

Dr. Cutter Staking Lives of Employees' Children on Safety of Lab's Polio Shots

By WILEY MALONEY
United Press Staff Correspondent
BERKELEY, Calif. (UP)—Dr. Robert K. Cutter has staked the lives of his employees' children on the integrity of his 58-year-old laboratory's production of Salk polio vaccine.

The 629 employees in the Cutter Laboratories here have shared this faith by having 465 of the children inoculated with the vaccine.

Cutter, a medical doctor, son of the founder of the firm, one of the largest of its kind in the nation, became president of the organization in 1933 following the death of his father.

It is not strange that his employees share "Dr. Bob's" faith in their own work. This is not the first time they have taken advantage of advances made in science applied at the Cutter Laboratories. It is company policy always to give employees first chances on such gains.

Cutter plant here sprawl over 20 acres on the shore of the bay. They are surrounded, now, by an industrial area of brass foundries, steel fabrication plants and a large seed house. This plant employs 629 people, but there are 468 other employees elsewhere—at the other large plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., and the 10 branches and warehouses scattered over the nation and Canada.

Cutter now makes 350 products, many of them for veterinary use as well as for humans. The company has been at the forefront in waging the never-ending battle against blackleg, hog cholera and similar animal diseases. The annual payroll is \$4,509,000. Net sales in 1954 totaled 15 million dollars and assets as of Dec. 31 last year were \$8,724,011. But the recent withdrawal of Cutter polio vaccine resulted in a drop of its stock from \$14 per share on the

morning of April 27 to \$9 at the close of the market.

The company, along with its growth, has faced other adversities. In May, 1948, a national hubbub was raised over possible contamination of portions of the nation's blood bank supplies because of products that originated with Cutter Laboratories. It turned out to be contaminated flasks containing dextrose and glucose solutions used for intravenous feeding. The company voluntarily recalled all batches to run double checks. This was possible because of meticulous records which give a history of every bottle leaving the plant's here.

Company convicted
The government, however, filed an information with 12 counts of misbranding and adulteration of products. The company claimed the flasks of material had been

contaminated in shipment when vacuum seals were broken or disturbed. The long legal wrangle ended, though, with the company being fined \$500 in federal court for "unintentional" shipment of contaminated intravenous solutions to hospitals. No blood bank supplies ever had been endangered, however, and Cutter survived the crisis and became a supplier of one seventh of all blood plasma used by the armed forces in Korea—a total of 1,500,000 pints from the Cutter labs.

The company also went through a patent infringement suit in 1948 when three Philadelphia medical supply companies claimed Cutter had infringed on two patents used in drying animal and human vaccines. Cutter lost the suit and paid \$70,922 damages which were set at two per cent of the firm's vaccine sales in 1946, which totaled \$3,546,100.

'Gun Fancier' Charged in Sniper Death

RALEIGH, N.C. (UP)—A youthful "gun fancier" was charged with murder Saturday in the sniper shooting of a woman government worker from the window of his hotel.

Richard Kluckhohn, 21, admitted after prolonged questioning Friday night that he "shot from the window of the hotel" with a flashy German luger equipped with target-type sights. But he refused to say any more, police said.

Kluckhohn, who gave his address as that of an Evanston, Ill., publishing firm, was accused of killing Miss Bernice Seawell, 43, of Arlington, Va., an employee of the Veterans Administration in Washington, as she stood in the rain Friday across from the Sir Walter Hotel.

The bullet struck Miss Seawell in the heart. She staggered and crumpled to the sidewalk before the horrified eyes of a sister and several bystanders.

Kluckhohn, a stocky, black-haired young man, who was graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in anthropology at the age of 18, had checked out of the hotel hurriedly after the shooting. Officers traced him to Chapel Hill, 30 miles away, through a telephone call he had made, and arrested Kluckhohn without resistance at the home of Dr. Joseph A. Kahl, social scientist director for the University of North Carolina School of Nursing.

Det. Capt. Robert Goodwin of Raleigh said Kluckhohn, who was returned here to be jailed without bond, "failed to elaborate" on his only statement that he "shot out of the window."

Miss Seawell was visiting her mother, Mrs. W. L. Seawell, of Sanford, N.C., and came here on a shopping trip with her sister, Mrs. J. H. Patterson, of Broadway, N.C.

