

Chances Of Escaping Injury From Blast Of Atomic Bomb Good At Distance Of 4 Miles

MEXICO CITY.—(AP)—You do have a chance against the atomic bomb—if you are at least half a mile away from the explosion. Maj. Albert J. Bauer, of the U. S. Army surgeon general's office says if you're four miles away when the bomb goes off, your chances of escaping without injury are almost perfect.

But from four miles in toward the center, the safety percentages drop off sharply. From a half-mile out to a mile and a half from the atomic blast, it is about 50-50 that you will come out alive. In the half-mile inner circle "there will be almost complete destruction" with deaths very close to 100 per cent," Bauer says. Bauer prepared this report with Capt. John R. Hogness of the U. S. Army medical center for presentation today before the 12th international congress of military medicine and pharmacy meeting here. Military medical officers from 28 nations are attending the Congress.

Basing their findings on the atomic explosions at Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Bikini, the two Army medical men described the

effect of an atomic blast and how to defend a city against it.

Agreeing that "the atomic bomb is truly a fearful and extremely destructive weapon," the report emphasizes that the public must realize "an atomic explosion is not the end for all concerned."

Lesson Of Hiroshima
At Hiroshima, 50,000 in a city of 250,000 died from one bomb. But the report blamed the high death rate on the downtown location of hospitals. At Hiroshima nine-tenths of the doctors and nurses were bomb casualties. This prevented medical aid which could have saved many victims.

The report said of all Hiroshima deaths, only 15 in 100 came from the mysterious and much feared radiation sickness. Most deaths resulted from injuries common to any other bombardment—burns, fractures, contusions and lacerations.

Bauer and Hogness regard widespread fire and severe burns as the greatest hazards of the bomb. The intense flash of the blast sends out heat waves that can ignite inflammable materials a mile and a half away.

And what to do about a bomb attack? Bauer and Hogness recommended preparedness measures not much different from those for any other kind of bombing.

Bauer and Hogness call for education and planning for an atomic emergency to prevent hysteria.

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Last Microscopic Bumps On Giant Mirror Removed

PALOMAR, Calif.—(AP)—The last microscopic bumps on the face of the 200-inch Hale telescope mirror have been removed, and the giant star-camera soon will begin searching the twin corridors of space and time for events that happened a billion years ago.

The big mirror, which can pick up pinpoints of light originating more than a billion light years away, will be coated with reflecting aluminum before it is replaced in the telescope tube. (A light year is the distance light, moving at the rate of 186,000 miles a second, travels in a year.)

The coating may take three weeks or it may require six months. Says Dr. Ira S. Bowen, director of the Mt. Wilson and Palomar observatories.

"We hope the telescope will be back in operation well before the end of next year," he said.

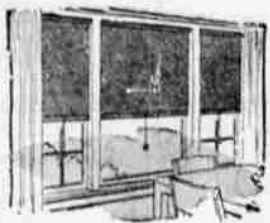
The mirror, essential part of the largest telescope in the world, after a year of testing showed the outer 18 inches of its surface was as much as 20 millionths of an inch too high.

"It had been deliberately left high because we had anticipated some sag when it was placed in the telescope," Dr. Bowen explained. "When this sag did not develop to the extent we had anticipated, we decided to do some additional work on it."

