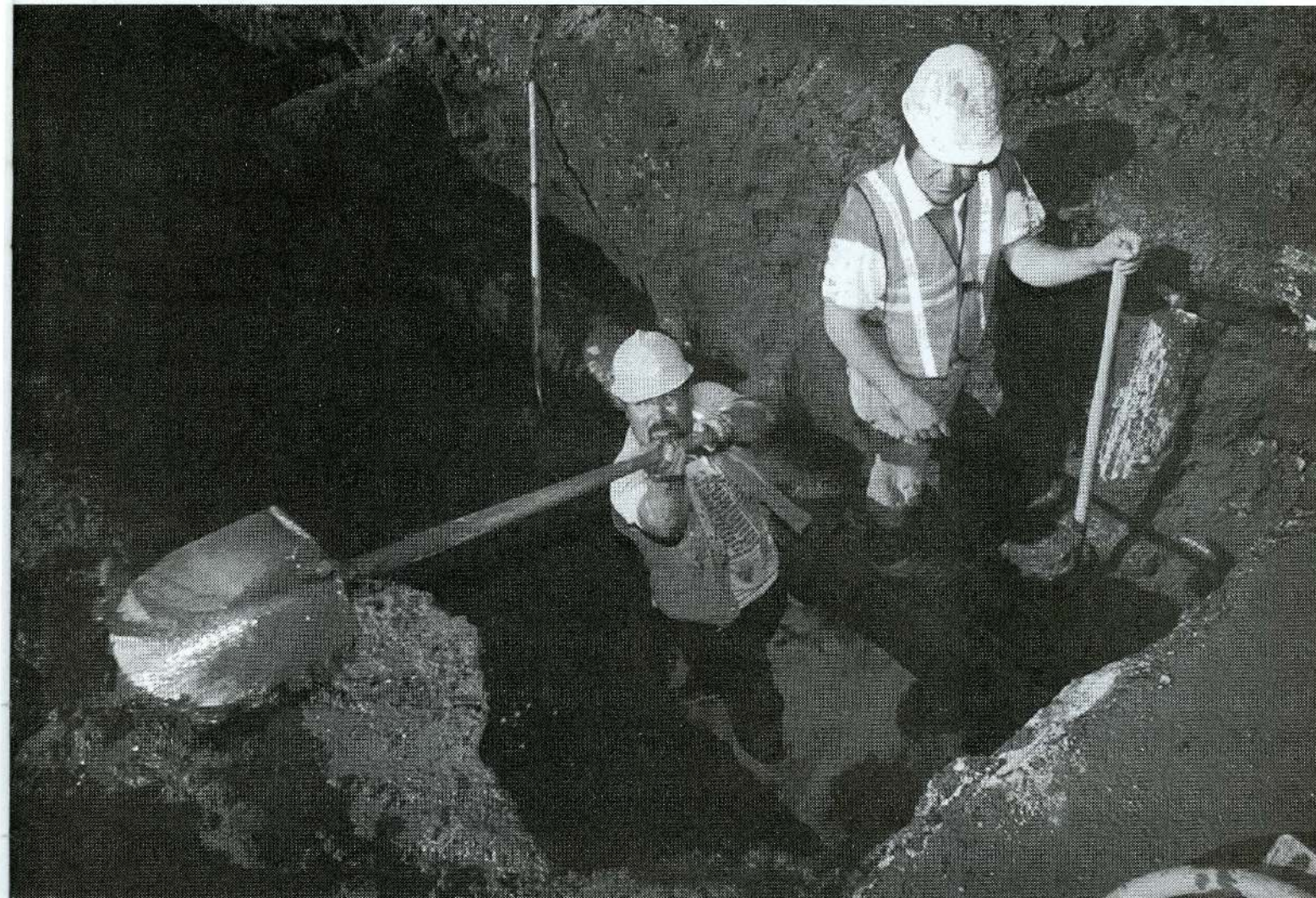
*Memo Medrano, 14
Newhall resident*



Crushed

SHAUN DYER

Several vehicles fell as the Interstate 5 bridge collapsed onto The Old Road at Gavin Canyon, and the occupants were rushed by rescuers to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital. All lived.



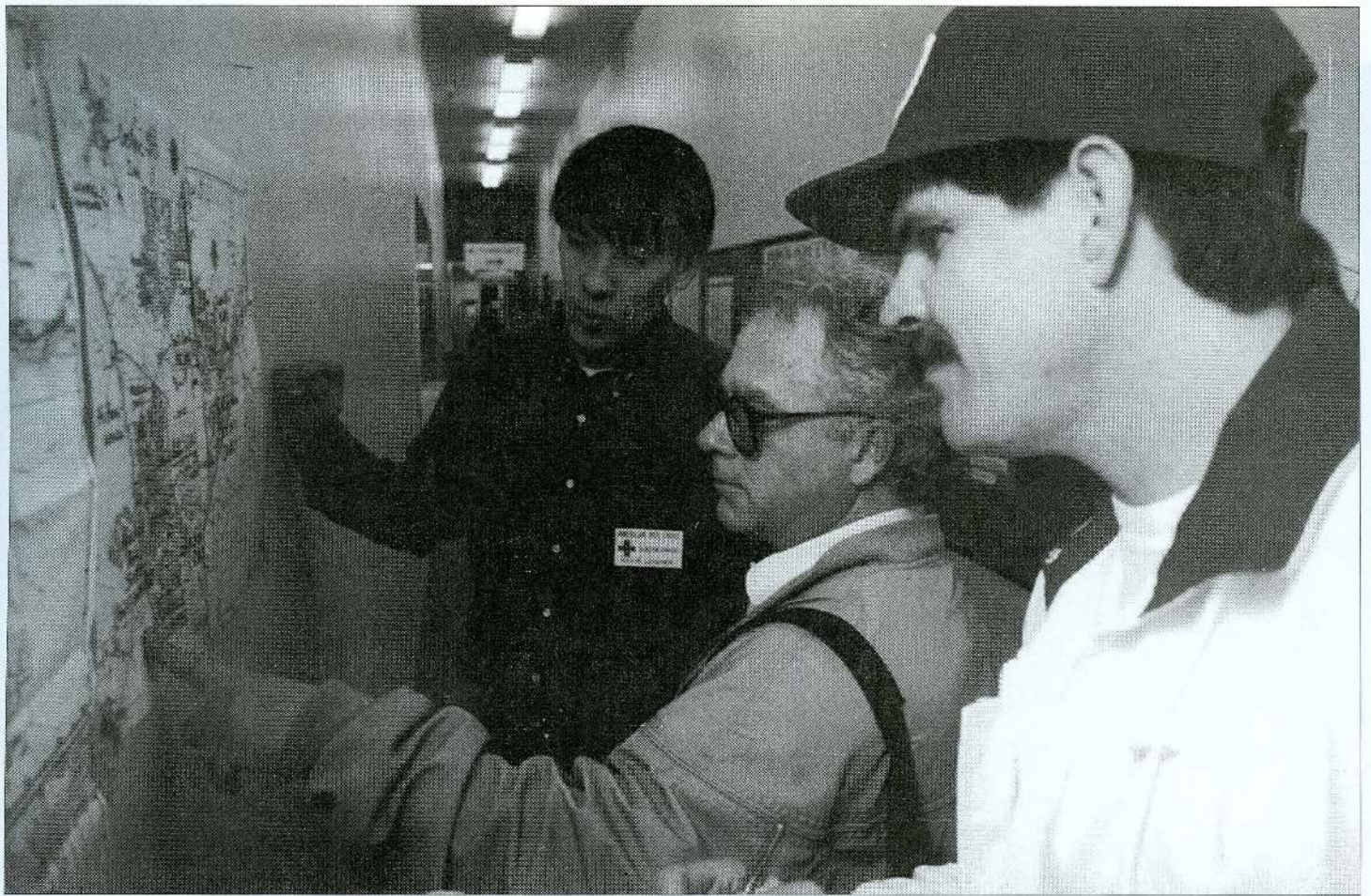
RICH SHVEYDA



SHAUN DYER

UTILIZED

The quake posed a series of challenges to utility workers, as water, electrical and gas services were interrupted by damage. Newhall County Water District employees Martin Torrez (above, right) and Jose Gallegos dig to uncover an underground leak. Gas company employee Henry Torres (left) checks for gas leaks along Newhall Avenue after a major aftershock.



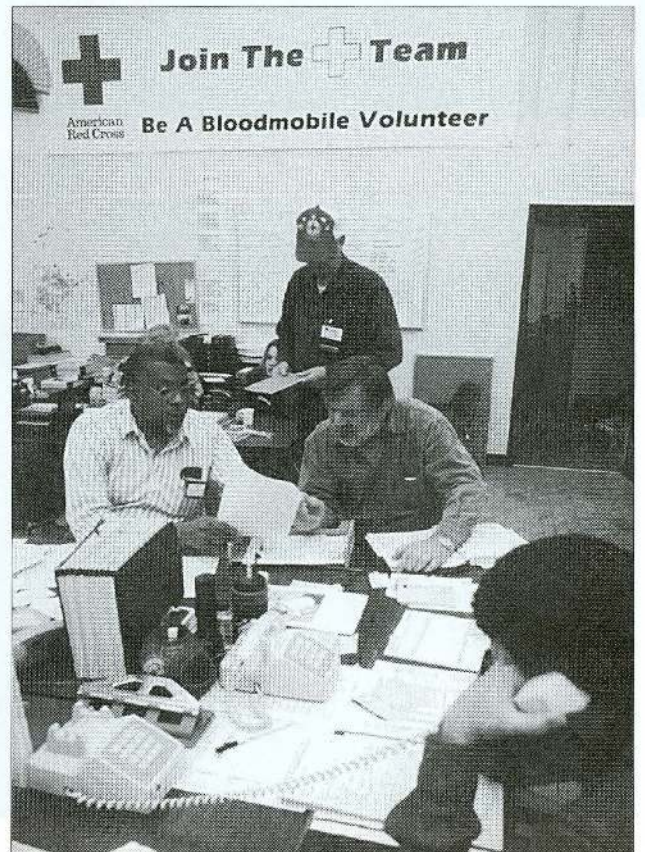
RICH SHVEYDA

Red Cross relief

In the days after the earthquake, the local Red Cross office established several shelters, including Canyon High, Saugus High and the Boys and Girls Club building at Newhall Park. Kevin Leisher, Jeffrey Leach and Steve Pepper (above, L-R), check a map of the shelter locations, where people driven from their homes by quake damage could get food, water and a place to sleep (below). Throughout the emergency, hundreds of volunteers worked at Red Cross shelters.



