



BOATS FOR TRANSPORTATION—Residents of Valdivia, Chile, use boats to get around the city and survey the damage that was done to their property in the recent earth-

quakes that rocked the area. Valdivia was among the hardest hit cities in the series of quakes that shook the South American country. —(UPI Telephoto)

Chileans Continue to Suffer as Result Of Greatest Catastrophe of 20th Century

By DAVID F. BELKNAP
Santiago, Chile—(UPI)—On a Saturday morning in Chile, life has just begun to stir at 6 a.m. Few are up so early. Those who were on May 21 were fortunate.

For at 6:05 a.m. four Saturdays ago, a catastrophe of Biblical proportions struck this friendly Latin land. Thousands were killed and injured during its 10-day rage. Untold horrors were visited upon 1,500,000 persons who saw the face of the earth twisted beneath their feet.

Before the catastrophe ended, earthquakes, tidal waves, floods, volcanic eruptions, disease and starvation tortured the living. Whole cities collapsed and islands vanished, volcanoes were born and deadly seismic waves were sent hurtling 10,000 miles across the Pacific.

One of Greatest Disasters
Mere death tolls and damage figures—grim as they were—utterly fail to impart the calamity of these plagues. This was one of the 20th Century's greatest natural catastrophes, one of the greatest disasters of recorded history in South America, rival in its deadly forces even to the great plagues of the Old Testament when the Lord said to Moses—"I will stretch out my hand and smite Egypt with all the wonders..."

Chile was smitten with the triple terror of the three most powerful forces locked within the earth. If this was no godly manifestation, there was at least the message that nature's force is not yet servant to man.

This is the story of nature's assault on Chile. Earthquakes Start
At 6:05 a.m. May 21 there began a series of earthquakes that changed the map of Chile, destroying an area about the size of New York state.

The earthquakes aroused sleeping volcanoes and created deadly tidal waves that swept to Hawaii and Japan. It flooded vast areas of southern Chile.

Before the ten days of terror ended, mountain hamlets were buried, large towns were crumbled and fishing villages washed away.

The cost of damage was estimated at \$600 million. More than 5,000 persons were dead or presumed dead, 450,000 were homeless on the long, friendly land below the equator, and another 150,000 persons' homes were badly damaged.

The first tremor occurred 300 miles south of this capital city. It lasted only 35 seconds.

Flee Into Streets
In Concepcion, Chile's third largest city and the country's biggest industrial center, workers fled into the streets and thereby saved their lives.

The first tremor collapsed 30 per cent of Concepcion's buildings, killing 138 persons who were unable to get away from falling walls and roofs. By nightfall the fearful populace prayed that the catastrophe had ended. But it was only the harbinger of worse to come.

Avalanches cascaded down Andean slopes to bury railroads and highways and damming rivers that flooded unprotected hamlets. Other villages were buried under rockslides.

Islands were sucked into oblivion under the gulfs of Aneud and Corcovado. New islands were thrust above the waters.

The tremor, which registered the highest recorded mark on Richter-scale seismographs, reached into the very bowels of the earth.

Volcanoes that had been inactive for centuries began casting up their molten rock. A tidal wave flooded the coastline for 500 miles and swept fishing villages and whole populations into the seas. Freighters capsized and fishermen drowned in their boats.

Just before the strongest earthquake struck, Miguel Letelier, a university student, was walking with his parents through the plaza of Valdivia.

"Everyone standing fell or was thrown to the ground," Letelier said. "No one could get up again for at least five minutes. Then the river began to rise, coming up and up until it flooded all lower parts of the city."

Letelier recalled that hotels and restaurants gave their food stocks away.

"After the first day the shortage was desperate," Letelier said. "I saw two men fighting with knives over a piece of bread."

At Puerto Montt, a picture-postcard city in Chile's famed lake country which many American tourists have visited, thousands of horrified residents ran screaming into the streets when their homes

trembled early Sunday afternoon.

"We were still in a stupor when the big one came," Gregorio Nieto said. "It seemed like the end of the world. People fell to the street and couldn't rise. When they rose they fell again. It was impossible to do anything but trust in God."

A tourist said picturesque Puerto Montt had been "torn into a thousand pieces."

Like the distant muzzling of thunder in a passing storm, hundreds of aftershocks rippled through the disaster zone. Most were minor tremors but 12 passed the intensity of six on the Richter scale, strong enough to be classified as major earthquakes. The most violent registered at 9.2 on the Richter scale, the strongest ever recorded by modern seismographs.

That night and the next night were unending nightmares. The ground shook every one or two minutes. There was no electricity and the city was completely black. Everybody slept in streets and parks.

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Royalty Troublesome
Royalty, the Major said, is more trouble than premiers and presidents. Queen Elizabeth got the biggest reception during King's reign. "It took me two months to get her five miles," he lamented. That's the distance from Andrews to downtown Washington.

