



## SPLASH OF THE CENTURY

In the fall, brown alders along the shore of Lituya Bay, Alaska, still trace the path taken in 1958 by the tallest tsunami ever recorded. When an earthquake dropped some 40 million cubic yards of rock from the bare slope in the background into the head of the fjord, the splash surged 1,700 feet up the opposite hillside—higher than the Empire State Building. As the wave barreled toward the mouth of the bay, where it was still more than 25 feet high, it flattened millions of conifers, which have since been replaced by alders. It killed two people on an anchored boat.

