

# TRAILER CITY NEWS

## COOLING GOING WELL

GPU President, Herman Dieckamp, told Trailer City News today that the cooling process in Unit #2 is proceeding well. It is Easter Sunday morning, he said, but to us it's just a day like any other. He said, "We are taking our time with the cooldown in order to assure the safety and well-being of the public. Extra precautions are being taken, and we do not measure the length of time it will take in terms of days. We will take the time we need."

## WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL NEWS

Workers at Trailer City are urged to check the main bulletin board (behind the rear entrance to the Observation Center) for up-to-date news items released by GPU and Met-Ed. Not all of this news arrives in time for publication in this paper, so on your way to the Timbers, check it throughout the day.

## EASTER SUNDAY DINNER AT TRAILER CITY

The management of the meal service at Trailer City expects to serve about 1200 to 1300 meals today. They commented that this is a significant indication of how many people are "on the job" despite the fact that it is a national holiday.

## HARRISBURG AREA WEATHER FORECAST

The National Weather Service says there's a 30 percent chance of a shower today, but the forecast is for mostly sunny weather with a high near 60°. Tonight will be clear and chilly with a low of about 32°. Monday should be clear, sunny and with a high of 60 degrees.

## PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE DRIVING?

All Exxon gas stations on the Pennsylvania Turnpike west of Harrisburg have imposed a \$5.00 maximum on gasoline purchases. The restriction is expected to be in effect indefinitely.

## MOVED TO ISLAND

Waste Management has moved from Trailers 19 and 20 in Trailer City to Three Mile Island near the North Gate.

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REFLECTIONS ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The sun broke through the clouds yesterday afternoon and it wasn't long before the highway in front of Trailer City became a tourist mecca.

Families came in cars and taxis, yes, taxis and paced across the Susquehanna towards the plant. Mother and the youngsters stood by the highway guardrail with the plant in the background while Dad backed across the highway with camera in hand risking instant injury from speeding cars while maneuvering to take a photograph of the wife and kids with the cooling towers in the background.

A speeding passenger train going north slowed to a crawl as it passed the plant, presumably to let passengers have a good look at the famous generating station. Commercial planes have been seen circling the station.

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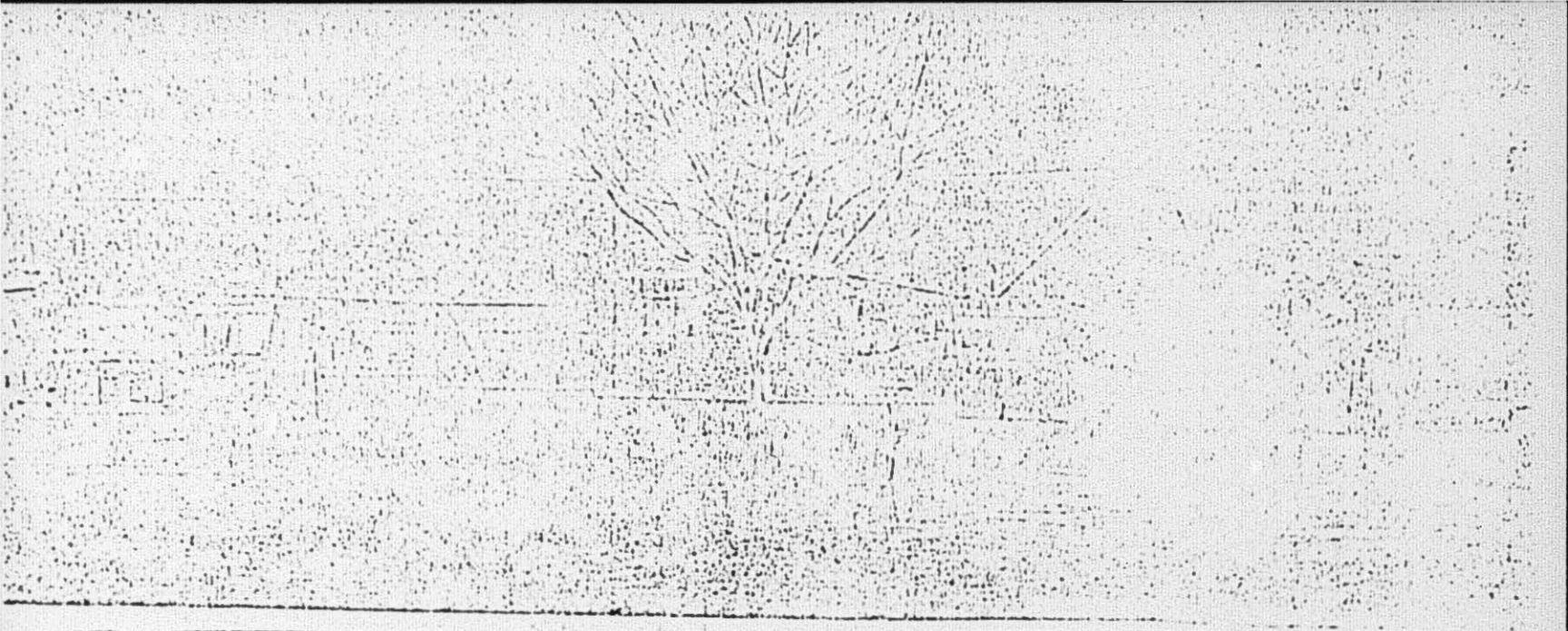
If you have any items for publication, please drop them off in Trailer #1, or call on Ext. 113, 114.

