

If the bomb strikes

Set meetings to formulate plans

Tuscola county invites you to be its guest during times of international tension.

The invitations won't quite read like that, but during instances when there is the threat of nuclear war -- or there is nuclear war -- Tuscola county is supposed to play host to 160,000-170,000 persons who have been evacuated from Macomb county, which is considered a high risk area, likely to be the target of nuclear bombs.

All of the greater Detroit area is considered "high risk" and its residents will be evacuated, in their own cars or by bus, to various host areas.

It's all part of the federal government's Crisis Relocation Plan.

Tuscola County Emergency Services Director Frank Kroswek reported to the county Board of Commissioners Tuesday, Nov. 25, that most communities within the county haven't yet prepared their readiness plan as part of the overall county plan, which is supposed to be submitted to the federal government by Jan. 1.

Cass City's plan, he later told the Chronicle, is in the process of being prepared, as are Caro's, Akron's, and Fairgrove's.

The plans for Millington and Unionville are completed, Reese's needs updating, and nothing is being prepared yet in Kingston and Gagetown.

There will be a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the municipal building in Gagetown to discuss the plan.

Cass City, according to Kroswek, will have to accommodate about 12,000 persons.

The local plans must include such information as location of reception center, number of additional police and firemen needed and methods of communications.

Village Supt. Lou LaPonsie was contacted by Kroswek Wednesday of last week, the result of which is he (LaPonsie) will be setting up a meeting as soon as possible with representatives of the police and fire departments and service clubs.

The superintendent told the Chronicle he knew the need for a plan was coming, but didn't know until the emergency services director's phone call what was needed and by when.

KROSWEK SAID 50,000 information packets have already been sent to Macomb county residents, assigning them to Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac or Lapeere counties, the routes they will travel and the priority in which they will leave to prevent everyone trying to leave at once.

Those assigned to Tuscola will report to reception centers in Kingston, Mayville or Millington, depending on the section to which they have been assigned, then directed on to the local reception center.

Evacuation from Macomb county is supposed to be done within 72 hours (three days).

At the local reception centers, evacuees will be directed to where they will be staying.

The Army Corps of Engineers in 1976-77, Kroswek said, surveyed buildings in the county to determine schools, churches, stores, etc., where persons can stay. There are more than 1,000 buildings on the list.

Evacuees are supposed to bring with them bedding, food for three days and medicine.

The federal government will have the responsibility of getting food distributed to the shelter after three days.

As for how long the people would be staying, it's impossible to say. If all that

happens is tension, like the Cuban Missile Crisis of the early 1960s, everyone could be home in a few days. If there is a nuclear war and assuming there are survivors, it could be weeks or months.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT figures in case of nuclear attack, with no advance precautions, 20-30 percent of the population would survive, according to Kroswek. With evacuation, the survival rate would be 80-90 percent. With proper shelters, 95 percent might live, but evacuation is cheaper than building shelters.

Evacuation of hundreds of thousands isn't as farfetched as it seems, according to the emergency services director, who pointed out that half to three-quarters of a million persons have been evacuated in Louisiana to avoid hurricanes.

The county plan, including the local plans, maps and some other information, must be submitted, by Jan. 1 to insure Tuscola gets a federal grant of \$10,000 which pays half of Kroswek's salary, (the county pays the other half), plus related office expenses.

In addition, failure to submit the plan could make the county ineligible to receive federal relief in case a natural disaster should strike, for instance, a tornado.

Submission of the county plan is only the first step, as additional planning will be required after that.

Kroswek hopes to meet in the near future with local government officials and service clubs, as a large number of volunteers will be needed to help handle all the evacuees.

He would like to have a disaster simulation in Cass City to uncover potential problems. One has already been held in Caro.



PRO ARTE STRING QUARTET traces its origins back to 1912 in Belgium. The group, which performed Friday evening at the Bach festival, consists of, from left, Norman Paulu, violin, Martha Francis, violin, Richard Blum, viola, and Parry Karp, cello.



ONE MORE TIME -- Practice makes perfect, as conductor Don Th. Jaeger seems to be saying during a Friday afternoon rehearsal of the Village Bach Festival orchestra.

Roads to remain open despite budget cut

The Thanksgiving Day snowfall marked the beginning of winter for motorists, and with it, the annual uncertainty over what road conditions will be.

Although the ultimate answer is up to Mother Nature, it appears the Tuscola and Sanilac County Road Commissions will try to maintain as normal road

conditions as possible and try to save money later, while the Huron County Road Commission may sharply reduce what it spends for snow removal.

All three agencies face a sharp reduction in the amount of money they will have to spend in 1981.

County road commissions get most of their revenue from their share of state taxes on motor vehicle fuels and license plate fees, which have been dropping of late. Fewer miles are being driven and small cars are increasing in number. They not only use less gas, the license plate fee for them is less.

The prediction is that in 1981, that source of revenue will be down 10-12 percent from what was received this year, according to Jim Miklovic, clerk of the Tuscola County Road Commission. Prior to that prediction, the road board had approved a tentative 1981 budget in October of \$3.2 million.

