CIVIL DEFENSE

Home Towners May Be Vital Link In Nation's Civil Defense Chain

(This is the last of a series of five articles on civil defense by Walter A. Shead, Western Newspaper Union's Washington correspondent.)

By Walter A. Shead

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Whether you live in a city or a small town, or on a farm in the rural areas of the nation, you have an obligation as a citizen interested in saving your own life and the life of your fellow citizens in the civil defense program.

Many folks in small towns or on farms may be inclined to take the dangers inherent in a full-scale war with a grain of salt. There are no barriers to poison or nerve gases. There are no limits to biological warfare, and the destruction of the means of providing food to our military personnel may be a main objective of our potential enemy. Suppose your neighbors in a nearby city have the most efficient civil defense system possible to work out and an enemy attack knocks out large numbers of its personnel. Then it may be the duty of those in surrounding cities and towns and counties to move in as rescue teams —to care for evacuees, to improvise hospitals and many other essentials of defense work.

There are hundreds of jobs for civilians which must be filled: airplane spotters, apprehension of saboteurs, guarding against water poisoning or pollution, amateur radio operators, ambulance drivers, messengers, first aid trucks, storage of thousands of items of supply in medication and food-transport, engineers, housekeeping employees for nursing and dietary departments, cooks laundresses, blood donors, watchman at plants, utilities, and essential services such as dairies and pasteurization plants, immunization of small animals to prevent rabies, grave diggers, specially trained radiation detection teams, air raid shelter construction, and dozens of other essential workers.

Alert watchfulness on the part of farmers to detect dangerous diseases in their live-stock and pests and plant disease is highly important. The bureau of animal industry already has given instruction to a large number of veterinarians in diagnosis of these diseases and at the first suspicion the farmer should call the state livestock sanitary officials for prompt investigation. In many instances large amounts of vaccine must be promptly available and in any outbreak, quarantine precedure and destruction of animals and their burial may be all-important to prevent spreading. Special equipment for disinfecting crews should be immediately available.

The same watchfulness is essential in detection of plant pests and diseases. County agricultural agents, farmers, and regional, state and federal agricultural agencies will advise which crops in their respective areas are most essential for national welfare and, therefore, more likely to be the aim of biological warfare.

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THE STATE AND local governments are furnishing approximately half of the three billion dollars appropriated in the national civilian defense act to provide for this nation-wide program. But in spite of every thing the federal administrator may do, the responsibility of adequate defense rests at each level of local government including the responsibility for health service operations. It is up to the state civil defense director to map out his state and to determine in each locality just what type of organization must be setup. A community then would find itself in one of three categories: first, cities within critical target areas; second, mutual aid communities; and third, mobile support communities. The folks in the small towns and rural areas would find themselves in one of the last two categories and their principal function would be to receive casualties from the nearby principal city, and to send health service rescue teams to its aid.

The mobile support communities may be anywhere from 50 to 150 miles from the nearest principal city. And while these latter communities might not be the deliberate aim of a bombing attack there is always the possibility of a bomber's error, as many communities in Europe and Asia discovered in the last war.

The organization of these mobile support communities in rural counties are of greatest importance to the whole civil defense program. The health service in these communities would be organized to operate as self-contained teams in such fields as first aid and radiological defense. Larger communities with hospitals or sizable clinics would also be prepared to receive casualties and should be able to supply complete surgical, burn and shock teams to disaster areas.

So just because you do not live in a large city, do not get the idea that you and your family should not be trained in every possible aspect of civil defense or that you will not be called upon for aid in case of an emergency disaster. You will be. If the weight of atomic attack or other of the phases of warfare discussed in these articles ever falls on this nation, the responsibility of defense will not fall so much upon a plan of organization as it will upon the shoulders of individuals who are trained and ready and who know how to save their own lives and the lives of their neighbors. So be ready to join the United States civil defense corps.