CAROL ROCK



RICH SHVEYDA

Continued from page 7

Francisco resident who was helping other motorists stranded at the scene, where Dean was soon pronounced dead.

Just north of the fateful interchange, another collapse occurred. The I-5 bridge over The Old Road at Gavin Canyon gave way, tumbling several vehicles to the ground and stranding several others on its precarious remains.

The bridge collapses would create a commuter nightmare, as traffic was detoured around the scenes and Caltrans workers hastened to begin repairs.

Those repairs, according to some estimates, could take a year or longer.

"We're going to be out here a long time," concluded Caltrans bridge engineer Tom Cooper.

NEIGHBORLY ACTS

It was a great day to get to know your neighbors, and that's just what many Santa Claritas did. After the shaking stopped, residents sought each other, to offer help, share food, water and horror stories and to provide moral support.

"I came out screaming for my neighbor because I knew she was home alone," Suzanne Nicolas said of her neighbor, Denise Oliver, whose husband was out of town on a business trip. "We were the first people out."

Out is where many people stayed, fearful of re-



Help from afar

RICH SHVEYDA

Salvation Army volunteers unload tarps, food, clothing and other donated quake relief items trucked in from Fresno to the Red Cross shelter at Newhall Park.

entering their homes that day and throughout the following uneasy night, as aftershocks continued to rattle homes and nerves.

"I think I'm going to sleep in my van tonight," Canyon Country resident Terry Edwards said. "I don't really want to sleep inside."

FIRES OF DAY TWO

Edward Shields thought

the trauma would be over by the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 18, 24 hours after the quake.

But Shields could only stand helplessly with his youngest child as their home in Granada Villa Mobile Home Park on Soledad Canyon Road went up in smoke.

"There was no power. There was no electricity," Shields muttered. "How

"I think I'm going to sleep in my van tonight. I don't really want to sleep inside."

*Terry Edwards
of Canyon Country*

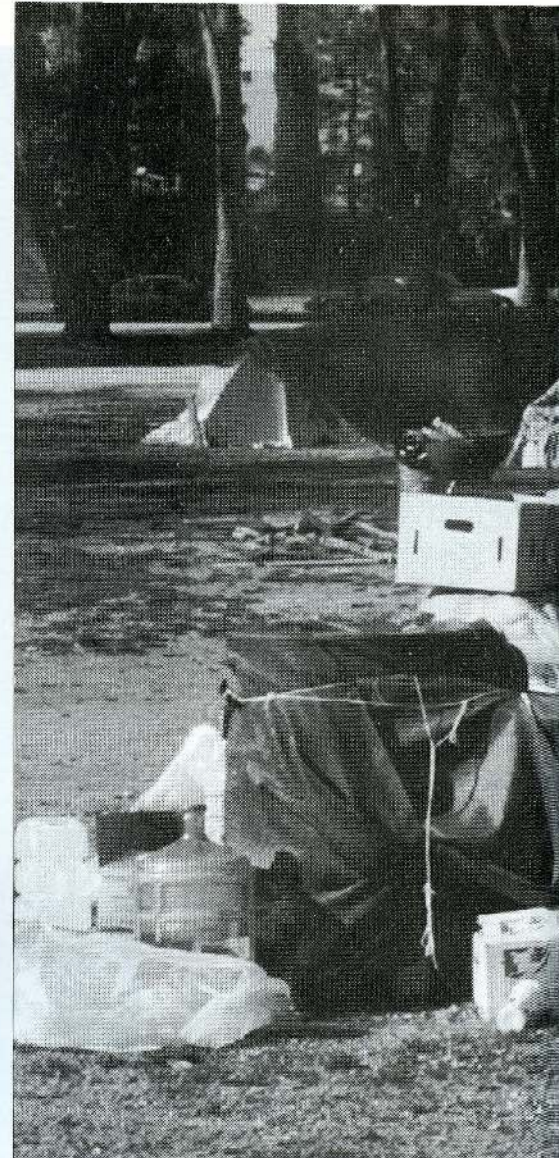
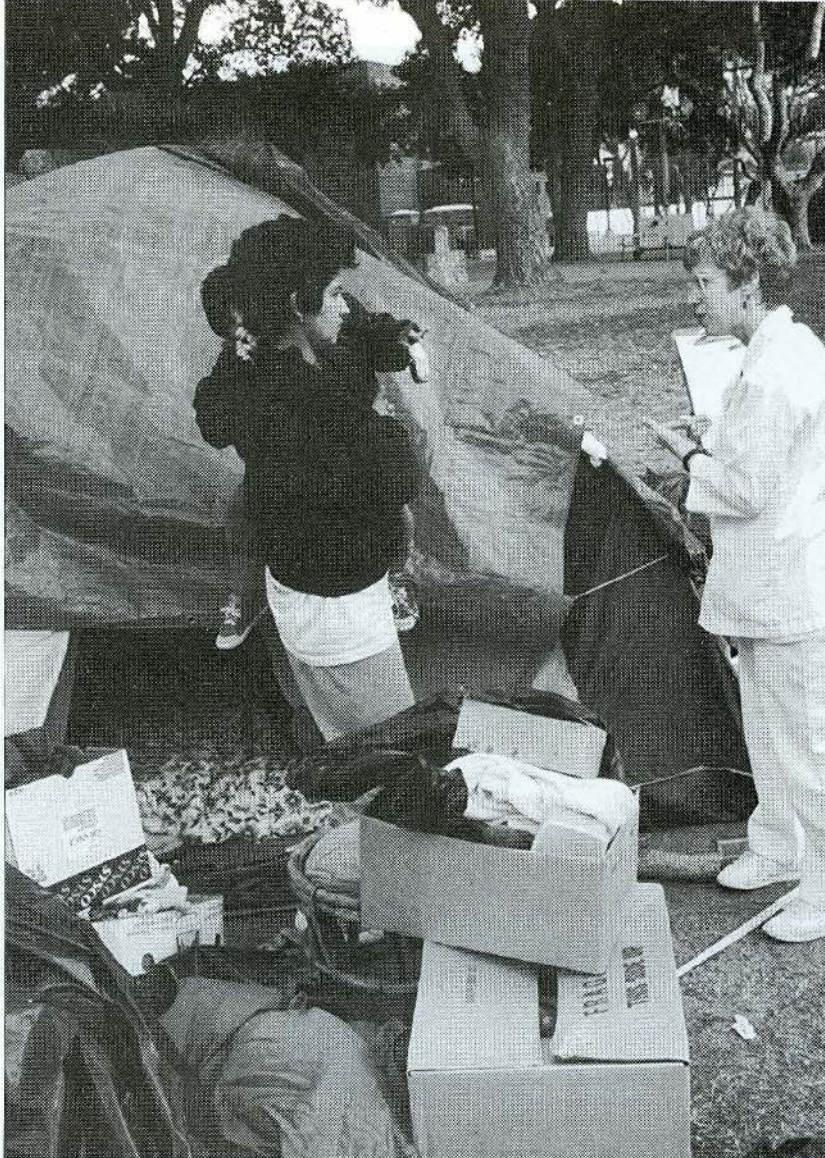
could it burn like this?"

Shields' home and seven other structures fell victim to quake-damaged wiring, fire officials said.

THE AFTERSHOCKS

Just when you thought it was safe to stand on terra firma . . .

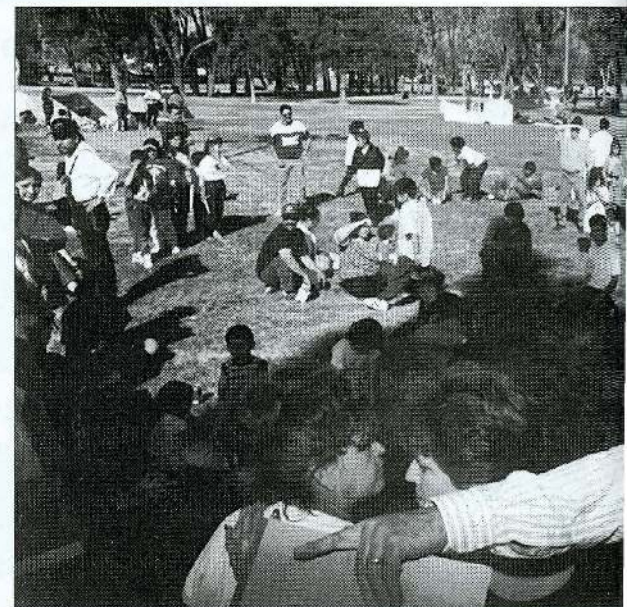
Two days after the 6.7 earthquake, twin magnitude-
Continued on page 44



GARY THORNHILL

TENT CITY

The Newhall Park fields outside the shelter at the Boys and Girls Club became a "tent city" after the quake, as residents pitched camp either because of quake-damaged homes or fear of aftershocks. County nurse Betsy Echols (above) made the rounds from tent to tent to make sure all were healthy. Omar Guerrero, 5, (far right) camped with his family in a pickup truck near the park, where city Councilman Carl Boyer and translators kept Spanish-speaking campers up to date on quake relief efforts.

