

# Community Fallout Shelter

By INEZ ROBB

BOISE, Idaho—While officialdom keeps whooping it up for back-yard shelters, the Federal government and the Office of Civil Defense have, nonetheless, ponied up \$122,000 to build, in this small city, the nation's first large community fallout shelter.

"The government was willing to put up the money because the shelter is a prototype" is the explanation of everyone connected with the Highlands Community Shelter, Inc.

Built into the foothills, in the back yard of the Highlands residential area, the "prototype" shelter will offer minimum protection from blast and maximum from fallout to 1,000 men, women and children in case of nuclear war. But it offers shelter only to those Highlands families that have paid a \$100 membership fee. In fairness, it must be pointed out that this fee has gone to help pay for the shelter whose total cost, without furnishings, is \$142,000.

But if this Highlands Community Shelter is to serve as a prototype for other communities, let's take a look at the inside. Access is through heavy steel doors, painted a pretty, pale yellow, and set into the heavy concrete wall across the face of the hill.

The first floor consists of a big, bare room (the shelter is not yet furnished or provisioned) that measures 60 by 80 feet. On one side of this room is a large efficient kitchen in stainless steel, with electric stoves, dishwashers and steam tables. There are ample cupboards, of pale blue, for dishes, glasses, and some food storage.

There are generators to take over the burden of producing power, if Boise's electrical system should be knocked out in an atomic war. The shelter has its own artesian wells, and a generator to produce additional water, if needed.

Thus, the shelter has "proper" plumbing rather than chemical toilets, as well as shower baths

The latest in air-filtration systems has been installed. A gas furnace will keep the shelter cozy, unless gas mains are destroyed. Then, authorities believe, the body heat of 1,000 persons will be sufficient to keep it cozy, anyway.

The loudspeaker system, complete with record-playing equipment, operates from the first floor, too.

On the second or bottom level, 25 feet below the shelter roof line, is a second large room, measuring 40 by 60 feet. It, too, will be used for sleeping and living purposes, as the large room above. Off the big room on the lower level opens a series of smaller rooms that can be transformed into a hospital, including an operating room and a pharmacy.

The communications room, now equipped with two telephones; storage rooms for food and clothing; showers; more toilets and a laundry are on the lower level. The laundry room, I fear, will appal young women who have

never seen a washboard in their lives. The shelter supplies six tubs and water, but the women will have to supply the elbow grease.

### Food In Bulk

In the interest of efficiency and economy, food will be bought and stored in bulk. Officers of the community shelter are now trying to plan a simple menu for the two-week period of forced hibernation, in case of nuclear war, and to buy accordingly. Adults will have to take their turn as kitchen police.

As for the actual construction of the shelter: It required 90 tons of steel. An eight-inch shell of concrete, topped by three feet of earth, arches above the roof. Concrete walls are 10 inches thick at the first level, 12 on the second.

Despite the use of light and airy colors throughout, close association in the shelter with a thousand other souls for a fortnight is going to be hard on claustrophobiacs and misogynists.

# The Commander Of PT 109

By HOLMES ALEXANDER  
WASHINGTON, D. C. — "Pres-

tion would be found for the nation's salvation.

epic deeds, his feats were not outstanding. Victories had eluded Senate and Kennedy by Kefauver for a place on the Democratic ticket in 1956. Lincoln endured