

21st Anniversary - Scan Quake Memories - October 17, 2010 from Members of the AIDC 100

HARRY KNOWLES

I was coming in from the NRF show in New Orleans with Mon Dorris our National Sales Manager at Metrologic. A few minutes out from landing at San Jose, the pilot came on the intercom and said there had been a disturbance near San Jose, & not to worry. We thought it strange that he flew low over the field, at about 100 feet at approach type speed. Very few lights were on on the field. We circled and landed, and were the first plane landing at San Jose, after the quake.

The taxi driver we took was SE Asian, and could hardly talk with fear and excitement. As we came into the Convention Center, ceiling tiles were out, the vibrant still fearful excitement inside was electric.

But I now prefer landings with much less excitement.

Many thanks for jogging the memories I look forward to next week & jogging more, and catching up.

ANDY LONGACRE

I was right in the middle of showing John Bowles at the PSC booth a take-apart prototype of Welch Allyn's new decoded-out wand when what sounded like a locomotive rumbled through the showroom floor. "I didn't know they had subways in San Jose" was this easterner's first thought, but others caught on a lot faster than I did and soon I joined the rush to the nearest door. After things settled down, I spent the next 45 minutes trying to find John Bowles to get our wand back.

Back home I later learned, my young son watching the World Series broadcast told my wife (who just the day before had flown home from a brief vacation in San Francisco) "They just had an earthquake in San Francisco!" but later tried to reassure her "Don't worry, the epicenter was down in San Jose(!)".

To this day, I remain much more sensitized to any earth trembler, such as when a heavy truck rumbles by.

RICK FOX

I was chairing a session and was in the process of introducing a speaker – don't remember who. We were all situated on a wooden platform. When the shaking began – actually a slight rumble - I thought it was one of my speakers trying to be funny.

As the floor began to develop wave patterns, someone in the audience yelled "earthquake" – and the entire room exited out the two doors on either side of the platform. There was screaming, running, and chairs being knocked down – it was like a grade B movie.

I stayed in the convention center and proceeded to the exhibit hall to check on our booth and see if any of our group was still inside. The hall was pretty much empty. Some booths were in various stages of falling over. A number of large panels had fallen from the ceiling.

I went outside and located a co-worker. We walked into the parking garage beneath the convention center and retrieved our car – took us a while in the dark.

Got our group together and drove to the hotel. I don't recall any of the street lights functioning. It was from watching the news at the hotel bar that night when we realized the extent of the damage.

I remember calling my wife back in Pittsburgh to let her know that I was still alive. She said that was nice but I woke her and asked me to call back the next day with the details.

SPRAGUE ACKLEY

Hi All, I had been in David's talk and when the shaking began I immediately ducked under the small desk in front of me (having lived in California before, I was not alarmed). I quickly realized that this pathetic little desk was not going to protect me from anything, so I went to an open door leading to a balcony which overlooked the sidewalk. I remember seeing street lights directly below swaying through a 60 degree arc and the fountains still sloshing their water onto the sidewalk.

When things died down, I walked the many blocks to my hotel (very low cost cinder block variety). I passed many damaged buildings with bricks and façade debris on the sidewalk. Everyone along the way was calm and friendly. Once in the hotel, we got an aftershock that rocked the pictures and shifted the furniture but otherwise, there was no damage.

Incredibly just a few weeks earlier, I had just descended off of the 5000 meter limestone peak Puncak Jaya in eastern Indonesia to the glacial valley below when a magnitude 7 earthquake rumbled through for about 30 seconds. The flat floor of the valley was like a giant water bed with standing waves. When the undulation stopped we noticed a large boulder about 20 feet in diameter slowly rolling towards our tent. Fortunately it stopped several yards to the side. Had it ended up on the tent, it would have been an uncomfortable evening.

I am not sure how many people have experienced two earthquakes in the range of magnitude 7 within a month

DICK MEYERS

How could I forget. I was on the fifth floor of the Holiday Inn across from the Convention Center. We were in a meeting with Stu Crouse (Logmars), Dennis Priddy and someone else I can't recall. Lights swayed, furniture toppled and Stu's wife was screaming in panic! Of course, it didn't last long but the fright did (and the memories even longer.) Down the steps we went only to find the lobby soaked from the swimming pool.

A little later I talked the Holiday Inn into taking me out near the airport to Rick Bushnell's 10th anniversary celebration (for Quad II.) Naturally there was no power so had to climb ten flights. The good news was that not many made it so we had plenty of food and booze!