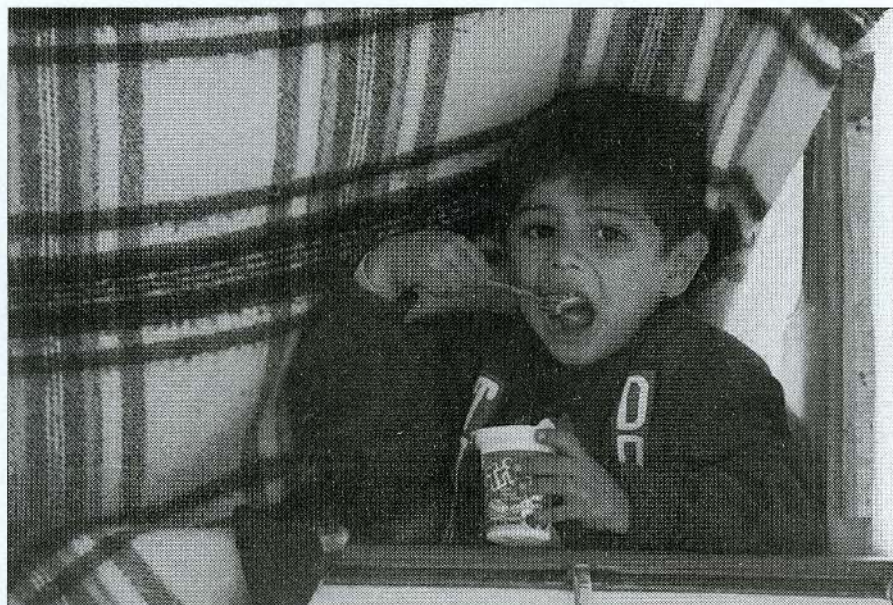




JOHN DEMOS



RICH SHVEYDA



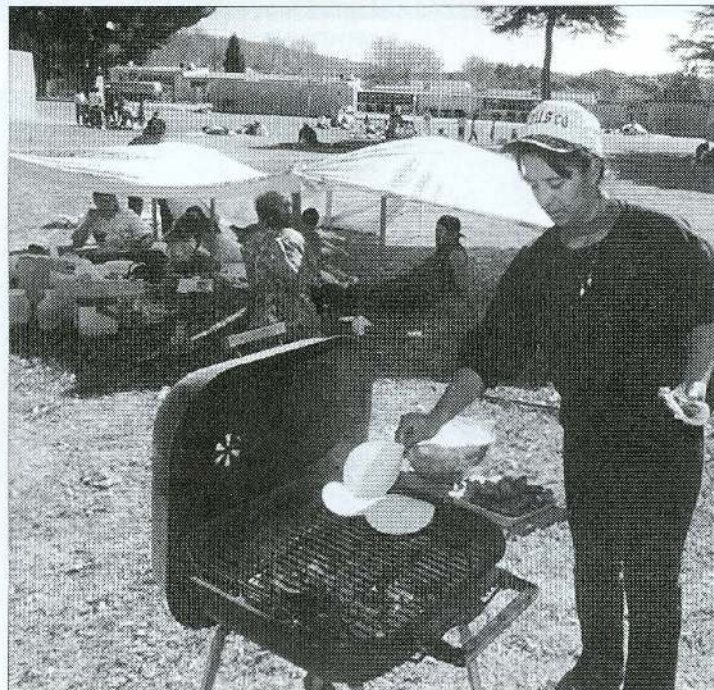
RICH SHVEYDA



KEVIN KARZIN

Making the best

Daisy Garcia (above) points to her family's apartment on Newhall Avenue. The family was among those who camped in Newhall Park during the week after the quake. Laticia Infanta (right) cooks chicken and tortillas on a grill at Newhall Elementary School, where she and 15 family members camped after the quake because they were worried that their house may be unsafe.



JOHN DEMOS



Not so fine

GARY THORNHILL

Steve Brockmeyer (foreground), an account executive for Aquafine Corp.'s insurance company, checks out damage to Aquafine's building in the Valencia Industrial Center.



GARY THORNHILL

Lost homes

JoAnne Lewis (above) surveys the remains of her home, one of the 14 that were burned to the ground in the Greenbrier Mobile Home Park. Lewis credits her son-in-law and neighbor for saving seven family members from the burning home. The top floor of Bob and Louann Samuelson's Hasley Canyon home (right) collapsed onto the first floor, but the Sameulsons managed to escape. They plan to rebuild on the same site.



TIM WHYTE



SHAUN DYER



JOHN DEMOS



JOHN DEMOS

Checking the damage

Ashley Bryski, 8, (above) checks the size of the crack in the floor of her bedroom in her family's home on Via Onda in Valencia. The Bryski family moved out of the home after it was deemed unlivable due to quake damage. Eric Krissman (top, left) sifts through the rubble of the home of Lu and Nels Bandy, among those whose homes in the Greenbrier Mobile Home Park were destroyed after gas lines broke. Several hundred homes throughout the valley suffered a somewhat less tragic fate and lost their chimneys (left).



WILLIE FLEET

Other perspectives

Signal photographers also captured images of extensive quake damage in the San Fernando Valley. The Kaiser Permanente office building (above) was severely damaged, as were parking structures at Cal State Northridge (below, right). An apartment building at the intersection of Reseda and Plummer crushed numerous cars (below, left). The building is near the Northridge Meadows complex, which killed 16 people when it collapsed.



GARY THORNHILL



GARY THORNHILL

Over the hill

The quake caused extensive damage south of the Santa Clarita Valley, particularly in the Northridge area. It was felt at 4:31 a.m. (local time) for about 30 seconds or more, and several aftershocks followed within minutes. It was centered in the Reseda/Northridge area, 20 miles northwest of downtown L.A., and measured 6.7 on the Richter Scale. A total of 61 people died as a result of the earthquake.

■ The four-level intersection of Interstate 5 and Highway 14 collapses, killing a Los Angeles police officer whose motorcycle sails off the severed overpass. Witnesses saw cars beneath the rubble but no other fatalities were reported.

■ At least 44 homes are destroyed in Sylmar.

L.A. faults
Several faults, which frequently cause quakes, are located in the Los Angeles basin.

■ In Granada Hills, fireballs from ruptured gas mains explode in the midst of the floods from ruptured water mains.

■ Property damage in Studio City



Northridge (epicenter)

■ Sixteen people die in the collapse of a Northridge Meadows apartment building. Other buildings in the complex did not collapse.

■ Bullocks department store in Northridge Fashion Center collapses. Windows shatter throughout the mall, and the parking structure pancakes.

■ Two people die in a hillside home collapse in Sherman Oaks

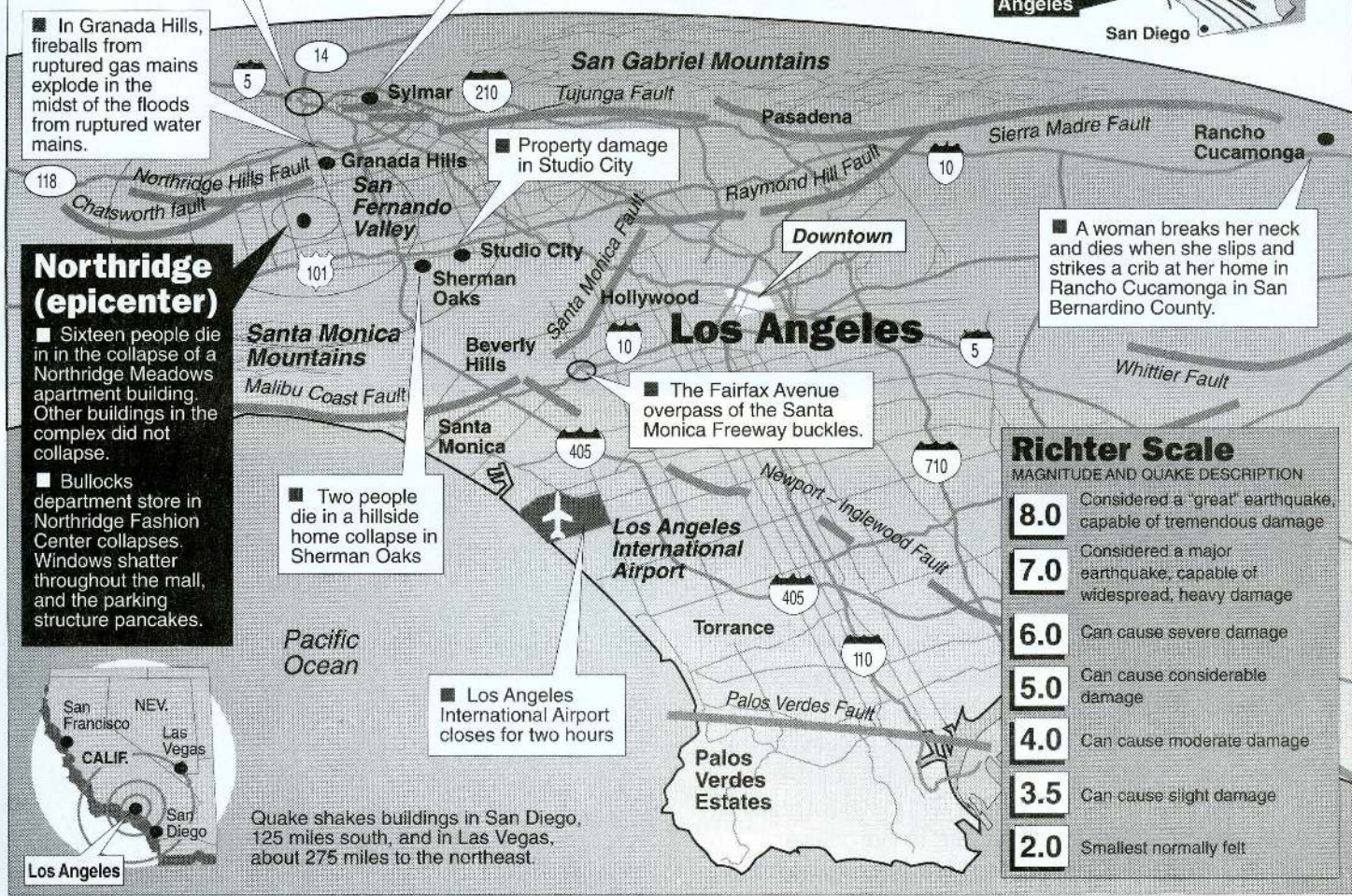
■ A woman breaks her neck and dies when she slips and strikes a crib at her home in Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County.

