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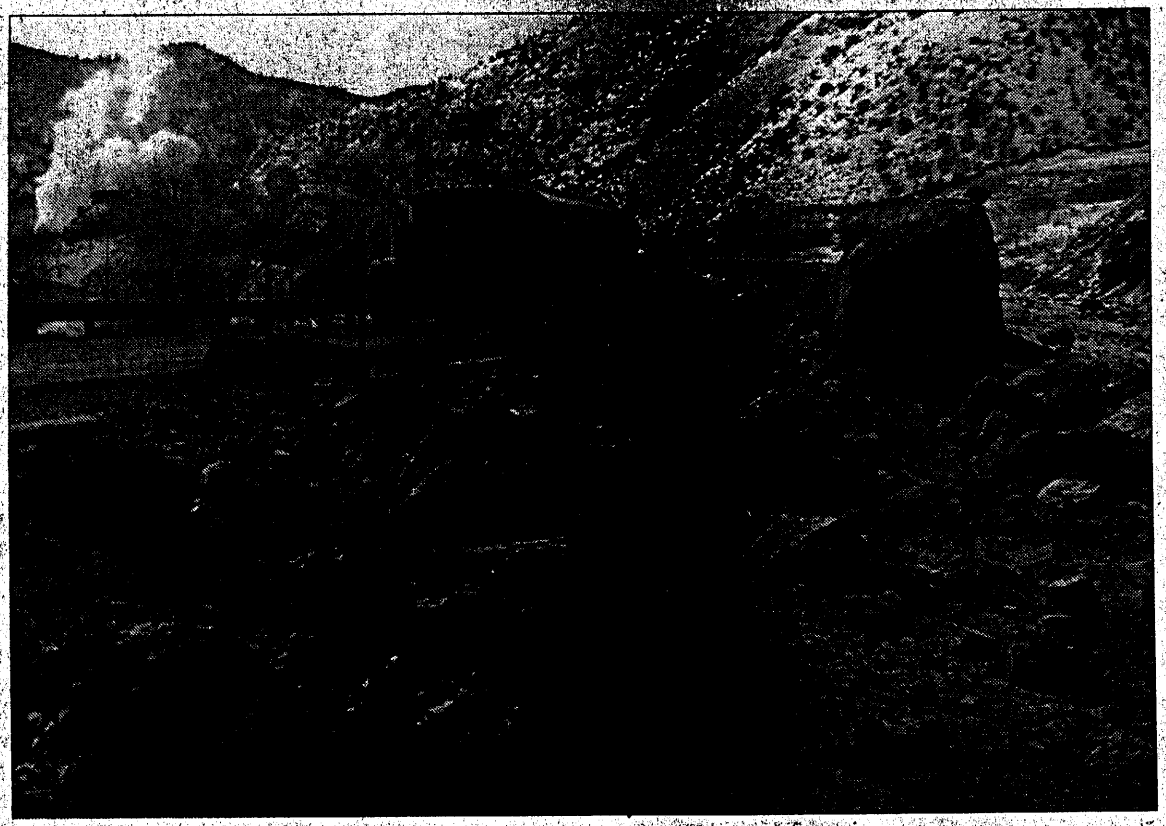
Moderate earthquake triggers road slide

By JACKIE ANDERSON
Staff reporter

Lynette Miles had no warning Monday evening as she made her way to Price from Pleasant Grove that she would be the first to come face to face with an onslaught of boulders.

The boulders and mounds of dirt cascaded down the hillside of Price Canyon directly toward the van carrying Miles and her three young children.

"The slide was just beginning, but the right lane was covered with rock and debris. I didn't have time to stop, but made my way to the left lane. Both my front tires popped, but I kept going and plowed my way back to the right lane. The two small cars behind me followed in my wake like they would a snow plow. Everything occurred in slow motion. The road was shaking, but I thought it was the rocks falling that caused it. The sound of falling rock was eerie, impossible to describe and unforgettable," explained Miles.



Large boulders and mounds of earth line U.S. Highway 6 following an earthquake Wednesday evening. The debris blocked the highway for more than an hour, but crews cleared the roadway and travel resumed later in the evening.

Willow Creek mine manager John Borla commented that although the earthquake was felt by coal miners on shift at the time, damage was not serious with some roof falls in the bleeder section of the mine.

"There were no injuries and there was no damage to any of the equipment. Clean up of the roof falls delayed production briefly," explained the mine official.

One continuous miner section was producing again by Wednesday morning. The longwall was expected to run again by Wednesday afternoon, and the second continuous miner section to resume production Thursday morning.

Mine officials are working with the University of Utah Seismograph Station to determine why the shock was stronger in some sections of the mine than others. The university also indicated that there is no evidence to indicate that the earth quake was caused by mining activity.

The University of Utah Seismograph Station reported a magnitude 4.1 earthquake at 7:16 p.m. in central Utah Monday. The epicenter of the quake was reported five miles north of Helper and nine miles north, northwest of Price in an area of active underground mining.

The seismograph station recorded the location of the earthquake at 39 degrees, 45.17 minutes north latitude and 110 degrees, 49.93 three minutes west longitude.

The earthquake was felt in Price and Helper and reportedly triggered a rock slide on U. S. Highway 6 north of Price.

Utah Department of Transportation Russ Jensen confirmed Tuesday morning that there was a sizable rock slide triggered by the earth quake near mile post 229, just past the port of entry and across from the Willow Creek mine load out.

Boulders measuring from four to five square feet were removed from a 300 foot area.

The slide also spilled rock onto to the railroad tracks precipitating a clean up there as well.

Crews were able to remove the rocks from the roadway using snow plows that were already present at the time of the slide.

The highway was closed to traffic for approximately one and one half hours while crews cleared the roadway and monitored the hillside.

There was considerable damage to the road. Barricades were placed and flaggers remained at

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State transportation department focuses on placing accident barrier on U.S. 6 overpass

UDOT crews are finishing the cement area needed to place an accident barrier a long the edge of the U.S. Highway 6 overpass, where several wrecks have occurred recently. The 20 foot long crash barrier is designed to slow down the initial impact of a vehicle before it slams into the solid cement barricade sections.

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the damaged area to warn motorists throughout the night.

Jensen later reported from the scene of the rock slide that crews would begin temporary repairs to the stretch of damaged road last Tuesday afternoon.

The large rocks will not be removed from the sides of the roads until crews are assured that the hillside is stable and it is safe to proceed.

Disccusing the incident, Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Don Kelley confirmed that two cars and one semi-tractor trailer sustained property damage to the undercarriage and tires as a result of hitting rocks.'

But Kelley pointed out that no persons sustained personal injury as a result of the slide.

Miles described the way strangers pooled together by the mishap also worked together to assist her family.

"They helped me remove my children from our van, which was stranded on the road within danger of falling rock. They wrapped them in blankets, held them and comforted them as they would their own," explained the grateful mother.

A highway trooper remained at the site of the rock slide throughout the night to assist the Utah Department of Transportation in monitoring the area and ensuring the safety of passing motorists.

Happy 25th Birthday Kuki (Kathy Jo)

Call and wish her a Happy Birthday March 10th at Dinosaur Tire
From Your Family

Have a hot news tip, feature story idea or suggestion for a photograph?

Newspaper corrects error in East Carbon City article

The article in the March 2 edition of the *Sun Advocate* re-