



Caltech's Reuben H. Donnelley Seismological Laboratory, which is located in the San Rafael Hills just across the street from the original laboratory, was once the \$300,000 Thorsen mansion.

Caltech's New Seismological Laboratory



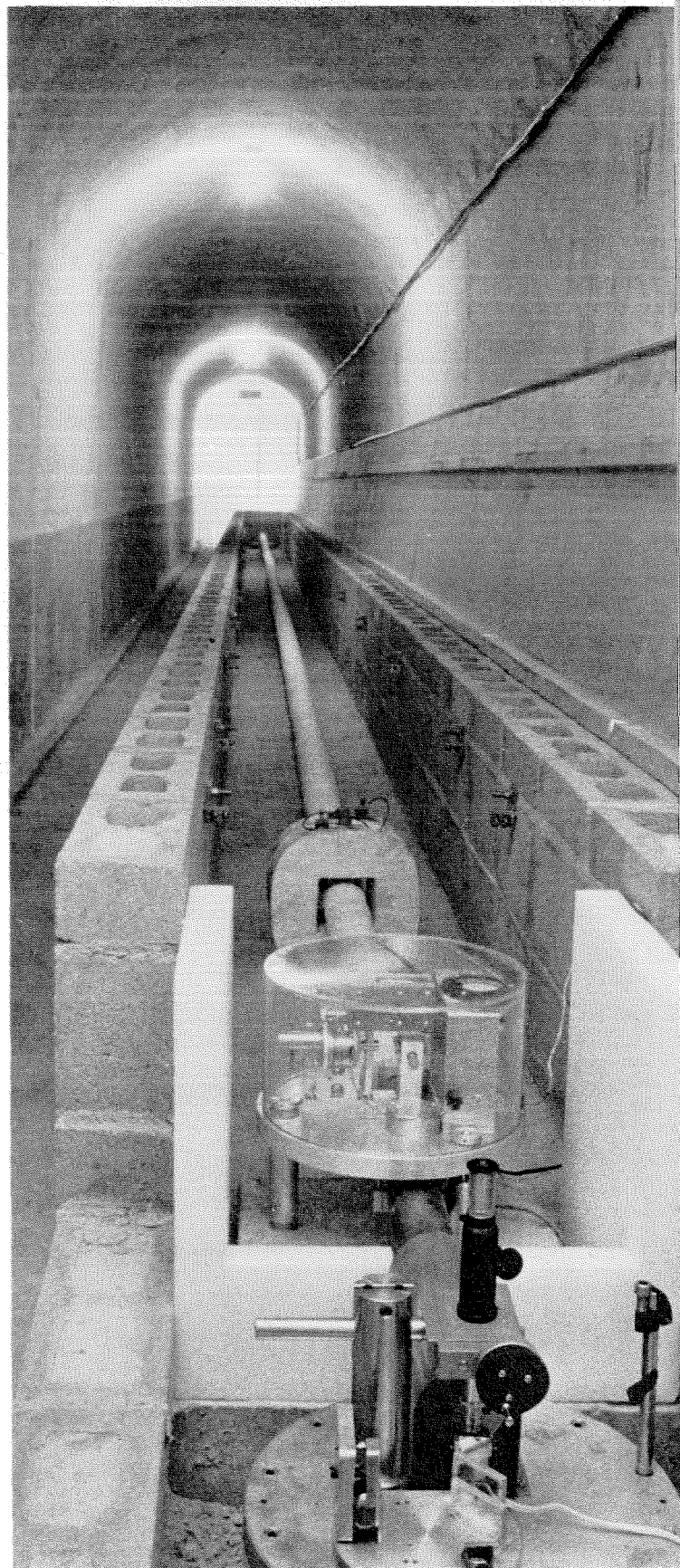
The impressive entrance hall of the new Laboratory.

The new Reuben H. Donnelley Seismological Laboratory in Pasadena began operations last summer without the fanfare of a formal opening.

