

This is what would happen to the average American home if an atomic bomb dropped in the neighborhood: It would be lit by an intense, blinding flash of light; its exposed wooden parts would smoulder without the presence of flame; the entire frame would buckle; the wall nearest the blast would virtually disintegrate, leaving the roof either without support or blown off; the remaining walls would collapse; a deadly wave of gamma rays would pass through the rubble. Total elapsed time: about 5 seconds, if the bomb went off a mile away.

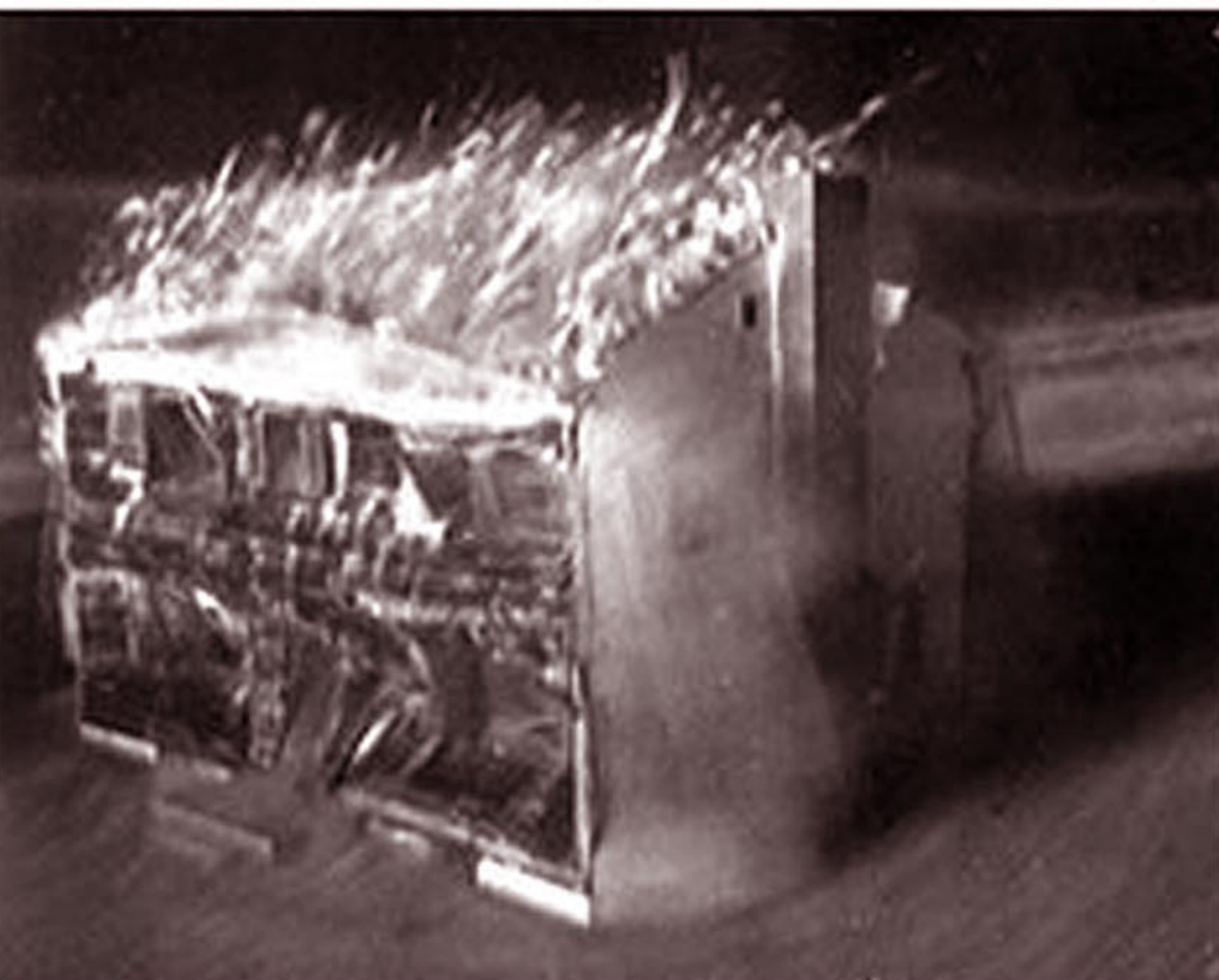
Could a human being survive such a series of holocausts? Yes, insists Val Peterson, Federal Civil Defense Administrator—if he is outside the maximum destruction range ($\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile for the A-Bomb; 4 miles for H-Bomb) and if he can get to an adequate shelter in time.

The most elaborate of five government-approved home bomb shelters is a combination tunnel and emergency exit in reinforced concrete, extending outward underground from cellar wall. It holds six persons and offers maximum protection from all effects of an atomic explosion, including subsequent radioactive fallout. But it costs about \$1,000, while the completely self-contained, prebuilt Kidde Kokoon (*p. 28*) costs from \$2,000-3,000. But the F.C.D.A. also recommends a practical type that can be put together by any do-it-yourselfer for around \$20.