Later made it back to the hotel where I found some friends in the bar and so continued to have a serious relationship with a scotch bottle! Jerry Webb of NCR insisted on going to the room with me but couldn't understand until we got there. He helped right all of the furniture.

The next morning, I was having coffee with Sal Cali, VP at Symbol, and we both decided that it was time to get out of Dodge. Unfortunately we were unable to confiscate seats on a train, plane, bus or rental car. That simply added more stress on the situation particularly with news reporters constantly saying we might have many aftershocks some of which could be worse than the original!

Departure day finally came. Upon boarding the plane, I went directly to the cockpit and asked the pilot to announce when we were crossing the California-Nevada border. He did and I swore never to return to California again. P.S: I've been back many, many times!

P.S. My clock is still serving its time!

JOHN HILL

Was on my way to give a presentation in the main auditorium when the "rolling" began with light weight tiles floating gently down from the ceiling. It was a bit surreal. The lights dimmed briefly, but the back-up generators kicked in and I kept walking towards the auditorium, running straight into a crowd of people being guided to the exits. Clearly, the 5:15 PM session wasn't going to happen. I remember the orderliness of the evacuation & shortly thereafter standing in the bar at the Fairmont with a bunch of ScanTech attendees watching events unfold on TV. A couple of hours later, I returned to the Convention Center to see if they'd let me into the garage to retrieve my car. Found the car unscathed except for four flat tires - apparently the rolling had broken the seals. AAA had other things to do that night and the back-up reservation I'd made at the Hyatt was a godsend. The following day, my normal 45-minute drive home took over five hours. Got there just in time to see my wife and daughter hauling out the last of the giant garbage bags. The quake had taken down about 25% of our house. The Loma Prieta epicenter was about six miles from where we live.

GEORGE WRIGHT (Jr. and Sr.)

The two George Wrights also have vivid memories. I (George, Sr) recall diving under the table in a nearby booth and watching from the floor level as the concrete floor moved in rolling waves just like snapping a rug. When we left I was amazed to see the escalators working normally.

We quickly left the convention center and immediately walked directly to the bar in the nearest hotel where we were joined by Peter Hicks. From there we watched TV of the chaos in SF. George IV quickly made a call to our New York office before the (land line) circuits were overwhelmed to let them know we were okay and asked them to call Jenny Hicks in the UK and then Peter was fine, too.

The day before Peter had hosted a lunch for his customers at a nearby winery. On the tour we were shown large ($\pm 25'$ high) stainless steel vats that were on a large concrete slab. Two were several feet out of alignment, and on the concrete were dark circular marks which we were told were caused by the vats in their position before "the last earthquake". Proudly they said the vats held and no wine was lost. And they hoped the vats would move back in place "with the next one".

We called the following day to jokingly complain that we hadn't realized they planned the move so soon and ask how they fared. Sadly they said several vats had not made it through this 'quake. Sadly we said we wish we could have been there a day later to help them with the cleanup.

I recall going to a Rick Bushnell party on the top floor of a hotel on the edge of town. The elevators were not working but those who made it up the stairs were well rewarded with food, beverage and conviviality. Later, it seemed to be business as usual – perhaps even better than usual – at a nearby western bar with a mechanical bull, dancing and joyous celebration into the night. The show reopened the next day with labels, buttons and t-shirts proclaiming, in one fashion or another, "I Survived Scan-Quake '89"!

PETER HICKS

Will not forget, quite a story.

JUD MINER

I was standing next to one of the columns in the convention center before going to a lecture hall to give a talk. The floor started to ripple. It looked like ocean waves were rolling toward me. There was no initial noise. I momentarily thought some strange vertigo had attacked me. Then I saw my very athletic sales person, Shelly Maguire, knees bent, arms outstretched, trying to keep balance on the far side of the front hall next to the door to the exhibit hall. The crashing and screams from inside the exhibit hall changed my mind. It was definitely an earthquake! Shelly started to run toward the exit. I grabbed her as she raced by, and shouted, "Shelly, don't go down there. It's all glass in the foyer! You'll get hit with flying glass. Stay here by me next to this column. It's the safest place."

I was convinced the waves were at least 6" in depth. Jack Buettner, who was down the hall, said he got down on his knees to better measure the wave and that the waves were 8" deep. Merlin Webster said he thought 9" was about right. All three of us went back the next day to look for cracks in the floor. There were none we could see.

What an adventure!

JACK KINDSVATER

Thanks Dick, for remembering this earth shaking event in the life of AIM and reminding us of the exciting times we had together.