President Charles De Gaulle of France was the first to get a trumpeted greeting.

The Major prepared more than 50 official welcomes during his tenure, so the Army figured it was fitting that when King retired last week he get a dose of his own medicine.

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Retiring Captol Figure Receives Fitting Goodbye

Washington—(UPI)—Maj. Samuel L. King has retired with all the pomp and circumstance he planned for the important men and women who visited Washington in the past four years.

King's official title was Military District of Washington Ceremonies officer. With that decorative title went the job of marshalling bands, horses, tanks and people in just the right protocol quantity and order to welcome a visiting dignitary.

In his four years on the job, the tall, muscular major told UPI, his toughest assignment was Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. He said Castro "crossed us up. He disregarded intricate security arrangements, mingled with the crowd and generally gave us a scare."

Conversely, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev wasn't any problem once he got on the ground. But getting him there posed problems. Right up until the moment the chunky Russian landed, King had identical receptions waiting in Washington and Baltimore, with officials ready to rush to either one.

The Air Force finally decided that Khrushchev's giant Russian jet could come down at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., but the wide landing gear forced the greeters, including President Eisenhower, to hike out to the landing strip.

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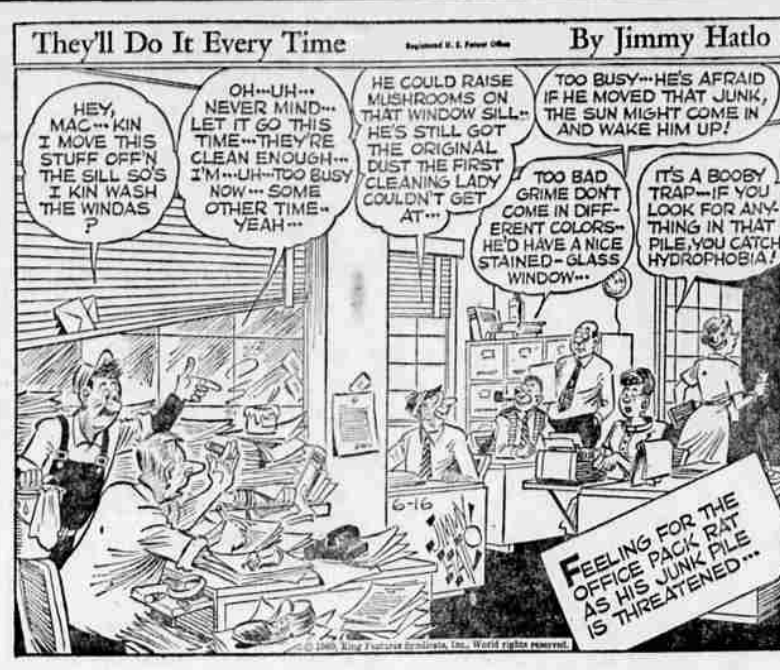
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Lipstick Colors Banned by Order

Washington—(UPI)—U. S. Commissioner of Foods and Drugs George P. Larrick announced Wednesday he has signed a "tentative order" which would ban the use of 14 red, yellow and orange lipstick colors.

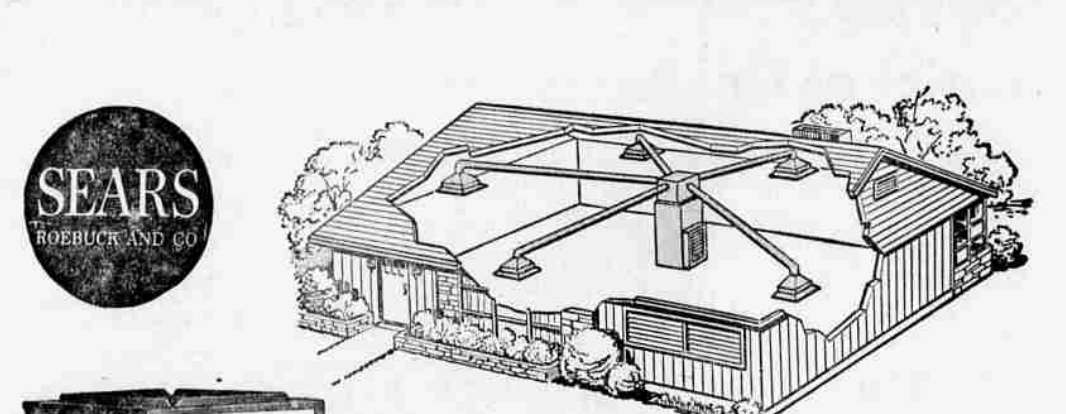
Larrick told a news conference that laboratory tests have shown that the 14 colors are toxic—that is, poisonous—to test animals if fed in sufficient quantity.

He said the ban would not go into effect immediately because the cosmetics industry has the right to protest the order. It is expected that cosmetic firms will file formal objections, which would hold up final action for at least 20 days.

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