

IN CASE OF AIR RAID: PRAY! WE HAVE NO CIVIL DEFENSE

(Editor's note: The problem of Civil Defense crops up periodically, and sometimes there is a great hue and cry about "being prepared." A number of "plans" have been suggested in case of disaster. Adolph Ernst, a Torrance Press reader whose opinions on a number of topics have been published in this newspaper, disagrees strongly with present Civil Defense thinking. He has a bold and provocative idea, which will be developed in a series of three articles.)

By ADOLPH ERNST

The press, radio, and other media are again dealing with the much-discussed Civil Defense question.

To be perfectly frank, I have no idea what they are talking about.

I have also heard that there are about one million "Civil Defense workers" in the country. Who can explain how they are supposed to work?

If an atomic bomb were dropped somewhere, it would certainly not spare these Civil Defense workers.

Escape Impossible

It has often been stated at length that escape by car would be impossible in case of a real alert. The roads would become inaccessible immediately by panic-stricken people, all cars would try to reach the highways; traffic signals would be disregarded; stalled cars would add to the confusion.

Even suppose there were a possibility of escape by car, where would people drive to? If we drive south, how can we be sure that a bomb would not be dropped on Long Beach? If we drive north, the enemy might destroy Douglas Aircraft? Shall we drive east to downtown LA?

All six traffic lanes would probably be changed into a one-way street for escaping Angelenos.

Thus we have to dismiss the idea of escape by car in case of an alert.

There is another alternative: shelters.

This sounds a little safer—but where are they?

Houses out here offer little protection because 98% of the houses don't have a solid foundation.

Even a basement in a frame or stucco house is worthless. Only large houses, built with concrete and iron used to have basements.

They might serve the purpose—but how does one get there?

Even if an attack occurred on a week-day, about 80% could not reach the shelters in time.

There are also larger but older apartment houses with basements—but these basements are not sturdy enough.

Witnessed Bombing

I witnessed this already during the pre-atomic bombing period. It was in Bari, Italy, in 1943, when the Germans dropped bombs on the town on a clear night.

Everyone ran for shelter. I did not want to, so I watched from my window on the fourth floor. The bombs exploded all around, transforming many smaller buildings into torches.

It was like a terrifying fireworks display.

There were about 100 persons in a large shelter in a neighboring house. When the bombardment was over, we

Redondo-Torrance Issue: Who'll Swallow Whom?

Should Torrance and Redondo consolidate? There's a possibility that Redondo will "absorb" Torrance, rather than the other way around.

This is the opinion of Stanley Remelmeier, Torrance city attorney.

"There is no doubt at this time that Torrance has the largest population, in the light of our recent census," he said. "However, I'm not sure whether county officials will accept the later figure or the 1950 general census figure, which makes Redondo the larger city."

The larger city generally absorbs the smaller one, Remelmeier said.

Before proceeding further on the proposed consolidation, Remelmeier suggested that the Planning Commission "get the people's feeling" on the matter.

saw that the house with the shelter was hit and had collapsed.

It took two days before the victims could be pulled out, half of them dead.

So where are we? We have many Civil Defense offices and organizations. We have a million Civil Defense workers. Only one thing is missing: we have no Civil Defense!

(Next week: A BOLD PROPOSAL)



FRANK BURK
... in the driver's seat

Pow! Right In the Kissers...

If you're a midget sports car don't argue with a bus—and that goes for the driver as well.

Because such an argument cost Robert C. DeVilbiss, 41, of Palos Verdes, \$40, a suspended 60-day jail sentence, a year's probation, and another \$60-\$10 apiece for six witnesses who testified for the bus driver.

It all happened when DeVilbiss and Frank W. Burk, 5104 Zakon st., driver of the bus kept jockeying for position along Olive st. at Washington blvd.

Atty. L. Thaxton Hanson claimed that the bus kept crowding the little car and nudging it just a little bit when it got ahead. Burk complained that DeVilbiss got out of his car, came back to the bus as if to talk things over, and when he leaned out to talk, pasting him one in the face.

Municipal Judge Walter G. Allen last week pronounced sentence for the fray which occurred one early December morning.

Youngsters Found Safe In Mountains

Managing to elude authorities after roll call, two local youngsters decided to spend another night in the mountains as truckloads of their YMCA buddies returned to Torrance.

Discovered missing were Kyle Workman Jr., 14, a friend of David Dahlberg, 15, a junior leader.

Workman, of 3317 166th st., and Dahlberg, of 3438 172nd st., went to the Charlton Flats area with three truckloads of youths, according to Joe Wilcox, YMCA executive secretary.

Taking a couple of blankets from one of the trucks late Saturday afternoon, they disappeared.

They were not missed until the trucks reached Torrance. Deputies organized a search party Sunday morning. As Dep. Orvil H. Pollock was driving up Angeles Crest hwy, toward Charlton Flats he met the two youngsters walking down the road.

The boys were safe, sound and broke. They were taken to the Montrose station where they were lectured and sent home.

Boosters Club Plans Banquet For Students

Students of Torrance High school who participate in extra-curricular activities will be honored by the Torrance Boosters club at a banquet Thursday, February 28, 7 p.m., at the First Christian church, 2930 El Dorado st. All members interested should call C. F. Bartolet, 714 Madrid, for reservations.

In order to bring the membership roster up to date it is requested that all membership receipt books be turned in at the next meeting, February 18, 8 p.m., at the Torrance High school.

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