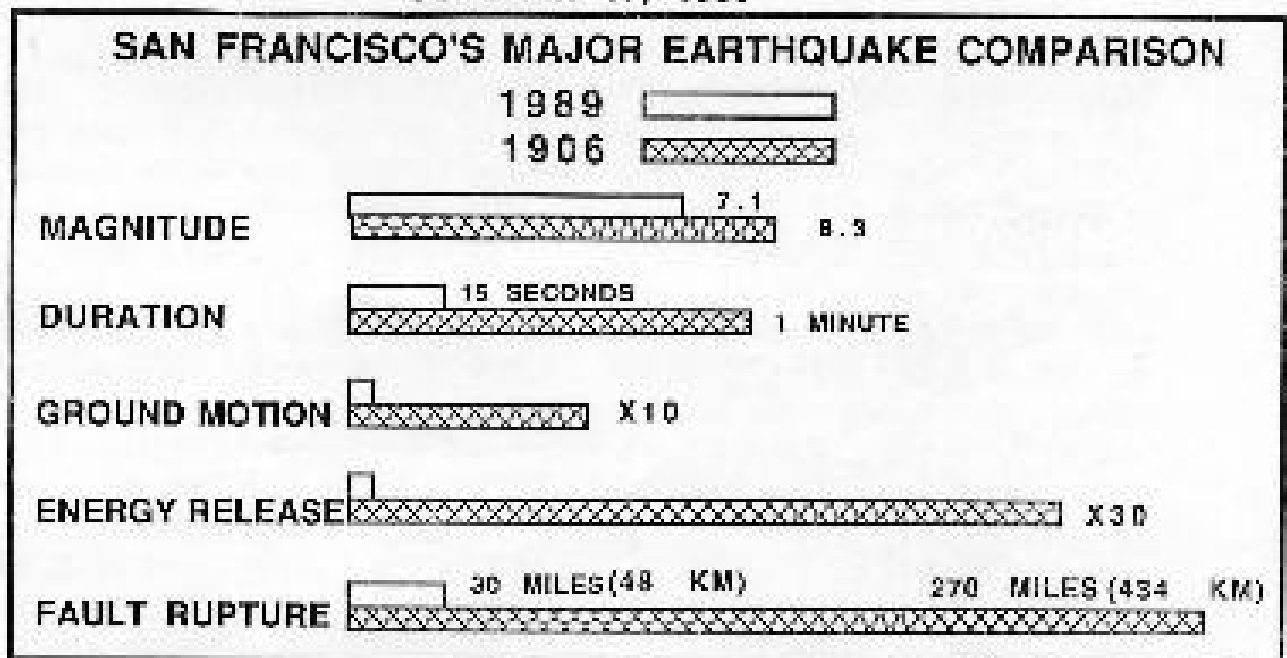


**7.1 CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE
OCTOBER 17, 1989**

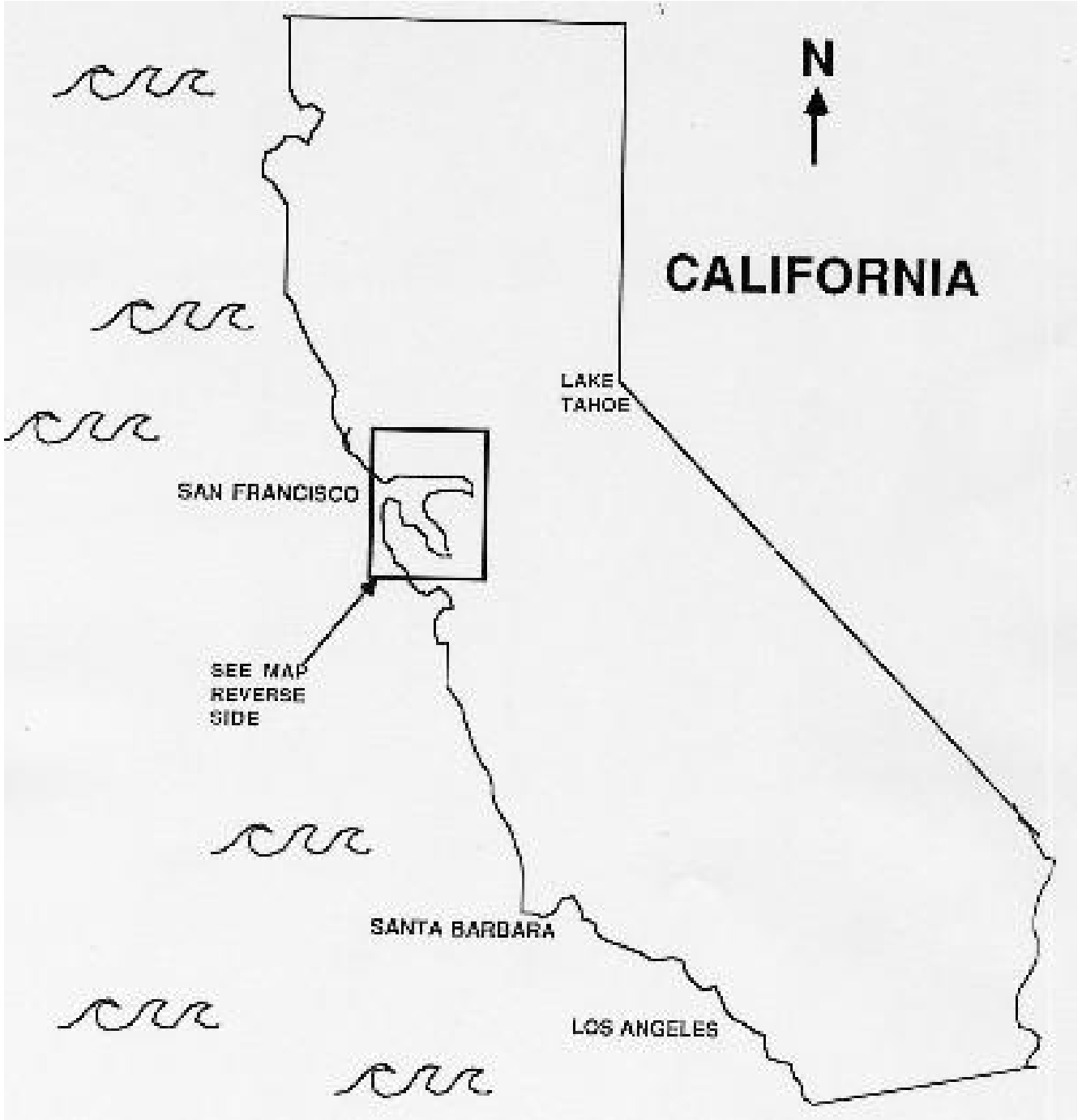


At 5:04 PM, Pacific Standard Time, the Stevens family, and all other persons in the San Francisco, California area, experienced the worst earthquake anyone could remember since the 1906 BIG earthquake. It's 15 seconds duration seemed like eternity and depending where you were, different events occurred. Since the news media has already told you about the major damages, this note will describe where members of the Stevens family were, their experiences, and what damages they incurred as a result of the 7.1 magnitude earthquake.

STEVENS RESIDENCE

Our home is approximately 25 miles (40 km) from the earthquake epicenter. It is a wood frame, two story structure built in 1953 on very firm rock and clay soil near the foothills of the Santa Cruz mountains. The San Andreas fault runs through the center of the mountains which are only 10 miles (16 km) away. Our house survived without any noticeable cracks or major damage.

*one bookcase fell in the garage but fortunately not on the 1975 Datsun or the 1965 Ford Mustang convertible automobiles.



- The gas water heater in the garage remained upright which was of major concern because of the potential fire damage. There were no gas or water leaks throughout the house.
- Approximately 525 cubic feet (15 cubic meters) or 4000 gallons (15,000 liters) of water splashed out of the pool, through the yard and garage and finally out to the street in front of the house. There are no noticeable cracks in the concrete and steel pool.
- Electricity remained on but phone service was out immediately and was then intermittent on and off for several days.
- Most all items such as lamps, pictures and vases on top of tables, shelves, piano, and dressers either fell over or onto the floor. Four glasses were broken as were two large beer mugs and a cup and saucer from Germany. A large reel-to-reel tape recorder fell four feet from its shelf but landed on books and other stereo items that saved it from serious damage. Ralph's collection of over forty state and country trivets hanging on the wall in the upstairs recreation room did not fall.
- Other bookcases and cabinets inside the house, several with glass doors and facing in the same direction as the bookcase that fell in the garage, did not fall which is considered a very strange phenomenon.

