

Governor Breaks Ground For Highlands Shelter

A hundred Highlands residents braved the cold Thursday afternoon to watch ground-breaking ceremonies for the new community center-fallout shelter.

Also watching Governor Robert E. Smylie turn the first shovel of dirt were national, state, county and city officials. The governor saved the day by providing his own shovel for the ceremony; Highlands community officials had a bulldozer on hand, but Gov. Smylie produced a folding shovel from the trunk of his car.

The Highlands Community Shelter, Inc., a non-profit organization, will contribute about \$20,000 to the project through the sale of stock. The major share of funds, \$120,000, will be provided by the federal government, Glenn Buettner, corporation president said.

Clyde Friend of Spokane, Region 8 vice president of the U. S. Civil Defense council, said, "It is a privilege to be here on this momentous occasion, on behalf of the Civil Defense council. May I extend my congratulations on this important step—the first shelter of its type in the United States."

Gov. Smylie offered to the local residents "my personal congratulations and the congratulations of your governor."

Others who spoke at the ceremonies were Supreme Court Justice Henry F. McQuade; Roy Murphy, Ada county commissioner; Mayor Robert L. Day and Col. James Keel, state civil defense director. They all congratulated Highlands residents for their efforts toward providing the unique shelter.

May 1 Target

Col. Keel said that target date for completion of the structure is May 1.

Located about a quarter-mile north of the Highlands community, the building will be set into a hillside, Shirley Ross, the architect, said. After construction is completed, earth will be back-filled around the sides and on the roof to provide a 2½-foot earth cover over an eight-inch

reinforced concrete slab roof.

The cube-shaped structure will have two levels, with a 60-by-80 foot room and a 40-by-60 room, plus air filters, decontamination room, kitchen facilities, showers and other smaller rooms. The building will have its own water supply, Ross said.

Buettner, master of ceremonies for the ground-breaking, said, "Today marks another milestone in the progress of our community for the advancement of the people in the Highlands and Boise."

"As we gather here today, many of us recall the original concept of a community center-shelter program which was born within the Highlands Homeowners association over two years ago.

"This site is owned by the people of the Highlands community on a family-share ownership basis. Without the support of all these people and government research funds from the office of Civil Defense Mobilization, this program could never have succeeded. This is truly a community project, directed and controlled by our own citizens as a non-profit organization. For this reason alone lies our success in becoming the first community in the United States to build a prototype shelter."

'Dedicated to People'

He also said that the building will be dedicated to the people of the community for use as a center of recreation, business and youth activities, and "will always be ready to meet the requirements of civil defense research and to meet a national emergency of any scope for the benefit of this community."

In addition to the speakers, invited guests introduced to the spectators were Leon Fairbanks, Ada county commissioner; Harold T. Jones, city councilman; Al Spaulding, Chamber of Commerce president; Roger B. McGinnis, Chamber of Commerce general manager; Norman Jones, Boise-Ada county civil defense director; officers of the shelter corporation and Richard Smith, Boise realtor who pre-

sented the deed of land to the corporation.

The contract for construction of the new facility has been signed with Welsh Brothers Construction company of Boise, Buettner said, and that work will start immediately.