

Russ Accepts Joint Space Effort

Schoellkopf Disaster Traced to Quake

Find Evidence In Old Tunnel

By BILL NELSON
Gazette Staff Writer

The Schoellkopf power plant disaster and the damaged concrete lining of the Schoellkopf tunnel discovered Tuesday by the first person to enter the tunnel since 1924, today were traced by a noted seismologist to an earthquake here in 1946.

Dr. Austin McTigue, Canisius College physics professor and director of the college's seismology department, also predicted that more severe earthquakes could be expected in this area anytime.

Today he said that there is little doubt that the earthquake which rocked this area at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 20, 1946, led to the collapse of the Schoellkopf power station ten years later in 1956.

The 1946 earthquake alarmed thousands of area residents. Telephone switchboards at newspapers, radio stations and police stations were flooded with calls.

Some called to report an explosion, others a rockslide. Several excited callers wondered if it were an earthquake. The local quake was recorded on the Canisius seismograph, but many continued searching in vain for a supposed rock slide.

As to damage to the tunnel lining, Dr. McTigue said, "Water pressure in the tunnel, at about 80 pounds per square inch, gradually forced sections of the liner to fall from the ceiling."

Dr. McTigue said that the Schoellkopf power plant had rested astride a "joint" or small fault in the earth, after the '46 quake.

"By studying the face of the gorge from the Canadian side, this joint now can be clearly seen," he said.

Water, escaping from the Adams or Schoellkopf tunnels had gradually forced this "joint" open, eventually causing the rockslide which destroyed the power station, he said.

Discovery of the crumpled two-foot concrete lining in the tunnel was made Tuesday by Richard Waidelich, superintendent of the Scufari Construction Co., which is sealing the end of the tunnel in connection with the construction of a Niagara Parkway exit.

Mr. Waidelich Tuesday walked 250 feet into the debris-choked tunnel to become the first man into the tunnel since it was flooded in 1924. He reported that great chunks of the ceiling liner had fallen to the bottom of the 32-foot shaft. He said that sections of the floor liner had been heaved up.

The tunnel has been considered by city and state officials as a possible Civil Defense shelter capable of hold-

ing thousands of people. After his inspection, Mr. Waidelich said that the condition of the tunnel would make this project very costly.

Survey Planned
Cannon, Thiele, Betz and Cannon, Niagara Falls architects, have been planning to survey the tunnel as to its shelter potential.

In 1946, shortly after the earthquake frightened people as far away as Ransomville, Dr. McTigue, with a class of 30 geological students, made a comprehensive survey of the area.

They discovered that the quake area, cylindrical in shape, had centered in the vicinity of the Adams power plant and also was felt in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Dr. McTigue said the quake knocked glasses, plates and books from shelves within the zone of its greatest severity.

The day of the tremor, the Niagara Falls Gazette reported on its front page, "Blast-like Tremor Felt Throughout Area; Report Rock Slide at Cataract. Chimneys, Plaster Cracked; Fruit Jars Knocked From Walls; Earth Movement Recorded on Canisius Seismograph."

Fears More Quakes
Subsequent investigation however, revealed no rock slide.

"It was an earthquake," Dr. McTigue said then and now. "More intense earthquakes can occur here in the future—in fact they can be expected," he said in a 1946 interview.

In 1958, Dr. Charles F. Richter, professor of seismology at the California Institute of Technology, stated that Niagara County was in the worst area for quakes in the Northeastern portion of the United States.

Dr. Richter, one of the nation's leading seismologists, said that Niagara County, along with portions of Vermont and Maine are in the second most severe of five earthquake categories.

"Only a small portion of Southern California is in a more severe category," Dr. Richter said.

Major 'Fault' Cited
Dr. McTigue agrees with him.

The cause of potential danger to Niagara County as well as to other sections of New York State, Vermont and Maine is a major fault which roughly parallels Tonawanda Creek and continues on to Warsaw, Attica and on up into New England.

Along this fault, there have been 60 land movements, ranging from small to major in the last 200 years, Mr. Richter said.

