

Polio Vaccinations Expected To Result In End To Epidemics

Editor's Note: With more than 2700 cases already reported, Massachusetts is making the news of its worst polio epidemic since 1916. In the following dispatch the State Director of Communicable Diseases tells why this may be the last such epidemic in the Bay State.

By DR. ROY F. FEEHSTER
Written for United Press
Boston — (U.P.)—If polio vaccine proves as useful as we expect, Massachusetts should never have another epidemic.

At least five or six years usually separate times of high prevalence. This means that before another high year everyone who desires the protection of polio vaccine will have a chance to receive it.

Now that polio in Massachusetts is on the decline, we can start to compare the experience this year with that of previous seasons.

Though the more than 2700 cases reported has exceeded the number reported each year since 1916, it is doubtful that this will be a record year.

Less Paralytic
This is because in 1916 the 1927 cases were all paralytic. In those days they didn't consider the disease to be infantile paralysis unless there was actual paralysis.

Since only 40 per cent or so of the 1955 cases have been paralytic, it is unlikely we will reach the 1916 figure.

This is the first year that all regions of the state have been involved simultaneously. Ordinarily one part of the state reports cases one year and some other area has a lot of them the next. This simultaneous involvement accounts for the unusually

large number of cases in 1955.

No New Area To Move
It is unlikely that secondary rises will occur as the cases decline, since there is no new area into which the disease can move during the latter part of the season.

However, low levels may not come until the middle or latter part of October. This is because though a season's peak is gen-

erally reached in six weeks, the decline is usually spread over seven or eight weeks.

Salem—(U.P.)—Gov. Paul Patterson today appointed Glen Heiber, 44, of Hillsboro as circuit judge of the 19th district comprising Washington, Tillamook, Columbia and Clatsop counties.