■ The Fairfax Avenue overpass of the Santa Monica Freeway buckles.



■ Los Angeles International Airport closes for two hours

Richter Scale	
MAGNITUDE AND QUAKE DESCRIPTION	
8.0	Considered a "great" earthquake, capable of tremendous damage
7.0	Considered a major earthquake, capable of widespread, heavy damage
6.0	Can cause severe damage
5.0	Can cause considerable damage
4.0	Can cause moderate damage
3.5	Can cause slight damage
2.0	Smallest normally felt



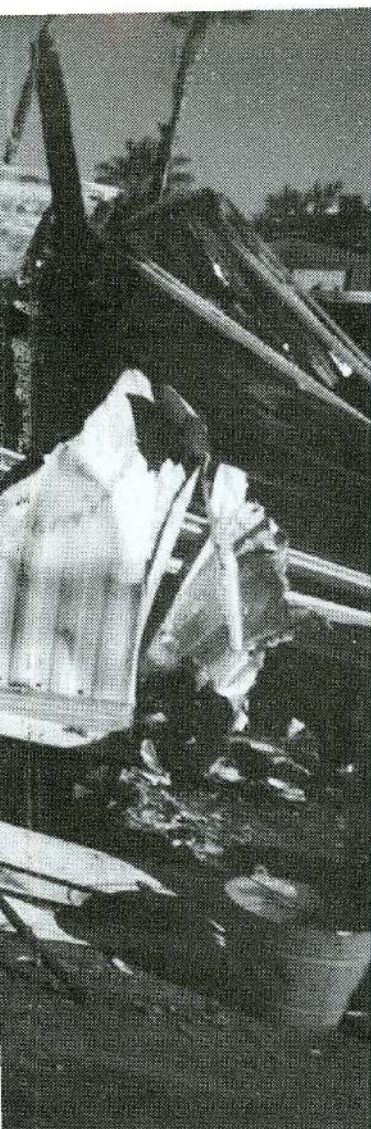
AP



Taking stock

Wendy Wood (above) with her dog Pumpkin and Nicholas Ybarra with his dog Patches walk past a burned mobile home as they return to their own home in Parklane Mobilehome Estates the day after the quake. Many residents of the eastern portion of Newhall (opposite page) were afraid to return to their homes, so they camped out along the railroad tracks near Market Street. Some stores, such as the Home Depot (right), set up outdoor tables for residents to purchase emergency supplies that were in high demand.





RICH SHVEYDA

“**S**he just said, ‘Oh God, oh God, it’s coming from my house,’ and started running toward the trailer.”

*Ed Vanderbeck
Fire victim’s neighbor*



RICH SHVEYDA



GARY THORNHILL

THE DAYS AFTER

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, they started picking up the pieces. Valley residents went in search of emergency supplies, food, water, construction materials and help with everything ranging from shelter to transportation.

And the emergencies were not over. As Southern California Edison workers tried to restore electricity, power surges through quake-

damaged wiring sparked seven fires late Monday night and early Tuesday morning, destroying some homes that had withstood the shaking.

The Red Cross set up shelters, Caltrans got to work on the freeways and various other emergency workers were in a disaster recovery mode -- as they would be for some time to come.



Free care

Medical disaster teams provided free care to residents after the quake. Paramedic Pete Suver (above), of the Seattle-King County Disaster Team, checks Nancy Cano, 2, for an ear infection, and doctor Andrew S.H. Hsu checks the breathing of Anabel Morales, 3, as she sits in her father Ramiro's lap at the Newhall Park Red Cross shelter.



Photos by
RICH SHVEYDA



SHAUN DYER



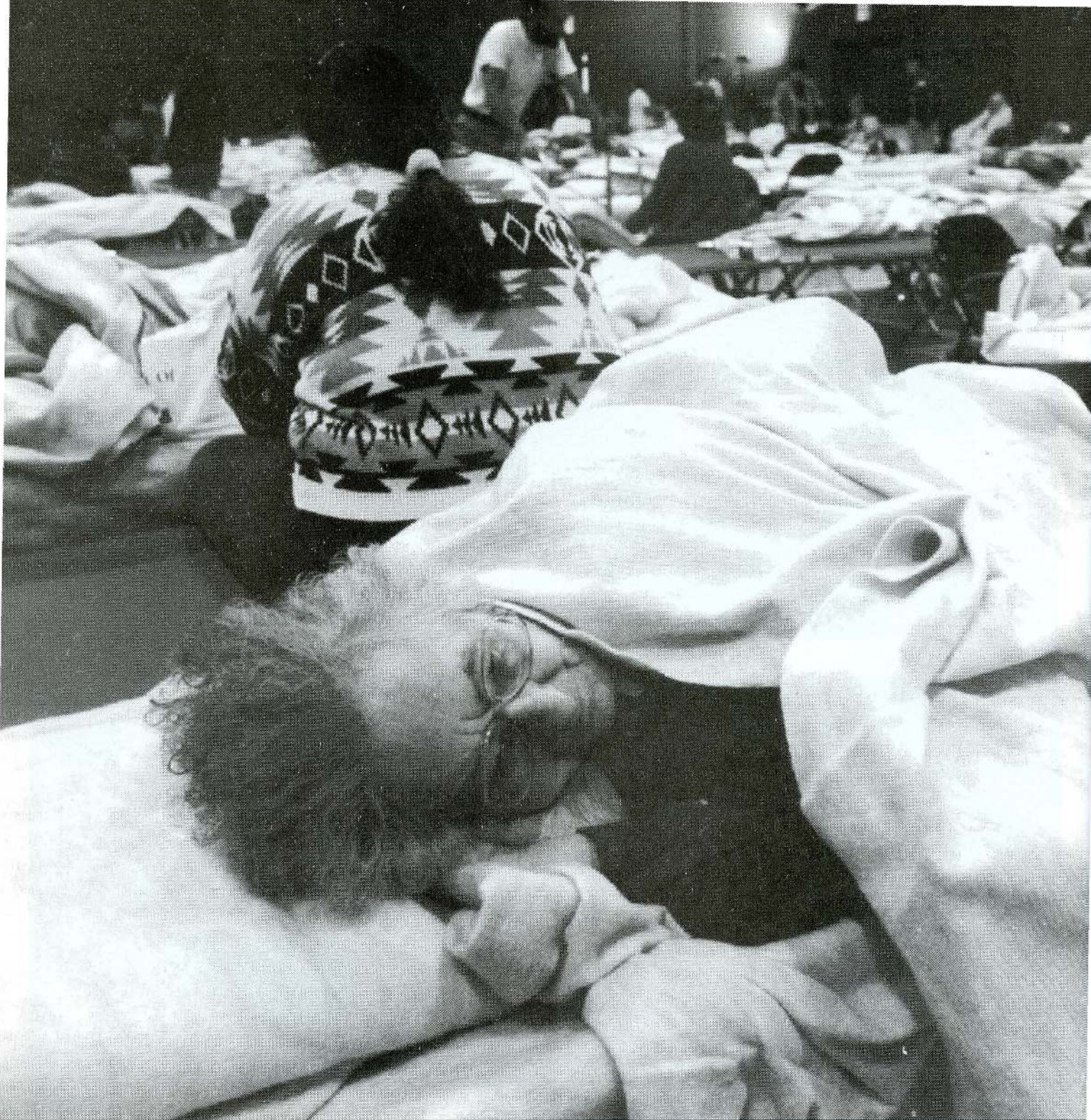
SHAUN DYER



GARY THORNHILL

FEMA

Within three days of the quake, the Federal Emergency Management Agency set up its first local disaster application center at Canyon Country Park, where hundreds of residents lined up for information on federal aid (left). Gov. Pete Wilson (top) visited the center on opening night, and Mike and Nancy Haddock of Canyon Country were among those who talked to FEMA representative Dennis Green of Port Hueneme (above).



“I just don’t want to be alone during the aftershocks ... Besides, there are people to talk with here. And we need to talk about it.”

Shelley Loudon
Shelter guest



RICH SHVEYDA



JOHN DEMOS

The shelter

For hundreds of residents, Red Cross shelters were home during the week after the quake. Martha McKay (left) huddled under a blanket for warmth at the Newhall Park shelter after she and other residents of the Orchard Arms senior housing complex in Newhall left their homes. Sarahi Martinez (above) was among the Newhall Park shelter's youngest residents. She was born three days after the quake, and because her parents' apartment was damaged, the shelter was her first home.



In a bind

Among the hard-hit public facilities was the Valencia Library (above), where Mojdeh Mahn and Leslie Bretall were among the employees still cleaning up books a week after the quake. City Hall (opposite page, top) sustained extensive damage and repairs were expected to take several months as city employees moved to alternate work sites. Hart High School Assistant Principal Bill Beauer steps over fallen lights in the school's gymnasium (opposite page, bottom). In the weeks after the quake, it had yet to be determined whether the gym would be repaired or demolished.



GARY THORNHILL



MARK SABBATINI



RICH SHVEYDA

“The south wall is twisted liked crazy . . . I’ve never seen anything like that before.”

Bill Beauer
Hart Assistant Principal



RICH SHVEYDA

“He was conscious and talking. He was extremely lucky, seeing as he dropped 40 feet and landed upside down.”

