

Tuberculosis Cases Discovered During Routine Chest Exams

Eleven new cases of tuberculosis were discovered through routine chest x-rays of 42 patients attending the recent Jackson County Tuberculosis clinic, Dr. A. E. Brin Merkel, public health physician, stated yesterday.

The tuberculosis clinic, held here Oct. 25 and 27, was co-sponsored by the health department and the health association. The clinic was under the direction of Dr. Gerhard Boost, tuberculosis specialist from the state tuberculosis hospital.

Most of the patients attending the clinic were formerly treated in the hospital, but are now at home taking medications under the direction of the health department and family doctors. Some of the patients are now considered completely cured, but are checked yearly in case the disease becomes activated and thus infectious to the population at large.

Christmas Seal Money

Dr. Boost's travel and maintenance expenses are paid by the health association with Christmas Seal money, Dr. Merkel pointed out. The 14-by-17-inch chest x-rays, which are necessary for the examinations, are also financed by Christmas Seal money.

About 15 or 16 new cases of tuberculosis are discovered in Jackson county each year so the number of patients in the sanitarium remains fairly constant, Dr. Merkel explained.

The National Tuberculosis association claims four or five additional infections result from each active undischarged case of tuberculosis. For this reason, Dr. Merkel said, "it is most important that we stress our tuberculosis prevention program" which is also sponsored by the Christmas Seal money, through the county public health association.

Since one case of tuberculosis costs the county approximately \$15,000, the small sum spent on prevention is an investment with a large yield, he stated.

"There is no serum to prevent tuberculosis as yet, so one of the first bulwarks of defense is maintaining general high standards of good public health in order that the germs of the disease, which are present in one-third of our population, have no chance to become activated," Dr. Merkel said.

Five Children Perish In Fire Near Spokane

Spokane, Wash. — (U.P.) — The Valley Fire Department answered alarms at 11 p.m. and 11:16 p.m. PST and three ambulances were dispatched to the scene.

L. Schucker, chief of the fire department, said the entire interior of the house was ablaze by the time the equipment arrived. Schucker said the children apparently died of suffocation although earlier reports indicated they had burned to death.

Bodies Beneath Beds Schucker said the bodies of the four boys were found beneath their beds in the second floor of the home. The badly burned body of Louise was found at the foot of the stairs.

Schucker said the blaze apparently started in the wall of the home and was caused by an overheated flue from an oil stove in the front room.

Mrs. Lair and her husband are separated. The victims were Steve, 9; Marie, 7; Louise, 6; Jack, 4; and Timmy, 2.

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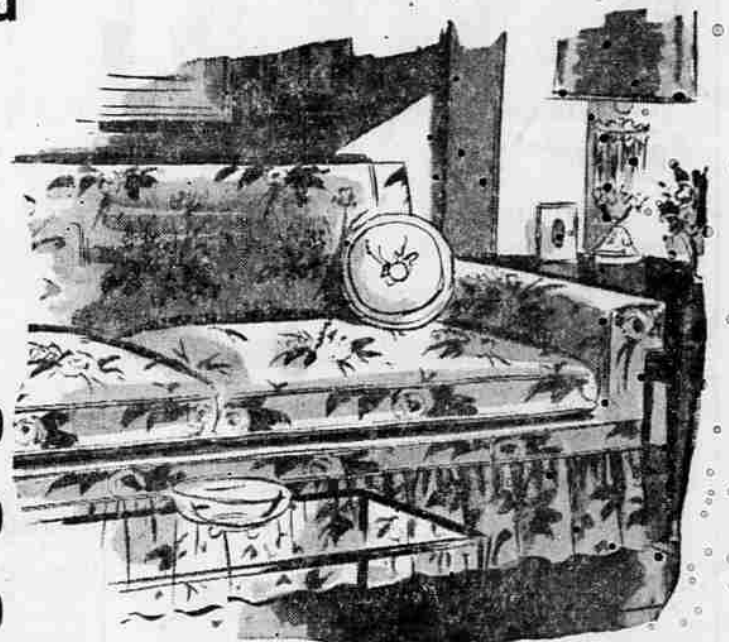
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