

Father Returned From Hiding Prays For Little Girl

Washington—**U**—Feeling "like a heel," Robert Back-the conviction of Dorothy over, 28, prayed Wednesday his return from a fugitive hideout might help his leukemia-stricken little daughter.

The father said "Maybe there is a chance" Paula Ann, 6, whom he traded his liberty to see, will recover from the usually fatal disease, cancer of the blood.

Cheered by her father's surprise appearance at her bedside, Paula Ann was to leave the hospital and go home for a while. She will have to make return visits for blood transfusions and other treatment. Doctors have given her up to six months to live.

Emotional Reunion
Backover held an emotion-choked reunion with his daughter for two hours Tuesday after stepping off a train from California. Then he surrendered on a grand larceny charge that he fled with \$2,300 from a Hyattsville, Md., bowling alley where he was assistant manager.

After his release on \$2,000 bond a few hours later, Backover learned that the insurance company which had repaid the stolen funds will ask authorities to drop the charges if he makes restitution.

When the stocky, handsome man fled two weeks before Christmas he did not know his little girl had contracted leukemia. His parents appealed for his return through the press because Paula Ann insisted she would "get better if daddy came home."

Higher Premiums Set for Policies

World War II veterans numbering 3,300,000, who still have not converted GI term policies to permanent plans, will pay higher premiums and receive generally lower dividends every five years they renew their policies in the future, S. T. Brannock, officer in charge of the Medford VA office, said today.

Brannock pointed out this widening spread between premium costs and dividend returns will result in a sharply higher net cost to the term policy — holders with each five-year renewal.

"For that reason," said Brannock, "World War II veterans with five-year term policies should seriously consider converting to permanent plans of GI insurance with a non-changing premium rate and with only slight variations in dividend rates."

In addition to the almost stationary net cost of permanent GI insurance plans, Brannock said, the policies have certain values which term policies do not have, such as cash surrender value, loan value, extended insurance value, and paid-up value. He said a term policy by contrast merely insures against death for only as long as premiums are timely paid.

Pharmacy Students Scheduled Tour

Corvallis—Lee Aden Spencer of Medford will be one of 69 Oregon State college pharmacy students who will make a special 10-day tour of mid-western drug manufacturing plants, Feb. 28 to Mar. 10.

The tours are arranged every other year by the college's pharmacy school to give juniors and seniors an opportunity to study manufacturing procedures and problems.

The group will travel by train and visit Abbott Laboratories, Chicago; Parke-Davis, Detroit; and Eli Lilly company, Indianapolis, Ind. The three firms have planned special educational tours, demonstrations and question-and-answer periods for the students along with special entertainment in the various cities.

Spencer is in his fifth year of the five-year pharmacy school. A 1950 graduate of Medford High school, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Spencer of 829 West Second st.

Four Persons Injured In Fire at Roseburg

Roseburg—**U**—Four persons were treated in a local hospital and released Wednesday after they suffered minor injuries in a house fire about 8 a.m.

Fire destroyed the home and all belongings of the Robert Bitner home. Mrs. Shirley Bitner, 23, her two children, Karen, 1, and Debra, 3, and two-year-old Stieve Westcott, escaped the flames but were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Controversy Over Fluoridation of Water Supply Mystery To Researcher

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press Correspondent

Washington—**U**—The head of the government's Dental Research Institute said today it is a mystery to him why the value of fluoridating public water supplies should still be a controversial question in hundreds of American communities.

"Continuing scientific studies have demonstrated beyond the shadow of any reasonable doubt that fluoridation is a completely safe, inexpensive and very effective method of preventing tooth decay," Dr. F. A. Arnold Jr. said in an interview.

"I know of no other public health measure which is backed up by such an overwhelming body of proof."

According to the U.S. Public Health Service, 1,556 cities and towns now have water fluoridation programs. Their combined population is 32,739,856. In addition, there are 1,903 communities, mostly small towns, whose water supply contains natural fluoride.

These have a combined population of about 7,000,000. Thus about one quarter of the U.S. population is drinking fluoridated water.

The number of communities adding fluoride to public water has risen steadily. It was 709 at the start of 1953, and 1,487 a year ago. The list includes Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, San Francisco, St. Louis and Buffalo.

New York City's Board of Estimate is currently considering a fluoridation proposal. In New York and elsewhere, proposals to fluoridate municipal water supplies have run into strong public opposition.

At least 70 communities, including Akron, Ohio, and San Diego, Calif., have abandoned fluoridation programs after they were launched. And scores of others, including Portland, Ore., Cincinnati, Ohio, Seattle, Wash., Syracuse, N.Y., Fort Worth, Tex., and Hartford, Conn., have rejected fluoridation.