*Mark Savage
Fire inspector*



RICH SHVEYDA

Over the edge

Tony Moufarrege of Sun Valley took a wrong turn after delivering food to repair workers at the Highway 14-Interstate 5 junction. The 42-year-old man drove his van over the edge of the severed transition bridge, landing upside down on a tractor that was being used in the freeway repair operation (opposite page). Rescue workers used the “Jaws of Life” to extricate the driver (above). Moufarrege was airlifted to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, but he was not seriously hurt.

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5.1 aftershocks rattled and rumbled their way through the Santa Clarita Valley just after 1 p.m., frazzling residents' nerves, increasing damage to several buildings and causing additional damage to the Lyons Avenue bridge over I-5.

The second of the quakes caused the Auto Club building on Valencia Boulevard to shift substantially, prompting speculation it would collapse. It did not, but leaned noticeably — an unnerving sight.

RELIEF EFFORTS

The quake's silver lining: It brought the community together. Hundreds of volunteers flocked to relief centers, including four Red Cross shelters where as many as 1,000 people took refuge.

"What just a hot meal does is a lot for mental health and recovery and helping people say, 'This is going to get better,'" said Jim Fisher, the Red Cross district manager who oversaw hundreds of volunteers at the shelters. The Red Cross served almost 90,000 meals in the month after the quake.

Public servants also went above and beyond the call of duty, directing traffic, providing emergency service and, in many cases, just being there for quake victims.

At the quake-damaged City Hall, Santa Clarita employees established a



Home re-improvement

Newhall resident Effie Bird, with help from 8-year-old John Foster, seals her apartment's quake-damaged windows in preparation for rain.

RICH SHVEYDA

disaster operations center beneath a tent in the parking lot. The center was a hotbed of activity 24 hours a day.

"Everybody was working so hard. It was like some primal 'Just Do It' thing," said Priscilla Nielsen, the city's volunteer coordinator.

Perhaps the most widespread need in the days after the quake was water. Numerous water lines were broken, and repairs would take, in some cases, several weeks. Bottled water was donated from a variety of

sources and distributed at various locations throughout the valley, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster application center, set up at Canyon Country Park.

"We had hundreds of breaks," said Tania Weaver of Valencia Water Co., which, like almost all utilities, suffered service-interrupting damage.

"The guys were amazing," she said of repair crews. "They were working 24 hours a day."

RECOVERY

When the initial shock of the quake subsided, and the immediate survival needs were met, many residents reflected on what happened and tried to cope with newfound "earthquake stress" as aftershocks continued.

"What's important is telling your friends that what they are feeling is normal," said Barbara Myler, who helped coordinate a local crisis intervention team.

"For example, I lost all my china and crystal, but my kids were all right. To me, that was all that mattered. But to someone else who lost all their china and crystal, they may be mourning that loss. That's OK," she said. "Just to hear that what you're feeling or doing is normal helps tremendously."

Rick Hughes, whose home in Greenbrier Mobile Home Park burned to the ground, summed up the sentiments of his family — and many of those throughout the valley who suffered damage but escaped with their lives.

"It's a real drag, what happened, but we're alive," he said. "The important things were saved."

Contributing writers: Carole A. Brooks, Susan Goldsmith, Eric Harnish, Carol Rock, Mark Sabbatini, Tammy Sanders, Sheldon H. Segal and Tim Whyte.



“There wouldn’t be any place which I imagine doesn’t have a broken window or something wrong with it.”

*Jerry Johnson
Sheriff’s detective*

Blocked

SHAUN DYER

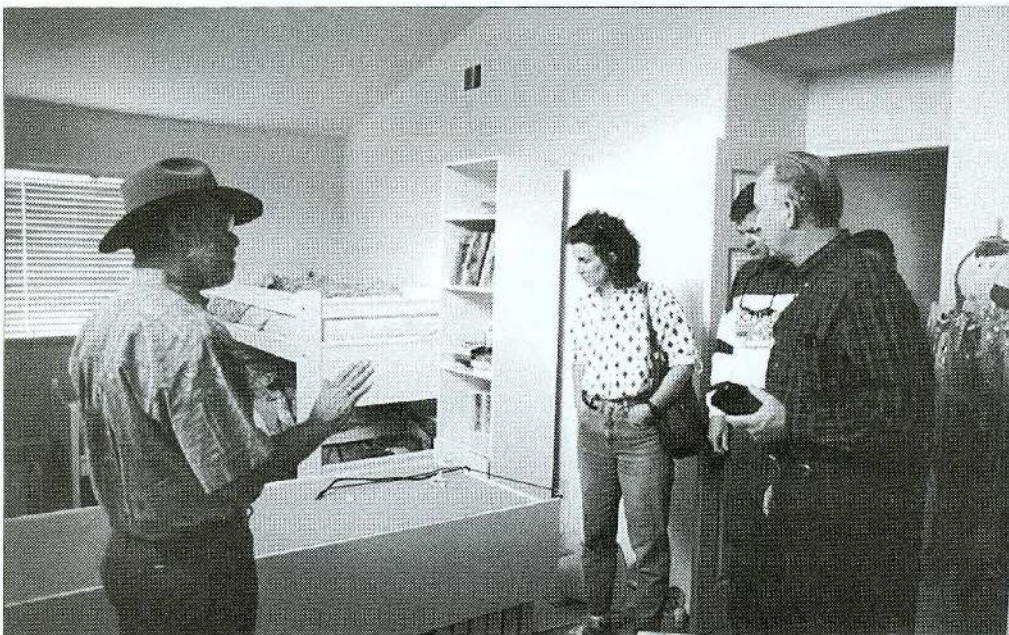
Jacob Hodes, a 13-year-old Placerita Junior High student, walks toward a damaged wall that partially blocked his route to school the week after the quake.



GARY THORNHILL

New fault?

Geologists with the U.S. Geological Survey study a fracture in Potrero Canyon, south of Val Verde, to determine if it is evidence of a new fault.



KEVIN KARZIN

Personal inspection

U.S. Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon (right) gets a tour of a quake-damaged Stevenson Ranch home. McKeon is accompanied by Stevenson Ranch Town Council President Richard Rioux (left), McKeon's aide Mary Evans and Stevenson Ranch resident Doug Werts.



GARY THORNHILL



JOHN DEMOS

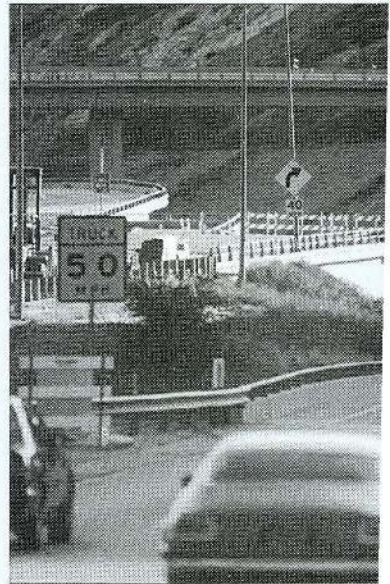
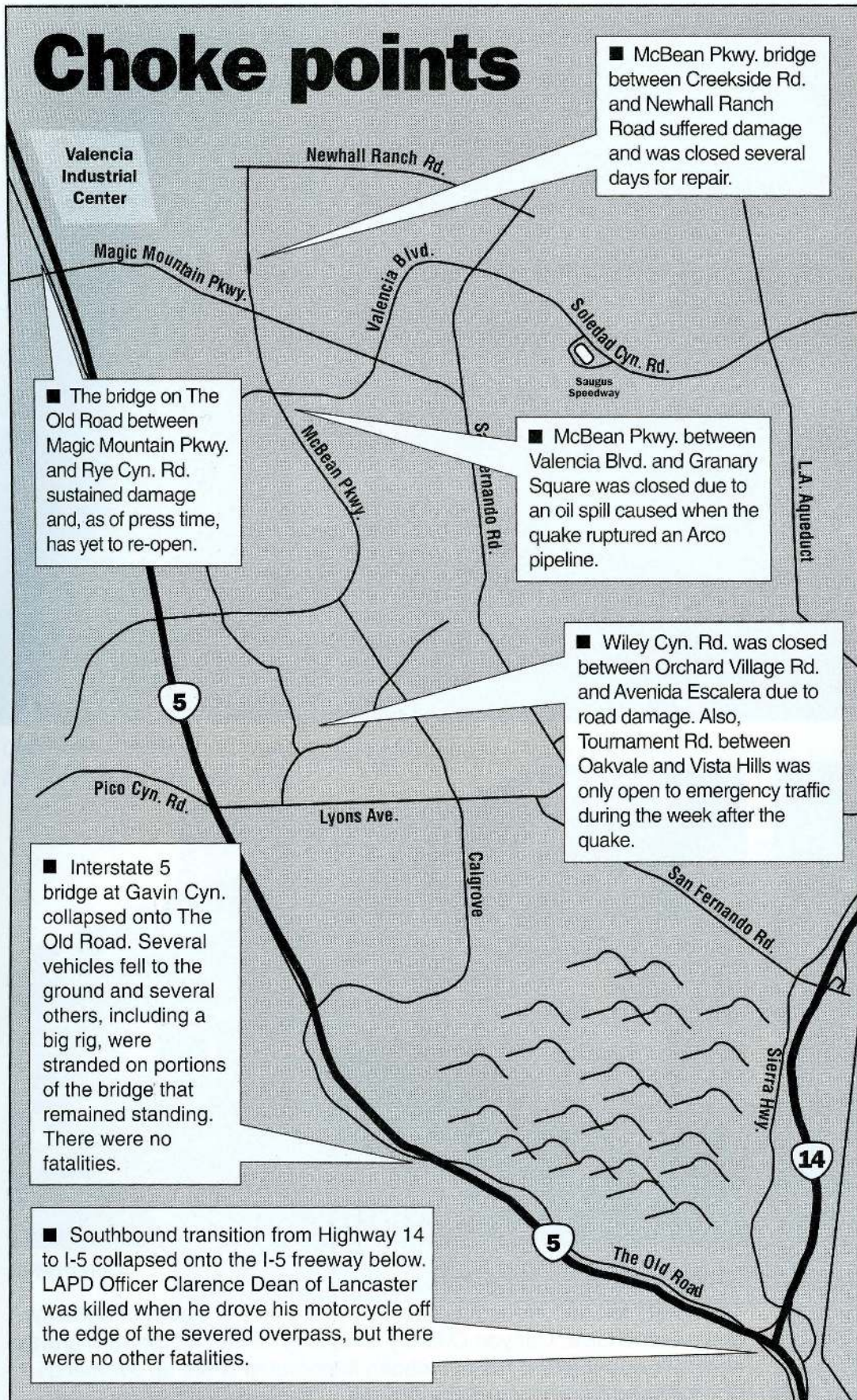


JOHN DEMOS

Shaking up the market

The quake left numerous businesses picking up the pieces of buildings and merchandise. Canyon Country Shopping Center on Sierra Highway (top), like many others, used wooden supports to shore up overhangs. Sport Chalet (above) was forced to close temporarily for repairs after the quake, and much of the Do-It Center's merchandise was toppled.