It is a simple wooden lean-to, designed for use in cellars at least five feet deep, and it's been successfully tested at Yucca Flats. Secured to the floor and the wall nearest a potential target, it can give complete protection against the bomb's heat wave and good cover against flying debris, radiation and fallout, even though the house above it may be completely demolished.

Here is what every person living within ten miles of a federally-designated target area should know about this life-saving structure: ▶

AT 4,700 FT. FROM "GROUND ZERO," THIS BRICK HOUSE WAS TOTALLY DEMOLISHED IN LAST MONTH'S OPERATION "Q"



"Get Underground"

The lean-to, an adaptation of a familiar Boy Scout shelter, is a sturdy wooden frame about 8 feet square which can be built from common lumber or purchased ready-made. It will hold four persons sitting with their backs to a radiation barrier of house foundation and earth. Extra protection may be obtained by checking and, if necessary, reinforcing the wall and floor area to which the lean-to is anchored; making sure neither exit is blocked; avoiding locations near furnaces or other sources of secondary fires, or under heavy objects on the floor above, like refrigerators and pianos.

Using plans and specifications from the F.C.D.A.'s pamphlet, *Home Shelters* (Technical Manual 5-5, 35¢ from Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.), a handy householder can put together a lean-to in a few hours. With a little more effort and a few more dollars, he can build it in reinforced concrete—stronger than steel in atomic protection. Also listed in the pamphlet: a wooden basement corner-room shelter (about \$95) and an underground covered trench (\$180).

Whichever shelter is built, it should be equipped with the following essential survival equipment at all times: Escape tools (pruning saw, crowbar, cold chisel, hammer, short-handled pick and shovel); portable radio; flashlight; first aid kit; and a three-day supply of water and food (omitting items that need cooking, refrigeration).

The F.C.D.A. reports that a lean-to tested at Yucca Flats withstood the lethal effects of an A-Bomb 2½ times as powerful as that dropped on Hiroshima, at a distance of less than one mile.

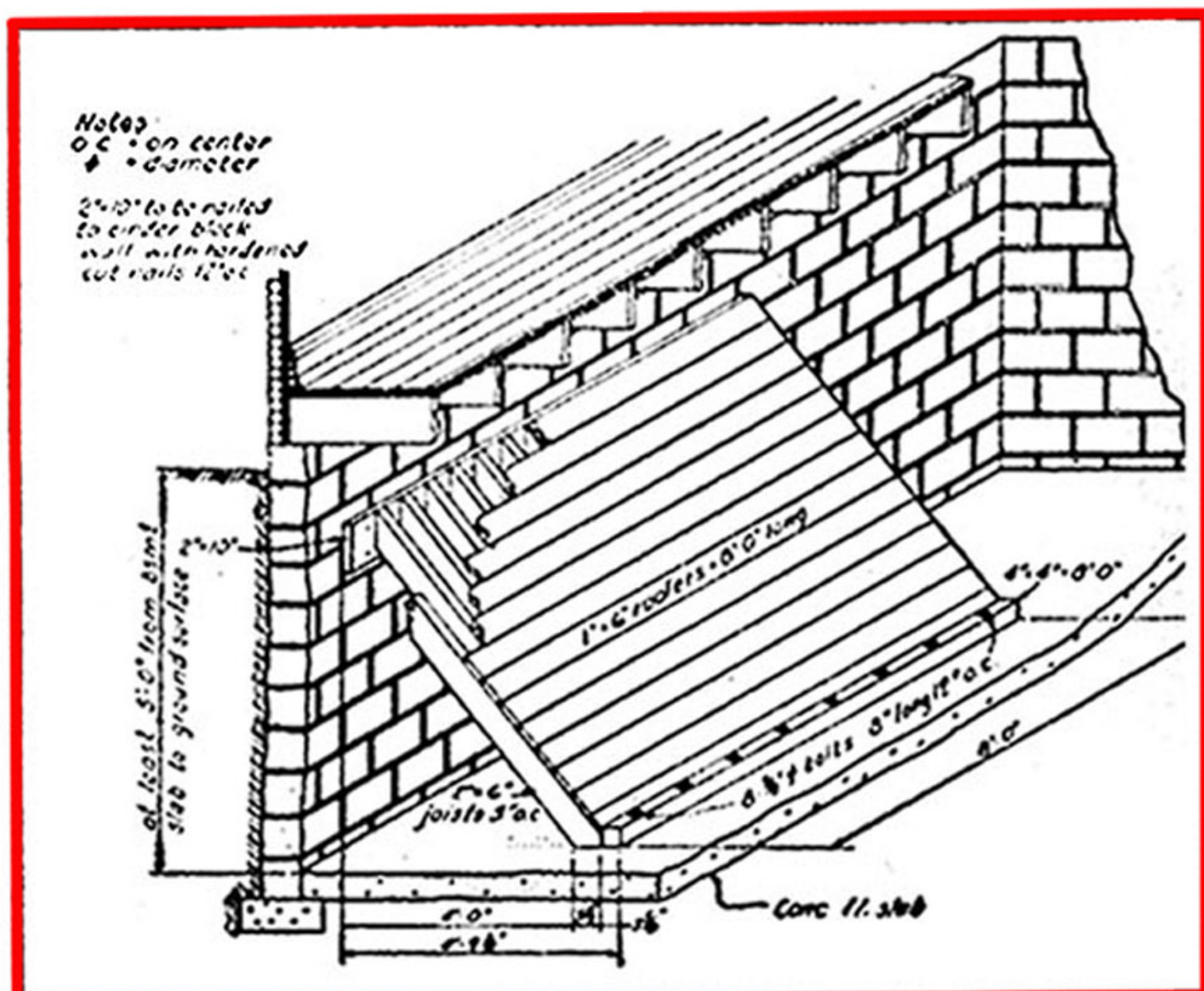
For those who want to build shelters of their own design, Peterson warns: "Be sure to get 3 feet of dirt over your head."