I recall that I had just entered the lobby when the action began. I found a large pillar and became intimate with it (as intimate as you can be with concrete). I seem to recall that Chuck Mara also found that same post, but he'll have to confirm that. Others have clearly described the undulating floor in the exhibit hall, and we also watched the roadway outside move in the same wavy way.

A group of us were walking back to the Fairmont when an aftershock hit, and the lamp post was a handy support. At the hotel the swimming pool had emptied due to the sloshing, and everything in my room was on the floor, but no real damage. And thankfully I was on the 7th floor so it was only a good hike, not a marathon.

A few weeks later the AIM Board met in Los Angeles and during dinner the earth shook again; that was a San Diego area quake. The Californians present decided they wanted nothing more to do with AIM members from the east that brought earthquakes to the Golden State of fruits and nuts

MIKE LOWRY

I was at our booth when the Quake hit. All the lights went out and you could hear things crashing all around you. I remember moving into the aisle way along with what seemed to be a thousand other people to make my way out of the building. We were sandwiched against one another with a tremendous amount of force shoving everyone forward all of a sudden the women in front of me yelled "my shoe I lost my shoe" just as she was about to bend down I grabbed her and held her upright moving forward I said forget the shoe or we will be trampled. All I could think of at the time was seeing those mob scenes at international soccer games where people are literally trampled to death.

Once we neared the doorway to get outside everything really got tight and aggressive we couldn't hardly exit the building because of the large group of people just outside the building blocking the exit so they could watch the building shutter up close. I immediately went straight for the side walk to get away from the building. I couldn't imagine why they wanted a front row seat to a possible building collapse or at the minimum all that glass busting out.

Once outside the building and on the side walk just as I stated to relax a bit a security guard came by yelling everybody get your car out of the garage because we think there is a gas leak. I thought you got to be kidding if you think for a minute I am going back into that structure to rescue a rental car.

After an hour cab ride back to the hotel we all had a good laugh reliving our stories with the other hotel guests over many drinks.

So in summary yes I was there and I will certainly never forget it. My only regret was not buying a Tee Shirt.

RICK McDONALD

What wonderful memories we all share. I am grateful that none of them include injuries.

The subject sent me on a memory lane trip. Remember the phrase "Grow the Pie" from the 70's and 80's? Remember the handful of small businesses struggling to gain acceptance of emerging technologies and establish standards in the face of ever-changing requirements? Who knew! Maybe the new phrase should be add a marange on top.

As much as I would love to see everyone in Chicago I won't be there this year. My wife, LaDonna, and I have moved to a volcano in the most remote place on the planet. We live in Ko Olina about 20 miles west of Honolulu Airport. Ko Olina will become better known next year when Disney completes a new resort here. We are involved in a new Rotary Club and spend a lot of time doing island things like walking, swimming, golf, etc.

Many of you will visit the islands and I would love to see you. Put us in your address book and give me a call when you are coming.

CLIVE HOHBERGER

It was my second Scan Tech as VP of marketing for Zebra and I had 35 people there as we are introducing our new 6 in/sec Zebra 90 thermal transfer printer. We had little closed off office area in our booth for conferences and I was meeting with a lady editor from one of the book publishing companies. All of a sudden my conference chair which had wheels took off across the floor and slammed into the wall. I barely had time to lift my fingers off the arms so they weren't crushed against the wall. Then the chair took off across the room and slammed into the table. It did this three or four times it happened so rapidly I couldn't could neither stop the chair and nor get out of it and the woman editor avoided this by grabbing onto the table so that she was just being rocked around and not flying across the room. I remember watching lights and bezels falling down from the ceiling.

My main concern was for my 35 people. I ran into Jack Kindsvater outside just in time to share a couple of six point something aftershocks with him. My people scattered over several hotels. I sent out the word to everyone to meet in the Fairmont bar because I knew it was a completely earthquake engineered hotel. Just as Dave Poole and I got to the bar, we had another big aftershock. I was going to order a double Canadian Club, but opted instead for a fourple. I saw the huge chandelier swing about, and remember the swimming pool was right over us...

I eventually found about 25 and we knew that everyone else was safe except for Julia Pernet, whose sister had just been in the Mexico City earthquake--so Julia knew to go to a door frame. She was wedged in the door frame when some huge totally-panicked guy blew right through her like she was the Bears offensive, injuring her knee, but not seriously. She was fortunately the only casualty in the Zebra group. I managed to get the Fairmont Hotel coffee shop to make sandwiches and drinks for my group of refugees; they would only make cold food because no one wanted to risk turning on the gas in the kitchen.