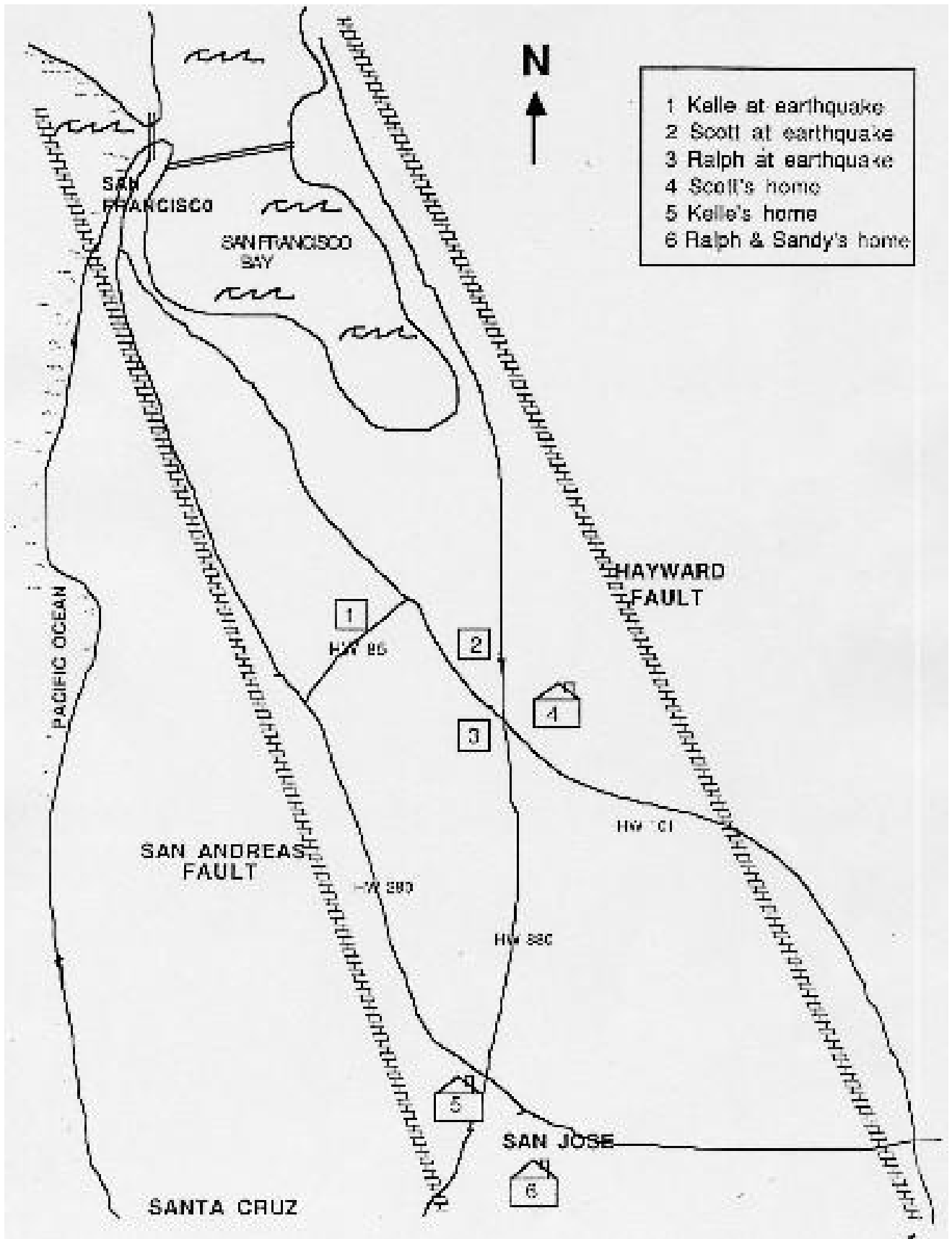
SANDY AT HOME ALONE

Sandy was sitting in the rear bedroom watching TV. She fell to her knees and was forced hard against the wall while trying to get to the nearby door of our designated "safe area". This is a four door intersection that forms the safest protective structure in the house. After the major shaking stopped, she checked for damages and received a small cut on her right arm while opening a kitchen cabinet allowing glasses to fall out. She did not want to remain in the house and went outside and sat in the car. When Ralph arrived home about an hour later, Sandy was obviously still afraid but was concerned mostly about the safety of Scott and Kelle. Several neighbors soon arrived to check on us and many frightening stories were told by all although our neighborhood survived remarkably well. There were no structural damages to properties or physical injuries to neighbors.

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- 1 Kelle at earthquake
- 2 Scott at earthquake
- 3 Ralph at earthquake
- 4 Scott's home
- 5 Kelle's home
- 6 Ralph & Sandy's home

KELLE ON THE ROAD

Kelle was alone in her car traveling about 50 mph (80 km/hr) in the fast lane of highway 85 near 280. While listening to the World Series baseball pre-game radio program, her car started rising, lowering and moving sideways out of her lane. After realizing it was not a typical car problem and seeing about 30 other cars hitting each other as they also swerved and crossed other lanes of the two lane highway, she decided it was ONE BIG EARTHQUAKE!!! She miraculously avoided hitting any other cars or structures while trying to stop in the rising, dipping and swerving roadway. The earth was still shaking when she and others finally got their cars stopped and considerable damage was done to the roadway. Since the earthquake started south of San Francisco's Candlestick baseball park where the third game of the World Series was to be played, the radio announcer had just then acknowledged an earthquake was occurring and then went off the air. When the initial shaking finally stopped, Kelle continued driving to her apartment (approximately 25 miles or 40 km from the epicenter) and found it intact with kitchen cabinet doors closed. Although closed, they previously had opened allowing 4 glasses (including one from Germany) to fall out and break. Lamps and vases also fell over but did not break. Apartment security persons arrived soon to check for gas and water leaks but found none. Since there was no electrical power or telephone, Kelle decided to drive to her parents where she spent the night.

EPITAPH

This was not THE BIG ONE that is supposed to occur within the next 30 years. Knowing exactly when and where it is going to happen would help a lot and many persons are trying to do just that. No doubt we will hear many scientific, and "non-scientific" predictions for more earthquakes in the future. The Stevens family plans to remain in California near beautiful San Francisco and will deal with the consequences of THE BIG ONE when it happens. We thank all the relatives and friends who thought about us and hope we can visit with you before Mother Nature unleashes any more of her power such as the 7.1 magnitude earthquake in the San Francisco Bay area October 17, 1989.