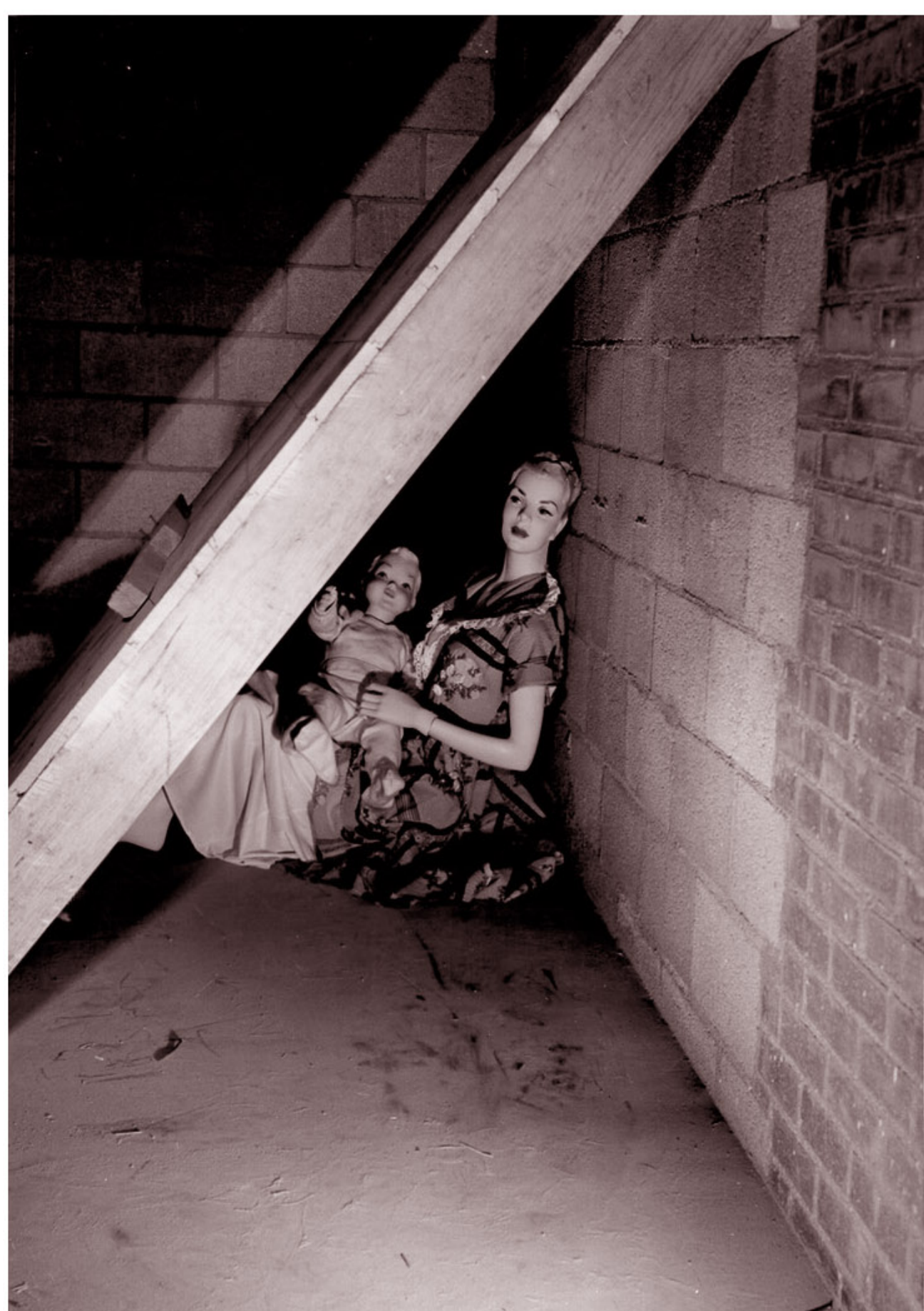
Manufactured by Walter Kidde Nuclear Labs, the Kokoon has its own gasoline generator, toilet, filter.



"Get Underground"



Easy-to-build lean-to permits small family to take shelter in its home, lessening danger from deadly fallout.



**Now You Can Get
An F.H.A. Loan
To Build Your
Home Atom Bomb
Shelter**

People
June 29, 1955 **Today**
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