COLDWATER TWO

By Barry Voight

© 2021

OVER BLACK

Birds chirp. A light breeze blows through forest trees.

SUPER: MAY 18, 1980 - 8:30 AM PDT

A camper door closes. Footsteps on dirt grow louder until they stop. Mechanical switches are thrown. A man keys a microphone. This is DAVID JOHNSTON (30), a USGS volcanologist.

> JOHNSTON Vancouver, this is Coldwater Two, do you read?

After a couple of seconds, the filtered voice of the USGS office in VANCOUVER, WA (Male) answers.

VANCOUVER Coldwater Two, this is Vancouver, go ahead.

JOHNSTON I don't expect any activity today. All the instruments are showing nothing.

VANCOUVER

That's for sure. Seismographs here are quiet as all get out. Got those samples?

JOHNSTON

Yep, got 'em in the trailer. I'm sure Dan would like to have a look. Has he left yet?

VANCOUVER

A few minutes ago. Should be at your location in about ten minutes.

JOHNSTON

Good. Should be a quiet day for him. Let me look at my notes here.

The rustling of papers is heard.

JOHNSTON (CONT'D) Let's see... Dome growth is less than it was before. Only two feet over a twenty-four hour period. VANCOUVER That's good. Have you checked on Martin yet?

JOHNSTON He's back there holding his own. Nice fella.

VANCOUVER Well, you keep looking at that mountain and if anything happens just say so. Vancouver out.

Johnston hangs up the mic. After a couple of seconds, a low rumbling noise is heard. The rumble gets louder.

JOHNSTON

Good God...

Johnston keys the mic frantically as the rumbling turns into the terrifying sound of earth moving at breakneck speed.

JOHNSTON (CONT'D) (Rising panic) Vancouver! Vancouver! This is it!

He hangs the mic back up. Running sounds are heard followed by the trailer door slamming shut. The sound of howling winds and trees being uprooted grows louder and louder until...

Dead silence.