Dr. McTigue believes that there is another smaller fault in the Niagara Peninsula in Canada. An earthquake shook St. Catharines, Ont., in 1958. This fault, he believes, crosses the river at about the site of the Sir Adam Beck power plant.

William Latham, resident engineer for the State Power Authority, today said that the SPA conduits had been built to absorb rock movement. He said that small quakes would not be apt to affect the conduits.

If the conduits lie across any faults, a major quake might cause damage, he indicated.

"There probably would be considerable grief, in that event," he said.



EXPLORER—Richard Waidelich, an employe of the Scufari Construction Co., Tuesday ventured 250 feet into the Schoellkopf power tunnel. He found the concrete liner badly

deteriorated and doubted that anyone would be able to walk all the way through. Mr. Waidelich was the first person since 1924 to enter the tunnel. Gazette Photo.

Military Shares Frondizi Rule

BUENOS AIRES (AP)—President Arturo Frondizi clung to his job today by making a deal with Argentina's armed forces chief to form a coalition cabinet—half civilian, half military—and outlaw all political activity by resurgent Peronists.

The crisis eased, for the moment at least, as the government announced that the eight civilian cabinet members has resigned to make way for the new coalition.

Frondizi made peace with the military in a 40-minute conference during the night with Gen. Raul Alejandro Poggi, the Army commander in chief; Adm. Agustin R. Penas, chief of naval operations; and Brig. Gen. Cayo Antonio Alsina, the Air Force commander.

Afterward the government announced in a brief communique that the President would form a "cabinet of national unity" after consulting today with "the repre-

sentatives of the Democratic parties and representative institutions."

Frondizi also declared he would not retreat from his unpopular austerity program, which was widely blamed for his election setback. The communique said the President "reaffirms his purpose of firmly maintaining the principles of his economic policy expressed through the stabilization and economic development plan."

His agreement with the military brought Frondizi through the worst challenge to his hold on the government reins since he took office in May 1958.

Russ Satellite May Be Spying On America

LONDON (UPI)—The London Daily Mirror's science editor said today that the Russians may be spying on America with its new Sputnik launched last weekend and the Pentagon is giving it "careful thought."

The space vehicle, said Ronald Bedford, could have television cameras aboard similar to the ones with which the Russians photographed the far side of the moon.

"They (the Russians) are being unusually secretive about the new satellite," the science editor said.

Zoo Bars Foxes

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (UPI)—The Milwaukee County Zoo is having trouble keeping wild animals out.

Zoo Director George Spedel said he has ordered traps to eliminate native wild foxes that have been trying to enter the zoo.

Arms Talks Deadlocked

GENEVA (AP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko summoned Communist East Germany's top diplomat to Geneva today for consultation. This step gave fresh urgency to East-West talks on Berlin against the background of the 17-nation disarmament conference.

The conference itself addressed a special bid to France to abandon its boycott of the Geneva meeting and send a delegate to fill the empty 18th chair. There was no indication that President De Gaulle would heed the appeal. He considers the meeting useless.

On another front, disarmament experts of the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union resumed three-power discussions of a nuclear weapons test ban. Informants said they failed to make any dent in the East-West deadlock over provisions for inspection to police the ban. They did agree to meet again Thursday.

Pressure mounted among the uncommitted nations for a moratorium on nuclear weapons tests before the United States resumes testing in the atmosphere next month.

East German Foreign Min-

ister Lothar Bolz was expected here late today or tonight to consult with Gromyko. He would have come earlier, Communist informants said, but for some reason Switzerland was slow in issuing the necessary visas. Gromyko protested to the Swiss.

Western officials were closely watching the outburst of Soviet activity, which seems to have begun with new instructions to Gromyko from Moscow Monday. On that day Gromyko asked Rusk to a brief talk and reportedly gave him a "working paper" of various views on Berlin crisis issues.

Tuesday night Gromyko entertained Ruk and a panel of Berlin policy experts at dinner. They talked for more than three hours. Later word circulated in Western quarters that the Russians had not come up with any new ideas or hints of concessions.

