



Mendocino County Museum

Of the Redwood Empire

400 East Commercial Street, Willits, California 95490 707.459.2736 - Fax: 707.459.7836

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 2, 2008
SUBJECT: Book Review
CONTACT PERSON: Herb Pruett
TELEPHONE: (707) 459-2736
FAX: (707) 459-7836
EMAIL: museum@co.mendocino.ca.us
WEBSITE: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/museum

The 1906 Earthquake on California's North Coast

By Sylvia E. Bartley

Nearly everyone is familiar with the *San Francisco Earthquake* of 1906 and the devastation wrought on the famous city. It is easy to forget that the disastrous 'quake left its horrifying imprint on communities well south of the "city" and north into the forests of northern California before veering westward into the Pacific Ocean at Cape Mendocino. A northern California story of the 1906 earthquake is told in *The 1906 Earthquake on California's North Coast*, released as a centennial project by *Grassroots History Publications of Mendocino County Museum* in 1906. Ms. Bartley's book is richly illustrated with rare photos of the devastation in Mendocino County, particularly to bridges along the coast, and particularly to the City of Fort Bragg. The photos and text vividly brings home how far-reaching the impact was felt, well beyond San Francisco.

Quotes taken primarily from oral histories of those who recalled their personal recollections of that April morning in 1906, adds a personal, first-hand viewpoint to the chaos that followed immediately after the shaking stopped, and humanizes the statistical reports that followed in the weeks and months of 1906 and 1907. A reprint of the journal kept by Charmin London, who with husband Jack rode horseback more than 350 miles through the earthquake-stricken towns of the north coastal counties, observing damage to Calistoga, Clear Lake, Ukiah, Willits, Alpine and Fort Bragg. Charmin's is a rare anecdotal account covering twelve days in which she notes aftershocks felt during the trip and adds special depth to the photographs and oral accounts described in the book.

The 1906 Earthquake on California's North Coast, is an insightful, fascinating, and easy-to-read story, a must for Californian's living along or near the infamous *San Andreas Fault System* or those who have friends and family who do.

Contact the *Mendocino County Museum Book Store*, *Mendocino County Book Company* in Ukiah, other bookstores, or visit our website www.co.mendocino.ca.us/museum for internet shopping. At \$12.95, *The 1906 Earthquake on California's North Coast* is a worthy addition to any or home library.



Eastern Railroad's 146 foot high, 1000 foot long trestle over Jughandle Gulch on morning of 1906 earthquake. It was immediately rebuilt. FB-MCHS, MCM

For additional information or if you have questions, please call the museum at 707 459-2736 or visit our website at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/museum