Choke points



PAUL SISSON



RICH SHVEYDA

GRIDLOCK

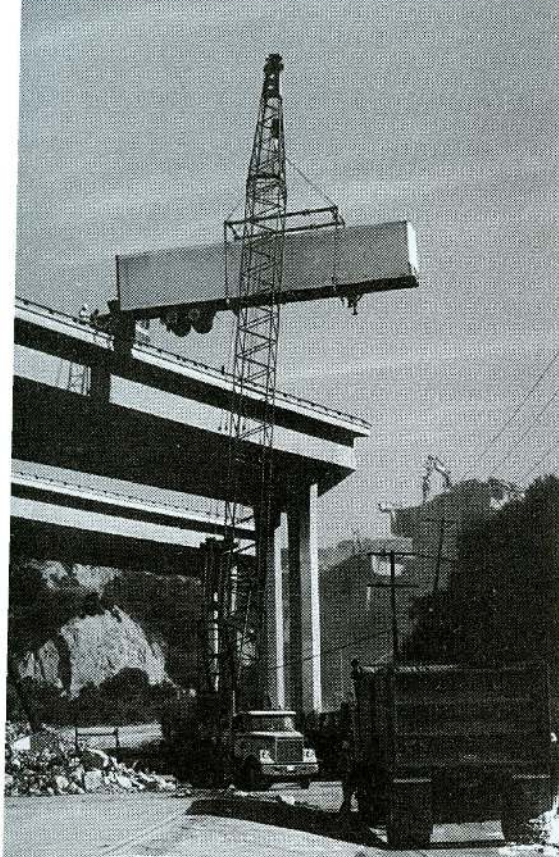
As commuters were detoured around quake-damaged bridges, traffic jammed up on surface streets including San Fernando Road (above). About 10 days after the quake, the Highway 14 truck lanes opened (far left). Alex MacKenzie (left) was among the Caltrans workers who added a car-pool lane to Highway 14.



SHAUN DYER



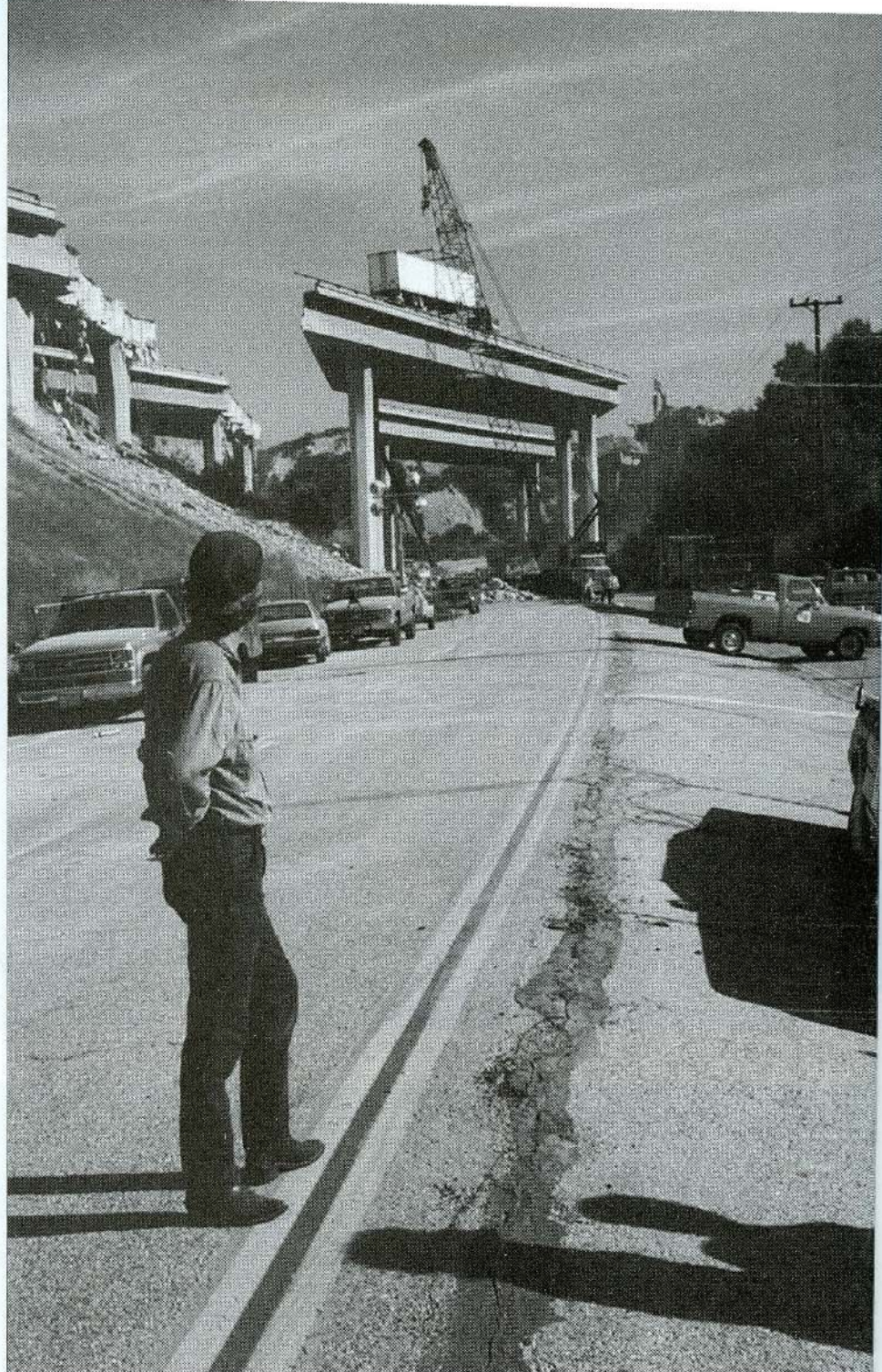
GARY THORNHILL



Plucked

Ervin Nichols, of Bend, Ore., watches as his truck is lifted by a crane from the collapsed Interstate 5 bridge at Gavin Canyon. Nichols and several other motorists escaped on foot before a section of the bridge collapsed just after the earthquake.

Photos by
GARY THORNHILL



“When the concrete popped up on the road in front of me I knew we were having an earthquake, so I just wanted to get out of here as soon as possible.”

*John Gulzow
Orange County resident*



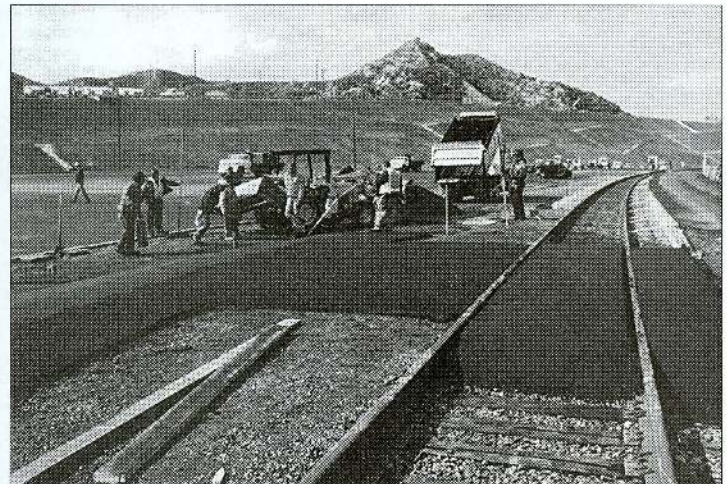
GARY THORNHILL

All aboard!

The Metrolink commuter train system expanded by leaps and bounds to ease traffic on quake-damaged freeways. Ridership on the Santa Clarita line increased from 1,000 per day to a post-quake peak of more than 20,000 in a day. Commuters (above) braved predawn rains to get a seat on the train, and hundreds at a time (below, left) flocked to the station to get tickets. Within days of the quake, a new Metrolink station was under construction in Canyon Country (below, right).



GARY THORNHILL



RICH SHVEYDA



Patching up

Caltrans sprung to action soon after the quake to shore up damaged bridges and clear a path for commuters. The bridge that was shored up at the I-5-Highway 14 interchange (above) was later demolished as the rebuilding process begun. New lanes were paved on the Calgrove Boulevard off-ramp (right) to accommodate a detour around the collapsed I-5 bridge at Gavin Canyon.

