

Asian Flu Epidemic Not Expected To Turn Into Major Catastrophe

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press Correspondent
Washington — Doctors call it "the great pandemic." It went over the world in three lethal waves, starting in May, 1918. By the time the third wave subsided in the spring of 1919, it had claimed nearly 15 million lives. And it had instilled in the hearts of health officials everywhere a lasting fear of influenza.

Nearly 40 years have passed since that "pandemic," or worldwide epidemic, of "Spanish flu." Many lesser influenza epidemics have come and gone. Medical science has developed vaccines against influenza, and antibiotic drugs to treat its complications. A whole generation has grown up which regards flu as an uncomfortable but relatively mild illness — not much worse than a bad cold.

To members of this generation, it may be difficult to understand why the current epidemic in the Far East has started alarm bells ringing in public health offices the world over. "The probability of another 1918 is slight," said Dr. Carl C. Dauer, top influenza expert in the U.S. Public Health Service. "But we cannot assume that it is an impossibility."

So far, Dauer emphasized, there is "no indication whatever" that the present outbreak in the Orient will lead to "another 1918."

This year's epidemic, which began in Hong Kong about April 18, afflicted about 1 million persons and caused about 7,000 deaths during its first two months of rapid spread. By the standards of 1918, when 200 million people were stricken in every country of the globe, this is still a "mild" one.

Most of the deaths have occurred among persons already weakened by chronic disease, old age or hunger. The great majority of patients recover after three or four days of fever and general malaise.

Influenza is one of the most highly contagious diseases known. Quarantine has proved ineffective in halting its spread in the past.

With more than 1,000 travelers a day returning to America from the Far East, health officials consider it a foregone conclusion that the "Oriental flu" will reach this country and probably cause some scattered local epidemics this summer.

But there is no likelihood of a major U.S. epidemic before fall. Some experts believe the virus — in the Far East outbreak — a brand new strain will die out before cold weather, others think there will be enough live virus still around this fall to set off a considerable U.S. epidemic.

Why not start a mass vaccination program at once to guard Americans against any chance of a serious flu epidemic this fall or winter?

Vaccine Being Tested
Drug manufacturers have developed an experimental vaccine against the new Hong

Kong strain of virus. It is being tested by the National Institute of Health, and the military may order 4 million doses for servicemen.

But the Public Health Service is holding off a decision on civilian inoculations for several reasons.

—Vaccination against influenza is still in the developmental stage, and no vaccine has yet been perfected which gives sure, long-lasting protection.

—Mass production of influenza vaccine is limited by the availability of fertile chicken eggs, the best growing medium. Summer is the season when fertile eggs are scarcest, and meeting the prospective military order will tie up maximum vaccine production facilities for six to eight weeks. This will give the Public Health Service, and its new influenza advisory committee, time to watch the progress of the Far East epidemic and appraise the pros and cons of a civilian inoculation program in this country.



MUST RESIGN — Canada's Prime Minister Louis Saint Laurent (above) must now resign to allow the formation of a new coalition government. His Liberal Party lost control of the Government for the first time in 22 years in a stunning election upset.

Biologists Study Behavior of Fish Under 'Frustrating' Circumstances

Seattle—Fish, like humans, had been fighting furiously a few minutes previously, were placed under conditions of stress and strain.

This was observed while biologists of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted basic research on sockeye salmon at the fish behavior laboratory of the Pacific Salmon Investigations in Seattle.

One Dominant
Scientists also observed a "King-of-the-Mountain" routine among the salmon in which one became dominant and conquered the others for the choice shelter in a pool.

These sidights on the salmon's nature came about this way: Biologists set up a six foot, three-chambered tank (with connecting chambers at top) with fresh water, brackish water, and salt water. These fish were introduced into the fresh water to see if sockeye salmon smolts were ready for their journey to salt water.

The fish paid no attention to the difference in salinity of the waters, but soon took up residence, one fish to a pool. When two other fish were introduced, the established fish fought violently to guard their homes even to the extent of pulling out scales on the newcomers when they came into their two-foot chambers. The fourth and fifth fish had no place to go and exhibited signs of frustration—flicking of fins, quivering and shaking.

But when the five fish, who

had been fighting furiously a few minutes previously, were placed together in a large unpartitioned pool, they quickly schooled and acted "like long lost friends."

Then a block of wood about one foot square was placed on the water providing a shaded area in the center of the pool. All the fish took for this shelter but shortly one strong salmon was "king" and drove all the other fish away much in the manner of the peck order with one hen established in barnyard flocks of fowl.

The fish driven from the shade of the wood took to the unsheltered corners of the pool and shook all over, according to the biologists. They appeared to be highly excited and agitated. They were paler in color than a normal fish. These characteristics continued as long as there was this condition of stress or replacement.

Pro-Westerners Win Again in Lebanon

Beirut, Lebanon — Lebanon's pro-Western government won a second sweeping victory in Sunday parliamentary elections marred by a family election feud in which 30 persons were killed and dozens wounded.

