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**U.S. Forest Service
Odyssey Productions**

"MOUNT ST. HELENS: The Cycle of Chaos and Creation"

Final Script

"MOUNT ST. HELENS:
The Cycle of Chaos and Creation"

This script sample includes only pages 7 through 15

To see the complete 35-page script, contact me at matrazzo@msn.com

beginning with Page 7, Scene 20:

20. AERIAL. STOCK FOOTAGE.

a) Flying over and around Mount St. Helens in all its beauty, before the eruption.

NARRATOR: (voiceover)

AND THEN THERE'S MOUNT

ST. HELENS.

WHERE ONE DAY IN 1980, THE

VIOLENT SIDE OF ITS

VOLCANIC NATURE

STUNNED THE WORLD.

b) TITLE SUPERIMPOSED: **MOUNT ST. HELENS:
The Cycle of Chaos and Creation**

... AND PROVIDED AN

UNFORGETTABLE VIEW OF A

VOLCANO'S CYCLE OF CHAOS

AND CREATION.

MUSIC CRESCENDO

dip to white and:

21. GRAPHIC.

a) Across the white screen, a bold black seismograph line runs along the bottom, flat, then leaps when the narration mentions the "shudder" of the earthquake of March 20th.

b) The date fades on: **March 20**

SFX: Machine clicking

MUSIC: Segues to a tense, exciting sound

UP AND UNDER

ON MARCH 20th,

AFTER MORE

THAN A CENTURY OF

QUIET ...

... MOUNT ST. HELENS

SHUDDERED ... WITH AN

EARTHQUAKE.

dissolve to:

SCENES #22 TO #47 ARE AN EXCITING, FAST-PACED, DRAMATIC MONTAGE OF AVAILABLE SHOTS (PREFERABLY MOTION PICTURE FOOTAGE AND NOT STILL PHOTOS) ILLUSTRATING THE SCENARIO. AS THE STORY PROCEEDS, THE PACE, SOUNDS AND MUSIC CREATE MORE AND MORE TENSION. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF VARIOUS SHOTS USED IN OTHER PRODUCTIONS.

ACTUAL NEWS SOUND BITES (PERHAPS SOME IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATED ON SCREEN) CAN BE SUBSTITUTED FOR NARRATION WHERE THEY CORRELATE.

The sequence may go:

22. SPECIAL EFFECT:

a) A beauty shot of the mountain at the time, with perhaps one or two other shots overlayed to give the sense of shaking.

b) The date fades on: **March 23**

23. A close shot of a woman's finger pointing to a seismograph printout wild with thick converging lines.

SFX: The rumbling and cracking of the earth's surface

THREE DAYS LATER,
EARTHQUAKES WERE
SHAKING THE MOUNT FORTY
TIMES AN HOUR.

24. A scientist setting up a TV-antenna-like instrument in a snowfield.

25. A closeup of hands turning knobs on an instrument.

26. A scientist in a balaclava looking out through a telescope-like instrument.

SCIENTISTS CONVERGED AND
BEGAN MONITORING.

27. a) A wide shot of the Cascade mountains with Mt. Rainier in the background. Mount St. Helens is in the foreground with ash and smoke rising from the summit.

b) The date fades on: **March 27**

ON MARCH 27th, EIGHT DAYS
AFTER THE FIRST QUAKE,
MOUNT ST. HELENS
WOKE UP.

SFX: Dull thundering of the volcanic eruption

28. Flying over the volcano. Clouds and plumes of pale gray ash are rising.

THAT FIRST ERUPTION SENT

A PLUME OF ASH AND GAS ...

29. The camera zooms in to the top of the volcano; see black around the edges.

... MORE THAN A MILE IN THE
AIR

30. From the air: panning across giant cracks in the snowfield and continue pan over to crater.

... AND BLASTED OPEN A
CRATER THE SIZE OF A
FOOTBALL FIELD.

31. Closeup of ash and steam shooting out of the crater.

32. Closeup of ash blasting upwards.

SFX: Police sirens

DEPUTIES FROM TWO
COUNTIES MOVED TO
EVACUATE THE AREA.

33. Harry Truman leaving his front porch to go inside, smiling and waving to the camera.

BUT 83-YEAR-OLD HARRY
TRUMAN, WHO OWNED A
LODGE ON SPIRIT LAKE,
REFUSED TO LEAVE.

34. A photograph of Gerry Martin.

WHILE GERRY MARTIN

... A HAM OPERATOR
 VOLUNTEERING FOR THE
 STATE DEPARTMENT OF
 EMERGENCY SERVICES ...
 CONTINUED TO TRANSMIT
 RADIO REPORTS.

35. Wide shot including the top of the mountain with a small cloud of white-gray smoke and ash rising, rising.

SFX: Thundering of eruptions

b) The date fades on: **March 30**

c) Black lines of the seismographs going wild are overlayed across the screen.

MARCH 30th.
 SCIENTISTS COUNTED
 93 SEPARATE ERUPTIONS
 AND 53 SIGNIFICANT
 EARTHQUAKES.

36. A man looking through a long-lens camera.

37. Two people looking through binoculars.

38. A wide shot of the parking lot; one person has a camera on a tripod and is looking through binoculars. A crowd is in the background.

FROM VANTAGE POINTS
 AROUND THE MOUNTAIN,
 THOUSANDS GATHERED TO

WATCH THE SPECTACLE.

39. a) Black lines of the seismograph readouts going wild.

b) The date fades on: **April 3**

SFX: Rumbles of avalanches

SFX: Police sirens

APRIL 3rd.

SEISMOGRAPHS RECORDED

EVEN STRONGER

EARTHQUAKES ...

SIX OF THEM OF MAGNITUDE

4.0 AND GREATER.

GOVERNOR DIXIE LEE RAY

DECLARED A STATE OF

EMERGENCY.

40. Harry Truman, seated at a player piano at his lodge at Spirit Lake, cheerily watching the keys and grinning to the camera.

cutaway to:

41. Close shot of Harry's three cats sitting atop the piano.

SFX: Harry Truman's piano playing "As Time Goes By."

HARRY TRUMAN, NOW AN

INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY,

RECEIVED THREE PROPOSALS

OF MARRIAGE.

42. a) Still photo: Close shot of the silhouetted bulge.

b) The date fades on : **April 12**

ON APRIL 12th,
SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED AN
OMINOUS BULGE ON THE
MOUNTAIN'S NORTH FLANK.

43. a) A sequence of nine still photos that show the building of the bulge.

b) The date fades on : **April 24**

TWELVE DAYS LATER, WHAT
THEY FOUND BECAME EVEN
MORE ALARMING: THE
BULGE WAS EXPANDING,
FIVE FEET PER DAY.

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