

Fight Against Polio Moved Ahead During '54 With Vaccine Promise

The polio fight moved ahead to a climactic phase in 1954. With more and more patients requiring costlier care a new challenge — polio prevention — began at last to crystallize into the promise of eventual freedom from polio's crippling threat.

It was a year of historic progress, of unprecedented gains, of bright new hope. But its legacy, too, was unprecedented: It left Americans facing a bigger job than ever in the year ahead.

Third Worst Year
With 37,771 cases reported through its 48th week, 1954 emerges as the third worst polio year of record. It was exceeded only by the high of 57,879 cases set in 1952, and by 1949's second highest mark of 42,033 cases. At year's end it had become the seventh straight year of high polio incidence. Average rate for the continental U. S. through 1954's 48th week was 23.5 cases per 100,000 population.

As usual, the disease struck without rhyme, reason or discernible pattern.

Since 1938, when the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis came into being, an increasing proportion of polio victims have survived the attack. In 1938-41, eleven per cent of all reported cases died. The latest four-year study shows 5.4 per cent of reported cases were killed by the disease.

But polio was striking more adults who usually are seriously affected. This has been a steady trend in recent years. In 1944-48, only 15 per cent of all polio victims were 20 years of age or older. The most recent figure had reached 22 per cent.

Remains Child Killer
And polio remained a child-killer, too. According to U. S. Public Health Service figures, poliomyelitis in major epidemic years still killed more of our five to 14-year-olds than any other communicable disease.

Let 1954 saw giant steps taken toward the possible elimination of paralytic polio.

In 1954 gamma globulin, field-tested in 1951 and 1952 under the aegis of the National Foundation, was provided with March of Dimes funds to health officers.

It was available in larger amounts for use against polio. At best, GG was a shaky bridge between defense and attack. Administered at the proper time, it could give protection for five to about eight weeks. By October, this temporary preventive was plentiful enough to become available through usual commercial channels.

In the spring of the year, came the "shot heard 'round the world." On April 26, six-year-old Randy Kerr of Fairfax County, Va., became the first child to participate in nationwide field trials of a new vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas E. Salk of the University of Pittsburgh.

Own Protective Antibodies
Backed by March of Dimes funds, Dr. Salk and other scientists for years had worked to find a vaccine — different from GG in that it could stimulate the body to make its own protective antibodies in the bloodstream, possibly providing a degree to permanent protection from the disease. Gamma globulin, with its "borrowed" antibodies, never was expected to achieve this. Dr. Salk had pre-tested the trial vaccine in the Pittsburgh area. He knew it was safe. He asked the National Foundation to find out now if it prevented polio paralysis.

1954's dramatic vaccine field trials were the biggest operation of its kind ever projected: 650,000 children trooped to special clinics in 217 trial areas throughout the United States for three "shots" each. Of these, 440,000 actually received the vaccine; the rest got ineffective dummy shots. In all, some 1,830,000 of them acting as un-injected controls for comparison purposes.

Evaluation of results of the trials now is under way. A task of 120 statisticians and technicians under the direction of Dr. Thomas Francis Jr. is sifting the millions of facts that are pouring in from test areas to the Poliomyelitis Vaccine Evaluation Center at the University of Michigan. Reports from doctors, physical therapists, health officers and blood analysis laboratories are flowing in to Ann Arbor in one of history's most complex scientific undertakings.

Answer in Spring
An answer is expected by the spring of 1955. Results, it is hoped, will establish whether the vaccine prevents paralytic polio. In the meantime, however, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is taking a calculated financial risk: \$9,000,000 of the \$64,000,000 the March of Dimes hopes to raise in 1955 are committed for the purchase of a standby supply of the vaccine.

If it is found effective the vaccine must be licensed by the laboratory of Biologicals Control of the National Foundation's advance purchase achieved two ends: It kept manufacturers

tooled up and staffed for high-gear production when results are known and it assured enough vaccine for 9,000,000 children, ready for instant use in advance of the polio season. Additional through usual commercial channels.

If and when the go-ahead comes, the National Foundation plans to make its supply available, without charge for the product, to all first and second graders in public, private and parochial schools in the United States, plus all children through the fourth grade in the 1954 trial areas. Public health authorities, medical and health groups were making plans for its administration as 1954 drew to a close.