Star Dust
STAGE SCREEN RADIO

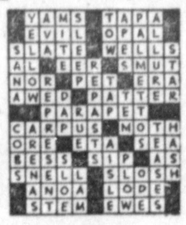
By INEZ GERHARD

Red-haired, blue-eyed Polly Bergen won all hearts when she visited New York to help promote "At War with the Army," the Dean Martin-Jerry Lewis comedy in which she has the leading feminine role. Nothing phoney about that girl! Polly's husband, Jerome Courtland, under contract to Columbia, came along, to see his family and show her New York. She is under contract to Hal Wallis, so her screen future is assured. But if anything should happen to it she can fall back on television and singing with orchestras; that's how she got her start.

Ten Presidents of the United States are seen in Warners' "My Country 'Tis of Thee," the Technicolor short darmatizing American history. Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman portray themselves in the picture.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

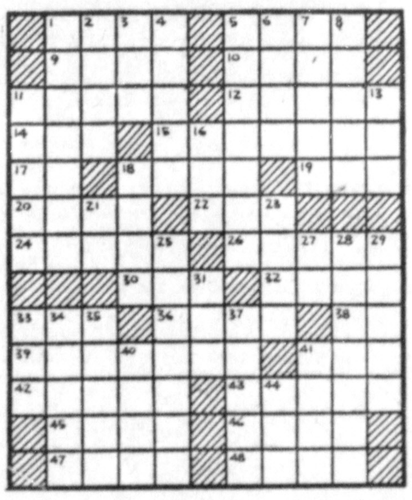
LAST WEEK'S ANSWER



N-10

ACROSS
1. Chamber
5. Fellow
9. Wavy (Heraldry)
10. Learning
11. Little island
12. A hole-boring tool
14. Pig pen
15. Sanction
17. Mulberry
18. Strike with the hand
19. Spread grass to dry
20. An age
22. Marry
24. A low, mournful singing
26. Quick
30. Network
32. City (SE. Fr.)
33. Donkey
36. Receptacle for flowers
38. Water god (Babyl.)
39. Liken
41. Sick
42. Group of three persons or things
43. Tapestry
45. Forearm bone
46. Tawny wild beast (Afr.)
47. Observed
48. Grit

DOWN
1. Cattle thief
2. Sole
3. Poem
4. Molten glass
5. Part of a bell
6. Period of time
7. Cant
8. Make fretful
11. Masculine name
13. Color
16. Animal's foot
18. Minute crystals of ice
21. Hawaiian bird
23. Native of Denmark
25. Citizen of Nevada
27. Greek letter
28. Independent island republic (N. Atlantic)
29. Apportions, as cards
31. Obstacle
33. Perform
34. A "fruit dot" in ferns
35. Pleased expression
37. Fastens firmly
40. Part of a window
41. Metal
44. Narrow inlet (Geol.)



THE FICTION CORNER

KILLED INSTANTLY

By Richard H. Wilkinson

3-Minute Fiction

THE TELEPHONE on Sheriff Bill Streeter's desk jingled and he picked it up.

"Hello, Bill?" said an excited voice. "This is Guy Halbert. Say, for God's sake, get out to the ranch at once! Homer's been shot!"

"What makes you think so?" Bill asked.

"I just telephoned him. He said he'd been plugged and tried to tell who did it, but his voice trailed off. Then I heard a crash, as though he'd fallen.

"Where are you now?" said Bill

"In Stansboro. I came in this morning to see about a cattle shipment. I was to call him and report this afternoon."

"O.K.," said Bill. "I'll go right out."

Two hours later Sheriff Streeter entered the main building of the Diamond G and found the place in a state of excitement. Jay Leonard, Gorham's foreman, dark-skinned, surly, ill-tempered, met the officer.

"Hello, Jay, what happened?"

"I dunno, Minnie, the housekeeper went in to the office to call the old man to lunch and found him."

"Doc Humphrey here yet?"

At that moment a door behind the store fireplace opened and gray-haired Doc Humphrey emerged. "Killed instantly," he said. "Can't say how long ago. Maybe two—three hours."

