

THE CONCRETE HERALD

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BAKER AREA EARTH SHIFT BRINGS 4.5 EARTHQUAKE SUNDAY NIGHT

The Upper Skagit Valley now has its own earthquake. The first sign of this phenomenon came at about 11:40 Sunday night when a growing rumble turned into a real, house-shaking 4.5 Richter-scale earthquake that lasted for several seconds. In a few minutes came another shock of lesser intensity and more of these varying from mere rumbles to definite and disturbing tremors continued through the night until past 3:00 in the morning.

As residents from Diablo down valley to Hamilton turned on the radio and TV sets Monday morning to learn what disaster had struck the state at some distance away it was found that no one on the newscasts had knowledge of the night of tremors. It was along in mid-morning before the word reached outlying areas, and around noon before word came from the University of Washington seismograph that there WAS an earthquake of strong signal and it was centered in the Mount Baker-Baker Lake area.

SMALL DAMAGE

As reports come in the damage from the quake consisted mostly of things toppled from walls or shelves. Strongest shocks were in Rockport where Benton's Stores had its aisles filled with merchandise spilled from the shelves. Glass bottles were broken in the fall in some cases.

Homeowners reported similar minor damage in pictures falling from the walls and items being toppled over. A few cases of cracked ceilings and cracks in masonry were also noted.

At Baker Lake, epicenter of the earth shift, Gilbert Martin of the Upper Baker Dam told friends that the first shock shook his residence severely, but that after that he didn't notice the reported further shocks as being of any consequence.

In the Skagit Valley a strong shock about 3 a.m. seemed to be the last of the series, although some people heard rumblings and felt movements well into the day.

No scientific data has yet appeared on what took place in the Mt. Baker region. Reports of increased internal activity have been publicized recently on both Mt. Baker and Mt. Rainier, with that same activity predicted for other dormant volcanoes from Northern California to Alaska.

In the past earthquakes felt in the upper valley have been relayed movement from elsewhere in the state, mostly from the well-known "fault" near Olympia.

This time we have one of our own. home grown, a local product.