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MENINGITIS GAINS FAST OVER COUNTRY

Medical Profession Baffled In Seeking Cure for Disease.

A Washington D. C. special dispatch to the Morning Oregonian says that gaining by leaps from spring to spring, the dreaded cerebrospinal meningitis has increased nearly 400 per cent in the United States in four years, according to statistics of the public health service.

At the same time it was announced that Dr. Sara Branham of the United States hygienic laboratory had succeeded in isolating a hitherto unknown fifth variety of the meningococcus bacterium which attacks the membranes of the brain and spinal column, causing an inflammation which often results in death or permanent disability.

Meningitis always has its big run in the late winter and early spring, when common colds are most prevalent and the resistance at a low ebb. But its distribution from year to year still is a mystery to the medical profession, which the new-found bacterium may help solve.

Apparently, the public health service statistics show, the disease runs in waves. The first available figures are for 1910, with a death rate of four per million. It increased steadily to a peak in the year of 1917 with a death rate of 39 per million, declining to ten per million in 1922. In 1927, with a spring peak of about 80 cases, the death rate had come up again to 16 per million and apparently to the start of another wave.

That is the latest year for which the actual death statistics are available. But in 1928 the cases reported had increased to a peak of 170 in a week, a 100 per cent increase over the previous peak. Last year there was a peak of 320, and this year it rose to 340.

For the past two weeks there has been the characteristic seasonal decline. The rate actually is small compared with such epidemics as diphtheria and measles, with thousands of cases reported a week at this time of year. But the startling increase in meningitis has physicians worried.

Public health officials are uncertain whether it is a disease that moves in waves or whether it actually is gaining a stronger foothold in the population at large. It is peculiar in that there are many more carriers of the disease than victims.

During a local epidemic meningococci are found in more well than sick persons. The carriers, unaffected themselves, have no way of knowing that they are potential menaces to their neighbors. They have either an inherent or acquired immunity. It is possible, it was pointed out, that all carriers have had the disease in a mild form under such favorable conditions that they did not know they were sick, and hence have built up a resistance to any further infection.

During the past few years several meningitis serums have been made by injecting meningococci into the blood of horses, supposedly producing an increase in the antibodies which resist the invaders. From the horse blood serum is manufactured which theoretically should increase the resistance of the human patient. There was some apparent success at first, but this year, it was stated at the public health service, the results have been disappointing.

Local Christian Church Will Observe Anniversary With Services On June 8

The local Church of Christ is joining in one of the most unique services ever planned in the history of Christendom. It is planning for its greatest day on June 8th. This day marks the nineteenth hundredth birthday of the church, and the churches of Christ around the world are all joining in the concerted and unified memorial.

Rather than centering in one great mass-meeting, all members in every church, large and small, are all taking part. The memorial will center around the communion service, and every congregation is endeavoring to have 100 per cent of its membership present. The total will be between five and six millions participating.

At 11 a. m., June 8th, the services will begin in New Zealand, where are to be found the first churches of Christ west of the International date line. It will then be 9 p. m. Saturday, Central Standard time, in America. The service of commemoration will move west around the world as the hour of 11 a. m., Sunday arrives. Japan, Australia, China, Russia, Great Britain and all lands are to participate.

The same chapter of Scripture (Acts 2) will be read. The same songs, including "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," will be sung in all lands and in all languages. The globe is to be girdled with a twenty-four hour service, ending in the churches of Christ in Honolulu.

The Athena congregation is joining with all the disciples round the world in this world-girdling service. Every member is asked to arrange to be present. Men who work on Sundays are asked to arrange to lay off that day and be present. The communion table will be kept spread all day for those who cannot possibly lay off. Elders will carry the communion to all those who are ill or shut in. All members of the church are asked to attend the nearest local church for the communion service that day, or to meet in homes if no church of Christ is in reach.

Senator Smoot a Great-Grandfather



Senator Reed Smoot of Utah, chairman of the senate finance committee and one of the leading powers of the upper house, photographed with his first great-grandchild, little Miss Alice Chambers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Chambers. Mrs. Chambers was Alice Smoot, daughter of Harold Smoot, son of the senator.

