

## Article Points Out Ways To Avoid Lightning Bolts

Lightning is a killer. When a rainstorm burst over a rifle range recently, four soldiers were killed and 16 others injured from a lightning bolt that ricocheted off a large tree as the men started to take cover. A few days later eight persons were killed when lightning struck a small building on a North Carolina tobacco farm, and a Redondo Beach fisherman was killed recently as lightning struck his metal fishing pole.

C. J. Weiss, Pasadena regional representative of the Allstate Safety Crusade, said, "From the beginning of time, lightning has terrified man by its unearthly and spectacular force. Since you drew your last breath, lightning has struck the earth a hundred times."

More deaths, in an average year, are caused by lightning than by tornadoes or hurricanes. Several hundred people are killed and hundreds more injured annually as a result of lightning in the United States.

UNFORTUNATELY, Weiss pointed out, many superstitions and false facts about lightning have been passed along through generations. In some areas, for example, it is commonly believed that lightning rods should not be used because they "draw the lightning."

The Allstate Safety Crusade, nationally recognized program of the Allstate Insurance Companies, cautions that "Lightning ordinarily strikes the highest object in the immediate vicinity; that's why you should not be in the middle of a fairway on a golf course, or under a tall tree during a thunderstorm. A building sitting among taller buildings or other taller objects which will conduct lightning, is comparatively immune from being hit by lightning. On the other hand, a building with a high spire or a building sitting on top of a hill is a prime target."

LIGHTNING rods are inex-

pensive and effective protection, provided they are installed by experts and are properly maintained. On the other hand, lightning rods which do not go to proper ground connections not only are useless, but could be harmful by increasing the height of the building and making it more vulnerable to lightning.

"Tall building with steel frames constantly are hit by lightning charges. A steel frame extending into the ground acts as a lightning rod and usually conducts the lightning safely into the ground without harm to the building or its occupants. Remember, you are not just buying conductors but safety of your own life and property," Weiss said.

Allstate points out that properties in rural areas are particularly vulnerable to lightning because they so often are the highest object in the immediate vicinity. Approximately 37 per cent of all farm fires, for example, are from lightning. In areas where electrical storms are intense, people moving into ranch-type, bi-level and colonial houses may fail to realize the increased danger from lightning and the greater need for safeguarding themselves and their property against this menace. If the new home is the highest object in the immediate vicinity, it is advisable to check with local lightning rod experts.

THE ALLSTATE Safety Crusade recommends the following precautions to be taken during thunderstorms:

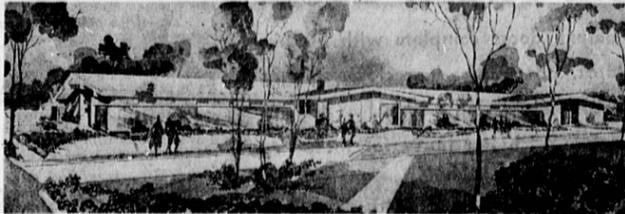
1. Stay indoors and avoid being near screens, windows or metal exterior doors. Avoid touching electric light circuits, radio and television sets, telephones or plumbing.
2. If out of doors, avoid isolated trees, wire fences, hill-tops, large open spaces such as golf fairways. Seek shelter in a cave, a grove of trees, a ravine, or at the foot of a cliff.



HERALDS FAIR... Harbingers of the coming Los Angeles County Fair, to be held in Pomona from Sept. 15 to Oct. 1, will be the two four-hand Shetland pony teams which are scheduled to parade the principal streets of Torrance on Monday, Aug. 21, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Kiddies along the route, which will begin near the city hall, will receive souvenirs of the coming fair. Sept. 19 is Torrance Day at the event.

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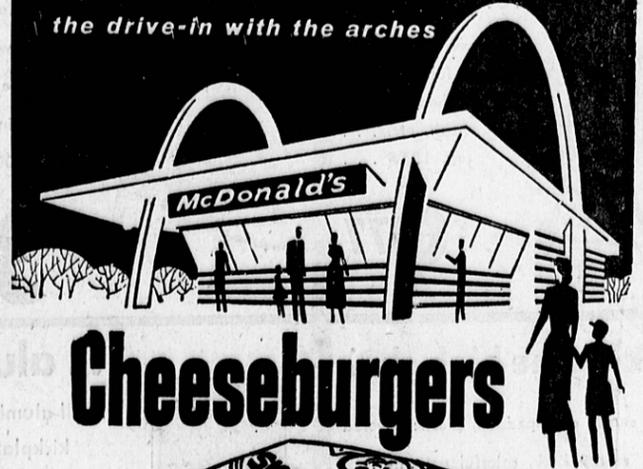


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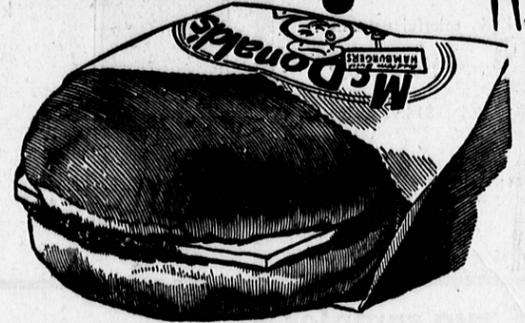
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