

Medford Police Receive Demonstration, Taste of Tear-Gas



TELLS HOW — George Cake of the George Cake company of Berkeley, Calif., tells a group of Medford city police officers how a tear-gas grenade should be thrown during a tear-gas demonstration at the department's White city target range last week. (Note grenade in hand.)



TEST GAS—Seven police officers, including Police Chief Charles P. Champlin (third from right), volunteered to run through a cloud of the colorless tear gas. Lt. McMillan (far left) is approximately in the middle of the cloud in the above picture. All agreed that the tear-gas is effective.

Equipment Is Purchased For Emergency Use

By GREG NOKES
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

"It sure clears the sinuses,"

This was the comment of one of Medford's finest last week after he and several other police officers had run through a cloud of tear-gas at the police department's shooting range near White City.

The entire police force had assembled at the range to watch a demonstration of tear-gas equipment. Later some of the equipment was purchased, making the department tear-gas-equipped for the first time in its 75-year-old history.

Since they had never before worked with tear-gas, and to test the effects of the colorless vapors, several police officers led by Police Chief Charles P. Champlin dubiously volunteered to run through a batch of it.

Potent Stuff

Eyes watering and gasping, they agreed to a man that it was potent stuff.

Not being a member of the force, a Mail Tribune reporter politely declined an invitation to join them in their little experiment. But unexpectedly, he was treated to a whiff or two later on.

This occurred when a thoughtful police officer decided he was going to take a couple of the "empty" tear-gas bombs home to his kids. Unaware of his thoughtfulness, a reporter and two other policemen joined him in the ride back to Medford.

The ride had not gone very far when four sets of eyes began watering and stinging until they could stand no more.

Journey Resumed

Through half-closed eyes the thoughtful patrolman guided the car to the side of the road and, nonplussed, he transferred the empty bombs from under the front seat to the trunk of the car. After four pairs of eyes could see again the journey was resumed.

Tear-gas is colorless and is largely composed of a chemical called benzyl bromide (an impressive name with an impressive effect). It affects the tear ducts of the eyes, causing them to water profusely, and irritates the throat, causing coughing. Its overall effect is to cause its victim to seek the nearest dose of fresh air.

Although it is not physically injurious and causes only temporary discomfort, it is highly improbable that a person could stand to be in it for any length of time.

Last week's demonstration was given by a representative of the George Cake company, Berkeley, Calif., from which the department purchased its equipment.

Comes in Bombs

Tear-gas comes in grenade-like bombs which can be thrown by hand, or it comes in shell-like projectiles to be fired from a specially constructed gun. Both kinds were demonstrated.

There are two chief kinds of projectiles. One is potentially harmful — the other is not.

The harmless kind looks roughly like two toilet-paper tubes which have been put end to end and sealed. This kind of projectile is not considered accurate since it has a tendency to go end over end or sideways when shot from a gun.

Timed to discharge its gas within a certain period after firing, the projectile does this by splitting down the side, rather than exploding. It finds its greatest use in dispersing a riot or forcing someone out of a house or barricade without hurting him.

Miniature Rocket

The potentially harmful kind of projectile is about 10 inches long, and resembles a miniature military rocket, complete with tail fins. It has a range of 400 yards, and can be fired accurately for a distance of 100 yards.

This projectile will easily penetrate a panel door or an ordinary glass window—it has even been known to go right through the side of a house. It explodes when its sensitive nose tip comes in contact with a solid surface.

When it explodes the metal shell casing shatters in all directions, and for this reason it is to be used only against a person whose personal safety it not of prime importance in a given situation, and only under circumstances where the harmless projectile could not be used.

Such a situation might arise when a killer has barricaded himself securely in a house and is shooting it out with police.

Gas Grenade

The hand tear-gas bomb is usually called a gas grenade. It resembles a tin can and is equipped with a firing pin and plunger. It is timed to



BOMB EXPLODES — Several smoke bombs were used in the demonstration to show how the tear-gas, which is invisible, disperses. Sgt. DeLaire Tusow (above) has just fired such a smoke bomb from the tear-gas gun.



SILHOUETTED — Officer Milton Hanson is silhouetted against an exploding smoke bomb



THROWS GRENADE—Sgt. Jack Sanders throws a grenade under the watchful eye of George Cake. Sanders was the first to try out the tear-gas weapons.



FIRES GUN — Police Lt. Jack McMillan is shown firing the tear-gas gun. A high-powered tear-gas projectile which explodes on impact can be fired from the gun. The projectile has a range of 400 yards, and can be fired accurately for a distance of 100 yards.