Mrs. America, Runners-up



ORMAND BEACH, Fla.—The new Mrs. America, Ramona Deitemeyer of Lincoln, Neb., strolls with last year's titleholder and two trophy winners in this year's contest. Left to right: Patty Gunn of El Paso, who won a trophy for the best breakfast menu; Wanda Jennings of St. Louis, last year's Mrs. America; Doris McKean of Portland, Ore., who won an award as the best seamstress, and Mrs. Deitemeyer. (AP Wirephoto) (Story also on page one.)

Two Portland Men Capture Store Robber

PORTLAND (UP)—Two Portland businessmen Friday night thwarted an armed robbery attempt when they grappled with their assailant, slugged him repeatedly with soda bottles and a newspaper rack, and then held him at bay with a gun.

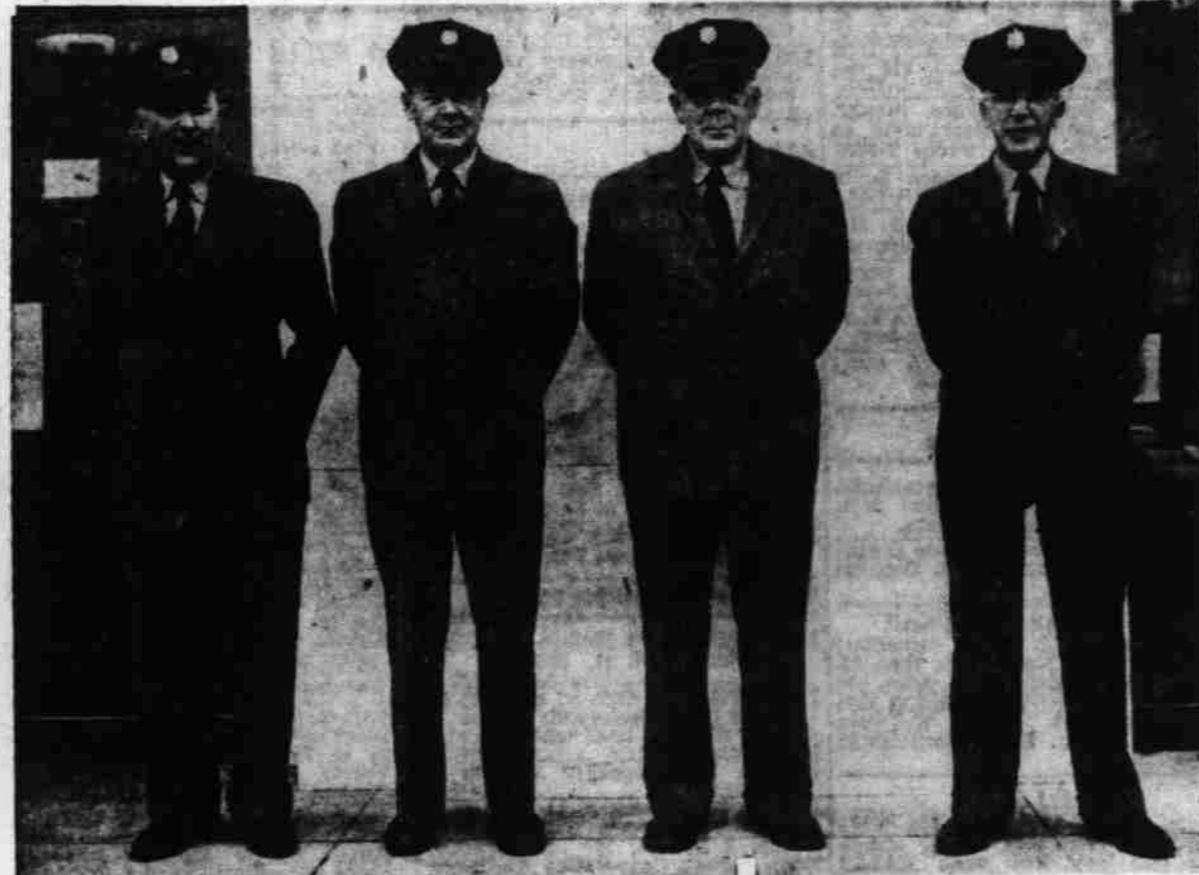
Police booked Leonard O'Neal, Jr., 21, of (232 North Monroe St.) Portland, on suspicion of assault and robbery.