Telephone Pole and Wires Save Pupils From Death

Oregon City.—A telephone pole, guy wires and a few insignificant scrub oaks growing beside the Willamette-West Linn highway near the Crown Willamette paper mills Tuesday morning saved 30 West Linn high school students and about six residents of Willamette from death or serious injury.

A Willamette Falls motor bus in which they were en route to West Linn left the road, turning partly over and started rolling down the bank. The foregoing obstacles prevented it from turning over and over for a distance of about 75 feet down the bank.

John L. Gary, principal of West Linn Union high school, was driving behind the bus. He rushed to it helped open windows and assisted girls and boys, men and women, to climb out.

The situation of the bus was precarious, as it was feared for a moment it might slip from its perch and resume its career down the grade, so no time was lost in getting all the passengers free.

All were shaken and a few suffered minor bruises, but no serious injury was reported.

Kenneth Carnes, driver of the bus, said he met another bus on a curve at that point, the wheels of his car left the pavement and he lost control. It was not a school bus, but the regular bus which has replaced electric train service. Carnes was proceeding slowly, he said and this was supported by short skid marks of his wheels as he attempted to save his living cargo.

Athena Schools Enter District Track Meet Saturday

Athena high and grade schools will participate in the district track meet at Helix, tomorrow. The local high school track team is prepared to match speed and strength with entries from other schools at the meet, but the prevailing epidemic of measles has worked havoc among the graders, with the result that only a few members of the Athena grade schools will be able to compete.

Measles to some extent have cut down the chances of the high school team winning some events, but on the whole Coach Miller is expecting the boys to make a creditable showing. Athena will have two men in every event except the 440 yard race, which will have only one. There will be no Athena entries in the discus or pole vault. Harold Kirk, ex-sprinter of Hill Military Academy two seasons ago, is out to show his heels to competitors tomorrow.

The following men are expected to represent Athena high school tomorrow in the track meet:

50 yard dash—Kirk and Myrick.
100 yard dash—Kirk and Myrick.
220 yard dash—Myrick and Crowley or Rogers.
440 yard dash—Rogers.
880 yard dash—Lee and Jenkins or Shigley.
1 mile—Lee and Shigley.
220 low hurdles—Crowley and Jenkins.
120 high hurdles—Crowley and Rogers.
Shot put—Crowley and Rogers.
Javelin throw—Crowley and Jenkins.
High jump—Myrick and Kirk.
Broad jump—Myrick and Kirk.
Relay—Rogers, Crowley, Jenkins, Myrick and Kirk.
Shigley, crack distance man, who was counted on for sure points, has returned to school after having the measles, but may not contest at Helix.

Bud Miller and Leo Geissel, who were first in the grade events last year are both at home sick with measles. Miller is the strong boy of the grades and Geissel leads in sprinting and baseball throwing. Kenneth Rogers, Walter Singer, Barbara Lee and Nylene Taylor are expected to carry on for the graders.

A Blue Bird Group Of Camp Fire Girls

A Blue Bird group, junior organization of the Camp Fire Girls have been organized under the leadership of Mary Tompkins. The girls joining are Beverly Barrett, Natelle Miller, Wilma McIntyre, Bonnie Johnson, Donna Jean Logsdon, Gloria Garfield, Helen Rogers and Barbara Huffman.

Officers elected for the ensuing year are president, Gloria Garfield; vice-president, Helen Rogers; secretary-treasurer, Beverly Barrett.

The Wasna Camp Fire Girls are giving their interest to hand craft this week. They have started to make bracelets out of German silver with the symbol of what each girl is in Camp Fire, etched on it. The bracelets will be on inch and a half wide, resembling the slave bracelets.

Directors Meeting
A meeting of the board of directors of the Athena grain growers cooperative was held in the office of Homer I. Watts, Tuesday evening. Henry Dell, secretary, reported that a total of 341,000 bushels of wheat had been signed up by members of the Athena organization. The matter of arranging loans to cooperative members from the farm board is requiring the attention of the directors of the Athena local at this time.

