

## The Problem Of Handling Major Civic Disasters

By HAL BOYLE  
 TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 21 (AP)—There is one ultimate question raised for America by the Texas City disaster.

The question is this: Although the American spirit has been shown capable of rising unselfishly above mass tribulation, is the overall American organization for coping with community-wide dislocation and chaos of this type sufficient?

That question is strong in the minds of many survivors of the titanic blast which turned Texas City from a productive peacetime boom town of 15,000 people to a

dazed and shattered ruin, a waterfront industrial rubble from which its scattered citizenry is emerging now chiefly by the impetus of their own faith and courage.

In the hearts of many honest residents—from Mayor J. C. Trahan, himself a war veteran wearing the Purple Heart for wounds in Belgium, to housewives who have never hitherto had experience with such civic dismay—there is grave doubt whether the present set-ups to meet such emergencies are adequate.

**Widespread Bitterness**  
 This feeling has led to a widespread bitterness among people recovering from the first numb desolation of loss over the death of loved relatives, friends and neighbors.

Obviously there is no way to deal satisfactorily with a disaster that in one horrendous moment of calamity brings the specter of death or injury into every home in a productive and happy community.

The swift blows that fell here will leave unhappy scars for generations. The huris will linger long after the shattered areas are rebuilt. The bricks and steel to restore the commercial wealth of Texas City can be more readily found than replacement for lost sons and husbands who make up its real and final prosperity.

But behind the bitterness of many survivors is the realization that no community is able to cope with a disaster of this size, not even with the assistance of half a dozen charitable agencies and the full-hearted financial aid extended by sympathetic individuals throughout the nation.

**Critical Blast**  
 This helps explain the critical blast against the Red Cross made by weary Mayor Trahan, who earlier had unsuccessfully asked the state for martial law, and was refused.

The full truth, as many Texas City residents complain, is that there is no overall American agency at present set up to move in and handle all problems of food, rescue, policing and communication with coordinated speed and experienced efficiency.

Mayor Trahan has made the tragic recommendation that every American community prepare in advance disaster committees to meet such emergencies.

The question that Texas City poses in peacetime is: What would happen in wartime if a series of such tragedies simultaneously struck scores of communities, as certainly would happen in the event of the

dropping of many atom bombs by a ruthless enemy?

There is sentiment today in Texas City for the creation of a federal organization of trained emergency staffs able to move swiftly into an overpowered community and organize its health, medical and rescue problems.

In wartime both the army and navy are prepared for such exigencies. They have the doctors, food stockpiles and engineers to deal with such situations.

Can they be given in peacetime the training, responsibility and authority to do likewise for the American civilian population? At present they alone have the resources and equipment to do a complete job.

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## HIGH SCHOOL

News Notes and Comment

By MARY O'BRIEN  
 Results of the Oregon High School Press association contest were received by Journalism Teacher Howard Holt last week. The Krater did not place, but was given a "generally excellent" rating. This columnist's news notes were given a second place in the division for high school news printed in a local paper. Competition was for the Harris Ellsworth perpetual trophy and was statewide. Entrants in the Mary O'Brien contest were judged on completeness, consistency in journalistic style, and like attributes.

Other news in the journalism department concerns the annual publications banquet to be held at the Winema hotel this Friday at 6:30. Tickets are on sale for \$1.00 and may be purchased from Howard Holt, advisor. Members of El Rodeo staff, Quill and Scroll, and the Krater staff are eligible to attend. Arrangements are being made by the Quill and Scroll chapter. Mac Epley, Herald and News managing editor, will be the guest speaker. During the banquet the new members of Quill and Scroll and those elected to the important staff positions for the El Rodeo and Krater will be named.

Beginning at 8:30 tomorrow morning, tuberculosis tests will be given to juniors and seniors who have the T. B. test slips signed by their parents today. Those seniors who had positive tests last year will not have another test but will be X-rayed. After students receive their injections they will watch for a possible positive reaction; in a few days, further examinations of these students will be made.

**Track Queen Standings**  
 Senior Helen Eckert 5340  
 Junior Pat McMillan 3930  
 Sophomore Beverly Young 2070  
 Freshman Sandra Moore 3150

## Potato Chip Plant Burns To Ground

EUGENE, April 21 (AP)—Damage of more than \$100,000 was estimated today in the fire that destroyed the two-story Daintee Potato Chip Manufacturing company plant here last night.

Flames were fed by vegetable fats and oils stored in the plant. Vern Minkler, owner, said the plant employed 34 persons and also stored food stocks the company distributed in Southern Oregon.

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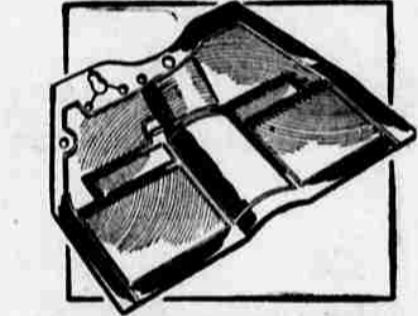
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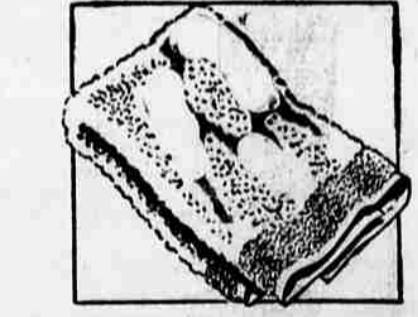
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