Chairman Hobby Fair Lists More Event Committees

White City—Mrs. A. T. Wat-tenberg, Eagle Point, general chairman of the 1961 Veterans Administration Domiciliary arts, crafts and hobby fair Sunday, April 9, has announced more committees and judges for the annual event.

Mrs. Winifred Anne McNey Rogue Valley Manor, is chairman of the judges for short stories, articles and other prose and poetry contestants.

Mrs. Anne Fisher, whose 14 published books include "Cathedral in the Sky," will judge all prose entries.

Arnold Jenny, who conducts the Poets' Corner for the Mail Tribune, will judge poetry contributions.

Recreation Committee

Mrs. Mary Schulz, chairman of the reception committee which will provide a register and hostesses for the Sunday afternoon fair, open house and reception sponsored by the Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) announced the following members of her committee: Margaret Eakin, Mary Parker, Mary DeBerry, Freida Lawrence, Lillian Salade, Faye Allison, Dorothy Leuty, Lela Lamb, Marie Bowling and Letha Turner.

The open house and reception in conjunction with the Hobby Fair will include conducted tours through main parts of the domiciliary, manager Henry C. Herzog has announced. Refreshments will be served all afternoon.

Milo Students Tour Mail Tribune Plant

Fifteen students from the Milo academy, Milo, Ore., visited the Mail Tribune plant last week.

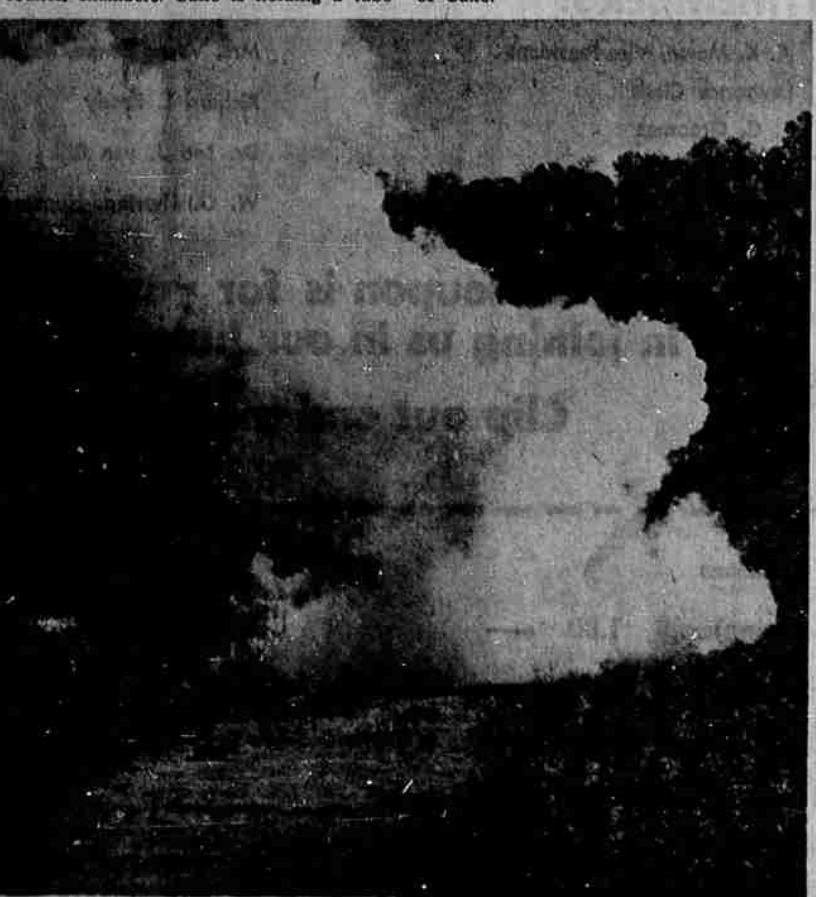
They were shown the circulation and advertising departments, as well as the newsroom and press room facilities, and observed how the day's paper was prepared.

Touring were Douglas Gordon, Rickey Claridge, Peggy Stelmiller, Betty Scherer, Bonnie Claridge, Marilyn Miner, Roger Smith, Toni Finch, Kathy Miner, Linda Griffin, Hudson Henry, Donna Griffin, Tim Graham, Tom Graham, and Kay Smith.

Accompanying them were three Milo teachers, Mrs. C. Miner, Mrs. L. Claridge, and Mrs. B. Finch.



EXPLAINS PURPOSE — Before going out on the range George Cake explained the purpose of the various pieces of tear-gas equipment to the policemen in the city hall council chambers. Cake is holding a tube-



HAND GRENADE—Tear gas also comes in the form of hand grenades. The explosion shown above is from such a grenade, except that smoke instead of tear-gas was used.