

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



The Medical Roundup

by Walter Alvarez

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CATARACTS

Many old persons, or their relatives, ask me what will happen if they have their cataracts operated on. Usually, first, they ask if there is any medicine that they can take to dissolve the opacities. Some have heard of a quack who says his medicine will do the trick. But I am sure there is no such medicine, and I always tell people not to waste their time trying drugs. Fortunately, the operation is not at all dangerous to life. It is performed under local anesthesia so that it won't hurt at all. A skillful ophthalmologist (eye doctor) can perform it in a matter of minutes.

With a delicate knife he makes a cut in the upper half of the cornea (window of the eye) and through this cut he squeezes out the opaque lens. If it comes out clearly, if there is no complication, and if the seeing part of the eye (retina) is normal, the person later should have good vision. I have known men and women who, after the removal of cataracts had better vision than I have. After the cataract is removed, usually a big thick glass lens is worn. This takes over the function of the lens that was removed. Today, a few people are using a contact lens which is not visible.

Many persons ask when they should have their cataracts out. Obviously, this decision must be left up to their ophthalmologist. Sometimes the doctor has to wait until a soft cataract has become hard enough for removal. Incidentally, I am assuming that everyone knows that a cataract is the lens in the eye which has become frosted and opaque so that the person cannot see through it.

Against Operating

Many persons who have a cataract in only one eye and have good vision in the other ask if they should go ahead and have the bad eye operated on. I have asked a number of the best ophthalmologists in the United States about this and they have all told me that they are against operating in these cases because, so commonly afterwards, the two eyes cannot be used comfortably together. Several people have written to tell me that they could get by by using a contact lens on the eye that was operated on, but I have in my files a lot of letters from people who said that, after having the one bad eye operated on, they were very sorry. Now, in order to read, they have to wear an opaque cover over the eye that was operated on. They just can't use the two eyes together the images that reach the brain from the two eyes are of such different sizes that they cannot be fused.

If an old person has bad cataracts in both eyes, and if he wants only enough vision so that he can read a bit and move about his house or go for a walk, he can have only one of the eyes operated on. But if he uses his eyes a great deal, he will do well to have both cataracts removed.

Loss of Smell and Taste
Some elderly persons want to know why, suddenly, they lost much of their sense of smell and, with this, much of their sense of taste. Usually, on talking to them, I suspect that what they had was what I call a small stroke. A little blood vessel supplying part of the smelling-area of the brain plugged up, much as a small artery plugs up in the heart of a man who has what is called coronary heart disease. Naturally, if this is what happened, there isn't much that anyone can hope to do with any medicine. The area of brain de-

stroyed will not grow again. Fortunately, in some cases, after a while the sense of smell returns, probably because other parts of the brain have taken over the work of the area that was injured.

I have seen a few cases in which the sense of smell went when the patient had a mild depression. Later, when he was cheerful again the sense of smell returned.

For Some Diseases There Is As Yet No Treatment

Whenever I admit in this column that there is no known treatment for some disease, such as most types of feeble-mindedness in children, a number of unhappy mothers of such children write to scold me bitterly. They say this is no way to talk, and, so far as they are concerned, they are going to keep traveling about the country spending every cent of the family's savings, trying to find some physician or some quack who knows the cure. I would love to give these mothers the hope they demand but, first, I must be honest.

I was pleased recently when in the book, "Your Child and Mine," (Harper's New York), an expert on the treatment of such children, I found him saying that one of the most unkind things we doctors do is to keep telling mothers of children with a bad injury to the brain to go on hoping and searching for a cure, when we know that no one can hope to rebuild that brain.

Dr. Alvarez hopes his readers will understand that it would be impossible for him to answer requests for information or to attempt to diagnose by mail.
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INDIAN EXPERT DIES

Randolph, Vt. — Dr. Charles Russell, 64, educator and expert on Indian affairs, died Sunday after a brief illness.

AVON PRESIDENT DIES

Los Angeles — Joseph Meyers, 59, president of Avon Publications, New York, died Saturday while visiting here.

Court Records

DISTRICT COURT
Darrell Foster Wallace, failing to dim lights, \$10.
Thomas Elder Deckhard, overload (twice), \$125, \$50.
Billie L. Green, no operator's license, \$10, bail.
Neal William Roberts, inadequate muffler, \$5.
Frank Andrew Benson, failure to stop at red light, \$10.
Donald D. James, shooting from public highway, \$30.
Loma Louise Bishop, failure to obey traffic control signal, \$10.
Bernard Emil Andrew, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10.
Donald Dean Goyette, one license plate, \$5.

CIRCUIT COURT
Alice Marie Butler vs. Barton Ballard Butler, divorce complaint.
Clair Margaret Fogel vs. Edward Joseph Fogel, divorce complaint.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
Robert Clyde Lake, 430 North Grape st., and Sheila Rae Thompson, 4850 South Pacific highway, Medford.

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Exposure Blamed In Death of Child

Ventura, Calif. — A seven-year-old girl, lost overnight in the freezing and snowy weather in Los Padres National Forest, was found dead Sunday in extremely rugged terrain.

Sheriff's deputies said the girl, little Jill Hatch, apparently had died of exposure sometime early Sunday. Her body was found nearly 28 hours after she wandered away from the fishing camp of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Hatch of Santa Barbara, Calif.

The girl, wearing only light clothing, disappeared in the Reyes Creek area, about 50 miles north of here off state Highway 399. She had been the object of a huge search by 400 men, aided by airplanes and bloodhounds. The frantic hunt was conducted by Air Force and Navy personnel, forest rangers, deputies and volunteers.

Bertram knew to handle it properly, they should take up the problem with their clergyman. He will be able to suggest some good books on the subject. There is absolutely no excuse for frightening the children.

