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Fallout Shelter To Be Exclusive

BOISE, Idaho—The first community shelter in the United States, built largely with Federal money and under the aegis of the Office of Civil Defense, has just been completed in the foothills that rim the northern edge of my old home town.

Known as the Highlands Community Shelter, Inc., it is designed to save 1,000 men, women and children from the perils of nuclear fallout in case of atomic war.

But it is designed to save only men, women and children who live within the rigidly defined borders of the Highlands residential area, a comparatively new and handsome residential development in what an older generation of Boise citizens knew as Slaughter House Hill.

Since World War II, Boise has grown into her foothills on the north and east. Highlands is one of these post-war real estate developments. It is a community composed of young families in the middle-income brackets. They live in rambling houses following the contour of the hills, and their manicured yards are now ablaze with chrysanthemums and the last roses of Indian summer.

For a membership fee of \$100, any family living in the Highlands area is entitled, in case of atomic war, to seek safety from nuclear fallout in the community shelter. Families to the number of 175 have already joined the shelter plan.

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THE RUB—AS FAR AS many articulate Boiseans are concerned—is that the Federal government has contributed \$122,000 toward construction of the basic, two-story shelter, which cost \$142,000.

So far, 175 families have contributed \$17,500 toward the project. On the planners' theory that every family unit will consist of 3½ (three and one-half) persons, there are still 100 family memberships for sale. If and when sold, Highlands residents will have contributed \$27,500 toward their atomic salvation.

But the rest of Boise—and Greater Boise has approximately 75,000 residents—is inclined to be sore as a boil (particularly those who have constructed their own backyard shelters without government help) that Federal funds have been used to build an exclusive shelter from which all but members will be barred by force.

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FOR OWNERSHIP OF the Highlands Community Shelter, Inc.

is not vested in the Federal government. It has been given wholly into the hands of the residents of Highlands who compose the membership of the Community Shelter, Inc. The government has nothing to do either with the control or operation of the shelter.

"We mean business when we say this shelter is for members only," said Glenn Buettner, an engineer, whose beautiful modern home is on a height overlooking the shelter. He and his wife have two small children in primary school.

"Let's don't kid ourselves," Buettner continued, as he showed me through the shelter. "We'll deputize 35 to 40 security guards from our membership to keep intruders out."

"Of course, even if their parents didn't belong, we'd try to take in as many kids as possible," Buettner added, as I asked what would become of the 250 children in the Highlands Elementary School just across the road from the shelter. "Kids can't be blamed for parents' lack of foresight."

direction or have "a policy" when his allied interests are so divergent.

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"ONE ALSO HEARS talk among the journalists here," said the letter, "of Khrushchev's alleged statement to the Italian premier that in time the West Germans would turn to Russia for lack of anyone else. The Poles see no likelihood of this in the foreseeable future. But, they do think that Mr. K. will ease up, some in West Berlin so as attain what our French friend, call a 'detente.'

"Khrushchev's major objective," said the letter, "is to neutralize West Germany. This is, of course, well known, and has been oft-commented on. But the Poles say that Khrushchev is determined that all atomic weapons shall be moved out of West Germany. He will offer, of course, to divest his middle European satellites of these weapons. They don't have them now, save that the Russian occupying forces possess them. The Czechs have the skills to build their own. So could the West Germans. Within a year the West German army will be the largest and best in Europe. Khrushchev knows this. Hence, what he wants out of a German 'settlement' is an atomic-weapon-free belt in middle Europe.

"Meanwhile, the Poles are fearful. The police are much more active. They all have new cruise cars. And the pressure against the church and individual increases."

The Nuclear Finger Writes



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