

AN ATOMIC AGE AGENCY

By Tom Brubeck

None of the members of the State Civil Defense Agency has an ulcer, but they are working on it.

Their mission is to prepare the civilian population against a possible enemy attack. From what is learned from civil and military leaders at the national level, such an attack could come suddenly and would cause a certain amount of devastation.

Visiting the agency is deceptive, because it is manned by a handful of persons who occupy just four rooms in the State Office building in Salem. Yet, these four rooms tucked away in one corner of the basement would become the nerve center for disaster-relief operations in event of major war.

Specialists Coordinated

Civil defense is not an organization, as such. It is a coordinating agency for the many types of specialists who would be needed in total disaster. Except for a director, secretary and small cadre of eleven staff members, the CD headquarters is little more than a communications center and a meeting place for representatives of many emergency organizations.

Here are the departments whose services are coordinated by CD: Fire, police, medical, emergency welfare, engineering and heavy rescue, transportation, communications, and utilities. It would take another "bluebook" to show various sub-divisions and responsibilities of each department. The medical phase alone, handled by the State Board of Health, involves problems greater in scope than any single peace-time undertaking in public health. The emergency welfare department also is a large field and the agency handling it is the State Public Welfare Commission.



Left to right: Beatrice Nelte, Helen McClure, Melba Stalter, Magdalene Stahl, Ivan McKinney, Ruth Larson, Isabelle Kenagy, Marcell Stewart.

Comcenter—A Busy Spot

One area is set aside for communications—radio, telephone, and teletype. Many volunteers from the State Tax Department received their initiation in civil defense during an exercise last June. Surrounded by radio sets, two banks of telephones and a clattering TWX machine, they kept the office in contact with the federal government and local CD organizations throughout Oregon. If the traffic handled during that exercise is any index, the "comcenter" will be a busy spot during actual operations.

An all-out nuclear attack on Critical Target Areas in the U. S. (Portland is one of them) would involve nearly every phase of human activity. But the civil-defense yardstick is simply this: The care of people. State Civil Defense Director Arthur M. Sheets has described it this way:

"The beginning and end of all our planning is to minimize the effect of weapons on people."

BOWLING ROUND UP

The State House League ended another season with a dinner at the American Legion Club House last month. For the second straight year the Highway Accounting Department captured first place, by rolling a sweep over the Five Spares of the State House No. 2 League. Five Spares was a pick-up team composed of Elmer Case, Cornelius Aaron and Jim Young of the old SUCC team and Jesse James and Orval Schultz from the old OSP team. They kept "picking up" all season and finally rolled into first place contention.

The Grand Championship team of Highway Accounting Department is composed of Owen McAdams, Keith Crane, Leo Ketchum, George LeTourneaux and Cliff Maison.

Many new faces showed up when the league organized last year and several of them gave a good account of themselves as the season progressed.

Final Standings

The Highway Accounting Dep't.

Grand Champions

League No. 1

Highway Accounting
Secretary of State
Keep Oregon Green
Fairview Home
Highway Construction
Division of Audits
Tax Commission
Forestry Protection
State Printers
State Police
H'w'y Traffic Engr's #1
Highway Maintenance

League No. 2

Five Spares
Odd Lots
Office Engineers
Public Utilities
H'w'y Traffic Engr's #2
Finance, Administration
Veteran's Affairs
Dept. of Agriculture
Industrial Accident Com.
H'w'y Bridge Engineers
Forestry Sparks
Highway Markers

Top Ten Average Men

Owen McAdams	Bill Hillerich
Jay Gould	Lyle Erstgaard
George LeTourneaux	Rudy Meffert
Lyle Beyers	Dave Ringland
Cliff Maison	Wayne Straw
Bill Biegler	Gene Tanselli
Darryl Storm	Jim Young
Don Duncan	Harry Gustafson
Ted Roake	Cornelius Aaron
Virgil Mahaffey	Floyd Scott

New league officers for the 1955-56 season were elected at the meeting as follows: League #1, George Miller, President; Kurt Ruecker, Vice President. League #2, George LeTourneaux, President; Don Moriskey, Vice President. Secretary for the joint leagues, Lyle Erstgaard.

The usual post season match game, between the top five average men in both leagues was rolled after the dinner and the results followed the pattern of past years with the League #2 boys winning handily. Several substitutions had to be made for absentees. Scores:

League No. 1

Gould	404
Biegler	477
Beyers	496
LeTourneaux	541
Maison	492

2410

League No. 2

Erstgaard	514
Ringland	568
Young	512
Meffert	468
Hillerich	542

2604