The fact that the World Series was on television really screwed up communications back home. All of our relatives it seems jammed the phone lines trying to reach us to see if we were safe thus making it impossible for us to call out. I remember making a list of everybody's name and family contact numbers in and we took turns dialing and redialing at a pay phone (50-100 tries each) during dinner. I was the lucky one who got through my 75th try. I gave my wife the entire list of phone numbers and names and she managed a chain tag until everyone was notified that

we were all safe.

It was a very long walk up to the 34th floor of the Fairmont Hotel. Fortunately Kanzaki was having a party on the 11th floor so I had a very pleasant break on the way upstairs!

One of our people, Steve Gould, who sees the humor in everything promptly produced a new demo label for our Z-90 printer "from Zebra Technologies, the epicenter of thermal transfer printing" which still hangs on the wall at Zebra headquarters.

As a postscript, the lady editor with whom I'd share the earthquake had to introduce me the next day at some function. Needless to say she introduced me as "The only man that ever made the earth move for her!"

CRAIG HARMON

I had already made my presentation and had been grouching about my new "show shoes" and how after walking all day on hard concrete, they had certainly not lived up to their claim. I was visiting with some folks at the Norand booth when the ground began to tremble and I immediately crouched beneath a table. That concrete, which had been so hard and unforgiving all day, was now impossibly undulating and I remained transfixed on the concrete waves until lights began to fall, massive lights crashing to the floor and on to exhibits. Scanning my surroundings, I saw the loading dock doors and knowing the adjacent columns had been hit many times by absent-minded truck drivers, I dashed for the safety of something that I knew would most likely not collapse.

Getting outside, I found the group to whom I was taking before, clustered with everyone trying to get a call out on these new-fangled cellular telephones. Some with success. Then rushing out of the building came Wayne Parkin with a bag slung over his shoulder. A cry of "Bravo for Wayne, he saved the equipment!" was soon dashed when he got to the group and exclaimed, "Equipment! Hell no! These are the leads from the show!"

That night in my hotel room, I slept easy, even through the aftershocks. But the next morning I was overcome by such a sense of urgency to get out of town that I rebooked my airline and gave a sigh of relief as the wheels lifted and I left the trembling ground in San Jose, California.

As a postscript, I would note that for the evening of the quake, Jim Lawrence had scheduled a group at 4:30 to take a London double decker bus from the convention center to an Italian restaurant in San Francisco. Around noon that day he announced that he was going to need to cancel the dinner due to an unforeseen business requirement. To this day I believe that fate intervened as we would have quite likely been on the Bay Bridge at 5:04.

My speaker's gift remains operational today.

PAUL BERGÉ

I was there to experience my very first earthquake (not common in the low lands where we have enough water but no quakes). Elisabeth was in town as well but she was shopping.... I have no memorabilia though!

One more story: We had our Australian distributor over for the show. The news of the quake had hit the Australian news media and our (Symbol) distributor got a call from Australia telling him to leave the area immediately, like in Right Now!! He rented a car and started driving away from the coast and ended up in Las Vegas..... He called me and asked me to collect his clean laundry from his hotel and ship it out to him. Since we always take good care of our business partners, I did ship his clean laundry a few days later!

RUSS ADAMS

I was just concluding an interview on the show floor at the Radix booth, then the world turned upside down. At first I thought the rumble was a large truck, but I knew what it was when I saw the floor literally rise and fall like a rough concrete sea. I dropped to one knee, but when I saw things dropping from the ceiling, I ran to a doorway. When the show open on Wednesday, the only damage I saw in the show hall was at the International Technology and System booth. I actually had a recurring dream before I left to attend Scan-Tech 89 that there would be an earthquake. I told friends in Palo Alto the day before that I had a feeling there would be an earthquake.

TED SCHULTZE

Ah yes. I was just exiting the hall and stopped in a doorway. We grabbed and held a number of others who were attempting to flee the building. I think we were about 8 before it was all over. The windows in the front of the building shook and bent but did not break. I stepped outside to see the little fountain at the front of the hall did not have any water left in it. There was a bus for my hotel in front. I stepped in and we were moving almost

immediately. It took 30 minutes to get back to the hotel where Mary was sitting out in the parking lot with all the other guests. They guessed the top floor of the hotel (11th floor) had gone off center 9 feet. Mary, being on the 9th floor when it hit, only went off center 7 or 8 feet. Her eyes were wide open when I returned.

We went out to dinner and returned to the hotel about 9. They had just let all the guests back in the hotel and they all had been drinking all evening. The noise was deafening. We parked next to a little Volkswagen beetle which had 3 sleeping people along with several empty wine bottles inside and 4 more empties on the roof.

