

Observers Believe H-Bomb Surface Blasts Cause Earthquakes, Spread More Destruction

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
United Press Correspondent
Aboard USS Mt. McKinley, en route to Bikini—(U.P.)—Observers awaiting the hydrogen bomb test speculated today that surface explosions cause earthquakes and spread more destruction than air drops.

The bomb scheduled to be detonated will be airdropped and is not expected to cause as much damage on the ground as its powerful predecessors.

In the past military men figured an airburst was the most efficient way of using nuclear weapons because it subjects a

greater area to shock waves. Effect Greater

Now it appears the earthquake effects of surface explosions are vastly greater than airbursts which dissipate radioactivity in the higher parts of the atmosphere.

Earthwaves produced by surface blasts are exactly like those of major temblors, such as the

ones which leveled San Francisco.

For example, earthwaves created by the world's first hydrogen explosion at Eniwetok on Nov. 1, 1952, made a seismograph needle jump 15 minutes later at Berkeley, Calif., about 4500 miles away.

It is not news that nuclear explosions can create earthquake effects. But it is being realized only now that hydrogen bomb blasts—equivalent to the explosions of many millions of tons of TNT—magnify the area of destruction.

News men observing the H-bomb surface shot of March 1, 1954, saw what the earthwaves did to a massive reinforced concrete bunker on Bikini's Yurochi Island, which was located several miles from ground zero.

Heavy Bunker Moved

This bunker was at least 40 feet high and even larger in

length and width. Its estimated weight was about 100,000 tons.

But it moved a foot or two shortly after the blast.

An equally massive bunker on Enyu Island moved two or three inches in the 1954 blast, even though the structure was 20 miles away.

Civil Defense officials trained in damage effects said movement of as little as two inches would be far enough to collapse sturdily constructed two-story brick houses, killing all of their occupants.

They said the same bomb fired high in the air to get maximum area coverage would cause that much damage at no more than 12 to 14 miles.

Dr. William E. Ogle, scientific

deputy commander on the task force engaged in today's operation, said the earth shock created by the ground explosion of 1954 created not a minor but a big earthquake.

Meteor Dust Causes Rainfall, Australian Scientist Declares

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York — (U.P.) — Meteor dust can and does cause rain to fall on the earth according to the well-documented theory of an Australian scientist which is based on the weather records of the two hemispheres and five continents covering up to 100 years.

great amount of heat from the atmosphere. One inch of rain is said to equal, in heat, three days of sunshine. "If this were to occur simultaneously at a number of points over the globe, it is possible that the whole circula-

tion pattern would be affected," he said. If meteor dust sets off rain simultaneously in many places over the world, meteor dust then would be a very powerful maker of the earth's weather.

Wherever in the atmosphere there are very large cloud formations which are relatively free of droplet-forming nuclei which originated from the earth, the meteor dust serves the same purpose—and it rains. Since the orbits and periodicity of meteor showers are known, the dates when the earth's atmosphere is being bombarded with meteor dust are also known.

If the theory is proven out, it will give weather forecasters a new tool—not only for predicting rainfall, but also for predicting weather conditions generally.

Clouds do not empty their wetness unless they contain something which can serve as nuclei for the formation of droplets. These nuclei are dust particles sucked up into the atmosphere from the earth's surface.

But Dr. E. G. Bowen says they also can be dust from the showers of meteors which follow orbits around the sun. The earth in its orbit periodically passes through the orbits of meteor showers. Each time it does, meteor dust rains into its atmosphere from above.

The theory is exciting weather scientists. Bowen made reports to their professional bodies through the world, including the American Meteorological society. Its implications are vast. For example, Bowen pointed out that the earth's climate changes and "if meteor showers have a direct effect on world rainfall, an increase or decrease in the amount of dust in the solar systems could easily explain the changes which have occurred."

Heat Released

As for what it would mean in forecasting—rain releases a

Utah Firing Squad Executes Two for Slaying in 1949

Point of the Mountain, Utah—(U.P.) — A double-strength firing squad executed two Midwestern slayers at dawn today after the youths asked that "our tragic lives and ending serve as a warning to all, young and old."

The barking rifles of 10 volunteer marksmen ended a six and one half year battle by Verne Alfred Braasch, 27, Reinbeck, Ia., and Melvin Leroy Sullivan, 25, Kansas City, Kan., to escape death for the October, 1949, slaying of a youthful Utah service station attendant.

In Spotlighthed Chairs

Braasch and Sullivan died seated in spotlighthed chairs in a shed in the outer yard of Utah's Point of the Mountain Prison. Deputy Sheriff Charles Wells gave the firing order for the state's first double firing squad execution at 5:14 a.m. (MST).

As Wells' hat dropped in signal, the riflemen fired from standing and kneeling positions behind the window of a prison building 25 feet from the slayers. Eight of the rifles, containing 30 caliber bullets, carried the death message. Two, none knew which, were loaded with blanks.

Sullivan was pronounced dead at 5:15 a.m.; Braasch at 5:16 a.m.

Both Men Hooded

When the two men came into the yard, they already had been hooded with black cloths that draped over their heads and chest.