"Thanks." Sheriff Streeter entered the office. Gorham had been laid out on a cot and covered with a blanket.

[redacted]

Streeter retu[redacted] ing room. Doc Humphrey w[redacted] there.

"Who do you reckon would want Homer killed, Doc?"

Humphrey scratched his chin. "Plenty. Everyone who worked for him hated him. He was a hard task master." He glanced swiftly toward the scowling figure of Jay Leonard near the door. "I reckon Jay hated him as much as anyone. Then there's Guy Halbert.

"Guy was in Stansboro and Jay ain't the type to hate bad enough to kill."

"Well, I don't reckon Minnie would kill anyone."

STREETER WENT out on to the veranda, and sat down and rolled a cigarette. He had a lot of thinking to do. He didn't want to make any mistakes.

Suddenly the officer bounded to his feet and went into the ranch house where Doc Humphrey was packing his bag . . . Minutes later he returned to the veranda just as an automobile swung in at the ranch gate. Guy Halbert leaped from behind the wheel.

"Is he dead? Lord! I got here as soon as I could."

"He's dead," Streeter nodded.

Halbert's eyes widneed. "I was afraid of that. I was afraid that's what had happened when his voice trailed off—."

"That so?" said Bill Streeter.

Halbert produced a handkerchief and began mopping his brow. "This is terrible. Who do you think would want to kill him, sheriff?"

Suddenly, Halbert stopped mopping his brow and stared. Behind the sheriff he saw the dark face of Jay Leonard. Behind Jay he saw Doc Humphrey.

"Say!" he said, "what's wrong? What are you all staring at me like that for?"

"You otter know, mister," said Streeter quietly.

"I? Why should I know?" His voice rose wildly. "Say, what's the matter? Lord! You don't think I did it? Why, I was in Stansboro! I can prove it."

"Sure you can. But you can't prove Homer wasn't shot before you went down there."

"I talked with him on the telephone. It was me he told about his being shot. It was me called you."

"Called me so's I wouldn't suspect you. Streeter's voice was suddenly cold, accusing. "The doc says Homer was killed instantly, mister."

"But—" Halbert stopped talking. Terror leaped into his eyes as the significance of the sheriff's words dawned on him. Killed instantly! A man who is killed instantly couldn't tell him over the telephone that he'd been shot!

GRASSROOTS

Ike's Duty Is To Integrate 11 Military Commands

By Wright A. Patterson

THE INTERNATIONAL ARMY General Eisenhower is to organize, equip and command, should the Russians attack us or any one of the Western European nations, presents many intricate and difficult problems.

It will be composed of troops from 11 different countries, speaking and understanding 11 different languages. All must understand army orders in exactly the same way so that none work at cross purposes in battle and cause what could prove to be disastrous confusion. He must devise a workable system that will make any misunderstandings impossible before he can hope to defeat the Russian hordes on land.

In Korea, General MacArthur, as commander of the United Nations forces, composed as it is of troops from several nations, speaking and understanding several different languages, has had somewhat the same problem, though to a smaller extent, and he has solved that problem. He also has had the problem of arms and ammunition supply for the troops from different nations. That was difficult, but he solved it.

Eisenhower will have the greater problem of providing interchangeable arms and ammunition for his army, so the same rifle bullets will work for all troops regardless of the country from which they come. The agreement between the nations of the North Atlantic pact is that each nation will provide the needed items of supplies for which they are best equipped. America, England, France and Germany will each contend it can provide the best of planes, tanks, trucks, guns and ammunition. The decision will rest with Eisenhower.

That decision, when made, will arouse many antagonisms which can only be removed by the contesting manufacturers being shown, diplomatically, the reason for his decision. To permit such antagonism to go unanswered would create distrust on the home front that could result is disaster on the battle front.

That problem of production of arms, munitions and supplies for this international army constitutes what is probably the greatest single problem Eisenhower has undertaken. It will call for the exercise of all the peace in the international family, without which victory on the battlefield will go glimmering. But to attempt to fight a war with the arms, munitions and supplies not being interchangeable, coming from 11 different sources, would be impossible.