Mrs. N. M. ought to realize there is really nothing modern or newfangled about this view. In earlier days children learned the facts of life by observing animals. The children, cut off from nature and brought up on lies and fantasies, needs to be straightened out.

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Ike, Nixon To Meet Republican Leaders For Policy Review

Washington — President Eisenhower and Vice President Richard M. Nixon will get together with other Republican leaders for a high-level GOP policy review next month.

The meeting was called at the same time that there were reports the President has come under considerable pressure to adopt a more conservative legislative program next year.

Informants said some influential Congressional Republicans have warned him he will get less cooperation from GOP congressmen unless he does so.

Meeting Called By Alcorn
Republican National Chairman Meade Alcorn announced Sunday night he has called a meeting here of the Republican National committee for Dec. 6. The 72-member executive committee will hold a session the day before.

The leaders probably will assess, among other things, the political impact of Russia's recent satellite-missile triumphs, the Little Rock, Ark., integration dispute, the state of the nation's economic health and the rise in living costs.

Alcorn said the main purpose of the meetings will be to obtain "a frank appraisal of the status of the Republican party and its organization."

Eisenhower also will meet

with GOP congressional leaders at the White House in December to discuss his 1958 legislative plans. GOP sources said some Republican leaders will make a strong protest at the meeting unless the President takes a more conservative tack.

Eisenhower is being urged, informants said, to hold his budget below last year's \$71,800,000,000 spending proposals, to curtail new federal spending programs and to drop his federal aid school program.

Alcorn said Eisenhower was invited to confer off the record with national committee members at a Dec. 6 breakfast session "and he has enthusiastically accepted." He said Nixon will meet with committeemen at a luncheon the same day.

NEW BORN VOLCANO

Horta, Faial Island, Azores — A new islet was rising from the surface of the sea today amidst volcanic explosions—less than a week after another disappeared. The Faial underwater volcano has gone into renewed activity and has hurled ash and molten rock high into the air. In nearly a month of earlier activity, the volcano built a new islet which last week sank into the sea and disappeared.

There are about 21 million bicycle riders in the U.S.

SUBCONSCIOUS URGE

Chicago — Arrested for selling part of a 30,000-pound shipment of watermelons he was transporting from Henderson, Texas, to St. Louis, Mo., Chicago truck driver James O. Clark, 40, told police "I hate watermelons."

About 60 per cent of the earth's crust is made of silica.

SWEDEN BUILD MISSILE

Stockholm, Sweden — Sweden has built a guided missile which is being tested by two destroyers, it was announced today. The missile is fired by a rocket and powered by a jet engine, and can hit a target in any kind of weather, the announcement said.

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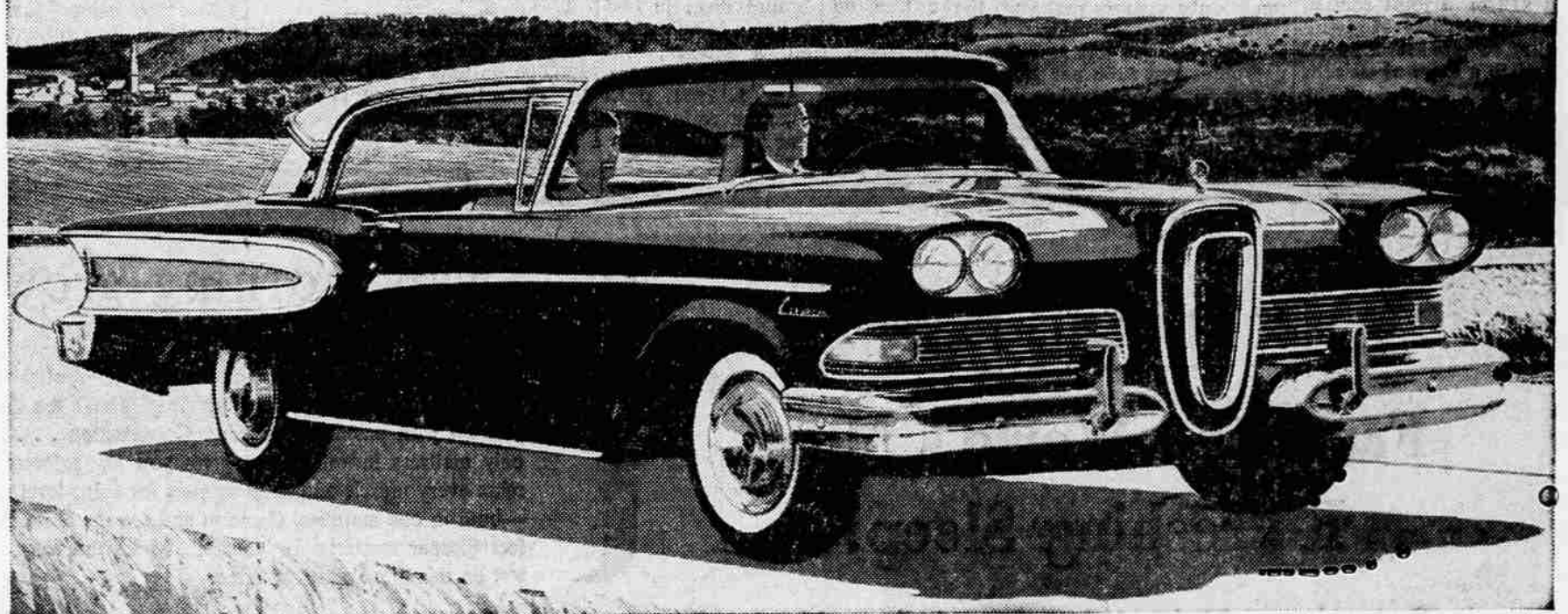
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