Such fun after the fact and it's still clear 21 years later.

DAVID ALLAIS

I had just finished a presentation in the San Jose convention center and was sitting at the speaker's table listening to the next speaker. This table was set on wooden spacers about two feet above the floor level. The first thing I noticed was a grinding sound as the spacers shifted in the first tremor. Then I saw that the ceiling and walls were moving off of perpendicular to each other. Having lived a while back in California, I knew what was going on so I moved calmly and stood in the corner of the conference room, there being no convenient doorways to stand under. After perhaps one or two minutes the shaking ceased, I returned to the show floor to chat with other members of our team. Nothing much had happened there except a few small fittings around the overhead lights had fallen. We were just talking when the security people in some panic demanded that we leave the building. This didn't make much sense to me in that the major shaking was over but out we went. Somewhat later talking to my wife in Seattle on the phone, she told me how major the quake had been in San Francisco and Santa Cruse. It was disappointing that most of the visitors to Scan Tech departed therewith and did not return to the show the next day.

TEDDY GOLDBERG

George and I did not attend Scan Tech 89. He was scheduled for surgery and on the advice of his doctors, could not fly across the country. So we were 3,000 miles away as we watched the awful events of the San Jose earthquake unfold. At that time we couldn't help but wonder if we were to be the only remaining members of the AIDC! It was with great joy -- and relief -- when we learned that all of the AIDC members were safe and well.

NORM WEILAND

I remember many things about the day of the quake. I still have some of the "I survived the quake" items. However, the incident that amused me the most happened the next day. I was on a speakers platform, and I kept feeling what I thought were aftershocks. I looked out at the audience, and it surprised me that nobody seem to be concerned. The platforms were not real solid, and after a while I notice that the speaker next to me, Ted Williams, had a habit of kind of pumping his leg on the toe of the foot, and this made the platform shake. That provided me with a great humorous start to my presentation.

MIKE NOLL

Thought that you all might like a memory from someone who wasn't there. I didn't go to Scan Tech that year because of a back injury and was watching the World Series on TV when the quake occurred. It was scary because they were not getting damage reports from south of San Francisco. One reporter said "We are not hearing anything from San Jose at all". George Goldberg of Scan Newsletter was also home watching TV because of a heart ailment. George called me, very upset, and said "Mike, are we the only two people left in the Auto ID industry?" Thank goodness, we were not! The next day from my office in the Pentagon, I was able to telefax back and forth to people at Scan Quake and let their relatives know that they were safe. There were no phone communications with the San Jose area initially. So in many ways Scan Quake was more frightening if you were not there than if you were there.

CARL HELMERS

I do not have a copy the ID Systems relevant issues anymore (they got waylaid in moving from NH to western NY in 2003.) I remember writing a photo essay story about how I survived ScanQuake that we published in our next available issue (probably December 1989.) To need to rummage around a bit to see if I still have any additional materials that went into that article -- and indeed to write something to post on my www.helm.com memorabilia/current thoughts site and send a link to the list...

ROGER PALMER

I was just getting on board a plane to fly back to Seattle when the quake hit. I was walking down the aisle when the whole plane started to shake severely - I thought that either someone had backed in to us, or that we were being

buffeted by the exhaust from another aircraft. I sat down in my seat and looked out the window to see what was happening, and noticed that all the luggage carts were jumping around on the tarmac! I looked up at the control tower (we were right by it), and watched an air conditioning unit on the roof fall right through the ceiling and into the control room!

An announcement was made to stay in our seats until they decided what to do, as communications with ATC were negatively impacted. About half an hour later they sent a vehicle up the runway to check that its condition was OK, and then we were given clearance to take off. As we flew over the city, we could see fires burning, and lots of traffic congestion.

We arrived back in Seattle after an uneventful flight, and I drove quickly home to Edmonds. This was before I had a cell phone. I quietly came into the house from the garage, and heard the TV was on with loud volume. I snuck into the room (behind the occupants), and observed my whole family was intently watching the live news program, looking for any news about Dad! I then calmly asked if anyone would like a drink - **pandemonium** broke out!

Another smooth business trip!

BERT MOORE

Oh indeed I remember. I was standing by the main entrance to the exhibit hall and, having been in a previous quake (very small) in San Jose, I knew to find a doorway to stand in. The biggest danger was being trampled by those rushing out of the hall. I also remember becoming very close with I think it was Don Anderson who decided to hug the same wall as I did although I was already there.