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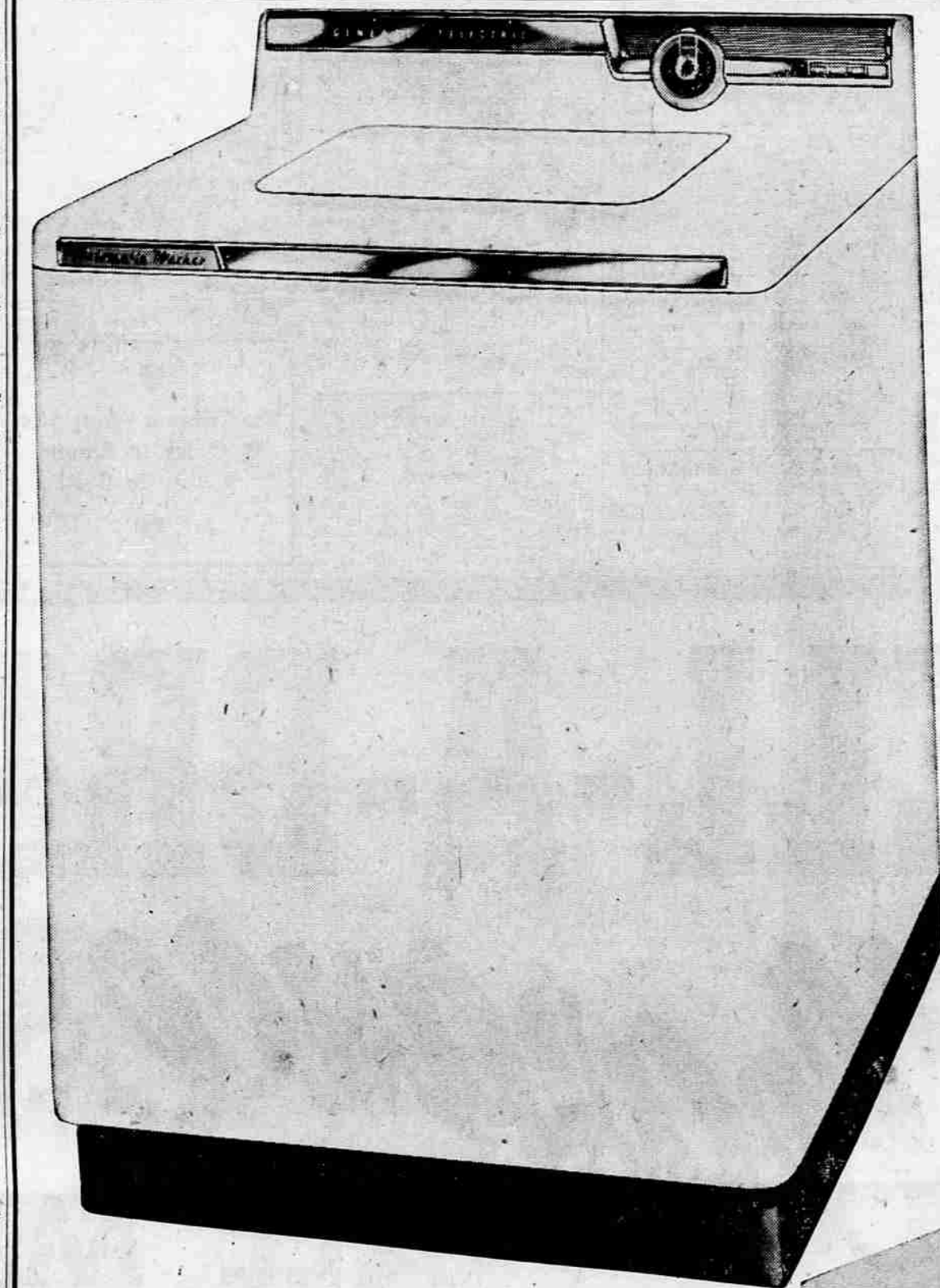
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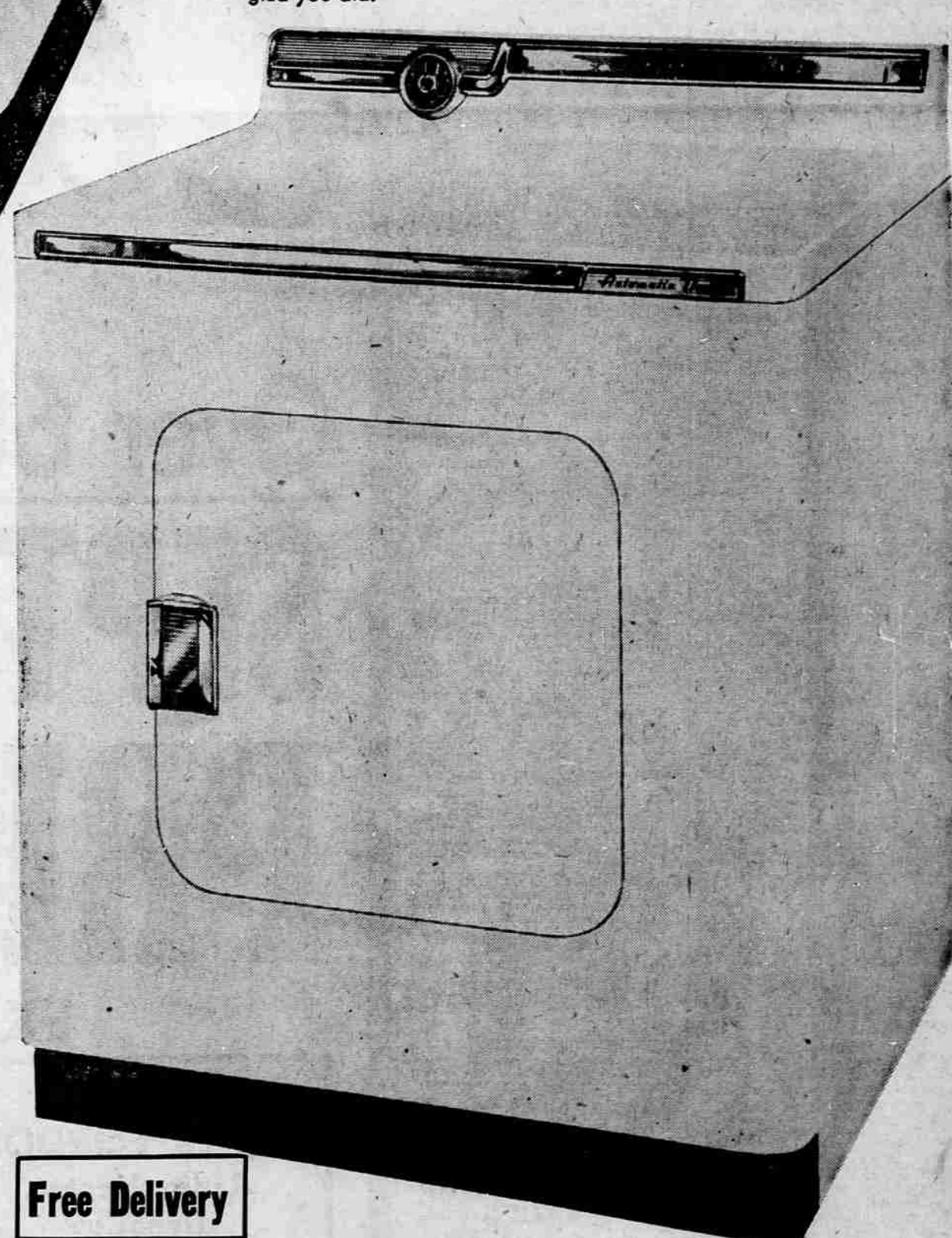
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