SPEED LEADS MASTERS

Ed Sheed with a 3-under-par round yesterday took a commanding 5-shot lead as The Masters goes into the final round today at the famed August National Golf Club. The scores:

THE MASTERS		AT AUGUSTA, GA.	
Ed Sheed	48-77-69-64	J.C. Swatt	73-71-72-74
Clayton Kopp	45-74-70-69	Tom Weir	71-71-71-71
Pat Rife	45-73-70-69	Les Crum	71-71-71-71
John O'Connell	45-73-70-69	Grant Thurston	71-71-71-71
Jimmy Lee	45-73-70-69	Mac Hale	71-71-71-71
Johnnie Walker	45-73-70-69	Ray Blinn	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	Jim Tate	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	Lee Elder	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	Tommy Sledge	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	Art Wallis	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	Jack Briscoe	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	John Spong	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	Charles Cook	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	Gene Phelan	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	Gene Kelly	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	Pat McCarty	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	John Catron	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	John Catron	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	John Catron	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	John Catron	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	John Catron	71-71-71-71
Sam Snead	45-73-70-69	John Catron	71-71-71-71





Photo, Ralph...

looming towers of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station command the skyline of Trailer City, which houses the people who are trying to tame the wayward reactor.

# Trailer City: house technology, no glamour

## Instant city

By JOHN D. FORESTER JR., Staff Writer

MIDDLETOWN — The rain water quickly formed puddles Thursday in the muddy ground which serves as the main street of "Trailer City."

Trailer City is the unofficial name of a loose assemblage of some 30 mobile homes parked along the eastern shore of the Susquehanna River, just opposite the four massive, silent cooling towers

of the crippled Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station.

Like a boom town out of the Old West, Trailer City sprang up almost overnight. But its inhabitants were there not to cash in on a treasure find, but to help quell the uncontrolled nuclear reactor sputtering a stone's throw across the river. The trailers in the fenced-in compound, located behind the Metropolitan Edison Company's observation tower, bear the names of their inhabitants.

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Union Carbide, General Electric Co., Westinghouse Corp., Babcock & Wilcox, Combustion Engineering, General Nuclear. The names represent "Who's Who" of expertise in the nuclear power field in America. Some of these companies were called on the scene of the worst commercial nuclear accident March 28 because they had a hand in building TMI-2, the unit which caused the furor. Other companies offered their services to Met-Ed and its parent firm, General Public Utilities Corp., in trying to bring the wayward reactor back to a cold shutdown. They also have the reputation of being the "Who's Who" of expertise in the nuclear power field in America. There is constant motion in Trailer City, as engineers move from trailer to trailer for meetings, and through the heavily guarded gate and across the bridge to the island holding the two generating stations. The action goes around the clock. There will be no shutdown until the reactor is brought back to a cold shutdown. Turn to Page 16, Col. 1.

# Trailers house experts

(Continued from Page 1)

tor is shut down. An Army-type mess tent near the center of the compound makes the place look like a scene from M\*A\*S\*H.

The 1,500 residents of Trailer City refer to this tent as their restaurant.

In the face of all the tension, the hard work and the exhaustingly long hours of the past 15 days, the residents of Trailer City have managed to retain a sense of humor.

Actually, Trailer City is a sophisticated technological wonder. Housed within the flimsy walls of the trailers is a communications system which reaches into every nuclear laboratory in the country.

It was this massive communications system in Trailer City which helped solve the critical "hydrogen bubble" problem last week and may have saved this crisis from becoming a catastrophe.

William B. Murray, vice president in charge of communications for GPU, said the engineers and physicists in Trailer City have gathered there because they are the best in their fields.

"Most of these people have worked with each other before, earlier in their careers," Murray said.

He explained how, when the hydrogen bubble formed in the top of the nuclear reactor and menaced the emergency crews with the possibility of a meltdown of the nuclear core, Herman Dieckamp, president of GPU, called on an acquaintance at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"We figured that nobody knows about hydrogen better than NASA, because they use it to propel their rockets," Murray said.

When the NASA official arrived on the scene and made a study of the situation, he recommended that the hydrogen be recombined with oxygen to form harmless water.

"It so happened that the NASA representative knew the inventor of the hydrogen recombiner and we had him flown in from the Hanford (nuclear power) plant in Washington," Murray said.

The recombiner inventor was flown in and his device was pressed into action, pumping the explosive gas from the containment building and burning it for the other engineers working on the problem of cooling down the reac-

"We made calls all over the country," Murray said. "But there were times when some companies or agencies volunteered. Like the representatives from Oak Ridge (a Tennessee nuclear laboratory) who came here to help us."

Some of the other companies especially those involved in nuclear reactor construction, also volunteered and people from other nuclear reactors.

Some of the other companies also provided workers and technicians to bolster the Met-Ed staff, which was tiring from the long work schedule.

There additional nuclear power plant workers also are helping prevent the Met-Ed people from receiving more than their maximum allowable dosage of radiation.

Assembling such an impressive array of technical talent was not without its problems, Murray said.

"When they arrived here, everybody had a different degree of knowledge about this plant," Murray said.

"Obviously, B&W (Babcock and Wilcox, designers of the plant) knew more about this specific unit than the people from Oak Ridge," he said. "And some knew more about different phases about the operation than others."

"The first thing we did, when we got everybody together, was to conduct a half-day session on the plant to bring everybody up to the other's level of expertise," he said.

By the second day of the massive operation, Murray said, all the elements of this huge array were functioning as a team.

Now, he added, they have broken down into groups to study specific problems.

After studying all aspects of any given problem, the experts make their recommendations to the Met-Ed/GPU supervising team, which then submits it as a formal report to Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials on the scene.

The operations at Trailer City and its famous suburb, Three Mile Island, will continue long after the reactor is brought under control in which NRC spokesman says will be done in a five-day process which is to begin early next week, if not over the weekend.

Some of the representatives here from firms who supplied even the smallest specialty items in the construction of the plant, Murray said.