Opponents of fluoridation have advanced a wide variety of arguments, ranging from the claim that it is a Communist plot to soften the brains of American citizens to the rumor (circulated widely in Boston) that it is a birth control measure. The most common battle cry, raised in New York and dozens of other cities, is that fluoridated water is "poisonous."

The National Institute of Dental Research Service. It has investigated both the beneficial effects and all of the alleged harmful effects of fluoridation.

"This is not a matter on which we have to make carefully hedged, qualified statements," Arnold said. "Every scintilla of evidence points the same way."

"We know without question that fluoride in a water supply, at the recommended rate of one part per million, is absolutely safe and does not produce any undesirable systematic effects in human beings."

Oregon Farmers Said Getting Higher Prices

Corvallis—**U**—An Oregon State college economist reported Wednesday that Oregon farmers started the new year with prices at the highest level since last April.

Mrs. Elvera Horrell reported that prices received by Oregon farmers rose nearly two per cent from mid-December to mid-January and now stand at the same level as a year ago.

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Moreover, Arnold said the "margin of safety" is tremendous. Even if you should drink water containing many times as much fluoride as the recommended level, you would not be exposed to anything worse than a mottling of the enamel on your teeth.

The beneficial effects of fluoridation, Arnold said, have been just as thoroughly established. Of the many controlled tests that have been conducted, the most famous is the Grand Rapids, Mich., experiment, now in its 12th year. Regular dental examinations of Grand Rapids school children show that tooth decay has a dropped about 60 per cent since water fluoridation was begun.

Oregon State Research Dentists Study Fluoride

Corvallis—Fluoride in community water supplies reduces tooth decay in teenagers as much as 55 per cent, according to a five-state study conducted by an Oregon State college research dentist.

Dental studies were made on 2,068 boys and girls, ages 14, 15 and 16, who were born and raised in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah and Montana. They revealed that one part per million of fluoride in municipal water supplies reduces teenager tooth decay by as much as half. Teeth of the fluoride treated group were compared to teeth of youth born and raised in similar communities where water did not contain any fluorides.

Causes Studied
In the study summarized by Dr. Gertrude Tank, OSC research dentist, possible causes of tooth decay were studied. They included climate and geographic location, the water supplies—hardness and amount of fluoride present—and the nutrition of the children.

According to Dr. Tank, more than 99 per cent of the teenagers studied in the five western states had or now have decayed teeth. Oregonians spend more than \$12 million a year for dental care, she said, but only 10 per cent of the children get adequate dental care. The less spent on the teeth in childhood, the higher the cost for it in adult life, she said.

In addition to fluoridation of water supplies, she recommended these rules of health for children: a well-balanced diet, restriction of sweets, proper use of toothbrush after eating, early and frequent visits to the dentist, and prevention and correction of irregularities of the teeth.

Children can be given some protection by direct application of fluoride compounds to their teeth by dentists, Arnold said.

Institute studies show that a series of four applications—preferably at the ages of 3, 7, 10 and 13—will reduce tooth decay about 40 per cent.

What about toothpastes? "There are some studies which indicate that at least one type of fluoride may have some promise as an additive to toothpaste," Arnold said. "But final evaluation of the effectiveness of fluoride toothpastes must await further clinical trial."

Clackamas Court Decision Reversed In Narcotic Case

Salem—**U**—The Oregon Supreme Court has reversed the conviction of Dorothy Margaret Powell, Clackamas county, who was charged with attempting to obtain a narcotic drug by use of a false name and address.

She was convicted under the provisions of a felony statute and sentenced to the penitentiary for three years. The court said that the crime arises under the felony statute when use of a false name or address is a factor in obtaining the drug.

No Reliance Given
But the court noted that in this case the doctor put no reliance in the name or address given by the defendant but relied solely on her representations of her physical condition and his own examination.

Thus, the court said, the false name and address were immaterial.

The court said there was "conclusive" evidence that the defendant had violated a misdemeanor statute by using a false name and so directed the Clackamas county Circuit Court to resent the defendant on the lesser charge. Penalty under the misdemeanor statutes is a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year, or both.

Berkeley, Calif.—**U**—Dr. Warren J. Kaufman of the University of California believes it may be possible to dump lethal radioactive wastes so deep in the ground they will not even contaminate the water supply.

He proposes to inject the wastes into deep fossil formations far below the level of useful ground water. These formations may be more permanent containers than any man could construct himself, Kaufman said.

Radioactive Waste Burial Proposed

Present methods of storing radioactive wastes require heavy shielding, an expensive technique increasing the cost of atomic energy.

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