Predicting Earthquakes

Seismologists believe earthquakes depend on the internal processes of the earth, not the external processes of the sun and moon. Methods used by Kerry Sieh have been accepted while Browning theory is disputed.

Kerry Sieh Theory

Future San Andreas Fault quakes are predicted by dating broken sediment layers to determine prehistoric quake patterns.

Iben Browning Theory

Bases theory on proximity and alignment of the sun and moon that produce high tidal forces on the Earth's surface.

San Andreas Fault

Browning predicts probable quake Dec. 2 along the New Madrid Fault. On September 9, 1990, an earthquake, registering 4.6 on the Richter scale, occurred on the fault.

Los Angeles

Sieh's work forecasts a 60 percent chance that a 7.5 or above quake will shake Southern California within 30 years.

Historic Earthquakes in Louisiana

Louisiana residents have generally experienced low to moderate seismicity with more significant quakes occurring in the southeast corner and west central portion of the state.

Although not recorded by seismologists, what may have been another quake was felt here in June 1968, at least by one person.

Mrs. L.C. Stone, the weather observer for the U.S. Weather Bureau at Melville, in St. Landry Parish, reported in the June 1968 edition of the bureau's meteorological service: "At 6 p.m. on the 29th, buildings throughout the town shook perceptibly, apparently from an earthquake."

"I was in the middle of the town, and my house rockered violently for several minutes," she said. "The shaking was so violent that my furniture was moved around the house."