Then the "party" in the hotel bar where they graciously distributed free food and drink. When I got to the room, I found that the pool water had stopped mere inches from my room (those on the shallow end of the pool got flooded).

I didn't know about the devastation that had hit San Francisco so didn't realize what my wife was going through back in the Burgh. I tried a couple of times to call but the lines were jammed so I gave up and didn't get through till the next day. Only then did I learn how bad things were and how worried everyone back home was.

That night, when the aftershock hit, I remember waking up, realizing it was already diminishing and just going back to sleep – but I was only on the 5th floor so there wasn't that much "shakin' goin' on". But one of the MSI guys (can't remember his name) was on one of the top floors. When the aftershock hit, the building swayed so violently that his toilet emptied. He ran out of his room in his underwear and got locked out. He remarked later, "I'm never going to take my clothes off ever again!" When I asked about taking a shower, he answered, "Clothes need to be washed too."

And, of course, the Symbol party that year was outstanding!

In commemoration, I wrote the following song:

The Quake
(to the tune of "The Monster Mash")

Igor and I were in the show
When the Exhibit Hall began to rock 'n' roll
The ceiling tiles fell with a crash
We thought it was a preview of the Symbol bash

(Chorus) It was the Quake
And we began to shake
It was the Quake
Oh, make no mistake
It was the Quake
It was the Scan-Tech Quake

The walls began to dance and shake
Everyone was in a terrible state.
The ceiling fell and the floor did lift,
We thought the hall had learned to Twist (but)

(Chorus)

Igor and I ran out the door,
I swear our feet never touched the floor.
Once outside, we had a fright
As the water in the pool rose out of sight.

(Chorus)

Once things began to settle down,
Igor and I began to look around.
We found a bar and something to eat,
We even managed to find a seat.

(Chorus)

We went to the show the very next day
And there were scores of people lined up to pay.
At the monster bash that was held that night,
The people rocked and rolled all through the night.

(Do Twice)

They did the Quake
And they began to shake
They did the Quake
Oh, make no mistake
They did the Quake
They did the Scan-Tech Quake.

CRAIG MADDOX

I missed the Scan Tech because I was at the retail trade show going on in New Orleans. When it occurred, I was at the bar in the Hard Rock watching the world series. The moment it occurred, I laughed myself silly because my bundle-of-nerves boss went to Scan Tech for me.

MIKE NOLAN

I remember this well! I had planned to arrive there early in the day but got delayed in South America. I caught a later flight with a connection through Miami to San Francisco. The quake happened about a half hour before the flight to San Francisco was supposed to leave. They shut down the airport so I never made it to Scan Tech 89. I remember feeling very lucky that I was not there and concern for my friends and acquaintances that were there.

THEO PAVLIDIS

Yes, I was there. J. Swartz, B. Metlitsky and I were having a discussion about a presentation when everything started shaking. When I went back to my room all drawers had flown out of their places. I did buy a T-shirt but I have not seen it for awhile.

STUART ITKIN

I was conducting a meeting with a group of Symbol engineers and marketing folks in a suite on the 17th floor of the Fairmont in San Jose. All of a sudden the walls in the room went from rectangular to trapezoidal, shifting back and forth. The concrete floor rippled as it transmitted the shock wave. Everything flew off the tables and walls, and I asked the very astute question, "Are we having an earthquake?". I know I've paid a lot of money in the past for rides that weren't that good! I don't remember walking (or running) down the 17 flights of stairs, but I do remember the tops of my legs aching for days. But who says there are no miracles? The Symbol party went on as planned in spite of needing to arrange private transportation for the entertainment.

MIKE HONE

When the Quake hit I was in San Francisco doing an investor presentation at the Hyatt at the Embarquadero. Lots of broken glass and fires. I had a cell phone and was able to reach many of the PSC team to make sure they were all ok and then drove out to San Jose. An exciting ScanTech for sure!

PETE RAMIREZ

As mentioned below, AF LOGMARS Project Management Reviews were scheduled in conjunction with SCAN TECH, and were in the Convention Center during the Scan Quake. Intermec cancelled their Hospitality Luncheon, but that evening most of us attended Symbol Technologies "Festivities" in town.

Next day, we purchased t-shirt that said "I survived the San Francisco Earth Quake".

MARK REBOULET

I was there... We had an AF LOGMARS Meeting in conjunction with SCAN TECH. I also have a t-shirt I bought 1 hour after the event. As you may remember the magnitude was corrected and was corrected the next day. I have one with the wrong magnitude.