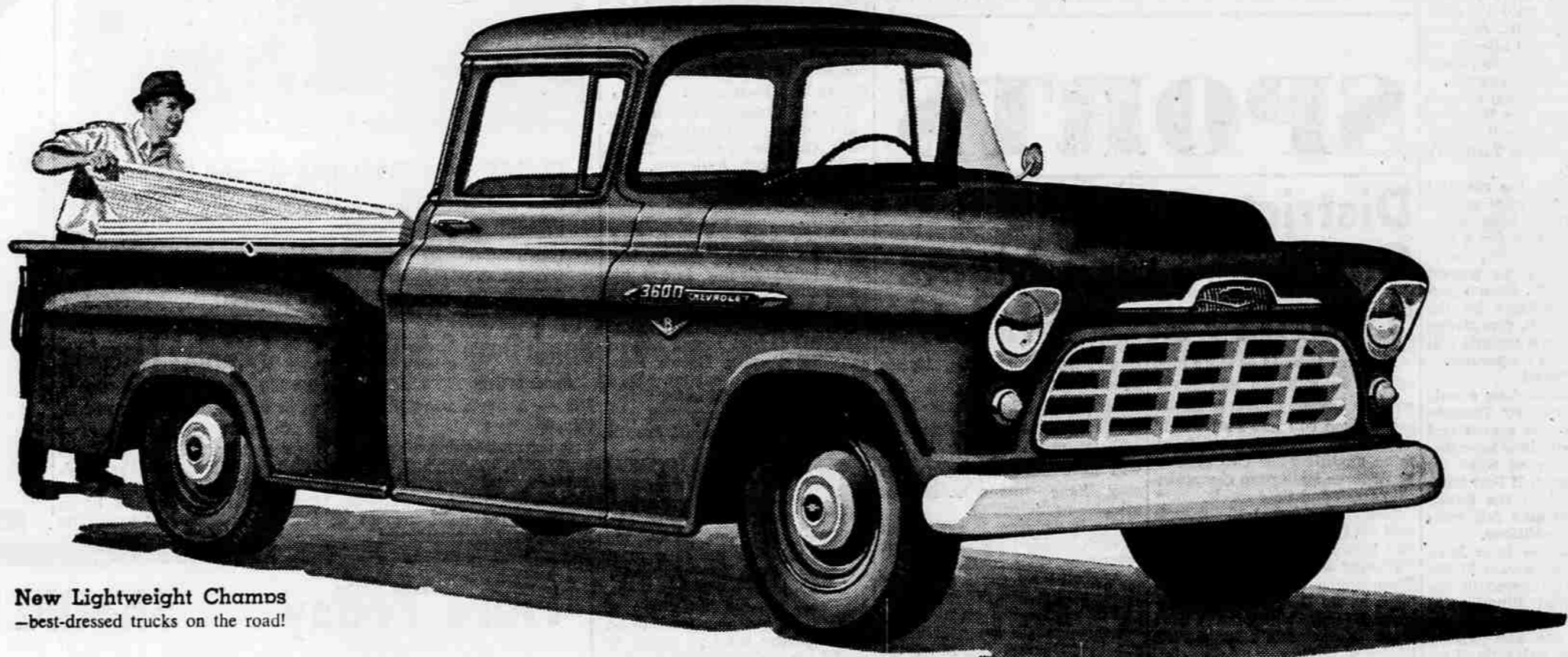
Round white targets had been fixed over the black hoods to mark their hearts. The eight bullets punched closely grouped patterns on the targets, although the shots that killed Braasch seemed to be centered on the west portion of the cloth.

About 100 witnesses were present. They included law officers, newsmen and Joseph A. Manzione, Beacher, Utah, the father of Howard Manzione, the slayers' victim.

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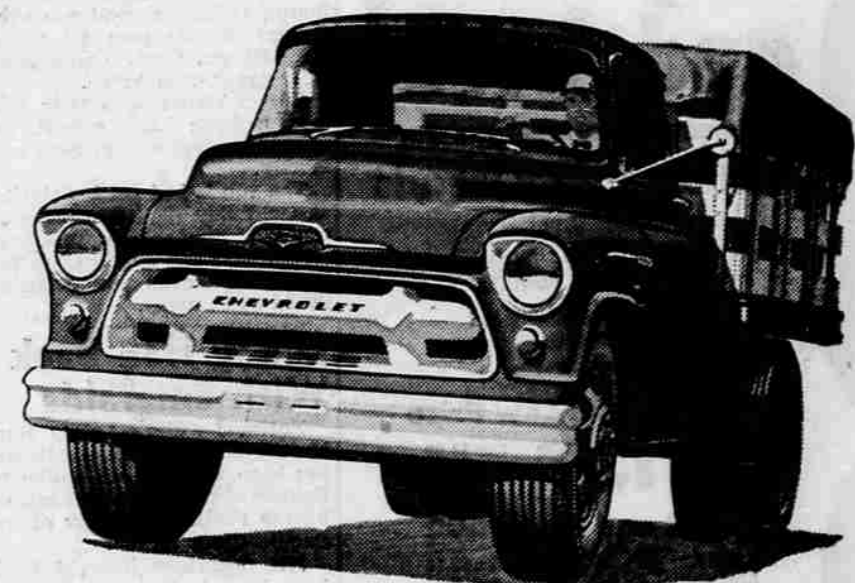
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