But there was little hope of actually eliminating paralytic polio during 1955, even with a licensed vaccine available. Forecasters predicted that possibly 18,000,000 persons might receive its protection next spring. There are approximately 48,000,000 children below the age of 15 in the U. S. so new cases must be expected. And there remain many thousands of polio patients stricken in past years who will still need help.

74,000 Patients Aided
In 1954 the National Foundation provided financial aid to 74,000 patients. Of these, 50,000

were carried over from previous years; 24,000 were new cases. At the end of the year there were 70,000 still on its chapter's rolls — more than in any previous year. This reflected polio's mounting incidence. But it also showed that more than ever was being done for polio sufferers.

During the year the National Foundation spent \$28,800,000 in direct aid to patients, through its chapters. The 1954 bill for the gamma globulin and vaccine programs came to \$16,100,000. Scientific research continued at a cost of \$2,700,000 more. Professional education used \$3,100,000 to help train doctors, nurses, physical therapists and others for polio care and research work. Five hundred and eighty-one scholarships and fellowships were awarded by the National Foundation in 1954.

Four new regional respirator centers (in Nashville, New York City, Cleveland and San Francisco) were established in 1954, bringing the total of these pilot plants to 13. Equipment shipped through the 48th week included 1,763 respirators, 209 hot pack machines, 561 rocking beds.

The year ended on a note of both hope and warning. The two-fold responsibility ahead — patient care and polio prevention — left the nation facing a bigger polio job than ever.

On The Side

By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

There is to be a play based on Polly Adler's monumental work titled "A House Is Not a Home." So it is announced. It is just about 50 years ago that George Bernard Shaw's play "Mrs. Warren's Profession" was presented in New York with Mary Shaw and Arnold Daly in the leading roles. It was closed by the police after one performance and the producer and members of the cast placed under arrest.

Lucky Names
Numerologists claim that it is lucky to have the same number of letters in the Christian name as the surname. As for examples, Greta Garbo, Hirsch Jacobs, Theodore Atkinson, Paul Muni and Bette Davis. It makes no difference, according to the numerologists whether it is the name your papa and mamma gave you or one you assumed. That is, you can change your name for luck. I could change mine to Vincent Durling. That would give me seven letters in each name and, besides, I would get rid of that Edgar.

Horses and Women
Women continue to moan about the tragedy of having a sudden run in a stocking. You see otherwise smartly attired women with runs in their stockings and sorrowful embarrassed looks on their faces. What makes so many females so stubborn? Why don't they go for that "pair and a spare" idea of selling nylons? Then they could carry a spare stocking in their handbag. Certainly would be more practical to carry something like that in a handbag than the ridiculous variety of junk the average females cart around in that receptacle.

Among the Married
A Detroit bride had her eight sisters as her bridesmaids. Must have been an interesting wedding ceremony. However, my sympathy is extended to the groom. Think of having eight sisters-in-law! Research on life among the married indicates that sisters-in-law inspire almost as much dissension in the life of a married couple as mothers-in-law.

Asides
During World War II the WACs called the women marines.

Queries from clients. Q. Who introduced the popular song titled "April Showers"? A. Harry Fox, the brilliant and versatile partner of the Dolly Sisters. Harry also introduced "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles," and "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows." Q. I claim the harness horse film, "Home in Indiana," was actually filmed in Kentucky. Right? Q. Quite right, sir. It was filmed at Walnut Hall Farm, Lexington, Ky. Q. Was R. L. Stevenson's horror tale, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," based on a series of events that actually happened? A. It is believed Stevenson's inspiration for the tale you mention came from the life of Dr. William Brodie, an Edinburgh church deacon, who lived a good life by day and an evil one after dark. The police finally caught up with Brodie and he was hanged for his crimes.

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SHOWING SCHEDULED—The moving picture Miss Mattie will be one of five films shown Wednesday at the Craterian theater for Jackson county farmers and their families as a part of the John Deere day being sponsored by Tom Wray and Hubbard-Wray company. The program will start at 1 p.m. There is no charge for tickets.

Basquez Installed As 20-30 Leader

Darrell Basquez was installed president of Medford 20-30 club during a dinner Dec. 23 at Kim's restaurant. The dinner was in observance of ladies' night.

