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CIVIL DEFENSE AND DISASTER CONTROL NEWS BULLETIN



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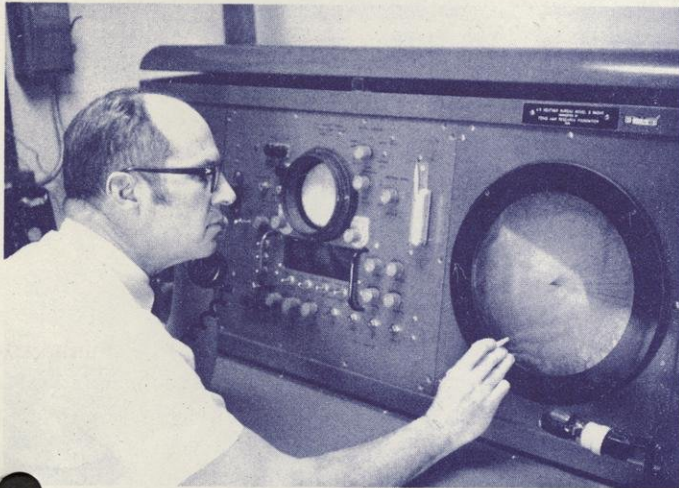
WARREN P. KNOWLES
Governor

JAMES A. GRUENTZEL
Administrator

VOL. XI No. 3

4802 Sheboygan Avenue, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53702

JUNE 1970



JOE RIGNEY TO LEAVE MADISON

Above photo shows Madison weatherman Stephen "Joe" Rigney in a familiar position at the radar console at the Truax Field Weather Bureau station when severe weather is brewing in Wisconsin.

On June 15, Rigney will leave as Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Madison Office of the ESSA Weather Bureau for Portland, Maine where he will be in charge of the Portland office and also serve as the chief weather officer for the entire state of Maine.

In addition to his regular weather duties, Joe has devoted a great deal of time and effort toward assisting the Division of Emergency Government and its area and local counterparts in the development and implementation of state-wide tornado alert and warning plans to protect Wisconsin communities.

A native of Freeport, Ill., he received a degree in mathematics from Loras College. In 1942, Rigney was awarded a scholarship for meteorology at New York University and later obtained his Master's degree in meteorology from the University of Wisconsin. After three years in the U. S. Navy during World War II as a weather officer, he joined the U. S. Weather Bureau in 1947.

Since then, he has served with the Bureau in the Aviation Advisory Section at Oakland, Calif., as International Oceanic Forecaster at St. Louis, and in 1956 was named head of the Madison Weather Bureau Office.

Never too busy when called upon, his many contributions to disaster planning will long be remembered by those who had the pleasure of working with him.

"GOOD LUCK JOE!"

*** CD ***

CD COMMUNICATIONS HELP WARN OF SEVERE WEATHER

In addition to their nuclear defense functions, Division of Emergency Government personnel and communications facilities play an important role in helping to alert local government and the general public when "severe weather warnings" are issued by the U. S. Weather Bureau in Wisconsin during the spring and summer months.

Working in cooperation with the Weather Bureau and the State Patrol, the Division in recent years has developed a state-wide Tornado Watch and Warning Plan. The plan utilizes the Wisconsin portion of the National Warning System (NAWAS) to supplement existing teletype and radio communications for the dissemination of severe weather information to affected counties and to obtain severe weather sightings from the field.

NAWAS is a nation-wide signal and voice civil defense network financed by the federal government enabling instantaneous warning of enemy attack to be flashed from the National Warning Center at Colorado Springs to over 900 state and local warning points in the United States, including 22 points in Wisconsin. Extensions to the NAWAS network in Wisconsin have also been installed in the State Emergency Operating Center (EOC) at the Hill Farms State Office Building in Madison, the State Alternate EOC at Stevens Point, the Division's six area EOC's, and at U. S. Weather Bureau Offices in Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay and Minneapolis. (The latter office serves several northwest Wisconsin counties.)

Wisconsin's primary warning point, located in the State Patrol Communications Center at Hill Farms, controls the system in Wisconsin. The dispatcher, by depressing a pedal, can cut off the national network so that transmissions can be heard by state warning points only. NAWAS installations at the State EOC and the Alternate State EOC at Stevens Point also have this capability.

When the Weather Bureau wishes to issue severe weather information over the NAWAS network, it calls the State Warning Point and asks for the state circuit. The dispatcher immediately notifies the National Warning Center that the Wisconsin network will be in use for severe weather operations. Local warning points are then alerted to standby for the Weather Bureau information and to fanout the warning to affected counties for which they have warning responsibilities. Conversely, local information on severe weather sightings can be sent over NAWAS back to any of the four weather bureau stations by following the same procedure.

(Cont'd on page 3, col. 1)

DEVASTATING HAIL . . .

Another Weapon of Thunderstorms

By Donald Whitman
(ESSA Weather Bureau)

The yearly parade of broken windows, ruined crops, shattered neon, and riddled rooftops leave little doubt about the seriousness of Nature's deadly weapons — hailstones.