The general will have no great difficulty in organizing his general staff. He can pick the best of the officers from each of the 11 nations involved, and the combined ability of the general staff, applied to the many problems involved will aid materially in providing solutions. One of the small ones is the full understanding of road signs on the part of drivers of trucks, tanks, and other self propelled pieces of equipment, or transportation in general. Whatever a road sign says must be understood by all as meaning the same thing. Camp signs would come within the same category. Road signs are of seemingly small importance, but on them could hinge success or failure when it became time to move reinforcements to a threatened weak spot in a battle line.

Such a job as that Eisenhower has assumed calls for the ability of a superman. No soldier in all the world's history has ever before been expected to do so much, to solve so many intricate problems. Eisenhower is the one man in the armed forces of all the 11 nations who could best be expected to have the organizing ability and strategy in the field, the patience and diplomacy to meet problems of the home front, and those of army organization and training.

Can Eisenhower do the job? My guess would be that he can, that he can and will solve the innumerable problems the job presents. And should Joe Stalin and his Russian Commies start anything, they will find out before they get far that they are up against a real adversary. To solve all the problems involved calls for a genius, and Ike is our available genius in whom all 11 nations have faith.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

By DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 14.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Isaiah 53: 1-9.

Jesus Faces Death

Lesson for March 18, 1951

MANY A STORY has been written around the theme of a man who knows he has only a short while to live. But the best of these is the story of Jesus. It is the best not only because it is true; it is the story of the best man known to history. We Christians go further than that. We believe he hwas Perfection in all his human life. Jesus' way of facing death is the right way to face it, the way his followers too will choose.

Dr. Foreman

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Heart at Leisure

FOR ONE thing, Jesus did not try to conceal from himself or others the fact that he would shortly die. Through all that happened, he was aware of his death. He neither shut his eyes to the inevitable, nor mourned over it.

Now in our sad times, with death so near to all of us, the approach of death is not something to talk about as if it were an event of the 21st century. Death may come to any of us soon; death is very likely to come to many of us soon; and sooner or later, death is certain to come to all of us. Facing death may bring out all a man's hidden selfishness. From the moment he knows his days are limited, he may think of nothing but himself and his "chanees" to escape.

Jesus, on the contrary, under no illusions about escape, accepting [illegible] day thought [illegible] itself.

[illegible] those days, [illegible] was an intimacy, a greater warmth, between him and his old friends than there had ever been. Even when he prayed in Gethsemane he was not content to pray alone. If there was none to watch with him and in some dim way share his agonies, it was because his friends were not awake to his need, not because he in any way turned his back on them.

Again, we find Jesus' prayer-life growing intense in those last days and nights. Nowhere else from Jesus' whole life is such a long prayer recorded as the one John puts into the story Mark tells so briefly of the last supper (John 17). Not in Jesus' whole life before, though he prayed early and often, do we hear of such agony of prayer as that in the garden before Judas came. He not only turned to his friends, but turned to God, but it is plain that he wished of all things most to bring his friends nearer to God.

Yet how many Christians are there who, if they knew death would be coming for them within the week, would think of others' spiritual welfare rather than their own? How many would help to prepare others for God, and not themselves alone?

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First, a Good Life

THE CHURCH has always been a bit suspicious about "deathbed repentance." We know it can be real; but over a period of two thousand years it has been noticed that most people who suddenly turn good in the presence of death are likely to be just as bad as ever if death postpones his visit.

Jesus' last days were not those of a scared man trying to make up in a few short days the lost opportunities of a mis-spent lifetime. On the contrary, Jesus' last days were all of a piece with the rest of his life. Prayer, friendships, appreciation and help of others, even sacrifice, were not strange to him.

So with each of us. We all know how we ought to live if death were hovering near. But we shall have a hard time living and acting so, then, unless it is our habit already. It is well to pray for a "good death;" but the best way to have a good death is first to live the good life.

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