Need Cited To Disarm As Prelude

MOSCOW (AP)—Premier Khrushchev agreed today to cooperate with the United States in space exploration, including a program for sending vehicles to other planets. But he emphasized such joint ventures depend "in some degree on the solution of the disarmament problem."

Khrushchev replied to a letter of President John F. Kennedy on March 7 suggesting that the United States and the Soviet Union pool their efforts in such fields as weather forecasting and international communications and even future exploration of the moon and planets.

Khrushchev's proposed a six-point program largely parallel to the President's suggestions. He said he was instructing Soviet representatives in the U.N. Space Committee to meet American representatives and discuss practical plans. But he added:

"At the same time it seems obvious to me that the scope of our cooperation in the peaceful exploration of space, just as the choice of the very directions along which such cooperation would be possible, depends in some degree on the solution of the disarmament problem."

Claims Limitations
Before an agreement on general and complete disarmament is reached, he said, both countries are limited in the possibility of cooperating in space.

"I state these considerations for the simple reason that it would be better if we see all the sides of the question in a realistic light," he added.

The 17-nation disarmament conference meeting in Geneva since March 14 has made no visible progress because of disagreement over the issue of inspection to prevent cheating.

In his March 7 letter, Kennedy proposed Soviet-American cooperation in launching satellites for weather observation, mapping the earth's magnetic field and experimenting in international communications, helping track each other's space shots and pooling information on space medicine.

Looking to future exploration of the moon and planets, the President said "the tasks are so challenging, the costs so great and the risks to the brave men who engage in space exploration so grave, that we must in all good conscience try every possibility of sharing these tasks and costs and of minimizing the risks."

Followed Glenn Flight

This was Kennedy's response to a suggestion for space cooperation, in general terms, which Khrushchev made in voling congratulations on the three-orbit flight of Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr. Khrushchev's six-point program, read over Moscow Radio, was:

1. Cooperation in setting up international communications networks utilizing earth satellites.
2. A joint project for studying and observing weather by means of orbiting satellites.
3. Organization of joint radio and telescopic tracking of space vehicles launched toward other planets such as Mars and Venus, and the moon.
4. Conclusion of an agreement for rendering aid to space vehicles in difficulty in space. This also envisages joint lifesaving operations for space pilots in distress.
5. Cooperation in mapping the magnetic field surrounding the earth and the exchange of space medical information.
6. Agreement on a common approach to legal problems involved in space exploration.

Frigate, Sub Collide In Gibraltar Strait

GIBRALTAR (AP)—The British frigate Rothesay and the Turkish submarine Gur collided in the strait of Gibraltar today and both were slightly damaged. The commander of the Gur suffered a leg fracture. His submarine is an American-built 1,829-ton craft that once served in the U.S. Navy as the Chubb.

On the Inside

Area 'Blue Laws' To Be Enforced

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STATE GOVERNMENT—Proposed increase in state aid to education rises to \$135.7 million and may go higher. Page 25.

VIEW FROM THE DIKE—Writer gets "terrific" view of landscape in trip around top of power project reservoir. Page 52.

PLAY ROUGH—Buffalo priest, head of boys home, says he fears "the violence of modern youth." Page 14.

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JUNIOR MISSES—Here are the winners in the first phase of the American Junior Miss Pageant at Mobile, Ala. From left, they are Judy Short, Birmingham, Ala.; Cheryl Ann McMinn, Media, Penna.; Glenellen Cooper, Garden Grove, Calif.; and Jean Leslie Allen, Providence, R.I.

Proclaim Greek Day

ALBANY (UPI)—Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller has proclaimed March 25 as Greek Independence Day in New York State.



Each weekday during Lent a prominent American invites you to join with him in his favorite prayer. Today, join with:

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES HURD
Authors

Dear God, thank you for the wonderful life You have given us, and please vouchsafe us the strength and goodness to be worthy of Your benefits.

Being only human we are bound to have frailties but with Your guidance we shall try to live good and worthy lives that will make us deserving of Your blessings and demonstrate in some degree man's reason for being.