

THE WEATHER

High 74
Low 54
Wind S.W. 10-15
Bakersfield, Calif., tonight and tomorrow, little chance over the week end.

The Bakersfield Californian

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QUAKE SHATTERS CITY

Bakersfield today stoically began the gigantic task of digging itself from the tons of rubble left by the second major earthquake to hit this stricken area in 32 days.

Yesterday's temblor, which struck savagely and without warning at 3:41 p.m., killed two persons, injured dozens and caused damage which will run into millions of dollars.

City Manager C. Leland Gunn, who is also director of civil defense and disaster relief, has declared the shattered city a disaster area and in a state of emergency.

Another earthquake rattled across much of Southern California early today, jolting some persons from their beds and causing a flurry of excitement among quake-jittery residents.

This morning's temblor felt much lighter than the devastating jolt that whiplashed through Bakersfield yesterday afternoon, ripping fronts from buildings, collapsing roofs, shattering glass and cascading debris into the streets.

Officials warned residents to stay away from the downtown area which bore the brunt of the jolting shock. Virtually every business establishment in the heart of Bakersfield suffered severe damage and the area is extremely hazardous.

A total of 96 city blocks have been harricaded and are guarded by city police, sheriff's deputies and highway patrolmen.

The scene downtown today was one of devastation

but was in sharp contrast to the milling confusion which followed the temblor.

Thousands of persons were week-end shopping one moment. Fifteen seconds later they poured like ants into the streets, terrified and white-faced.

Seismologists at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena described the tremor as being of 6 magnitude on the Richter scale of 10 and called it an "aftershock" to the killer quake which snuffed out 11 lives in Tehachapi July 21.

But it was a bill of goods which found no buyers in Bakersfield.

"If that was an 'aftershock' I never want to go through an earthquake," one shaken shopper said.

Jim Day, managing editor of The Californian, was standing at the corner of 19th St. and Chester Ave. when the vicious killer shock struck. Here is his graphic description:

"The quake hit with a great rumbling sound, automobiles bounced up and down on the streets and people bounced as they walked along. I glanced at my watch. The temblor lasted just 10 seconds.

No Hysteria

"Automobile traffic stopped almost immediately. People left their cars to stand in the street and looked around.

"Law no hysteria, I heard no screams.

"People streamed from the sidewalks and from stores and other buildings and raced to the center of

the street. There they stopped and looked around them — and waited.

"Bricks were falling and cornices from buildings and broken glass was spraying from shattered store windows.

"I don't think I saw anybody hit by falling debris—buried or injured. Not at that moment.

"A few seconds later, when the temblor had stopped and the rumbling was an echo, I saw injured people stagger into the street.

"By then the dust had begun to rise. It was a great pall of grey dust—in itself a terrifying thing.

"It had been a bright, sunny day and this dust rose and blotted out the sun and sky.

"By then I could hear the distant siren of ambulances, fire trucks and other official vehicles.

Dig Into Debris

City police and other law enforcement agencies swiftly began the imposing task of bringing some semblance of order from the chaos. Rescue squads, many voluntary and hastily organized, quickly began the job of digging into debris for victims.

Seconds after the convulsive temblor, city fire crews and equipment were rolling to answer the calls of distress which poured into the station switchboard.

Passersby at the 21st and H Streets station saw an empty building. The only piece of equipment visible through the gaping doors was the fire chief's white cap resting in the middle of the floor—mute testimony to

the haste with which Bakersfield firemen sped to answer the call of a city in distress.

The body of Mrs. Edna Ledbetter, 26, of McFarland, was recovered from the crumpled wreckage of Lerner's Dress Shop at 1423 19th St.

Mrs. Lucy B. Ricks, manager of the shop, said:

"Things began to come down. Everybody was screaming. Then the wall from next door came down."

The wall was of brick and police said Mrs. Ledbetter had dashed for the front of the store and almost reached it when she was buried under the collapsing debris.

Mrs. Ledbetter's sister, Lily Hobbs, also was in the store and was reported seriously injured. (Elsewhere in today's publication is picture of Miss Hobbs being rescued by city police).

George Patman Goby, 67, Southern Pacific engineer at 2021 Quincey St., was killed when much of the Kern County Equipment Company at 615 E. 19th St. collapsed.

Eight Seriously Hurt

A check of the hospitals revealed that 31 persons had been injured, but many of these were treated for superficial lacerations, abrasions and contusions.

However, eight were reported seriously injured.

Two seriously injured men at San Joaquin Hospital, were working on buildings which had been damaged in the July 21 quake.

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"Death in the Afternoon"; Crews Scrape Rubble From Body of Mrs. Edna Ledbetter, Killed When Quake Wrecked Lerner Shop