

Udall Residents Forget Horror Of Tornado

Udall, Kan. — (UPI) — Twisters are whirling again through prairie skies and with approach of the peak of the tornado season, City Marshal Hay Payne is worried — because Udall citizens generally are not.

Payne reported difficulty in getting sentries to man the town's tornado watch tower.

In 20 minutes of terror on the night of May 25, 1955, Udall was splintered by a tornado that cut a swath 45 miles wide as it roared up out of Oklahoma.

It killed 83 persons, out of Udall's population of less than 600, and injured 270. Not a single building in town was habitable when it was over and all but a very few were reduced to kindling. Property damage totalled \$2,225,000. Live in New Homes

In less than five years, Payne said, most survivors seem to have forgotten. They live in new homes, built on the old townsite. Their resurrected community has grown to a prosperous town of more than 700 persons. Its citizens seem more conscious of the workday problems of spring in a farming community than of the danger from a twister.

When the town was rebuilt, consciousness of danger showed in every blueprint. About 50 per cent of the homes have their own storm shelters. Beneath the grade school is a shelter which can accommodate about 250 persons. There's room for another 200 in a shelter beneath the high school.

Payne said there is enough underground, tornado — proof shelter space to protect every person in Udall.

Getting them there is Lookout Tower Built

When rebuilding got underway almost the first structure to go up was a lookout tower, built on high ground and standing about 25 feet tall. Sentries use the tower to scan the sky whenever weather forecasters indicate likelihood of a tornado or when the sky grows yellow, the air still and a black thunderhead rolls up on the southwest horizon in the manner prairie dwellers recognize as a danger signal.

"It's hard to get people to man the tower," Payne said. "Some don't want to go up there when storm conditions are around. Some just think they are too busy."

"We just don't have too much luck in getting watchers. Only a few people do the work."

Udall has four sirens to sound an alarm once a funnel cloud is sighted. One stands on a pole 35 feet in the air. In combination with three smaller ones, its wail can be heard for miles.

Knowing when to use them is the problem, Payne said.

Comet Burnham Can Be Seen in East

Washington — (Science Service) — Comet Burnham can now be seen low in the east in the early morning sky just before sunrise.

The comet has developed an unusual three-forked tail, but it can be seen only with the aid of binoculars or a telescope, as it is of the seventh magnitude, Dr. Elizabeth Roemer of the U.S. Naval Observatory, Flagstaff, Ariz., told Science Service.

Dr. Roemer said that the comet is not expected to get any brighter during April as it moves northward toward the North Star. When it gets there, it will be closest to earth, about 20 million miles away, and will be visible then in the evening sky.

After the beginning of May, the comet will fade rapidly.

Census Takers In Home Stretch

Washington — (UPI) — The nation's census takers are heading down the home stretch in their race to count some 180 million Americans by the end of this month.

The Census Bureau said 148,242,224 persons — 83 per cent of the anticipated total — were counted by midnight Saturday. A spokesman said that except for a few trouble spots the counting will be finished sometime next week.

More than half of the enumerators have completed their work by counting each man, woman and child in 83,737 districts across the county.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Pre-Finished Wall Panels of Plywood Cuts Decorating Costs

New York — (UPI) — A plywood maker said today he has found a multi-million dollar market in providing pre-finished wall panels so cheaply they can do away with the tedious and expensive chore of redecorating homes and apartments.

Chairman Bernard Hewitt of Industrial Plywood Co., of Jamaica, N.Y., doesn't expect his new panels to put the plastering and wallboard industries out of business. In fact, he expects many city building codes will continue for a long time to require wet plaster construction. And lots of people will keep on liking wallpaper.

But Hewitt says his new laminated plywood wall panels with the finish applied at the factory are competitive with wallboards in price and that the finish will last for years with only occasional waxing. Moreover, they can be nailed up by "do it yourself" homeowners.

Easy To Maintain
No more painting every two or three years with the laborious sanding and spackling, says Hewitt.

Hewitt's company has made a special effort to reach the low price market. Hewitt told United Press International he is making pre-finished plywood wall panels to sell for as little as 17½ cents a square foot and has persuaded well over 100 lumber yards in the New York metropolitan area to stock them. That's about half the price of the cheapest pre-finished plywood panel offered and the average was well above 50 cents.

County-wide Sweep
That means that while most builders still figure plywood panelling a 10 by 12 room at around \$750, it can be done with Hewitt's cheaper panels for \$100. Even with a cherry or walnut finish, it can be done for under \$200—and no more painting or papering and spackling repairs.

Hewitt believes in time vir-

Psychologists Study Knowledge of Sex

New York — (Science Service) — How much a young man knows about sex and the "facts of life" is related to his intelligence but not to his marital status, sexual adjustment or his age, Drs. Leo Shatin and J. Alfred Southworth of the Albany Veterans hospital and Albany Medical college told the meeting of the Eastern Psychological association.

The young men studied by the psychologists were all patients in the psychiatry service of a general hospital. The average age was 33 years. They were selected for study because sexual maladjustment is sometimes a symptom of mental illness and may aggravate or contribute to that illness.

The majority of the patients (85.7 per cent) judged their own personal sexual adjustment to be satisfactory or better. Their therapists, however, judged 73 per cent to be unsatisfactory or worse in sexual adjustment.

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Nuclear Progress Among Reasons for 'Watchdog' Group

Portland — It may not be too long, as industrial revolutions are measured, until a nuclear reactor will be installed alongside the Willamette or some other Oregon river.

That is only one of the reasons why Dr. Richard H. Wilcox, state health officer, recently appointed a continuing "watchdog" committee of experts to investigate steps which may be necessary to assure that radiation will be a boon rather than a bane in this state.

