

WATERBURY RECORD  
THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 07, 1944

## Bricks Topple, Beds Teeter as Quake Shakes Village

An earth tremor severe enough to cause damage estimated at a million dollars and centering near Cornwall, Ontario, shook the entire northeastern section of the United States and the south eastern section of Canada just after midnight Monday.

It was severe enough in Waterbury to sway beds and topple chimneys, but it was of such short duration that many people slept through it or hadn't quite figured it out before it was over. Others, preparing to go to bed or to bank fires in their pot stoves for the night, grew weak-kneed and panicky at the thought of what could happen, if, as has since been reported by an expert, quakes of increasing frequency and intensity are occurring in this area.

Clocked at 12:40, it came first as a slight rumbling, then a trembling as if a heavy freight was passing through, then accompanied by a creaking sound similar to the sound of a wind of hurricane intensity, increasing to a roar. The trembling became more and more pronounced until finally walls and floors shook violently.

One observer said door jambs seemed to twist back and forth, another saw trees sway and electric wires swing to and fro. Another, standing beside a table in his home, said the floor quaked like jelly and himself with it.

Many residents, jolted from a sound sleep, became fully awake only after it was over, and retained only the nightmarish feeling of having experienced a terrifying sensation without realizing what had happened to them. A man preparing for bed heard two girls in the house next door scream in terror. Others said beds rocked sickeningly.

Two chimneys on the Holmes house on North Main Street were damaged and had to be torn down next morning. An entire chimney fell on the Eldredge house on South Main Street, and Mrs. Lorena Lunge, who occupies the Ather house, on Bolton Road, said that bricks had been dislodged from the chimney there.

A Burlington man who had been celebrating was drinking numerous cups of black coffee in a restaurant. With the first tremor he bristled, jumped up and cocked his fists at whoever might have shook the booth he was sitting in. He saw no one there, and at that instant the floors shook and the walls swayed. He sat down quickly and gulped more black coffee.

Another Queen City man recalled the quake of 1927, when guests streamed from hotels into the streets in their night clothes or less.

In Winoski, 87 three-month old broilers were frightened to death or killed in the crush as the willow birds streaked for the exits, trampling their less fleet coop-mates underfoot.

At Cornwall, Ontario, Mayor Aaron Horvitz hazarded a guess that damage there might well run into a million dollars.

Also at Cornwall, Constable Eddie Pitt estimated, a thousand people dashed into the streets. Women fainted or cried hysterically, and children screamed. Window panes were shattered and two schools were damaged badly enough to be condemned. No casualties were reported.

In Boston the custom house tower swayed perceptibly and boardwalk hotels in Atlantic City rocked more than gently. In Brooklyn and Queens sleepers were awakened but Manhattan and the Bronx were unaffected.

**WATERBURY RECORD**  
**WEDNESDAY - JULY 22, 1914**

**FROM AN ENGINE SPARK.**

**Holmes' Market and Adjacent Buildings  
Saved From Flames by Quick Action.**

Hot sparks from a passing locomotive lodged in the shingle roof of Holmes' Market on Park Row this afternoon and only prompt action by Proprietor C. C. Holmes averted serious results.

If it had happened during the night this story might have been written differently. Every other condition except darkness was favorable for a disastrous fire: frame buildings, shingled roofs and a strong wind.

A passing pedestrian first noticed the blazing shingles soon after a freight train had passed by and the fire alarm was rung in record time.

The firemen's services, fortunately, were not needed as C. C. Holmes promptly scaled the roof and extinguished the incipient blaze with a bucket of water.

The Holmes Market has only recently been opened for business and is one of the best equipped sanitary markets in Vermont with artificial refrigeration plant for the proper preservation of meats, fish and vegetables and has up-to-date facilities throughout. Proprietor Holmes and the community are both to be congratulated on the narrow escape from destruction.