

Hope Expressed for Chemical To Combat Dreaded Arthritis

WASHINGTON—(P)—The government holds high hopes that an African plant may end the scarcity of cortisone—a hard-to-produce chemical which has shown dramatic promise against arthritis and rheumatic fever.

U. S. Public Health Service and Department of Agriculture scientists are now in Liberia seeking samples and seeds of a plant genus known as "strophanthus."

There are indications that a chemical obtainable from at least one species of this plant offers a short-cut means of producing cortisone.

At present, cortisone is produced by a 37-step process which requires many months. The result is that only a tiny supply is available to treat a few cases of arthritis and rheumatic fever.

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The African plant yields a chemical which researchers believe is the same as one that occurs at the 17th step in the present process of producing cortisone. Thus the first 17 steps might be eliminated.

Oxen Bile

The present basis for cortisone production is bile from oxen. But unofficial reports say the bile from 40 cattle is needed to produce enough cortisone to supply a single patient for one day.

Preliminary evidence is that cortisone must be given continuously—like insulin—to have the best effect in controlling certain conditions.

At a news conference, Surgeon General Leonard Scheele estimated that if the first tedious 17 steps of the present process could be eliminated by using a seed-derived chemical, the drug could be produced in a week.

This compares, he said, with six months at the present time.

Furthermore, it now costs between \$10 and \$25 a day to treat a patient. And Scheele pointed out that the drug must be given continuously—like insulin.

Only a few of the nation's 7,000,000 arthritis sufferers have been able to take the treatment.

Roof Tumbles On New Shed

SPRINGFIELD — Roof of an uncompleted structure of the Akin Heavy Equipment Co., 215 Pine St., crashed to earth Monday evening—hours after workmen had removed cross braces from supporting beams.

Aaron Akin, company proprietor, estimated loss at \$5000. The building was not insured.

Akin said large wooden posts had been supporting the roof until surrounding cement block walls could be finished. Masons working on the building's side walls Monday removed braces against his advice, Akin said.

A strong wind apparently started the heavy 45x100 foot roof vibrating. Akin explained, and a few moments later it toppled, narrowly missing a parked company bus. Akin said some expensive steel window casings had been flattened by the crash. Several cement blocks were pulverized, he added.

The accident took place after working hours, Akin said. "If the crash had come a couple of hours earlier, serious injury easily could have resulted."

Akin said he had no immediate plans for rebuilding the wrecked structure. It was to have been used as an equipment shed.

Liquor Permits Given by State

PORTLAND—(P)—New beverage licenses issued by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission include: Class A package stores—George Metcalf and F. M. Squire, Sutherlin; J. F. McLaughlin, "A" Street Grocery, Grants Pass; D. R. Henderson, Drain; Rowley Smith, Colony Market, Roseburg; Hill Top General Store, Mill City; Ole John Sundale, Sundale Market, Salem.

Class B package stores—Lola T. Stanley, Grant Cafe, Roseburg; Club License—Loyal Order of Moose, Roseburg.

Taffy Docks In Frisco

SAN FRANCISCO — (P) — Everybody who crossed the Pacific on the SS President Taft is relieved except Taffy, the expectant elephant.

Captain W. S. Tyrell said after the Taft docked that he never had been bothered by such a worrisome case of pregnancy on his ship in 31 years at sea. The ship's arrival before the stork saved him the role of midwife to an elephant.

Taffy is being sent to Los Angeles, Trainer Noel Rosefelt said the blessed event may be a day or a month off; it's hard to tell.

Mosby Creek Wild, Woolly

MOSBY CREEK—Mosby Creekers are beginning to wonder if those rugged pioneer days of danger from wild beasts, etc., are really over.

Eight cougars have been killed along the creek in the past two weeks, and tracks of others have been seen. Mary Woodworth killed

A large rattlesnake on the last week, also one was killed the Floyd Jones place. So far no hostile Indians been encountered.

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Local Girl's Limerick Wins

Eilene L. Harris, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Harris, 515 Tenth Ave. West, was one of 13 monthly winners in July's National Safety Council limerick contest. The contest each month attracts more than 25,000 entries. She won \$5.

Miss Harris filled in the last line of a limerick which appeared with a picture of a man standing on the edge of a boat and pulling in a fish.

The limerick, including Miss Harris' last line was:
A plenty nice fellow was Joe.
He made friends wherever he'd go.

"It's a pity he'd take
Such a chance in the lake.
Just remember Joe DROWNED
when you go."

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HAD A SMOKE
RIO DE JANEIRO—(P)—Burglars broke into the offices of the U. S. Naval Mission, but took nothing but American cigarettes.

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