Routine Measure
Appointment of the committee was termed "a routine precautionary measure", but it really was a realistic admission that the nuclear age already has come to Oregon, and residents must learn to live with a new neighbor whether they like it or not.

Actually, however, there is nothing new about radiation. It bombarded the first human ever to appear on earth. It was in his water and food, and everything else around him. This so-called "normal background" radiation in Oregon today is measured at about 0.1 roentgens per year, or approximately one-third of the total radiation exposure of the average resident.

First widespread use of what might be termed "artificial" radiation began after discovery of x-rays in 1895. Since then, use of radioactive materials has steadily increased, often for such everyday conveniences as luminous watch dials.

Despite the fears generated by such headline-producing events as the "hot rain" a couple of years ago in California, weapons testing has contributed only a minute amount to an Oregon resident's current radiation exposure. The fallout which has caused such alarm is responsible for perhaps 0.01 of the total 0.3 roentgens per year exposure in Oregon.

Not Shrugged Off
Although these levels today are low, they are not being shrugged off by state health authorities. This is because radiation effects are cumulative, and the level to which the expected large future use can safely go will depend to some extent on how much exposure the population already has experienced.

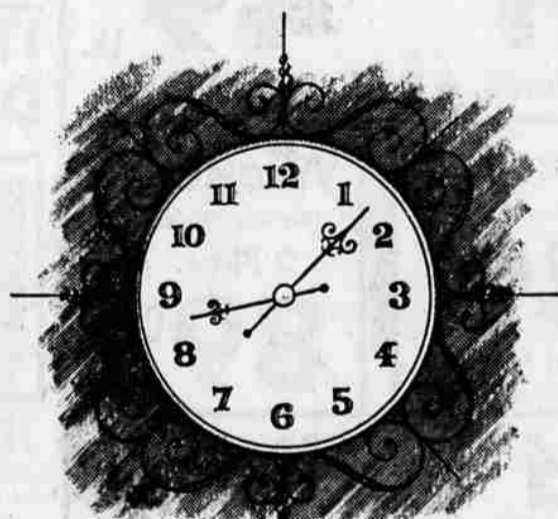
Dr. Wilcox also wants the

about today's more-or-less normal radiation levels in food, water, air and everything else around the general population, so health authorities will be able to pin-point any possible dangerous increases in the future.

committee's first task will be assembling a list of needs and recommendations for consideration by the 1961 Legislature.

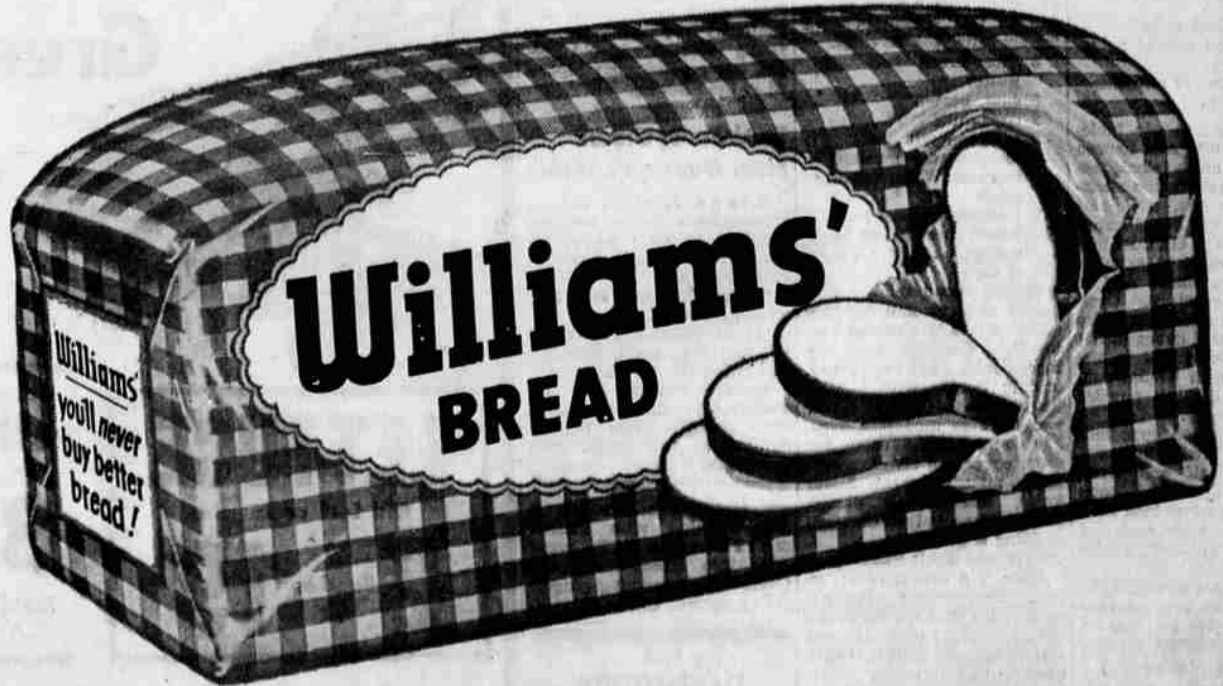
EX-PUBLISHER DIES
Manning, S. C. — (UPI) — Mattie B. Appelt, former co-owner and co-publisher of the Manning Times, died Tuesday.

DISASTER POTENTIAL
Miami Beach, Fla. — (UPI) — Prof. Ernest B. Bartley of the University of Florida warned Tuesday that increasing construction of homes on waterfront property since Florida's last major hurricane has created a "tremendous potential for disaster in many coastal regions."



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