# 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. Wash., for ruining the redman's

## GIVES DRIP LOWDOWN

St. Petersburg briefly Tuesday in of moisture. Silver iodine will prethe course of his first Florida tour. cipitate only two to five per cent weatherman J. T. Drip on news area, he explains. 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.: pipeline American Institute of Aerological lines, makers of bathing suits, Research, a non-profit foundation; county fairs, movei-makers. and Water Resources Development Corporation,

which in five years has grown into day-to-day weather. a million-dollar business with projects in 18 states and 6 foreign a background worth a book. countries.

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

"The average person is still not consultant on the side.



DR. KRICK

haystack with rain...

Actually; the doctor says, milking With Mrs. Krick, he stopped in clouds does not rob the neighbors

While here, he briefed Times of a storm's moisture on a target

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

#### VARIED CLIENTS

Customers include major oil and companies, steamship

In Florida, citrus men depend on Krick's detailed studies of weath-.He is best known for the latter, er to come and close check on

Energetic Dr. Krick, only 49, has

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

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 reservior. These generators burn coke impregnated with silveriodine crystals.

#### WATCH FOR STORMS

Then : the weather-modifiers watch for a storm of the right led since 1953. (Seven states have moisture content and temperature, already enacted laws to license 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 cloudseeders 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, cloudseeding was under a cloud. In Dallas; preachers thundered that Krick where it should be in the month was taking over the Lord's work, of June, at 89 degrees. The low In Albuquerque, he was called the had sunk to 66 again, a full 8 great rain robber, denounced for degrees below normal. "stealing" eastbound clouds for A similar temperature spread an Arizona client, wringing them was due today. dry and sending the empties to Hero of the occasion was a New Mexico.

flooding a restaurant. And the pale- ready to sit, out the summer. face rainmaker was sued for \$800 Citizens were enjoying the unby an Indian chief in Wenatchee, usually cool nights - ideal for

#### 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 sched-

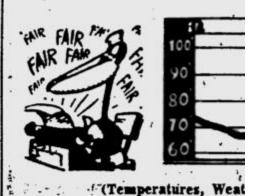
In 1948 he resigned from Tech to open his weather enterprise in Pasadena, moving to Denver in 1950.

Right now the No. 1 weatherman is waiting to see what President Eisenhower's Committee on Weather Controls recommends concerning rain-making, vihich it has studrain 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 ow Of 66 D



high was right Thursday's

large chunk of dry air which rode In Oklahoma he was accused of into this area Monday and seemed

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