

# Florida More Likely Site For Hurricanes In 1955

By DICK BOTHWELL and J. T. DRIP

"Hurricane season is almost here. Who's going to get more tropical storms this year, New England or Florida?"

The chunky gentleman beneath the splendid crop of wavy gray hair answers promptly:

"I don't think there will be any hurricanes hitting New England this year. Last year's displacement of the circulation pattern doesn't mean that 1954 pattern will persist indefinitely. More normal (hurricane) tracks this year would make Florida more apt to get one. . . ."

The opinion comes from Dr. Irving P. Krick. Twenty years in industrial meteorology, he has been called the No. 1 U.S. Weatherman. He has also been described as dramatic, temperamental, a paleface rainmaker and a cloud kidnaper.



DR. KRICK

## GIVES DRIP LOWDOWN

With Mrs. Krick, he stopped in

Wash., for ruining the redman's haystack with rain.

Actually, the doctor says, milking clouds does not rob the neighbors

St. Petersburg briefly Tuesday in the course of his first Florida tour. While here, he briefed Times weatherman J. T. Drip on news from the frontier of an amazing young industry.

Known as the "stormy petrel" of the meteorological world for his tilts with the staid and sober U.S. Weather Bureau, Dr. K. heads up a huge operation in Denver, Colo.

It comes in three parts: Krick Meteorological Consultants Inc.; American Institute of Aerological Research, a non-profit foundation; and Water Resources Development Corporation.

He is best known for the latter, which in five years has grown into a million-dollar business with projects in 18 states and 6 foreign countries.

"Those are weather-modification projects," emphasizes the Doctor. "Not rain-making . . . we're just making nature work more efficiently."

"The average person is still not

of moisture. Silver iodine will precipitate only two to five per cent of a storm's moisture on a target area, he explains.

Although the U.S. Weather Bureau still takes a dim view of rain-making, more and more weather-sensitive businesses do not. (Krick clients were forewarned when Hurricane Carol surprised most of New England last summer.)

## VARIED CLIENTS

Customers include major oil and pipeline companies, steamship lines, makers of bathing suits, county fairs, move-makers.

In Florida, citrus men depend on Krick's detailed studies of weather to come and close check on day-to-day weather.

Energetic Dr. Krick, only 49, has a background worth a book.

Originally from Pasadena, Calif., he was a concert pianist until 1930, when he became interested in weather at the California Institute of Technology. He headed Tech's Department of Meteorology, shortly went into business as weather consultant on the side.

aware of technical progress in this field."

"For the most part large industrialists now regard cloud-seeding as pretty much of a routine operation—which is why we hold many three to five year contracts."

Krick's method is simple. His men spot portable generators around the target area—say an empty reservoir. These generators burn coke impregnated with silver-iodine crystals.

#### WATCH FOR STORMS

Then the weather-modifiers watch for a storm of the right moisture content and temperature, tracking it electronically.

When clouds get into position, the generators are fired up, releasing 60 quadrillion particles per hour. These tiny flakes rise skyward at a rate of 16,000 feet per hour, fanning out and entering clouds.

Each particle becomes the nucleus

for a raindrop and—BINGO. Down it comes, in most cases.

"Florida," says Dr. Krick, "is blessed with a frequency distribution of rainfall which is very favorable for cloud seeding. Even in dry years your clouds would be there to be seeded. Thus you could almost guarantee manufacturers constant water supply."

#### QUENCHED FOREST FIRES

We profited from Krick's cloud-seeders earlier this year when the weather-modifier's men hit clouds with silver iodine in North Florida and dumped rain on big dry-season forest fires.

Just a few years ago, cloud-seeding was under a cloud. In Dallas, preachers thundered that Krick was taking over the Lord's work. In Albuquerque, he was called the great rain robber, denounced for "stealing" eastbound clouds for an Arizona client, wringing them dry and sending the empties to New Mexico.

In Oklahoma he was accused of flooding a restaurant. And the pale-face rainmaker was sued for \$800 by an Indian chief in Wenatchee,

#### SERVED UNDER SPAATZ

In World War II he served on an Air Force weather team under Gen. Carl A. Spaatz. Lt. Col. Krick's prediction that the Rhine wouldn't flood enabled the Allies to cross Germany 75 days ahead of schedule.

In 1948 he resigned from Tech to open his weather enterprise in Pasadena, moving to Denver in 1950.

Right now the No. 1 weatherman is waiting to see what President Eisenhower's Committee on Weather Controls recommends concerning rain-making, which it has studied since 1953. (Seven states have already enacted laws to license rain makers, with half-a-dozen firms now in the business.)

Even though Dr. Krick stands at the top of his hazardous profession, he has something in common with less celebrated forecasters.

"My wife still doesn't take my word for the weather," he smiles. "I gave her the wrong advice a couple of times . . ."

HIGH OF 89 NORMAL

Low Of 66 D



(Temperatures, Weather)

Thursday's high was right where it should be in the month of June, at 89 degrees. The low had sunk to 66 again, a full 8 degrees below normal.

A similar temperature spread was due today.

Hero of the occasion was a large chunk of dry air which rode into this area Monday and seemed ready to sit out the summer.

Citizens were enjoying the unusually cool nights — ideal for

• Associated Press - June 1955. "Those are weather modification projects.. not rain making.. we're just Making nature work more efficiently" .. Says veteran cloud-seeder

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