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COVER

San Juan, Colombia, a small Pacific Coast village about 100 kilometers north of the Ecuadorian border, was nearly destroyed by a magnitude 8 earthquake that struck southwest Colombia on 12 December, 1979. The coastline tectonically subsided nearly 1.6 meters during the earthquake, only 15 minutes before a 2.2-meter high tsunami swept inland. The tsunami overtopped the barrier island on which the village stood. Now inundated at high tide, the village has been abandoned. See page 441. [Darrell G. Herd, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, California]