

Summary of Personal Accounts

Description: [Young man awakened by quake in River Heights, UT](#)
Author: Alldredge, Clifford I.
[Info Categories:](#) B, E, N

Description: [Junior high school student at home in Logan, UT](#)
Author: Sanders, Craig
[Info Categories:](#) B, E, N

Information Categories

A -- Aid:

provide medical services, shelter, donations, loans, advice, encouragement, implement safety measures

B -- Building Damage:

structure itself plus windows and chimneys (typically damage visible from outside the building)

E -- Earthquake

Description:

where, when, duration, direction, sound, motion, number and timing of aftershocks

G -- Geologic Effects:

changes at the Earth's surface, fault scarps, rockfalls, landslides, ground cracks, ground subsidence, sand boils, water spouts; effects on springs, lakes, wells

H -- Humor:

I -- Impact:

changes in daily routine; rumors; influx of reporters, politicians, cost in dollars

L -- Lifelines:

effects on transportation: roads, bridges, railroads, airports

effects on communications: telephone, telegraph

effects on power, gas, water, and sewer lines

effects on dams

N -- Nonstructural Effects:

effects on plaster, furnishings (typically damage or rearrangement of furnishings visible inside a building)

P -- People:

effects on and responses to, during and after; deaths, injuries, near misses

R -- Recovery:

clean up, rebuild

S -- Scientific:

explanation of the day

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Excerpt from: Letter written in response to newspaper article requesting personal accounts of earthquake experiences in the Intermountain West

Submitted by: Clifford I. Alldredge

South Jordan, UT

December 1995

Location at time of earthquake: River Heights, UT (near Logan)

After thirty-three years it is still very vivid in my mind. Our closet had hanging doors so any movement would rattle them. I awoke to this rattling and my first thought was that the furnace or water heater had blown up. Then I looked out the window and in the faint light of early morning saw power lines swaying. Even though I had never experienced one before, I turned to my wife and announced, "we are having an earthquake." My mother, visiting from St. George, was sleeping downstairs and was wakened by the sloshing of water in the heater.

Our house was undamaged except for a small crack in the basement wall on the southeast corner.

The quake was the topic of conversation at work that day. One of my coworkers who lived in an apartment building said she looked out the window and saw her building and the one across the driveway sway towards each other, then sway apart.

My brother-in-law was delivering milk at the time and had left the truck parked on a slight hill. He turned to see the truck apparently moving uphill for an instant, then it changed direction. He had to run to get it under control.

Several men were in the area of Cutler Reservoir when the chattering birds suddenly fell silent and an eerie stillness filled the air. This was immediately followed by the rumbling and the highway appeared to undulate like a rope that is tied at one end and the other is moved up and down.

A major attraction was the collapsed roof of a Logan pool hall. Two patrons were in the building at the time but were unhurt by the falling ceiling. The LDS Stake Center in Richmond was damaged badly enough that it had to be rebuilt. A girl in Richmond narrowly escaped when the bedroom ceiling fell on her bed.

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**Interview with: Craig Sanders, Department of Geology/Geophysics;
University of Utah**

Location at time of earthquake: Home in Logan, Utah

I was a junior high school student at the time of the earthquake. It was early morning, and I was practicing violin. The first thing I noticed was my cat acting strangely. I thought the cat had lost its mind. It was making cat-in-torment noises, and its fur was all standing on end. This was at least a few minutes before the earthquake (maybe more), because the cat scrambled up behind the drawers of a desk, and I remember having time to figure out where it was. This behavior of the cat's really alarmed me--I can scarcely convey how peculiar it seemed, with no one stirring but the cat and me, and the cat acting as if it were being tortured.

Then I felt the earthquake. I moved into the front doorway and looked out. The telephone wires were acting like jump ropes.

I'm fairly sure that there was no damage to the house, unless a few glass objects in cupboards may have broken--I don't even remember that being the case, however. But, the school was damaged, so the school year was late to start. This pleased me greatly at the time, but we had to make up the time on Saturdays.

Later I moved with my family to Richmond (the epicentral area). I remember houses there that had been abandoned, presumably because the owners didn't have the money to repair them after the earthquake.

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