## **Plastic Buttons** Plug Holes in Young Hearts

By ALTON L. BLAKESLEE DENVER (#) — Plastic buttons are plugging up dangerous holes inside children's hearts, a surgeon announced Tuesday.

Four children are well and apparently improved with their buttoned-up hearts, Dr. Henry Swan, University of Colorado Medical school, told the American Medical Association.

All were born with a hole in the septum, the inner wall separating the two upper chambers of the heart. Blood could gush back and forth making the heart work harder. All faced danger of death from heart failure.

The plastic button is sewed up against the hole. In a few weeks, smooth tissue grows over the but-

In some youngsters, the button didn't close the hor completely but blocked it enough to bring improvement, Dr. Swan said. A fifth child, whose heart already was failing, died a few days after the new

Neat sewing puts the button in

Both sides of the chest are opened. The surgeon thrusts his finger inside the heart through an incision on the right side.

The eye end of the needle is pushed in from the left side of the heart, through the septum and out the right side

The two ends of silk thread attached to the button then are pulled through the heart, with the surgeon guiding the needle with his finger. The threads are pulled right from the left side of the

The button slips through the in-cision on the right side and plugs the hole in the septum. The heart keeps pumping all the time. A second new operation, quick and delicate, has removed shell

fragments lodged in the hearts of two Korean war veterans, Dr. Swan reported.

The blood flow through the heart is shut off by clamps, while the surgeon opens the heart to see and remove the metal. The surgeon has only one and one-half minutes for this work for the blood flow can't be shut off safely any longer than

It might be shut off longer by chilling the patient's body to slow blood flow as in animal hiberna-tion, Dr. Swan said.

## **Plan Permits Broadcasts** In Air Raids

WASHINGTON (#) - The White House announced Tuesday a way has been found to keep standard radio stations operating in any future air raids without providing directional signals for the enemy. The plan will not only insure

mass communication with the public in an emergency, the White House said, but it will also serve to fill the air with a checkerboard of beams to confuse enemy bomb-

In World War II the policy called for radio silence in event of an air raid or the threat of such an attack. The idea was to prevent bomb-

ers from following a radio beam into a metroplitan target. The new system will go into effect in three months, the White House said, and the aim is to have as many as possible of the

2,500 standard radio stations in

the country participating.

Here is how the plan has been worked out by the Air Force, Civil Defense, the Federal Communications Commission and the broad-

casting industry:

If any hostile force or missile is detected approaching the United States the Air Defense Command will notify a series of key stations which in turn will alert all participating standard (AM)

broadcasters. The stations will at once leave their normal broadcasting frequencies and shift to an emergency channel, which will be either 640 or 1240 kilocycles on the home re-

ceiver dial. All television, FM radio and amateur radio operations will cease. From an engineering standpoint, it is not practical to include these

operations in the plan. The Air Force has tested the system several times in major cit-ies on the Eastern seaboard. Pi-lots report their direction finders have become useless for establishing a fix on any particular target because the finders have been hit by the same beam from many directions at the same time. Station participation in the plan

## **Baker Files** Suit Against **School District**

is voluntary.

BAKER (#) — The city of Baker Tuesday filed suit against the Baker School District, asking \$5,000 for two sewer connections and

for two sewer connections and \$1,050 in attorney fees.

The dispute has been going on for three years, with the school board claiming it does not have to help pay for the sewer system.

Besides the suit against the school district, the City Attorney said about \$20,000 worth of suits are to be filed against private property owners who have failed. property owners who have failed to pay sewer assessments. He said the firm that extended the sewer system can't be paid until collec-

tions are made. The school district was sued two weeks ago by Contractor James Lundgren of Vancouver, Wash, He asked payment of \$387,610 in connection with building a school. The board said it held up payments until the building is properly



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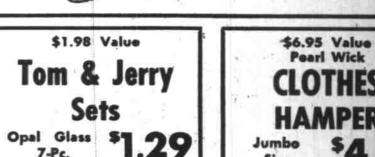


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