GABRIELE EDGELL

I have a Doug story to share. Doug was making a sales call on a client during the earthquake – as he described it the building started to shake and people dove under tables that were available in their booths which he did as he waited for the client. The client never showed up! He was pretty upset that people were leaving the building since he had a ton more appointments that day!

Best to everyone on the 21st Anniversary of Scan-Tech.

BONNEY SHUMAN

Oh yea, I still have that clock proudly displayed (even though it hasn't worked in years). I can't remember what happened to that sweatshirt...but I had one of those at one time too... I can't believe it was that long ago...wow...

BRIAN MARCEL

Me too, never forget seeing the fountain completely drained of water and the highways broken on an overpass that I had just crossed 3 hours earlier. Have my T shirt and tape recording of the event also.

JANE YALLUM

I certainly was there - - the quake actually happened on Oct 17th at 5:04pm! Here's a bit of trivia that some you may not have heard before...AIM gave out clocks that year for speaker gifts. Some of them never worked and were stuck at 5:04pm!!! Did any of you have one of those clocks? I still have my sweatshirt from SCAN-Quake!

CHUCK BISS

Was there (talking to Andy Longacre in the aisle way next to the PSC booth at the time of the quake's first shock) and somewhere in this place have my "souvenirs" as I imagine many others do too!!

CHUCK FUREDY

I held off responding to this earlier email request based on the fact that I was planning to be on the steps of the San Jose Convention center one week after the 21st anniversary.

Yesterday my son, who has recently joined this industry and I spent the day in downtown San Jose as part of a business trip to the valley.

Needless to say the area has not changed a significant amount....maybe moved a few inches left or right. The highlight locations of that day some 21 years ago are still in place and appear to be doing well.

The Sainte Claire Hotel, The Fairmont and the Tech Museum are still standing and doing well.

On that infamous day I was standing in Symbol's booth conversing with Earl Brown when the first of two shocks hit providing enough force to bring down a rather large mercury vapor lamp. This lamp at forty feet above your head is not that big but at 18 inches from your nose is quite large. Earl and I were able to dodge the XXX nanometer bulb (Jerry, please fill in the actual wave length) and lamp that Symbol had recently been able to prove our scanners had the ability to read a barcode when directly underneath. (Small Plug for the Good Guys).

We attempted to make our way to the door as the shock waves continued. Like many attempting to exit the building the guards asked us to stay put.....needless to say we quickly, instantly decided not to listen to a government associate even twenty years ago. As we exited the building and saw the sunlight we began to proceed to the Fairmont. On our way over we encountered a bike rider, yes even then they were all over the place, and he was listening to the radio. We quickly stopped him to enquire how bad the quake had been, He pulled the headset down

and said, "The Bay Bridge has collapsed!" Well we thought he meant the San Francisco Bay Bridge because we were all from the east coast.

At this point the "scare factor or should I say PUCKER Factor" set in and we all made a wild dash to find a phone to connect with loved ones.

The story's only grew from there! We gathered our belongings from shattered rooms in the Fairmont and just waited wondering when the next Blg One would hit. As in usual Symbol fashion we commandeered the bar at the Fairmont and the party was on.....

Many residents of the Fairmont decided to confiscate their wonderfully comfortable comforters from their beds and spend the nite under the stars in the park across the street. The morning response to the Desk Clerk when we checked out was "just put thus comforters of my bill."

As the hours passed the tales grew in size and stature as did the bar bill.

On behalf of all the Symbol associates I would like to personally thank Ray or Jerry for picking up the tab that frightful day and night.

To date I have the unique misfortune of being part of five earthquakes here in California including the good one in Los Angeles that ran me out of the Hyatt at breakfast time.

As I write this response from my desk in San Jose and reflect on my poor percentages I have uncoupled my laptop from it's docking station and am now sitting on a bench with nothing above my head outside the office.

Life has been good to many of us that lived thru that day in October,,,,,the fact that we continue to share and stay in touch is nothing more than a reflection of how unique and interesting these past years have been in this business we all invented. We made great friendships while we also competed for the business.

I look forward to seeing some of the old faces next week in Chicago as I introduce my youngest son's new face to this incredible business.

Travel safe....Oh shXX! I th i nk we're hav ing ano th er one! Get o ut of the way !

TREVOR DEAN

October 17, 1989 holds many memories for me. Late that afternoon I had the honour of becoming the first (and only) Australian to be elected Chairman of AIM International. Shortly after, I was with AIM Australia Secretary David Kyle in the Press Office downstairs when the quake hit. Being Australians and never experiencing an earthquake before, we simply picked ourselves off the floor, laughed and remarked "so this is what an earthquake is like !!!

