While aftershocks still rumbled in 1906, geologists sought to unlock the mysteries of the San Andreas. Tracing the rupture to Point Reyes, they encountered broken fences and shattered structures marking 16-20 feet of movement. Through their discoveries, modern seismology was born. Generations later, the fault and the science are still active at Point Reyes.

Digging Up Earthquake History
Here along the San Andreas, paleoseismologists are uncovering the historic record of ancient earthquakes. By studying the active fault trace and searching for long-term patterns, these scientists hope their work will give new insight to the frequency of earthquakes.

Science Evolves
Two millennia ago this Chinese artifact (right) was the apex of earthquake science. Using this instrument, the ancients could determine earthquake direction. Today, computer seismographs record seismic waves. Even the once familiar Richter scale has been replaced by the more accurate Moment Magnitude scale. Along faults like the San Andreas, new discoveries continue to shape our understanding and will one day eclipse our present day science.