Weston Farmers Organize
Organization of Weston Grain Growers, Inc., has been perfected with leaders chosen for the coming year as follows: President, Sim J. Culley; vice-president, George W. Staggs; secretary and treasurer, Frank Price. The board of directors includes Mr. Culley, Mr. Staggs, Joe Key, J. M. Banister and C. E. Fisk.

Umatilla and Mission Win First Games Played In County League

Umatilla defeated Athena 11 to 10, and the Mission Indians massacred Helix 15-3 in the opening games of the Umatilla County Baseball league Sunday.

Rawl Morrison went the route on the mound for Athena and allowed but seven hits. Hansen and Woodard together allowed the same number of safe bingles. Morrison had eleven strikeouts to his credit. Manager Miller made five shifts in his lineup during the game before he got his players in position where he wanted them. Jenkins and Bowers alternated in right field; Miller and Myrick centered around in left garden; Hodgins held down second and short. Gross played center pasture and third base, and was pulled in from third base to relieve Baker behind the bat and Harden played center and third.

Athena touched Umatilla for three runs in the opening stanza when Jenkins walked. Myrick fouled out to catcher. Morrison stung it on the nose for two bases, Bowers scoring. Hodgins singled and Fat Morrison tried it in from second but was tossed out at the plate Hansen to Tippy. Gross walked, Baker sizzled one through the infield that went for a fielder's choice. Hodgins came home and Gross stopped at third and scored on an error by Tippy.

A walk and two errors let in two runs for Umatilla in the fourth, and two hits and a trio of errors let in three in the fifth while a walk, a threebagger and a fielder's choice and another trio of slips pegged up four tallies in the sixth.

Then in the lucky seventh Athena was as busy as ants, and tapped the pan for seven runs. Huffman was safe on Thompson's error. Jenkins singled, Huffman taking third. Myrick popped out to short, and the bases were loaded when Morrison was safe on Hansen's error. Then Hodgins cleaned the bags with a 3-ply swat. Here Woodward relieved Hansen on the mound. Gross walked, Baker hit, scoring Hodgins. Gross on third. Hansen was safe on a fielder's choice, which looked like a hit, Gross and Baker scoring. Harden out, Hansen to Hyatt.

Umatilla scored one in the seventh and again in the ninth. The score:

Athena	AB	R	H
Jenkins rf	6	2	1
Myrick lf	5	0	0
Morrison p	5	1	2
Hodgen s-2b	5	2	2
Gross m-3b-c	5	2	0
Baker c	4	1	1
Moore 3b	1	0	0
Hansell 2b	4	1	1
Crowley s	1	0	0
Harden m-3b	5	0	0
Totals	40	10	7

"Life Eternal" Easter Cantata, at Christian Church Sunday Evening

The Easter cantata "Life Eternal" by Fred B. Holton, will be presented Sunday evening at the Christian church by a community chorus.

The cantata which was written for mixed voices is tuneful and impressive. It is the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of the Christ and is told in beautiful poetry and song.

The chorus is made up of voices from the church choirs and other singers and directed by Mrs. Ralph McEwen, has been rehearsing for several weeks and promises a real treat to music lovers. The public is cordially invited to attend. The program follows:

"The Lord Reigneth," chorus.
"Man of Sorrows," solo, Kohler Betts and chorus.
"Gethsemane," men's chorus.
"Calvary," solo, C. M. Eager and chorus.
"A Whisper of Hope," duet, Mrs. Emmett Lee and Mrs. Ross Payne.
"Dawns the New Day," chorus.
"Hail to the King," solo, Mrs. Lloyd Michener and chorus.
"The Morning is Breaking," duet, Mrs. Floyd Pinkerton and Mr. George Gerking.
"The King Comes Forth," chorus.
"The Redeemer Triumphant," solo, Mrs. Alva Blalock.
"The King of Glory," chorus.
"Ye Shall Live Also," solo, Laurence Pinkerton and chorus.
"The Resurrection and the Life," chorus.