In the U.S., alone, hail causes more property damage than tornadoes, and losses closely approach that of hurricanes. It is paradoxical that the heaviest falls of hail coincide with the time when crops are most vulnerable.

From Mississippi cotton country to fruitlands of California; from Iowa cornfields to Washington berry patches; hail has wrought misery. Many farmers without hail insurance, have suffered a financial finish in the wake.

Man has yet to unlock all of hail's secrets. There is evidence that formation begins with raindrops caught in violent updrafts of a thunderstorm, and lifted to heights of sub-freezing temperatures. Up and down they go — collecting coats of water to be frozen on the next trip up and swirling through an up-down circuit, until they become too large to be supported by updrafts. Then they fall as hail.

When examined, a hailstone shows concentric layers of ice, and the number of layers may represent the number of times it travels the circuit. Hailstones have been found with more than 20 such layers. They may also contain pieces of other material lifted by updrafts. Some contain bits of leaves and insects. Spectacular reports have told of fish, turtles, and frogs found embedded in hailstones.

Nebraska has received the largest known hailstones. On July 6, 1928, hailstones struck with such force they buried themselves, and the largest measured was 17" in circumference and weighed 1½ lbs. A Pennsylvania storm produced hail that averaged 8½" in circumference.

Hail is deadly for plants, small animals, and sometimes people. A Texas farmer, caught in the open, received such a pelting he died within hours. Six children were killed by large hail in Rumania, and 23 people died in a hailstorm in Russia. In 1936, several South Africans were killed by large hailstones that fell to a depth of three feet.

The hailstone has been mentioned throughout recorded history. The Book of Joshua tells how the Lord cast down great stones upon the Amorites, and that more died from hailstones than from swords. The Bible mentions hail 29 times!

We may not know all there is to know about hail, but the smart man knows the best defense against it is to run for cover — fast!

*** CD ***

CZARNECKI NEW P&O OFFICER

Gilbert E. Czarnecki, 55, Madison was appointed by Administrator James Gruentzel on April 20 as Plans and Operations Officer for the Division of Emergency Government.

Czarnecki, an employee for eight years with the Division, was selected from several candidates who passed state oral and written examinations for the position. He joined the Division in 1961 as Northwest Area Director after five years of service as civil defense director of St. Francis and as Zone "E" coordinator for Milwaukee county. In 1964 he was named area supervisor and from 1966 until his new appointment, as area director for the 11-county Southwest Area.

A 1937 graduate of Marquette University with a PhB in journalism, Czarnecki has also completed several courses at the Office of Civil Defense Staff College in Battle Creek, Mich. and the course in "The Economics of National Security" at the Armed Forces Industrial College. He resides at 4712 Regent street in Madison with his wife, Jeri.

*** CD ***

JOIN DIVISION STAFF

Three new employees were named to the Division staff in May. Appointed to vacant area director's positions were Robert J. Kneeland, 49 of Madison and Ernest L. Meyer, 36 of Altoona. The men were among seven candidates who passed state civil service exams for the two positions. In addition, Mrs. Arlene Solberg was appointed to fill the secretary position vacancy resulting from the resignation of Mrs. Linda Rabehl in December 1969.

Kneeland previously served as LaCrosse county CD director for six years and as Dane county CD director since last July. He received his commission in the U. S. Air Force in 1943 and retired in August 1962 with the rank of major. Kneeland will be in charge of the 12-county East Central Area with headquarters at Fond du Lac.

Meyer replaces Gil Czarnecki as the director of the Southwest Area with headquarters in Madison. He joined state service in 1962 as a trooper with the State Patrol and was an Inspector III at District 6 headquarters at Eau Claire prior to his new appointment.

*** CD ***



Students from Sabish High School, Fond du Lac, listen to disaster preparedness briefing by Tony Testolin, Resource Planning Officer, at the State EOC in Madison. The group was one of two who visited Division headquarters on April 22-23 and were given a tour of the Emergency Operating Center.



Gorden Reese, Deputy Administrator, plots severe information on state map as it is received from the U. S. Weather Bureau over the NAWAS installation at the State EOC.

(CD COMMUNICATIONS - Cont'd. from page 1)

A 24-hour Duty Officer System is also maintained by the Emergency Government Division in order to provide quick assistance to communities in event of a major disaster. Division staff members serve at home after regular office hours on a rotation basis for one week periods. This system provides an interrupted communications contact between the Division and its counterparts at the local level. After normal duty hours, local officials requiring state assistance following a disaster, or for other purposes, need only call the Division's regular office phone number.

By means of an office switching system, the call is received by personnel on duty at the State Patrol Communications Center and then relayed to the Duty Officer for necessary action.

The system is used extensively in the spring and summer in conjunction with state tornado operations. During a "tornado watch" situation, the Duty Officer reports to the State Patrol Communications Center to operate the NAWAS network.

In 1969, Division Duty Officers responded to 27 calls after regular hours, 16 of which were for severe weather operations. All told, 30 reports of tornado funnel clouds were received with 13 subsequent confirmations by the Weather Bureau.