Gaylord W. Shiveley told officers the holdup man pointed a gun at him while he was in his store, the Food Mart, (at 3203 N. Williams) late in the evening watching television. Shiveley said he was ordered to surrender his cash and was kicked in the stomach when he was slow to respond. After putting the money in a sack, Shiveley was made to lie down on the floor.

Meanwhile, John W. Williams, who was painting in his appliance store next door, heard the demand for money and thought Shiveley must have had a good TV program on. When he went to watch, he was confronted by the robber's gun.

All three men were treated at hospitals for cuts following their battle. Police said O'Neal's gun was not loaded.

Drivers License Examiners Don Uniforms



State drivers license examiners will be more easily recognized by the public this summer following issuance of a new suit-type uniform, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry discloses. The new brown uniforms will be worn from now on by the 40 drivers license examiners stationed throughout the state, following the practice now in force in most of the nation's other states. Modeling the new outfits above are, from left, A. P. Ramseier, R. L. Miller, C. D. French and O. P. Driggs, all examiners working out of the Salem branch.

Drivers License Examiners Don Uniforms

Although the Salk polio vaccine produced by them here has been withdrawn from public use for double testing, Dr. Bob remains rock-fast in the belief that the ultimate determination will show that there has been no "carelessness or incompetence" on the part of his polio vaccine production team.

"We found that whatever we might say in our defense was being taken as whitewash. We decided not to get into a 'tis-tain't' argument. We know that the men and women in our polio department are exceptionally well qualified folks of exceptional integrity. They have put out vaccine that passed all government tests—and our own more stringent tests. They and their children have been vaccinated with this vaccine."

He said that because only the U.S. Public Health Service had all the information from the field, and has made inspections of the Cutter plants and others, it should make the "ultimate" determination of the current problem. He concealed any chagrin that might have been expressed because the vaccine produced by a rival firm now is being released in Cutter's home state—California.

"We sincerely hope," he said, "that this determination will be that neither our vaccine nor the vaccine of any manufacturer has been responsible for poliomyelitis which has occurred following injections. If, however, the determination should be that some cases were due to our vaccine, it will not be because of carelessness or incompetence. That I would bank my bottom dollar on."

Vaccine Experiments
Such assurance must come naturally. He is 57; the company was founded a year before. His father, then a young pharmacist, started the business by dabbling as a hobby with the mysteries of biologicals in the back room of a small Fresno drug store. The elder Cutter and a friend, C. M. Twining, experimented with producing a vaccine to combat blackleg, a dreaded cattle disease. They also worked on a diphtheria antitoxin that could be made inexpensively enough for general use. Most of such antitoxin, then, came from France.

A blackleg epidemic at Fresno and use of Cutter vaccine to help stem the outbreak turned the backroom "lab" into an industry. A new sign was hung on the drug store—"Cutter Analytical Laboratory." That was in 1897. A bathtub, divided into four sections, became the first "barn" for small laboratory animals. Fresno, however, was too warm in summer for the experimental beasts. The company moved to a bare lot in Berkeley, across San Francisco Bay from the Golden Gate.

The 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire gave the laboratory a second opportunity to ward off threat of epidemic. Cutter was the only manufacturer of smallpox and diphtheria vaccines west of the Mississippi.

Business Grows
The business grew. Today the 37 gleaming white buildings of the

Bank Cashier Falsifies Loans To Aid Scouts

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (UP)—A bank cashier who said he was "a very foolish man," was freed from his token one day jail sentence Saturday after he testified he made irregular loans to help finance his Boy Scout work.

Frank J. Acardi, 37, Collinsville, Ill., pleaded guilty Friday to making false entries in the books of the Troy Security Bank to cover the loans.

"I have been a very foolish man," he told Federal Judge Charles G. Briggie, "whatever may come will be the best for me."