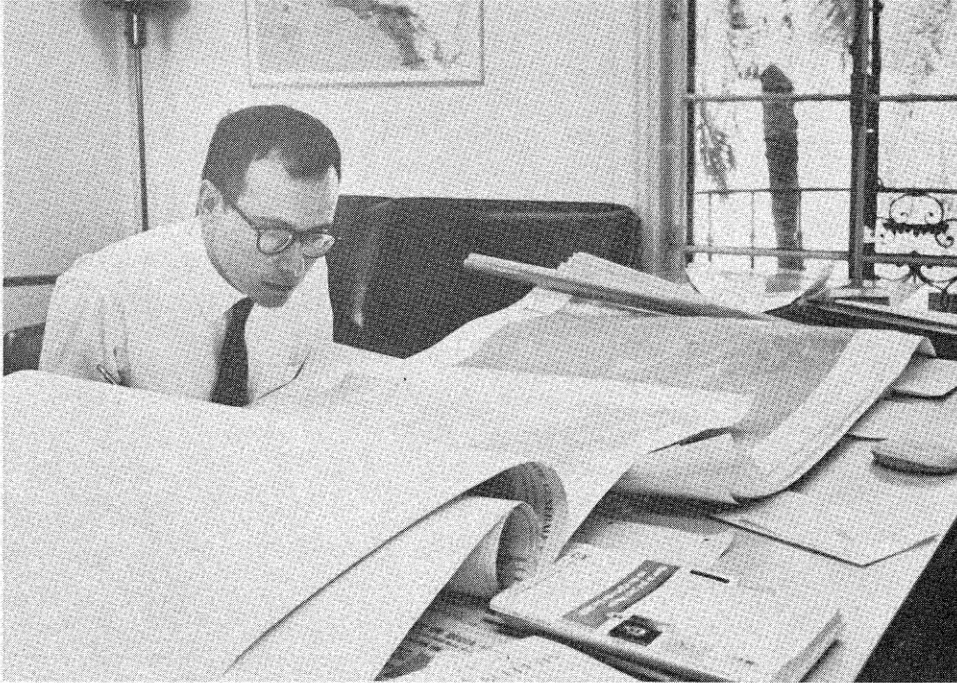
Seismologists and staff quietly moved their equipment into the marbled halls of the \$300,000 mansion which once was the home of A. C. Thorsen, one of the founders of the Walgreen drug store chain. The building proved to be one of the finest sites in California for the installation of seismological instruments because it is built on solid granitic rock. As a dividend, the property contains a 160-foot tunnel which bores through granite — the ideal site for an east-west strain seismograph.

The original Seismological Laboratory, across the street from the new one, is still in use but has been renamed the Kresge Laboratory. The Lab was founded in 1926 as a cooperative venture of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and Caltech but is now completely a Caltech operation and in the past 32 years has developed into one of the world's leading centers for earthquake research.

Funds for the purchase and remodeling of the Thorsen estate were provided by Mr. and Mrs. C. Pardee Erdman, The Kresge Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation. The new Laboratory was named in honor of Mrs. Erdman's father.



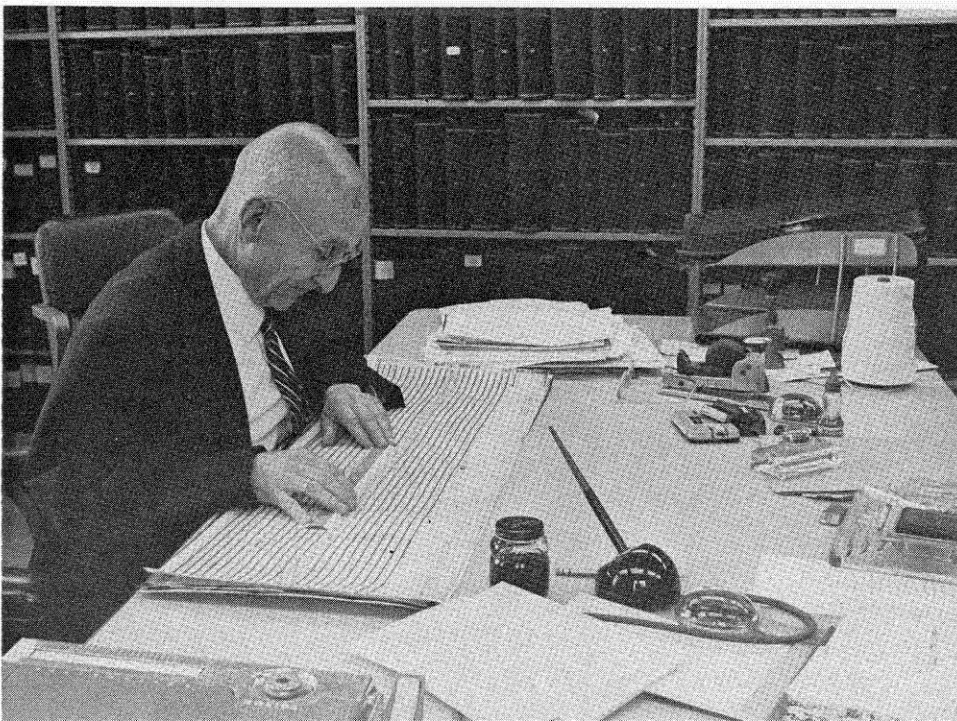
This 160-foot tunnel, bored through solid granitic rock, was originally built for easy access to the gardens but now houses the east-west strain seismograph.



Frank Press, professor of geophysics and director of the Seismological Laboratory, is noted for his geophysical investigations of the crustal structure of the continents and ocean basins, and for his theoretical and experimental work on elastic wave propagation.



Charles Richter, professor of seismology, and originator of the earthquake magnitude scale, is supervisor of seismogram measuring and interpretation at the Lab.



Beno Gutenberg, professor of seismology, and director of the Lab from 1947 through 1956, is an authority on the investigation of seismic waves and on structural differences between continents and ocean bottoms.

New Seismological Laboratory

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Hugo Benioff, professor of seismology, and the developer and builder of the secular linear strain seismograph, used for earthquake measurements all over the world.



The Lab's three ink-writing recorders occupy a prominent position in the main hallway. These seismographs are used for quick consultation as soon as earthquakes occur.