Members of the chorus are soprano Mrs. Lew McNair, Miss Blanche Thorson, Mrs. C. M. Eager, Mrs. Lee Hiteman, Mrs. Chase Garfield, Miss Dorothy Brodie, Miss Mary Berlin, Mrs. Alva Blalock, Mrs. Ross Payne, Mrs. Floyd Pinkerton; alto Mrs. Arthur Douglas, Mrs. R. D. Blatchford, Mrs. Will McPherson, Miss Della Bryant, Mrs. Lloyd Michener, Mrs. Emmett Lee; tenors Laurence Pinkerton, George Gerking, C. M. Eager; bass C. A. Sias, Jack Dow, Lee Hiteman, Kohler Betts. Accompanist, Mrs. Laurence Pinkerton.

WHITMAN STUDENT TAKEN FOR A RIDE

Campus Politics Cause for Man Spending Night In Mountain Cabin.

Walla Walla.—Vernon Wilkinson, Whitman college student, was back in town safe and sound Wednesday night, following his kidnapping late Tuesday evening. Wilkinson, former Okanogan boy, was given a nice ride by four unknown men, alleged to have been college men, and taken into the Blue Mountains where he was imprisoned in a cabin and left minus his shoes and some clothes.

His abduction was thought to have come because Wilkinson had threatened to expose the alleged particulars on elections in the preceding three or four years, unless the party whom he was backing was elected. Friends of Mr. Wilkinson were of the opinion that some of the college students had taken him to the mountains, hoping to prevent his releasing anything that might spoil their election plans.

Mr. Wilkinson said that he was returning from a show when two men jumped out of a car, just as he was passing the Anderson home on Boyer avenue, grabbed him, and with the aid of two more men who were in the car, forced him to accompany them to the cabin in the mountains. While unable to recognize the men, he believed that they were college men and that his abduction came as part of a student body election campaign now being staged.

Wilkinson was forced to spend the night in the cabin while three of his captors remained in a near by house. In the morning they returned his clothes with the exception of the glasses and shoes and about noon Wilkinson, escaping, started back to town. Unfamiliar with the country, Wilkinson started over the mountains and came down onto the Cottonwood creek, where he called the sheriff's office and was brought back to town. It was stated Wednesday night that charges might be preferred against his abductors.

The Dalles Youth Winner In the Oratorical Contest

Defeating Manche Gadwa, Pendleton entry in the Eastern Oregon division of the national oratorical contest sponsored by the National Bar Association and certain metropolitan newspapers, John Kirk, Athena high school student lost by one point to Ross Knotts of The Dalles, at Pendleton Friday evening.

The contest was held in the county library building, before an interested audience with W. C. Bryant of Moro, Cal. Sweek of Heppner and E. C. Prestaby of Athena, judges. Young Knotts the winner, will enter the state contest at Portland.

The contestants were limited to a talk of six minutes on the constitution, based on original essays, and the by lot each was assigned a four minute subject for extemporaneous delivery. Knotts drew the subject "Washington and the Constitution," Kirk, "Madison and the Constitution," and Gadwa, "Foreign Relations at the Time of the signing of the Constitution."

Roy Raley, of Pendleton, vice-president of the state bar association, acted as chairman for the contest.

"Salt Water Taffy," the School Play Tonight

The annual high school play, "Salt Water Taffy," under direction of Miss Beulah Smith, will be given tonight at the school auditorium, beginning at 8 o'clock. Admission prices will be, children 35c, adults 50c.