Cutbacks are a certainty, but as for now, he said, the only effort to reduce expenditures will be an attempt to limit overtime work for snow and ice removal. He added, "If motorists can't move because roads are blocked, we'll be there."

But if a couple of inches of snow falls on a week end, but roads are still passable, the snow will remain on back roads until Monday.

"I'm sure we're not going to satisfy everybody," Miklovic commented.

As an example, Road Commission employees had last Thursday and Friday off, plus the week end, in accordance with their contract, so anyone working during that period had to be paid overtime.

The only snow plowing done Thanksgiving Day was on state highways, for which the state pays.

On Friday and Saturday, there were a couple of men from each of the Road Commission's four garages spreading salt and brine on primary roads because of icy conditions, in addition to any work done on state roads.

STATE ROADS

Miklovic said he was unaware of any change in the state Department of Transportation policy that basically provides for work to be done on state highways as necessary.

The DOT contracts with many road commissions to remove snow from state highways.

According to the DOT, it has allocated \$2.5 million for snow and ice removal this winter, compared to

\$24.5 million spent during the mild winter of 1979-80.

Its "bare pavement" policy will continue on heavily traveled highways, which will receive continuous plowing until the road is clear.

Only the center portion on moderately-traveled highways will be kept clear, while lesser-used routes will be plowed until passable, but cleared only during normal workdays.

COUNTY FUNDS

The Tuscola County Road Commission has budgeted \$120,000 in 1981 for snow removal and ice control on primary roads and \$220,000 for local roads.

That compares to \$115,000 and \$250,000 respectively budgeted in 1980. What was spent was less than that, due to the mild winter, but the exact total won't be known until after this year is over.

If no money is saved during snow removal season, according to Miklovic, cuts will have to be made later by doing less road maintenance and brining for dust control, reduced work week for its employees, (the present work crew numbers 42 or 43), and as a last resort, layoffs, plus fewer equipment purchases.

This year, the Road Commission wanted to buy a

road grader for about \$80,000, and six \$30,000 trucks. It didn't buy the grader and only purchased four trucks.

HURON, SANILAC

The snow removal policy in Sanilac county will be similar to that of Tuscola's, according to Dale Wheeler, secretary of the Road Commission board.

Other than trying to reduce overtime as much as possible, the agency will have crews out when needed. "We feel we have to maintain roads, so people can get in and out," he explained.

The reduced number of dollars available, he indicated, will be felt later in reduced maintenance for roads during non-winter months.

But in Huron county, Road Commission Engineer Robert Tufts has warned that reduced funds may mean elimination of all overtime work, layoff of personnel and possible closing of one or two of its six division garages.

The result will be snow and ice covered main roads and local roads that may be routinely closed for several days at a time, if the weather is bad.

Because of resulting slippery roads, he predicted, there will be a rash of accidents.

Bach Festival

Continued from page one

was his overall summation of the event. "I think everyone's experience is just soaring."

He had compliments for the "spirit of the town," in the cooking and "everyone putting us up."

Paulu, his wife Catherine, who plays oboe, and daughter Laura, flute, were back for the second year.

"The fact it (the first festival) was such a heartwarming experience for my family," he explained, was a factor in the Pro Arte Quartet performing this year. Paulu is a member of the University of Wisconsin based group, which traces its origins back to 1912.

Another member, Parry Karp, who plays the cello, said of the Presbyterian church after Friday night's performance, "I love it. It's a beautiful place to play."

He and others had high praise for the acoustics --

"the sound is so warm." Being close to the audience helps the musician to play better. "It's much nicer when you feel you are having contact with the audience."

That is also one of the things Ms. Ornstein likes about the festival. "I think we feel like we're playing for our friends in our living rooms."

FOR WILLIAM PREUCIL, viola player from Iowa, the Bach Festival is a chance for a family reunion. Children Bill, Wally and Ann all live elsewhere and all performed in the festival orchestra. His wife Doris, who performed last year, had to stay behind to recuperate from an operation.

"We always try to play our best," Preucil said of himself and fellow musicians, "because we respect each other so much."

Performing for the first time this year, on Sunday, was the Canzona di Musica choral group from Midland. "It was a pleasure and exciting affair for us," its director, Charles Noneman, said after the performance.

The musicians, he said, were "first rate."

As for whether he would like to return with his 12-member group next year, he responded, "Oh yes. We'd love to do it every year."

THE FACT THAT SO many of the performers played in Cass City last year did make it easier to perform well this year, conductor Don Jaeger explained. "The quality is excellent," he said of the performers. "These are some of the finest musicians in the country."

With the quality already there, he predicted, the Village Bach Festival has the potential to become a major Bach festival, attracting national attention.

All that's necessary, he said, is to "keep going like we've been going."

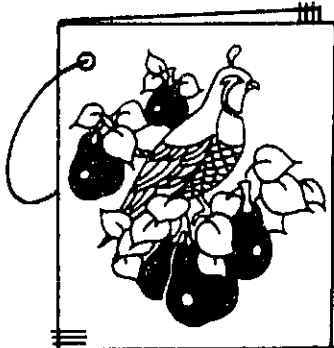
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