

# County residents have ties to Bay area

By Rebecca Haynes  
staff writer

Jane Littmann is still unpacking the boxes from her family's recent move to Troy from the San Francisco area.

"We lived in Mountain View, which is about halfway between San Francisco and San Jose," she said. "We had a minor earthquake last summer and I was ready to move immediately after it."

While unpacking, Littmann discovered an emergency preparedness book issued to all residents of the Bay area on what to do in case of an earthquake.

"This particular book was issued through our (former) community, but I'm sure everyone living out there has one like it," she said. "It's really very helpful, with a lot of good tips and suggestions and I think it's probably one of the reasons all of the news reports are saying that things are going so smoothly out there."

"People there are prepared for this kind of thing," Littmann said.

"They keep bottled water and they know what to do."

Some of the suggestions in the emergency book are things like how to turn off water and electricity.

"I'M SURE that every community sends these books out," she said. "It spells things out very specifically as to what should be done. This one is 8 1/2 x 11 and is 32 pages long."

Littmann, whose husband is a consulting engineer with Failure Analysis and Associates, lived in the Bay area for three years before moving recently to Troy.

"We have a lot of friends there," she said. "I'm very concerned about the fires and maybe all of the buildings didn't go down, but one more little shake could bring down everything."

"One of the real dangers is water contamination," Littmann said. "Everyone is told to keep a three-day water supply, but I don't know if that's enough. There is a lot of industry there, a lot of chemicals and water could very easily be contaminated."

Another large problem is that many buildings, and even entire communities, are built on fill dirt, she said.

"It's such a pretty area, people want to live there so much that the earthquake danger is really secondary," she said. "When things are built on fill it hurts the chances of surviving an earthquake because nothing is stable. The fill really just has water underneath of it."

LITTMANN SAID she hopes future news reports will focus on the area south of San Francisco, closer to the quake's epicenter.

"Nothing at all has been said about San Jose and it's an enormous city," she said. "I'm very concerned about the people, my friends there, but I don't want to be part of the communication problem so I'm not going to try to call it."

Birmingham resident Dr. Earl Weston has relayed many messages to families with loved ones in the San Francisco area. The amateur ra-

dio operator frequently lends a hand in disasters of this type.

"There is one (ham radio) station in San Francisco that's operating," he said. "So far I've been able to get information for families in Australia and Salpan, which is an island in the Philippine Sea."

Weston said most of the people he's spoken with have had no injuries and experienced no structural damage to their homes. He said he doesn't expect ham radio operators to be involved in earthquake communications as deeply as they were for the Mexico City earthquake.

"San Francisco still has a pretty good communication system going there," he said. "It's not like in Mexico City where dishes and transmitters were destroyed and all lines of communication were knocked out."

"SOME OF the people I've talked to this morning still said they didn't

have any power and they'd turned off their gas," Weston said. "The best thing that we as ham operators can do is just to help assure people that their loved ones are safe."

Weston said he went on the air at about 10 p.m. Tuesday evening and stayed on, helping to relay messages until about 1 a.m. He was back up at 7 a.m. Wednesday morning and back to his radio post at 7:30.

"I'll probably spend most of the day here (at his ham radio)," he said. "I don't mind. People are so grateful when you're able to help."

One Birmingham worker has heard from her aunt but is still anxiously awaiting a telephone call from any of her other 10 relatives that live in San Francisco. The aunt called to say she was shaken, but fine.

Katie O'Neil, a circulation area manager assistant for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, and her mother Mary Alfano were home

Tuesday night when they received a call just before 8:30 from an Ohio relative who'd heard news of the disastrous earthquake.

"She told us to turn on CNN and we were glued to it all night," O'Neil said. "We tried contacting everybody, both at home and at work. Since it was just after 5 there when it hit, we're not sure if they were still at work or on their way home. The Bay bridge is one they use quite often."

Repeated telephone calls were answered by a recorded message saying all circuits were busy.

"We were frantically calling," O'Neil said. "They're all right in San Francisco and three work on Market Street in the Market Street Building. One of my cousins lives right on California Street (in the marina district) where the big fire was."