Photos by
GARY THORNHILL





GARY THORNHILL



SHAUN DYER

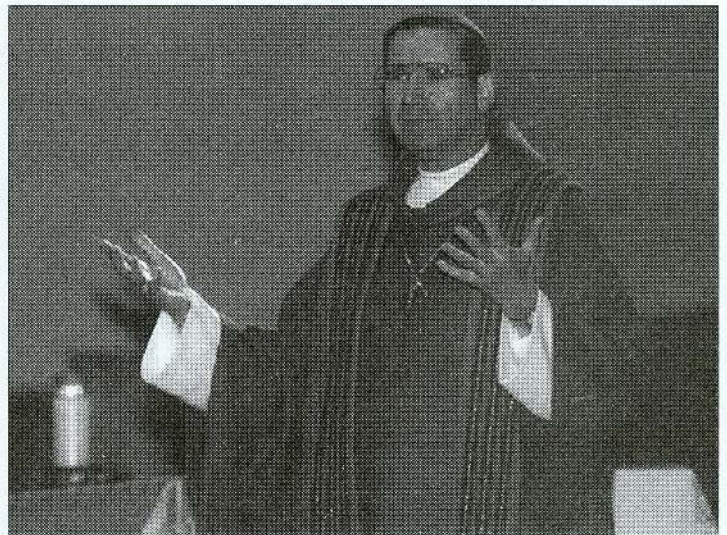
Catching breaks

Caltrans workers (above) lean on a section of the Valencia Boulevard bridge over Interstate 5. The bridge shifted as much as 12 inches in the quake and aftershocks. The Lyons Avenue overcrossing (left) also sustained damage.



Keeping the faith

The earthquake was no match for the religious faith of many local residents. A preacher (above) paid a visit to campers in Newhall Park, and Cardinal Roger Mahoney, archbishop of Los Angeles (below, right) delivered mass at St. Clare Catholic Church the weekend after the quake. Bettie Downing (below, far left) gives Deanna Gannon a hug and words of comfort after Gannon received communion at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.



Photos by JOHN DEMOS



Photos by JOHN DEMOS

Helping the children

Coping with “earthquake stress” was as much of a challenge for children as anyone. Children got a chance to make their own “earthquake” during a free counseling session offered by Miller, Geidel and Associates. And, schools opened within a week to help children return to normal routines. Stephanie Romney, Dani Martin and Emily Dalton (below) eased some anxiety by jumping rope on their first day back at Santa Clarita Elementary.



“When we were out of school it was boring. Now we have more stuff to do.”

*Alex Smee, 8
Santa Clarita student*



RICH SHVEYDA

Mental break

Jerry White, a San Francisco firefighter who helped with quake relief, takes time out to dance with Vickie Sharman (above) to music provided by country singer Darlene O'Connell and the Dixie Flyers outside the Red Cross shelter at the SCV Senior Center. County library employee Evelyn MacMorres (right) inspects a book about the 1971 Sylmar earthquake. Ironically, the Valencia Library book was damaged in the Jan. 17, 1994, earthquake.



JOHN DEMOS

**“It’s a real drag, what happened, but we’re
alive. The important things were saved.”**

***Rick Hughes
Greenbrier resident***



SHAUN DYER

Cheering up

Help for local quake victims came from all over. Vicki Voznick (above, left) of BSI consultants, “Sweet” Alice Harris and Dwayne Hatten, of the community outreach group Parents of Watts in South-Central Los Angeles, stayed in the SCV to help with quake relief. And KBET, the valley’s local radio station, including radio personalities Barry McKeever and A.J. Morgan (right), earned acclaim for keeping residents informed.



JOHN DEMOS



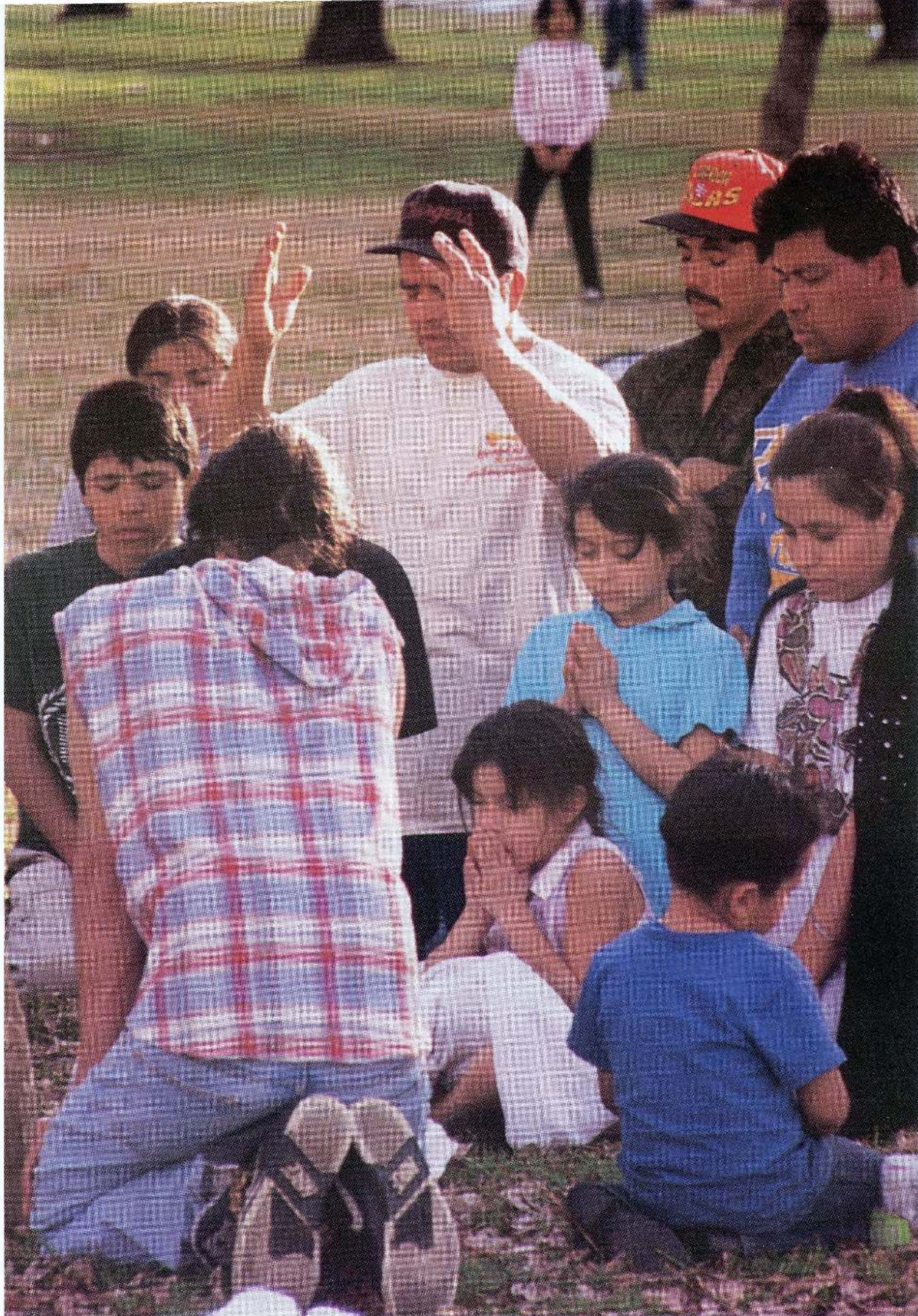
JOHN DEMOS

The lighter side

One real estate agent used the earthquake as part of a sales pitch for a sturdy home (above). Janice Deutschman-Newbold (right) didn't let the quake stop her from a jog "around the block" to train for the Los Angeles Marathon.



SHAUN DYER



Thankful prayer

JOHN DEMOS

Florentino Avila of Newhall leads a group of campers in a prayer of thanks for their health. The group of residents camped at Newhall Park during the quake's aftermath.



RICH SHVEYDA

WATER WOES

When the quake broke pipelines and cut off or contaminated water supplies, a call went out for bottled water. The call was answered by a variety of sources, as donated water flowed into the valley by the truckload. It would be more than two weeks before the valley's tap water was declared drinkable.



City employee Michael Marks (top) hands out water and instructions to Newhall resident Lupe Munguia. Newhall resident Rosa Bernabe (left) keeps her son Filiberto, 3, close as she carries home a case of water donated by the Miller Brewing Co.

SHAUN DYER



“We had hundreds of (water line) breaks. The guys were amazing. They were working 24 hours a day.”

*Tania Weaver
Valencia Water Co.*

Bottle brigade

RICH SHVEYDA

As water company crews worked to restore the water supply, county fire camp crews were at work distributing free bottled water.