It was only when we were hunted outside by Security, narrowly avoiding being crushed by both falling objects and fleeing exhibitors, that we began to realise the real danger ! I will never forget standing outside the Convention Centre near a line of coaches when the first aftershock hit. The concrete pavement we were standing actually rippled like a waterbed, yet did not break. The coaches rose up and down as if they were on a giant roller coaster !

I often wondered that if the earthquake had struck an hour or so later (those coaches were waiting to transport groups to downtown restaurants), a number of us may have found ourselves considerably thinner !

David and I made our way back to our hotel, dodging pieces of exploding sandstone from nearby buildings, to find no power and our rooms in a mess, with the television sets smashed on the floor. Needless to say we were "forced" to find a nearby bar still operating to calm the nerves !!! There, a number of stories about near misses, etc. (some even true) rolled on during the evening.

One of my personal treasures is the "**I Survived The Quake**" T Shirt.

Looking back at the San Jose sojourn, on the day before the earthquake struck I remembered two rather strange (and in hindsight rather prophetic) experiences. The first was a visit to the Mirrasou Winery, where during a guided tour I noticed two large stainless steel wine storage vats, one almost hanging off a concrete platform.

On enquiry, I was told that during the "last" earthquake, despite being incredibly heavy, both vats moved so far one

almost toppled over !

The second experience on the same day came from a visit to the home of Oliver Winchester, creator of the famous Winchester Rifle, the Gun that Won The West !!! On the top floor of this very large house (his superstitious widow was once told that if she kept on building the house after Oliver death, she would never die) was a whole section where the wall linings had disappeared, revealing the original framework. "Why were the walls not repaired" I asked ?

"Because they were damaged during an earthquake, and to repair them may have tempted another quake" !!! Of course....

I should have heeded these warning signs and headed back to Australia that evening !!!

And last but not least, an on-the-spot article written our dear friend George Goldberg with permission from SCAN Newsletter:

SCAN-TECH 89 Remembered—The Year Of The Quake

Just as most of the AIDC crew is heading out to the inaugural AIM Expo 2010 event in Chicago, many of the "old-timers" in the industry are reminiscing about SCANTECH 89...or as most are calling it: SCAN Quake 89.

Twenty-one years after the event, the 7.1 magnitude earthquake that rocked the San Jose venue still lingers in the minds of those who experienced Mother Nature's wrath. Last week, the AIDC 100 sent out a mass emailing to its members asking: "How many of you remember SCAN Quake 89?" The response was so overwhelming that we thought it might be interesting to share it with our readers. Following, in its original form, is the article that *SCAN Newsletter* Founder and Editor George Goldberg wrote about the show. It not only touches on the quake, but also gives a snapshot of what was "the big news of the time." After that are some of the first comments we received from fellow AIDC 100 members. We hope you enjoy the trip down memory lane.

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By George Goldberg

After everything — and everyone — had settled down.... ..late Tuesday night, October 17, the decision was made to let the conference and exposition proceed as planned. This judgment was based on the fact that there was little damage to the Convention Center and that all utilities were restored to reasonable normalcy. What the managers of SCAN-TECH 89 in San Jose did not fully anticipate was that the awesome earthquake would persuade many of the visitors who were already at the show to turn around and go home as quickly as possible – and that it would discourage a large number of those who planned to arrive Wednesday or Thursday from ever leaving home. (Even two of the smaller exhibitors packed up their booths and took off for home on Wednesday morning.)

Whatever financial disappointment there may have been, it pales in comparison to the disaster that was avoided. San Jose, much closer to the epicenter than San Francisco, miraculously escaped any serious damage. When one contemplates the number of people from the automatic identification industry who were clustered inside a few acres at 5:04 P.M. on that day, we can all be thankful that we can look forward to SCAN-TECH 90 and beyond. The AIM organization is currently analyzing the impact of what happened in San Jose and exploring options as to what can be done to make up for any lost opportunities.

The AIM organization is currently analyzing the impact of what happened in San Jose and exploring options as to what can be done to make up for any lost opportunities. Which is not to suggest.....that SCAN-TECH 89 was a complete bust. The seminars remained well-attended, with only spotty audience drop-offs on Wednesday and Thursday (when you've prepaid the fees for an entire seminar series, not even a 7.1 quake will send you home). The keynote speech on Thursday morning by Louis Rukeyser was considered the best ever. And, although the aisles in the convention center were somewhat sparse on Wednesday and Thursday, those who remained will remember "SCAN-QUAKE 89" for more than the powerful and cantankerous San Andreas Fault.