The shooting took place in the village of Zogharta in north Lebanon. The elections there do not take place until next Sunday, and authorities could find no direct connection with Sunday's voting.

Returns reaching Beirut today from the mountainous area that voted showed government candidates won 19 of the 20 parliamentary seats at stake. A similar victory was won by the government a week ago.

Oregon Winner in Pedestrian Protection

Portland — The Oregon State Motor Association said Monday that the state of Oregon has been awarded a first place in group four of the national AAA Pedestrian Protection contest for 1956.

In winning first place among states of comparable population and traffic density, it scored 63 out of a possible 100 points.



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Around Hollywood

Holly—Elvis Presley was all shook up with gratitude today. Durned if his fans didn't keep MGM Studio from chopping off his famous sideburns and bangs.

MGM figures on giving Elvis a crew cut and shaving off those sideburns because he plays a convict in "Jailhouse Rock," the third movie on the agenda of the Presley steamroll through Hollywood.

But this news caused the biggest crisis in the movie business since Lassie was exposed as a the. Four-thousand post cards and letters from Presley fans poured into MGM, begging that the studio let their hero act with his original hair hanging around his sensual-looking face.

A Fortville, Ind., mother wrote, "We love him at our house. Elvis has had more criticism than anyone but his loyal fans stand by him—don't cut his hair. It's his trademark."

Picketing Threatened
Some fans threatened to picket the picture. A Missoula, Mont., girl wrote that "all of us are sick about the haircut." Letters arrived from the rock n' roll kate club of Fallon, Mo. and the Presley kate fan club of Syracuse, N.Y.

"So now the studio has decided I'll wear a wig, a crew cut wig, for prison scenes," the victorious Presley announced today over lunch.

"Otherwise my hair will look the same, except it was reddened because in black-and-white it photographed like a cap instead of hair."

Elvis was munching on his usual lunch of mashed potatoes, bacon, sliced tomatoes and Coca-Cola, which he says is the nearest thing he can find around here to mama's Madison, Tenn., home cooking. His usual retinue of cousins and friends from Tennessee filled his MGM dressing room.

"I never did want my hair cut," Elvis explained. "I wear long hair and sideburns because some people look better with long hair. I do because my face is long."

"The fans like it long, I guess, because they first saw me that way. And I certainly don't want to do anything they wouldn't like. Because they put me where I am, and if you don't please a fan I'll be back drivin' a truck. They're the people who buy my records and tickets."

Quarter-Million Deal
For "Jailhouse Rock" Elvis sideburns and all, receives \$250,000 plus 50 per cent of the profits—one of the best deals any star has ever made in Hollywood. For "Lovin' You" he was paid only \$15,000 under a deal he made before he became a nationwide controversial idol. Producer Hal Wallis, however, gave him a \$50,000 bonus.

"I feel I'm a little more at ease in this MGM picture," he said. "Acting isn't something you accomplish overnight. It takes many years of experience."

Two Tigard Women Victims of Murderer

Tigard, Ore. — Two women were shot to death here early Sunday by a man who telephoned police afterward and said, "I've killed my two children."

John William Gilmore, 49, reported the shootings to police about 10 a.m. He was booked into Washington county jail in Hillsboro on a murder charge.

The slain women were Mrs. Myrtle Hicks Cooley, 42, and Mrs. Eleanor Peters, 49, both of Tigard. Gilmore had been living at the Peters residence.

State Patrolman Gerald O'Grady said Gilmore, a welder, told him, "I've done it, I've really done it this time." When police arrived at the Peters home, Gilmore admitted them. They found a .45 caliber pistol on the living room davenport, and the bodies of the women in the dinette. There were no signs of a struggle.

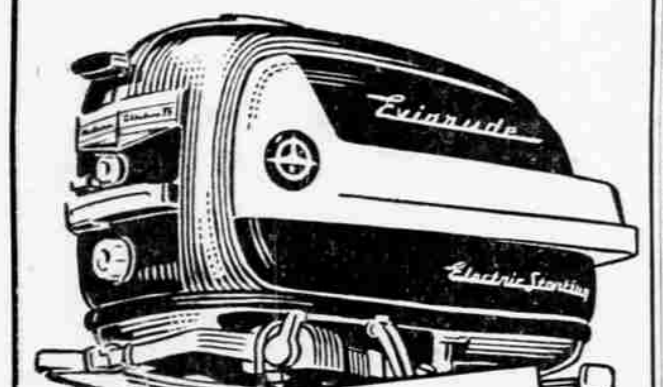
Police said Gilmore told them the women had been nagging him.

Young Republicans Name 61 to 'Hall of Fame'

Washington — The Young Republican organization has elected 61 top Republicans, including Vice President Richard M. Nixon and former Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, to its new "hall of fame."

The 61 were selected on the basis of age and membership in the Young Republicans. They will be officially enrolled in the "hall of fame" during the Young Republicans national convention next Wednesday through Saturday.

Others elected include Senate GOP Leader William F. Knowland (Calif.).



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