Earthquake Effect Here Is Explained

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By JIM LACAFFINTE

A major earthquake which struck in the Anchorage, Alaska, area Friday night more than 3,000 air miles from here apparently produced a percussion type of reaction in Louisiana by churning up water in rivers, bayous and even swimming pools.

Here at the Amite River, swells of water three and four feet high were reported between 10 and 10:20 p.m. some 15 minutes or so after the quake hit in the 49th state.

It is almost unbelievable that an earthquake so far away could be felt in Louisiana, Dr. Henry V. Howe, professor and director of the LSU School of Geology, said. “But some of these earthquakes are felt in water a very considerable distance from the source.”

Only Water Affected

Dr. Howe said that since the quake is so far away, the only thing it could affect here is the water.

He pointed out that the great Lisbon earthquake which hit in Portugal in 1755 and claimed 60,000 lives was felt in the United States on the Great Lakes.

All the reaction in Louisiana was reported on the waters. There were no reports of injuries, however, in Lafourche Parish, debris was thrown up on La. Hwy. 1 and boats were damaged.

The LSU geology professor said that quakes that react in far off places on the water can do just that to boats, even turn them around.