*** CD ***

H-14 SUPPLY EXHAUSTED

The Division of Emergency Government has been advised by OCD that supplies of the popular handbook "In Time of Emergency" (H-14) are now exhausted and will not be available from the AG Publications Center, Baltimore, Md. until later this year. A reprint of one million copies is planned by OCD.

The informative handbook on both nuclear and natural disaster preparedness has been used extensively with the Community Shelter Planning Program (CSP) and for other PI projects.



CDUEP POLICY AGREEMENT SIGNED

Administrator James Gruentzel, seated, and Don Heimlich, Director of the Civil Defense University Education Program (CDUEP), State University-Stevens Point, sign "Policy Agreement" outlining procedures to be observed in carrying out state-wide CDUEP program activities.

*** CD ***

DIVISION WINS FOUR AWARDS

Wisconsin was one of three states winning four awards each in the National Association of Civil Defense Directors (NASCDD) Publications Contest held in conjunction with the 1970 NASCDD Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., April 5-9. The others were New York and North Carolina. A total of 31 states submitted 163 entries in the contest.

Division entries placed second in Class C of both the Newsletter and Special Publication categories, third for the Best News Photo, and fourth for the Best News Story. All told, 17 states won awards in the record-setting competition.

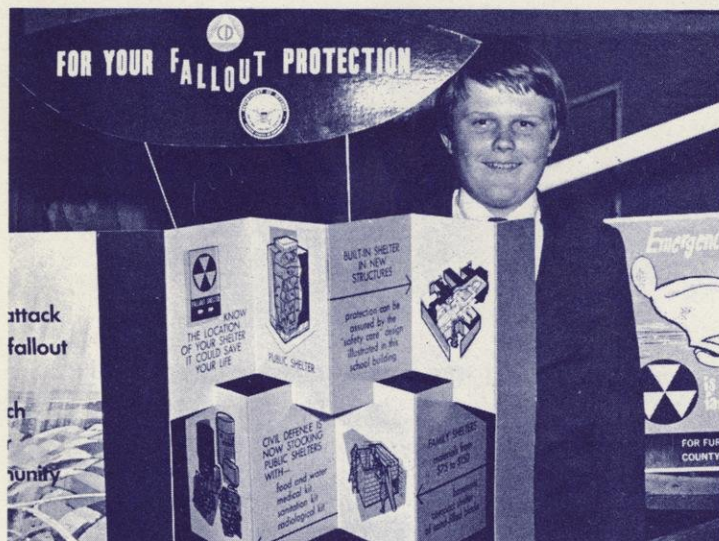


Administrator James Gruentzel and Bob Curley, Information Officer, display awards received at the NASCDD Publications Contests.



CIVIL DEFENSE AROUND THE STATE

★ ★ ★ what your neighbors are doing ★ ★ ★



JUNEAU — Jim Gehrke, son of Dodge county CD director Vic Gehrke, stands by his entry in the Juneau High School Science Fair. Jim is a 13 year old eighth grader who is well versed on the various aspects of civil defense.

*** CD ***

FRIENDSHIP — The Adams county Civil Defense Committee was presented with a check for \$16,306 on April 30 as the federal portion of matching funds for the new Adams County Emergency Operating Center. James Gruentzel, Division of Emergency Government Administrator, made the presentation to County Board Chairman Edgar Bacon. Gruentzel told the Committee that with the new facility "Adams county does not have to take a back seat to anyone." He said the new facility was as well developed as that of any county of its size in the state. In addition to its use as an operating center in time of emergency, the facility serves a dual purpose as the county board meeting room and for other organizations to use when needed.

EDGERTON — With many local communities doing a fine job in publicizing their tornado alerting and warning plans in the newspapers, it is a certainty that citizens are being better informed than at any time in the past on actions they should take when a funnel cloud has been reported in their area. An excellent example of such publicity is contained in the May 7 issue of the Edgerton Reporter. The article titled "What to do if a tornado strikes" is accompanied by a series of seven pictures showing in sequence how a tornado develops—from the first dark ominous cloud to the actual formation of the funnel and subsequent touchdown. Sgt. Ron Fawcett, Edgerton CD Coordinator, and the Reporter are to be congratulated for this fine public service effort.

MENOMONIE — Officials of Dunn county were briefed at a meeting held May 6 in this community on what to expect during a forthcoming Emergency Operations Simulation Exercise slated for June 25. The exercise will take place in the Dunn county EOC in the basement of the jail. Explaining activities of the coming exercise were Richard Shurbert and Merlin Streim of the Civil Defense University Education staff, State University — Stevens Point, and Albert Sperger, Northwest-West Central Area Director. Dunn county CD director Robert Kirk said departments requested to send delegates to the exercise included the sheriff's department, county traffic, highway, nurse and social services in the county, and police, fire, street and water in the city.

DARLINGTON — The school system for this community has now completed plans to be followed by teachers and pupils in event of a tornado emergency. During the day, students will be held in the safest area of each school building. If the emergency occurs while students are enroute home on the bus, they will follow instructions of the drivers and older students who have been briefed on safety procedures for such a situation.

*** CD ***

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