"Not knowing is the worst part," she said. "We're anxiously awaiting a phone call."

## ... but friends still wait, worry

Robert and Franne Woodruff, of Birmingham, breathed a sigh of relief when they finally heard from their son late Tuesday, just hours after the most severe earthquake in recent times devastated parts of San Francisco.

Their son, Robert, and his wife live on Francisco Street in the heart of the downtown area hit hardest by the quake that measured more than 6.9 on the Richter scale.

But the couple escaped without injury, said the elder Woodruff, and there was no damage to their apartment.

Woodruff, however, chuckled about his son's "timing." The young lawyer was in Beijing, China, when civil unrest broke out and then found himself in San Francisco when the city felt its sharpest earthquake in over 80 years.

"We had just talked to him earlier that day and he told us that he had just taken out earthquake insurance," Woodruff said.

"According to the father, the San Francisco attorney was on the phone with his legal firm's New York office when the earthquake struck."

The younger Woodruff told his dad his conversation with New York was succinct: "There's an earthquake. I'm gone," young Woodruff said, as he hung up the phone and started to run down 18 flights of stairs to get out of the downtown office building.

The elder Woodruff said his son told him he quickly hurried home and was relieved to find his wife and

*'She's been through a lot of these, but this time she started to come unglued.'*

— Carole Kreutzer  
on her sister in quake area

other tenants celebrating their survival.

West Bloomfield Township native Christine Hoyt-Giles was asleep at her San Francisco home when the quake struck, and she immediately phoned local relatives, said her sister Carole Kreutzer, secretary to Walled Lake Schools Superintendent James Geisler.

"She was pretty much hysterical," Kreutzer said. "She called about 45 seconds after it hit and said her place was shaking apart. She's been through a lot of these, but this time she started to come unglued. The dishes in her cupboard were all broken, but I don't think there was any serious structural damage to the house."

Hoyt-Giles' husband, Mykel, was at Candlestick Park to attend the World Series game when the quake hit. Hoyt-Giles called family members a second time Tuesday night to say that both she and her husband were safe. They have no children.

"I'm sure glad that she called, or we'd be going nuts," Kreutzer said.

## Hearing Friday on Prop. 'A' ads

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

A hearing is scheduled in Oakland Circuit Court Friday to give supporters of a school finance ballot proposal a chance to argue against allegations that two television advertisements on behalf of Proposal A are "vicious" and "deceitful."

As a result of those allegations, Oakland Circuit Judge Steven N. Andrews Tuesday issued a temporary restraining order blocking the continued airing of the television ads that were challenged by L. Brooks Patterson, a former Oakland County Prosecutor now in private practice.

Before Judge Andrews Tuesday, Patterson said the television ads are misleading because they say passage of Proposal A would give "more money for math and science and computers."

A hearing on the order is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Friday before Judge Jessica H. Cooper.

PROPOSAL A, one of two school financing issues on the Nov. 7 ballot, calls for a half-cent increase in the Michigan sales tax with the additional revenue — about \$400 million — going to schools.

Patterson said advertising stating that Proposal A provides more money specifically for science, math and computers is wrong.

Money raised by Proposal A would go into the state's general fund, Patterson said. Thus it is deceitful to

state or imply that it is earmarked for a specific purpose like science.

"If those ads just said Proposal A would raise more money for education, I would have no argument with them," Patterson said. "But it's inaccurate and deceitful to say it would raise money for science, math and computers."

"The ads are vicious because they prey on parents' universal hopes for better education."

Patterson has announced that he plans to outline his own school finance reform proposal, possibly after the first of the year for the 1990 election.

HE WAS PREVIOUSLY associated with other tax proposals calling for reform of school financing coupled with guarantees of property tax reduction.

Proposal A is supported by Gov. James Blanchard and is being promoted by an organization called "Promote Michigan Education."

Larry Owen, attorney for the organization, called the order to pull the advertising "an illegal act of censorship" and "unprecedented."

"He (Judge Andrews) issued it without giving us a chance to argue against it," said Owen, who is with Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone. "I'm sure that once we get the chance to argue our side, the order will be dissolved."

He called Patterson's argument a "cheap publicity stunt by a politician."

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