Federal officials said Acardi borrowed about \$5000, leaving a personal note to cover the loans. "Much of the proceeds," officials said, were used to help the community Boy Scout program. When the loans which were made without bank officers' knowledge were discovered, Acardi made restitution immediately, the government said. "It's a long story," Acardi said. "I've worked with the youngsters since 1941 and tried to expand the Boy Scout program. We organized summer trips for the boys, and each trip put me in a deeper hole than I realized."

Attorney Arthur R. Wodnodler, who represented Acardi, and is also counsel for the Troy bank, told the court that "the bank had no desire to prosecute Acardi for the false entries."

Voter Gets Citizenship

COLVILLE, Wash. (UP)—Henry Behrens, who said he had been voting in elections here for many years, finally has become a United States citizen.

Behrens said he began voting many years ago under the impression that he had become a citizen when his parents, who came to this country from Germany more than 50 years ago, were naturalized.

Then, when Behrens made a recent trip to Canada, immigration officers told him his parents' citizenship hadn't affected him at all because he was over 21 when they were naturalized.

Behrens promptly filed his application for citizenship.

Dogs in A-Test Put to Death

LAS VEGAS, (UP)—The atomic energy commission reported Saturday some 50 dogs used in the April 28 "survival town" nuclear blast have been put to death painlessly to permit biological examination.

The AEC said two of the dogs were chloroformed immediately after recovery workers found they had suffered broken legs. The others were returned to the commission's camp mercury laboratory where they were "painlessly dispatched" by injection.

Findings of examination of the dogs and extent of radiation absorption, if any, will be disclosed in a technical report to be released some time in the future by the AEC or civil defense.

Cave Junction Logger Killed

GRANTS PASS (AP)—Ken Deaton, about 40, Cave Junction, was killed Saturday while working in a logging operation near Hayes Hill, about 13 miles south of here on the Redwood Highway.

Coroner Earl Hill said details were lacking.

Deaton leaves a widow and four children.

The New York conservation department burned three tons of feathers in 1951 to comply with a law making it illegal to use the plumage of wild birds for millinery.

Brownell to Talk At Seattle Dinner

SEATTLE (AP)—Herbert Brownell, Attorney General of the United States, will speak at a \$100 per-plate Republican dinner June 3 in the party's major fund raising effort.

The dinner will be held in Seattle's Civic Auditorium and Lawrence Calvert, chairman of the dinner committee, said 1,000 are expected to attend.

Calvert said Washington Republicans hope Brownell will reveal President Eisenhower's current thinking regarding the question of whether he will run again in 1956.

Springfield Manager Quits

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (UP)—City manager Herbert C. Hamilton submitted his resignation Saturday to Mayor Edward C. Harms, Jr., and asked that the council take prompt action on it.

The action followed the Thursday recall of two councilmen, Ralph Nicholas and Paris Breedlove, by a vote of more than three to one. The two councilmen were accused of undue haste in helping to hire Hamilton.

Friday the Mayor issued a call for a special council meeting Monday night. Items of business were listed as canvassing Thursday's vote, discussion of council vacancies and city manager applications.

Mayor Harms said Saturday Hamilton's resignation would be submitted to the council Monday night.

Request for Irish Bride Disavowed

OKLAHOMA CITY (UP)—An Oklahoma City school teacher Saturday disavowed a letter asking for an Irish bride for himself, not "pampered, petted and spoiled as most American girls are."

The school teacher, Irvin L. Shaw, 30, said a letter bearing his name sent to the Mayor of Belfast, Ireland, was evidently a "dirty trick" played on him by an old Navy buddy.

The letter sent to Lord Mayor Sir Percival Brown said the chosen colleen must not be "pampered, petted and spoiled as most American girls are."

Shaw said he didn't write it and wasn't in the market for a mail order bride, Irish or any other ideas for the good of the theater kind.

4,000 Watch Pea Festival Parade

MILTON-FREEWATER (AP)—The Milton-Freewater Pea Festival parade was watched by more than 4,000 persons, who turned out Saturday despite 40-degree temperature.

The parade was the highlight of the three-day event.

Blaze Damages Ashland Market

ASHLAND, Ore. (UP)—Fire Friday night destroyed the storeroom and caused between \$7000 and \$8000 damage to the 99 Market one mile south of here.

Firemen said the blaze started in cardboard boxes placed next to a stove. Mrs. Grace Gibble, owner, said most of the loss was covered by insurance.

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