Pat Greene was installed vice-president and Alva Reed, sergeant-at-arms. Dick Frost is retiring president.

The organization is planning for the presentation here of Kay brothers indoor circus at Medford high school Jan. 27. Both afternoon and evening performances are to be given. Proceeds will go for charitable work in the Rogue valley.

Youth Arrested at Request of Mother

Portland — (U.P.) — A 19-year-old Portland youth was being held in jail here today at the request of his mother after he allegedly threatened members of his family with a .45 caliber pistol.

Patrick G. O'Brien was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and held in lieu of \$30,000 bail. He was arrested Saturday night after his mother, Mrs. Nancy A. O'Brien, told police he was boasting that he intended "to shoot a cop."

Police said the youth was carrying the pistol at the time of his arrest, but that it was not loaded.

Corvallis Scientist Slated To Receive \$100,000 in Titanium Industry Payment

Corvallis, Ore. — (U.P.) — An immigrant scientist whose success story has been one of "riches to rags" instead of the usual pattern is finally beginning to pay off.

Dr. William J. Kroll, 65, who invented the process for mass production of titanium, a metal vital in the manufacture of jet aircraft, expects the postman to bring him a check for \$100,000 any day now.

Kroll is not exactly destitute. He lives in modest but comfortable circumstances here in a home he built and owns.

But he has been fighting in court for six years to obtain pat-

ent royalties from America's \$300,000,000 titanium industry. "I've worked for 12 years like a beast but I'm poorer now than when I hit the shores of the United States," Kroll said.

\$100,000 Not Enough
A federal court ruled recently he should receive one half of one per cent of the retail price of titanium produced by his process.

America manufactures about 5,000 tons of titanium a year. By 1957 production is expected to reach 35,000 tons. The strong light, heat-resistant metal sells for about \$4.50 a pound.

Kroll said the \$100,000 he will receive soon in retroactive royalties will not begin to cover the amount he has spent in litigation to clear his claim. He had to sell his three-story laboratory in Luxembourg to help make living expenses.

Patents Seized
His patent rights were seized by the alien property custodian when he entered the United States in 1940, fleeing his native Luxembourg to avoid working for Hitler. He had perfected his titanium process while working for a German firm.

The royalty dispute centered over whether the patent rights belonged to Kroll or the German organization that employed him. Many records pertaining to the case had been destroyed.

Although Kroll believes he should receive a full one per cent in royalties instead of one-half of a per cent, he is comforted by the fact his discovery is regarded as one of the greatest in a century in the field of metals.

While working for the U. S. Bureau of Mines at Albany, Ore.,

Kroll perfected a second metal process that is proving equally significant. It is used in producing zirconium, a metal needed for atomic reactors.

Kroll turned his zirconium patent over to the U. S. government. He has been living in Corvallis since 1945 and left the Bureau of Mines in 1949.

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A Year-End Telegram to the 10,000 Ford Motor Company Dealers of America

(Text of a message sent by Henry Ford II, President, Ford Motor Company, shortly after the close of business in 1954)

1954 was a great year for America.

We proved that we can have peace and prosperity at the same time.

1954 was a great year for Ford Motor Company, too.

In 1954, our domestic payrolls totaled more than \$950,000,000, averaging better than \$18,000,000 each week.

1954 was the best sales year in the 51 years we have been in business.

In 1954, the American public bought more Ford Motor Company passenger cars and trucks than in any other year. In total, our customers selected and purchased more than 2,000,000 Fords, Lincolns, Mercurys, Ford trucks and Ford tractors.

During 1954, the public swing to the Ford passenger car was clearly established.

Complete sales information for the industry is available, at this moment, only to November 1st.

For the first 10 months of 1954, more people bought Ford passenger cars than any other make. In fact, for the entire 15-month period from August 1, 1953, to November 1, 1954—a postwar period of free competition—the Ford car is first in sales . . . and our sales are continuing at a leadership rate.

We are proud of this record for 1954. We are grateful to the people who made the record possible—our employees, our dealers, our suppliers and, most importantly, our customers.

As still another great year for America begins, we remind ourselves that any achievements of ours are made possible only by the kind of country in which we live and work.

We believe that American freedom and American opportunity are the silent partners of all the individuals and all the companies that have helped keep this country always new, young, vigorous and strong.

Henry Ford II

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