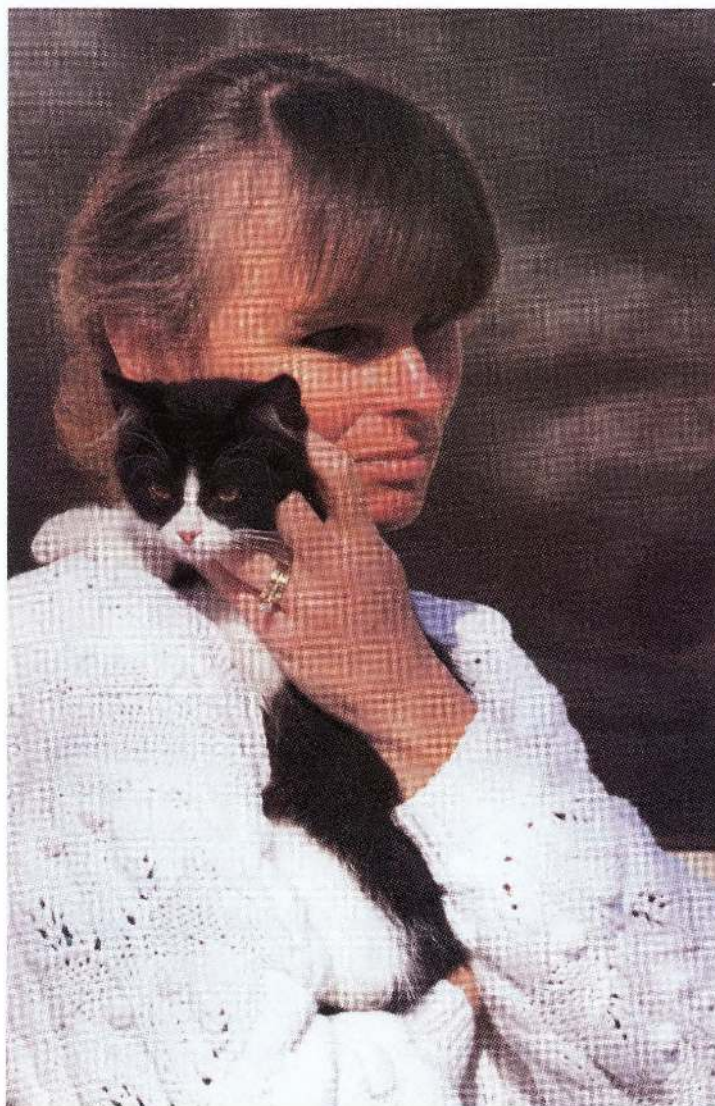
KEVIN KARZIN

HOUSE OF CARDS

When Stuart and Patty Cronan were told their quake-damaged home may be a public safety hazard, they asked the City Council to do the unthinkable: Destroy their home. The council granted the request, a bittersweet victory for the Cronans, who'd been guarding the home to ensure no one would get hurt.

The Cronans were there the day the city carried out the order, bulldozing the couple's home to the ground.

When the work was done, Patty Cronan said they were thinking about moving to Colorado.



KEVIN KARZIN



GARY THORNHILL

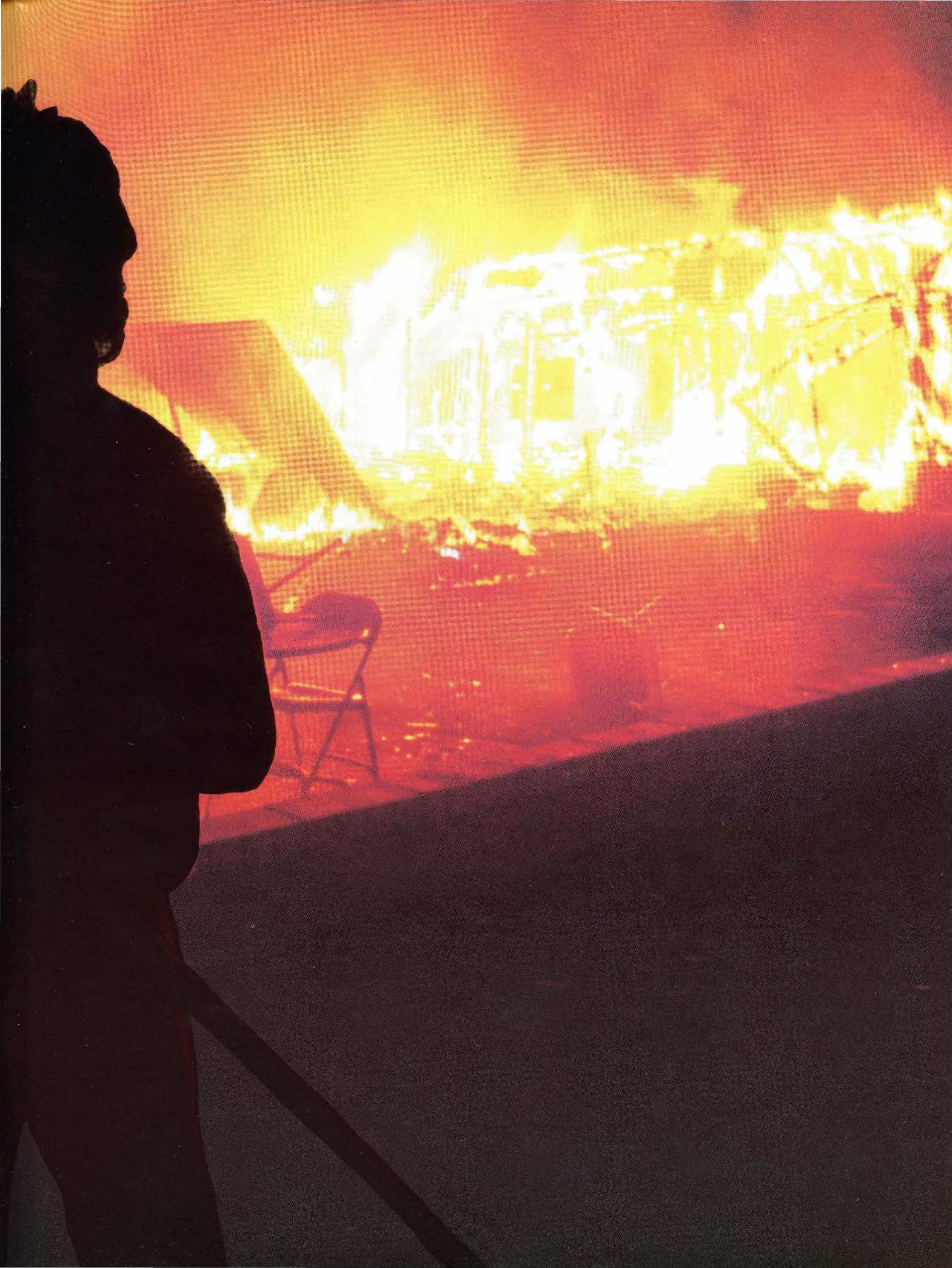


Bulldozed

Stuart and Patty Cronan paid one last visit to their home before it was demolished (opposite page, bottom). Patty, along with Holly the family cat, watches the demolition team's preparations (far left), and Stuart and Patty hug (left) as the bulldozer tears into their home (above).

Photos by
KEVIN KARZIN







Surviving the next one

An important step to earthquake preparedness is to survey your home and business for possible hazards. Once you identify what needs to be corrected, it doesn't take much time or money to make your home a safer place to live.

• To protect your roof from a chimney collapse, consider adding a plywood shield to ceiling joists.
• Check your roof making sure all tiles are secured. Loose ones could fall.

• Anchor bookcases and top-heavy furniture to wall studs using metal angle braces ("L" brackets) and lag screws. Be sure shelves are fastened.
• Transfer hanging plants from heavy clay pots to lighter ones so they are less likely to break the nearby window. Also, use closed hooks on all hanging items.
• Fasten stereo equipment with straps to a secure surface.

• Anchor heavy mirrors and pictures over bed, chairs and couches with wire through eye screws into studs.
• Locate beds away from windows.

• Block rollers on refrigerators, washers and other heavy appliances.
• Replace magnetic latches with ones that will hold the cabinet doors shut during an earthquake. In some cases, a lip or low barrier across shelves may prevent breakables from sliding out.
• Secure gas lines by installing flexible connectors to appliances.

• Survey the foundation of your house for loose or cracked plaster.
• Bolt the wood sill to the concrete foundation.

• Replace glass bottles from the medicine cabinet and from above or around the bathtub with plastic containers.

• Add bracing to support air conditioners, particularly on rooftops.

• Strengthen connections between posts and beams with metal T-straps.
• Remove flammable liquids to the garage or outside storage area.
• Secure hot water heater to the studs of the nearest wall using "plumber's tape."



Keep emergency supplies on hand

- Portable radio
- Batteries
- First aid kit
- Canned foods
- Crowbar
- Pipe wrench
- Flashlights
- Bottled water

Drills

Know what to do if an earthquake occurs. Earthquake drills help your family plan and remember what to do in a violent earthquake. You should learn where to seek shelter and how to protect yourself.

- During a quake you should stand or crouch in a doorway, get under a sturdy table or desk or brace yourself in an inside corner of the house. Know these places.
- Identify danger zones in each room and stay away from them during a quake.
- Stay away from windows and areas where chimney bricks could fall.
- Turn off the stove, if possible.

Businesses

Here are some tips. Contact your local emergency services office for more information.

- Have your facility inspected by a structural engineer.
- Move large and heavy objects to lower shelves.
- Secure shelves, filing cabinets, tall furniture, desktop equipment,

- computers, printers, copiers and light fixtures.
- Secure heavy machinery to the floor.
- Install safety glass.
- Secure outdoor signs firmly.
- Conduct earthquake drills.

QUAKE FACTS

SCV damage from the earthquake of Jan. 17, 1994:

- 2 fatalities (61 throughout Southern California.)
- 63 single-family homes uninhabitable
- 44 multi-family units uninhabitable
- 37 commercial units uninhabitable
- 1,656 mobile homes off foundations, 14 burned to ground
- 5,752 private structures damaged
- Homes with failed block walls: 5,000
- Homes with failed chimneys: 2,000
- Damage to private property: \$149 million
- Damage to city-owned bridges, medians, parks, buildings, roads and other facilities: \$22.47 million
- Estimated damage to other public facilities (libraries, schools, post offices, etc.): \$20 million
- Estimated damage to structures outside city of Santa Clarita: \$22 million
- Damage to area freeways: \$30.5 million
- GRAND TOTAL: \$244 million

Source: City of Santa Clarita. Figures subject to revision.

Source: American Red Cross

AP:Karl Gude, Dawn Deslites

Pages 64-65:

A resident of Greenbrier Mobile Home Park uses a garden hose in an attempt to keep quake-induced flames from spreading to his home.

Photo by RICH SHVEYDA

Page 66:

A painting left behind in a damaged house on Via Onda was an ironic illustration of emotion in the wake of the earthquake.

Photo by JOHN DEMOS

Back cover:

Caltrans crews demolish a portion of the Interstate 5-Highway 14 interchange. Reconstruction was expected to take as long as a year.

Photo by GARY THORNHILL