Dress rehearsals have been held this week and the play promises to be one of the best given by the school for some time. Following is the cast of characters:

Charlotte Bancroft, "Sugar".....Thelma Schrimpf
Irma Hastings, her best friend.....Helen Foster
Charles Dudley, "Chickie".....Walter Huffman
Edwin Rowley, a bashful beau.....John Kirk
Anita Thorndike, the cause of Ed's worry.....Arlene Myrick
Jane Oxford, chilly and much the high-brow.....Marjorie Montague
Jack Belmont, two-thirds of an irrepressible trio.....Eldon Myrick
Ripley Brooks.....Stafford Hansell
Billy Flood, who covers a lot of territory.....Rhoda Nelson

Emergency Funds Given O. S. C. by State Board

Oregon State College.—Oregon State college has been granted an emergency appropriation of \$25,000 by the state emergency board to permit it to meet unforeseen needs for immediate assistance through the state in fields of cooperative marketing, pest control, and ground water surveys.

Of the total \$14,000 will be used to place two additional cooperative marketing specialists on the staff, as the one man now employed is totally unable to meet the demands arising from the new farm marketing act. Most of the remainder will be used in working out control of three new crop pests, the cherry fruit fly, the filbert weevil, and a strange strawberry and iris pest, while some funds are allotted to a ground water survey of portions of Wasco and Harney counties needed at once to permit successful well irrigation development.

"Mother of Echo" Passes

Mrs. Cynthia Kootz, 94, grandmother of Mrs. Ralph Singer of this city, and known in the Northwest as the "Mother of Echo," passed away at her home in Echo, after a long illness. She was the widow of the late J. H. Kootz, founder of the town of Echo, and for many years a merchant and miller there. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Hendley and Mrs. Flora Malcolm, of Echo. Grand children are Mrs. Fred Earl of Pendleton; Mrs. Edna Mathis of Portland; Archie Malcolm of La Grande; Lawrence Malcolm of The Dalles; Delbert Malcolm of Pendleton; Mrs. Thelma Singer of Athena, and Mrs. Dorothy Tedford of Wenatchee. There are also four great grandchildren.

Elizabeth Bradley

A letter came to an Athena friend this week from Elizabeth Bradley, who resided in Athena when her father was Union Pacific agent here. She is now a resident of Colome, South Dakota, and is engaged in the real estate business. The older Athena residents remember the Bradley family well. Elizabeth writes that Allen Bradley lives in Oklahoma, Grace in Chicago and her father in Omaha.

Francis M. Sullivan, veteran Indian War fighter and resident of Freewater for more than fifty years, died late Wednesday afternoon at a Walla Walla hospital after a lingering illness. He would have been 83 years old on April 22, having been born on that same date in 1848.

New Mains Being Laid

New water mains to supply south-side Main street business houses, between Third and Fourth streets and the Hopper and Johnson homes on Third street with city water will be laid within the next few days. A four inch main will be laid on Fifth street south to the alley, following west from Fifth to Third, a two inch pipe leading from there, south on Third. A new four inch main will be laid from a point on Main street near the Union Pacific tracks west to the C. T. Smith residence in the west part of town. A crew of men are engaged in excavating for the new pipe lines.

Death of A. Payant

A. Payant, father of Joe Payant of Weston, and well known in Athena, died suddenly of heart failure at his home on Reed and Hawley mountain, Saturday. Mr. Payant came to Umatilla county from Montreal, Canada, 40 years ago, and formerly resided on the reservation, south of Athena. Funeral services were held in Pendleton, Tuesday.

Walla Walla Youth Killed

Raymond H. Lair, 23, of Walla Walla, died Sunday afternoon in Wenatchee following an automobile accident on the highway near Cashmere Saturday night. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Lair of Walla Walla.

Irrigation Districts Short

Harold Barney, watermaster for Walla Walla county, tells the Union unless heavy rainfall materializes within a short time, the irrigation districts of the Walla Walla valley will face a serious water shortage. Streams in that district are lower than at any previous time, he declared, which coupled with the seasonal deficiency is bound to make a crucial situation unless the needed relief is soon forthcoming.

Pioneer of County

R. E. Sturtevant, 73, a pioneer of Umatilla county, died Sunday at the home of his son, Glen Sturtevant, at Long Beach, California. He built the first hotel and livery stable at Ukiah. He came to Umatilla county in 1880.