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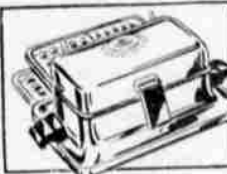
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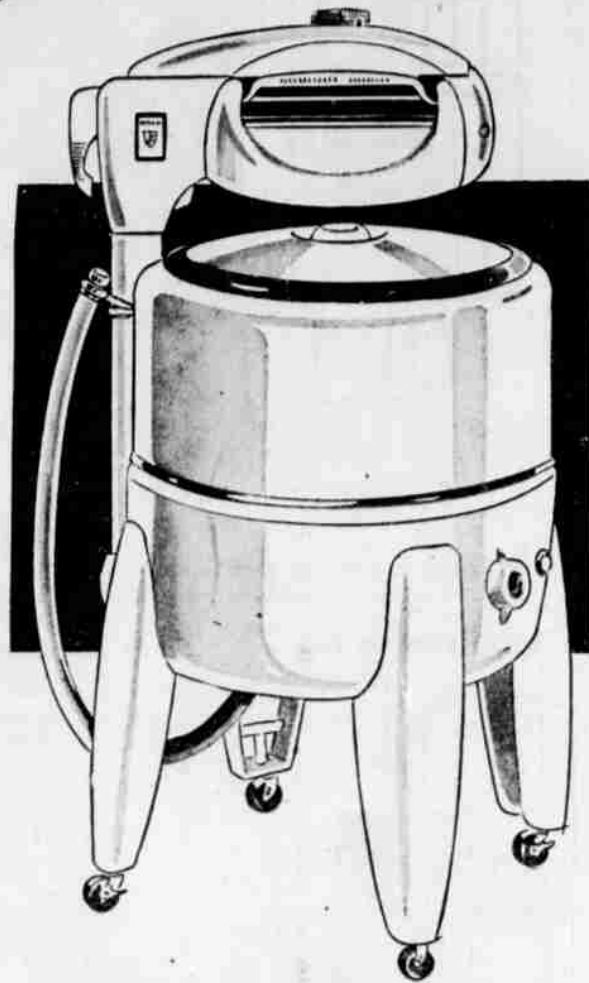
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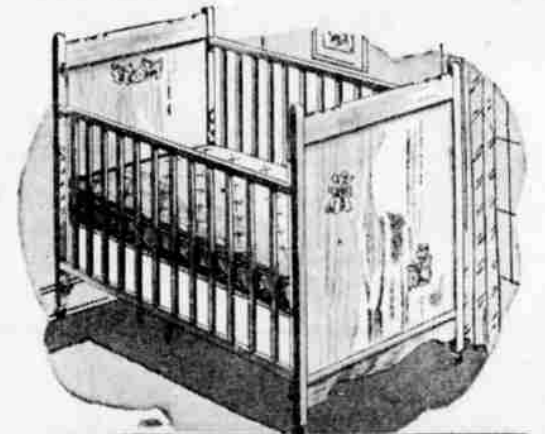


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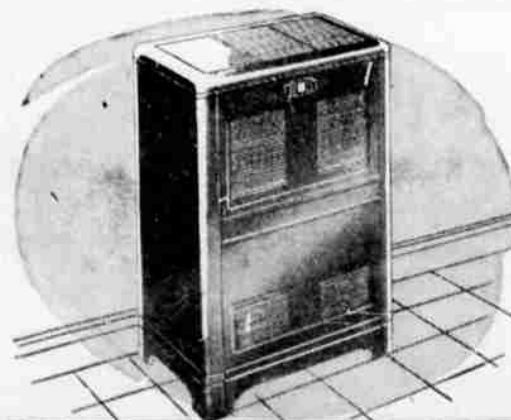


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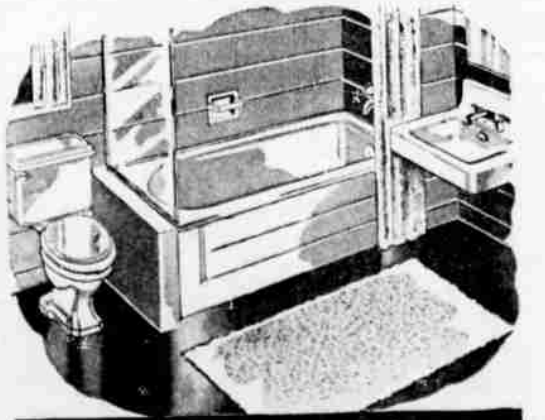
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