

# Quake Victims Tell Story Of Ordeal

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Mont. (UPI)—Lloyd Verlanic, Anacosta, Mont., was the first to reach Mrs. Purley Bennett, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, whose husband and three children were buried in a slide caused by an earthquake. A fourth child survived.

Verlanic found Mrs. Bennett and her son, Phil, 16, in the middle of a dry creek bed.

"Mrs. Bennett was nude," Verlanic said. "She was crawling on her hands and knees. She looked up at me, her face a mass of blood and said, 'Oh, thank God! I've been crawling and praying all night. My children, oh my God, my children. I wish I could find my children.'"

Verlanic said that when the mountain crashed down into the canyon, water from the Madison River sent air swooshing up on both banks with such force it tore the clothes off campers.

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Gilstand, Helena, Mont., were parked about a half mile downstream from the landslide and were among the first to reach the injured.

"The roar sounded like the end of the world," Gilstand said. "We were sleeping in the car. It felt as if 10 men were jumping on your bumper."

Air Force Warrant Officer Victor James, 35, El Centro, Calif., was parked in his trailer about 75 yards from where the main slide hit.

"I heard a terrible rumble and looked up," he said. "I saw the whole damn mountain crumbling. It was awful. I saw a lot of fighting during World War II but I never heard such a hell of a roar."

UPI correspondent Robert Crennen narrowly missed injury in one of the aftershocks at 8:26 a.m. p.m. It happened near where he and Highway Patrolman Robert Spear, rancher Don Cox, and Sheriff Lloyd Thomas of Beaverhead County were standing.

They had just driven to the downstream side of the rockslide. At that point rocks were still trickling down the mountainside and two cars could be seen "twisted like a wrung washrag," Crennen said.

"I was just taking a picture when Spear shouted 'Good God, look at that!' There were five or six huge boulders coming down from the top of the mountain."

"We were back about 50 feet from the slide and the car was pointed toward the slide. We all jumped in. Spear got the car turned around just as the rocks came crashing down behind us."

"Seconds later a big ledge broke off the cliff and came tumbling down. One rock made a 10-foot dent in the asphalt highway."

In West Yellowstone, western gateway to Yellowstone, Laura Schauer, Los Angeles, was coming out of the Wagon Wheel Cafe when the first quake struck.

"I felt like I was on waves," she said. "I had no control. The lights swung. Glass was flying everywhere. I picked myself up off the ground several feet from the steps."

She suffered a lacerated left leg.

Becky Alexander, Everett, Wash., was driving out of the park with her children, Leslie and Larry, along with Glen and Thelma Alexander.

"We thought it was a flat tire and stopped," Becky said. "The boulders came rushing down both in front and in back of the car. One felled two trees in front of the car."

# Family Given McKay Estate

SALEM (AP)—Bulk of the estate of Douglas McKay, former governor and secretary of Interior who died July 22, goes to his widow and two daughters, a will filed in Marion County Probate Court Monday shows.

Amount of the estate was not indicated, but includes a trust to provide the widow, Mabel C. McKay, \$25,000 annually. She will also receive his shares of capital stock in Douglas McKay, Inc., their home, works of art and personal effects.

Other bequests included Mae Hill, Portland, a sister-in-law, \$7,000; Mrs. Allan P. Bellinger, Salem, \$5,000; and \$2,000 each to James L. Hill, Los Angeles, a brother-in-law; Mrs. L. W. Freier, West Linn, and Mrs. Charles Kelly, Portland, sisters-in-law; and Mrs. Michael Madden, Portland, and Mrs. Ernest Hood, Medford, nieces.

The tolls for the St. Lawrence Seaway are scaled to pay for the project in 50 years, says the National Geographic Society.

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