

# Means of Saving Life in Case 'It' Falls Unchanged Since Olden Days

Editors note: We are living in the age of the intercontinental ballistic missile, fallout and radioactivity. No person in the United States is unaffected. For some the risk is greater. The two million persons living in the San Francisco Bay Area are keenly aware of their prime target status because of naval and military installations. How many would survive an atomic or thermonuclear blast? What are the latest developments? How have shelters changed since World War II? The following dispatch is the first of a series of three that attempts to answer these questions.

By WILEY MALONEY  
United Press Correspondent  
San Francisco—(U.P.)—Basic means of saving your life in case "it" falls on you have not changed since cave man days—

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you either run or you hide. "It" is the intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with an atomic or thermonuclear warhead.

This weapon's development—and we are on the verge of having it announced formally as accomplished—has led to greater emphasis being placed upon shelter in combination with evacuation.

You may have only a 15-minute warning that "it" is coming. The other choice, then, is the same taken by our cave man ancestors when the enemy was throwing rocks. You duck or get under cover.

The Federal Civil Defense Administration interprets "run or hide" by the words "space and shielding." Space, of course, means putting distance between you and "it." Shielding, naturally, is shelter. There is no third method of preserving life in event of undeclared ICBM warfare.

The best thing is not to be in the spot where "it" drops. No Shelter Perfect  
"Space and shielding," said FCDA Administrator Val Peter-

son, "are our most important devices or tools in civil defense. There is no shelter in existence today nor will there be, that will withstand the worst blast and thermal effects of thermonuclear explosions. But through our research and study, we believe that a standard of shelter can be achieved that will give acceptable probabilities of survival."

Adequate bomb-proof shelters now have become necessary because warning time has been cut so drastically. This makes it impossible to evacuate cities or industrial areas quickly enough. In areas which escape actual bombing, but which lie in the path of possible deadly radioactive fallout, a system of shelters will be needed. Yet, evacuation still must be planned for those who are saved by such lighter shelters—or even the heavier ones. People just have to be moved from a radioactive area.

There are two basic differences in modern shelter design as compared with those in World War II. They have to do with the structure of the shelter and

the time it probably will be occupied.

World War-II shelters were designed to withstand the blast of ordinary high explosives whose impact was like that of a hammer's blow—destructive but of very short duration. The shelter walls might crack, but remain standing.

**Force of Locomotive**  
Modern shelters, however, must withstand the "sustained" force of nuclear weapons—a force compared to that of a speeding locomotive smashing into a wall. After cracking the wall, energy still pushes forward, toppling everything in its path.

The other difference has to do with the time the shelter actually is inhabited. World War II shelters were of "short-term" design—built for use during the actual bombing attack only, perhaps a few minutes or hours. One waited until the last brick fell—like waiting for the second shoe to fall on the floor overhead.

Modern shelters must be designed for long time use—to accommodate numbers of people

## Plane Mechanics To Strike Feb. 8

Miami—(U.P.)—Some 1,000 National Air Lines mechanics have announced they will strike at noon Feb. 8 unless last-minute contract negotiations succeed. The strike would close down the giant airline in the middle of the heavy winter tourist traffic and cost the Miami area alone an estimated \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 a day in revenue.

The strike date was posted Tuesday in a bulletin put out by District 145 of the International Association of Machinists.

Kansas is the world's largest producer of hard winter wheat.

for days, perhaps a week or more, until radioactivity "decays" to a point permitting evacuation.

Why not, it may be asked, simply write off as a total loss the destruction of a prime target area? The answer is contained partially in a statement made by Winston Churchill.

"One plane," he said, "one submarine, the day after an attack, are worth one hundred the day before. That is why they have shelters in Sweden."

The survival of a large proportion of a civilian population is still more important. Tomorrow, modern home shelters and how they withstand "it."

## Oregon Mt. Tunnel May Be Possibility

Grants Pass — A tunnel through Oregon mountain on Highway 199 between Grants Pass and Crescent City, Calif., "should not be ruled out" as a possible solution to straightening the highway, according to California State Highway Engineer Alan S. Hart.

According to the Crescent City American, realignment of the Redwood highway from Hiouchi bridge to the Oregon line is third on the supervisors' priority list of projects recommended by the state highway department in Del Norte county.

Hart told supervisors that aerial mapping is being done and that studies of the project should be completed by July this year.

Oregon mountain is regarded as one of the most troublesome and dangerous spots on the highway between Grants Pass and Crescent City.

**CHESTS EXPANDING**  
New York — (U.P.) — American women are busting out of their raincoats, the Almar Manufacturing Co. reported today. The company said it had increased the frontal expansion of its medium size raincoats to 40 inches to rectify the situation. It surveys show the average American woman's chest measurement is an inch and a half larger than in 1947.

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