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*If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?*

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## EARTHQUAKES

By Lois Homer

Did you hear about the great San Francisco quake  
In 1906 when that town began to shake  
I know the whole story even though I wasn't there  
But my grandfather was, his experience he did share  
He was out walking on an average normal day  
When he felt the ground move and he saw buildings sway  
Then huge cracks formed and the ground opened wide  
And my poor grandfather was so very terrified  
Buildings were collapsing and fires were ablaze  
My grandfather stared at the horror in a daze  
He got down on the ground and he curled up in a ball  
Covering his head with his arms, he made himself small  
He felt the rumbling of the quake, and he shook with fear  
People fell into crevasses, they then did disappear  
Death and destruction was all around him  
Prospects for survival seemed much too dim  
But my grandfather made it because he got down  
Protecting himself from falling debris all around  
He was smart and he was lucky too  
The small area he was on stayed stable, whew!  
The whole thing was over with some after shocks  
My grandfather learned that San Francisco rocks  
He had gone out west to look for gold  
But after the quake, on Frisco he was not sold  
My grandfather moved to Chicago for good  
Got married to my grandmother, as soon as he could  
He told my mother and uncle all about the quake  
And my mother told me, what a story it did make  
It was a miracle that my grandfather managed to survive  
Or else my mom, uncle, brother and I would never be alive  
There was a mild earthquake in Chicago in 1973  
Mort and I slept through it but my parents woke to see  
Their windows rattling, their bed shaking, not much fun  
Then the shaking and rattling stopped and it was done  
The next day, into the basement I went to wash clothes  
I noticed our storm windows ajar and then I froze  
Upstairs our refrigerator plug was knocked half out  
The food wasn't that cold, and I nervously did shout  
"Mort, there's something going on that I don't understand."  
Then I heard the news about the quake all over Chicagoland  
In 1982 Santa Barbara had an earthquake  
My parents had retired there, for goodness sake  
Mort and I were at a friend's house for a barbecue  
When I heard the news on their TV, I was in a stew  
I tried to call my parents but the lines were jammed  
I was a nervous wreck, afraid they all got whammed  
I finally got through and both my parents were okay  
Some pictures fell down, windows shattered, what a day!  
Years later, San Francisco had another quake, not again!  
Guess, what! My cousin lived in nearby Oakland then  
There were landslides, property damage but she was all right  
There was an earthquake joke going around to make things light  
About Candlestick Park being called Wiggly Field instead  
I'd rather be in Chicago's Wrigley Field with Mort and Fred