

# Almost 60 years on, Cold War pillows bring comfort

## Crates found unopened in courthouse attic

**By Scott Williams**

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If the Russians had started World War III in Shawano during the 1950s or '60s, local citizens would have been prepared, at least in one way.

Supplies shipped from the U.S. government were stockpiled around town to establish an emergency hospital for civilian casualties, should the Red Menace attack here.

The crisis never happened, of course, and some relics of that tense Cold War era are

still collecting dust in Shawano.

In the attic of the county courthouse, officials recently uncovered crates filled with feather pillows that arrived in 1957 to provide comfort, if needed, to hospital patients struck down by Russian artillery.

After nearly tossing the crates into the trash, county officials realized that people would enjoy owning the pillows, not only because of the peculiar historic value but also because the pillows remain in

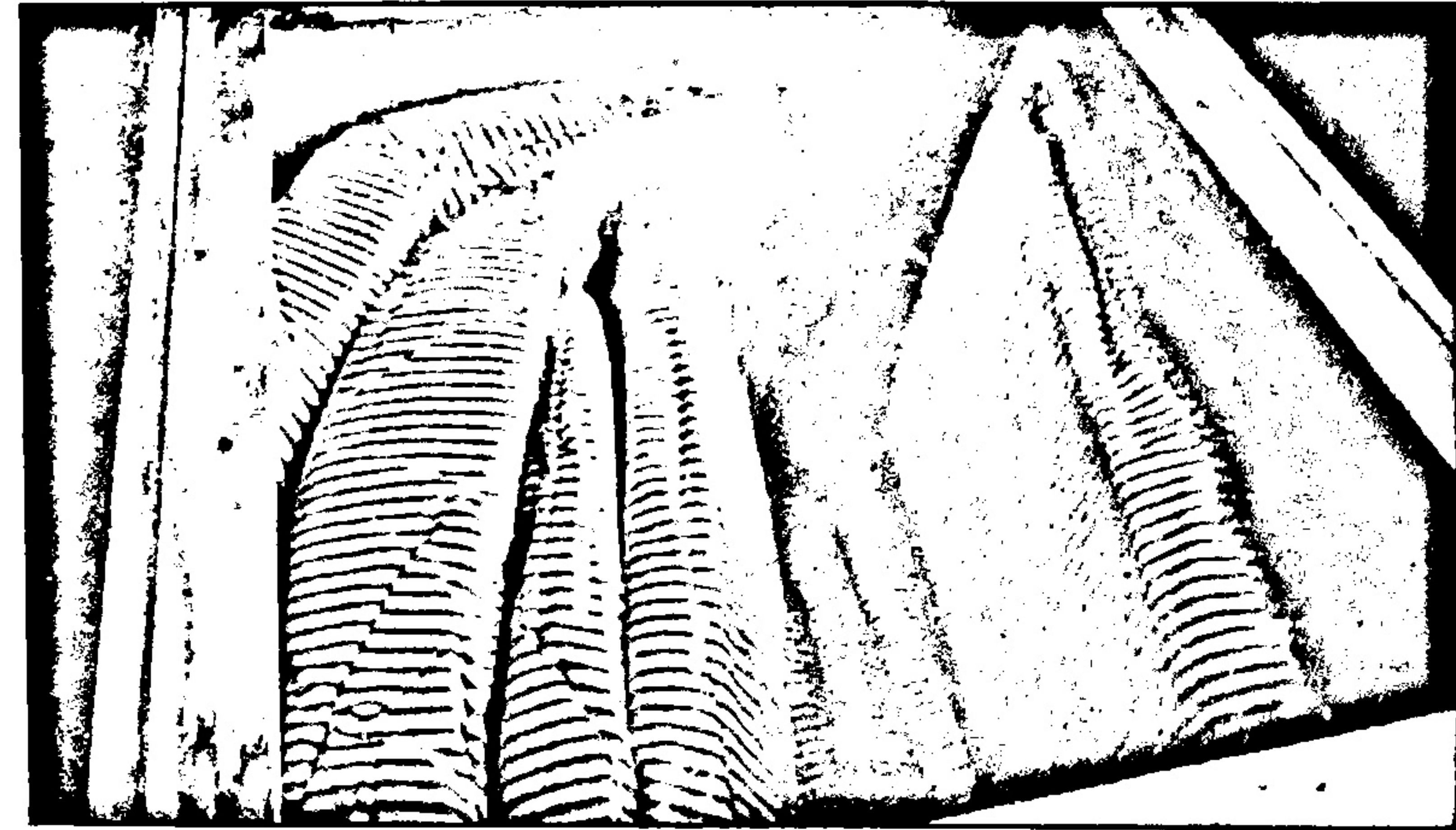
surprisingly good condition.

Slightly larger and heavier than many pillows sold in stores nowadays, the artifacts may feel familiar — even nostalgic — to anyone old enough to remember the '50s or '60s. The sturdy gray-and-white striped fabric is a throwback to the days of Ozzie and Harriet.

“This is what just about everybody grew up on,” county building maintenance director Steve Dreher said. “A lot of people’s grandmothers still have these.”

Posted for sale on the coun-

SEE PILLOWS, A2



LEADER PHOTO BY SCOTT WILLIAMS

Wooden crates dated 1957 turned up in the Shawano County Courthouse attic containing feather pillows sent by the U.S. government in case of war with the Soviet Union.