

Leukemia Most Frequent Killer of Children; No Longer Swiftly Fatal

Editor's note: This is the last of five dispatches in which a leading cancer expert tells Americans what they can and should do to guard themselves and their families against the killing disease.

By DR. EUGENE P. PENDERGRASS
President of the American Cancer Society
(Written for UPI)

Nobody can observe a child cancer patient without emotional involvement. It is life's most harrowing experience for the parents. And one of deep concern for those who try to help the child; of painful frustration when they cannot save a life just beginning.

So what I have to tell you about the cancers of childhood will be disturbing. But it should not be alarming. Know, for your immediate

Double-Barrel Technique Treats Breast Cancer

Hot Springs, Va. (Science Service)—A double-barrel surgical-radiation technique has been developed for treating breast cancer.

Drs. Richard D. Brasfield and Ulrich K. Henschke, both of New York City, reported at the American Radiology Society meeting here today.

After a radical mastectomy (surgical removal of the breast), an incision is made between two ribs exposing one of the major arteries leading to the breast. The artery is tied off, a slit is cut into it, and a small nylon tube is inserted. The open end of the tube is brought out through the skin.

When the patient is back in her room, a wire made of a radio-active isotope (iridium-192 or cobalt-60) is slipped into the tube and left there until the required radiation dose is reached. The radiation kills cancers that have spread to the lymph nodes along the arteries.

Registrations Open For YMCA Day Camp

Registrations for 1959 YMCA Day Camp have started for boys 7, 8, 9 and 10.

YMCA Day Camp is an adventure program. Boys will leave the YMCA at 9 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. The Day Camp site is on the Apple-gate river near McKee bridge.

This year's Day Camp will operate for a two-week period. Period 1 is set for June 15 to June 20. Period 2 is June 22 to June 27.

A trained leader is provided for every eight boys in Day Camp. Swimming, archery, riflery, boating, camp-craft, handicraft, sports and special events are featured. Campfires one evening each period feature programs for the entire family with skits, stunts and songs.

Registrations can be made at the YMCA.

comfort, that cancer strikes only one in 7,000 children. But now, too, that it kills more children between the ages of 1 and 15 than any other disease.

Half of the 4,000 yearly child cancer deaths are caused by leukemia, cancer of the blood-forming system. Leukemia is no longer as swiftly fatal as it used to be; and many scientists believe this currently "hopeless" cancer may be the most hopeful area for the long awaited "break-through" to the control of many cancers.

Highly Malignant

In the rare event of cancer striking your child, what do you need to know to ensure the best chance of cure?

First, that the cancers of childhood are highly malignant. It is generally true that the younger the patient the more rapid the tumor growth. So delay in diagnosis and treatment, always dangerous in cancer, is even more perilous for the young.

Nine out of ten cancers found in children arise in the supporting tissues; we call them sarcomas. In adults, the common cancers occur in the covering and lining tissues; they are called carcinomas.

Sarcoma of the bone occurs most often between the ages of 5 and 25. The preferred sites are: just above or below the knee joint, the thigh bone, the upper half of the arm, and the pelvis bone. Pain is an early symptom, more troublesome at night. It can be relieved by exercise, or so aggravated that the patient favors an arm or leg.

Confirmation of Biopsy

Diagnosis of a bone tumor is usually made by x-ray pictures. But the drastic treatment required to save life from such a cancer is never undertaken without the confirmation of a biopsy.

The treatment is amputation. Let us say it bluntly, for there is no way around it. It is a bitter decision for parents to make. But when the alternative is a limb or life, is there room for hesitation?

We come now to retinal glioma, an eye-tumor that has a high potentiality of cure. It rarely occurs after the age of four, and only occasionally involves both eyes. A widening of the pupil or a squint may be the first sign, pos-

Dr. Stevenson Listed As Liaison Officer

Ashland-Oregon's state liaison representative to the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, is listed in the organization's spring bulletin as Dr. Elmo N. Stevenson, Southern Oregon college president.

For Washington, the bulletin lists Zeno B. Katterle, school of education, State College of Washington, Pullman. The other coastal state representative is John T. Wahlquist, president of San Jose state college, California.

Dr. Stevenson's term will expire Dec. 31 this year, it was said.

sibly followed by a pearly glint or what is called "cat's eye."

Early diagnosis can save not only life but sight. The tumor is usually treated with x-rays, and care is taken not to pass the rays through the lens of the eye, in order to avoid blinding. If not detected early enough, the eye may be removed and still achieve a cure.

Symptoms of a brain tumor vary, depending on distance from vital nerve centers. In a general way any disturbance of vision, motion, the digestive tract or the personality, calls for a precautionary visit to your physician. Blurred vision or "seeing double" may simply mean a need for glasses. A tendency to stagger or drop things may be totally unrelated to brain tumor, but let the doctor decide.

Then there is "Wilms' Tumor," named for the doctor who first described this cancer of the kidney which rarely occurs after the age of seven. An early sign is a swelling in the abdomen or flank; or a mother bathing her child may feel a firm mass before the tumor becomes visible; or the child may complain of pain or become colicky.

Chances Good

Children with Wilms' Tumor are treated with surgery combined with x-rays, and chances of recovery are very good indeed.

I wish we could be as hopeful of leukemia. But the picture is not without hope for the parents of a leukemic child.

Just a dozen years ago the disease was fatal in a few weeks or months. And then Dr. Sidney Farber, eminent Boston scientist dedicated to the defeat of cancer in children, heard of a drug that had

been used effectively on mouse leukemia. It was called aminopterin and Dr. Farber used it on one of the children in his clinic. The child's life was prolonged by several months.

One small patient lived for eight years, a normal happy life without clinical symptoms of disease—till the leukemia resisted therapy with drugs, and they stopped working.

One day drugs will be found that won't stop working. The children with leukemia will live to grow up. And that day may come at any time.

I ask the parents of every child with leukemia to hold that thought in their hearts.

Company Honored By Humane Society

The Southern Oregon Humane Society, 2902 Table Rock rd., has joined with similar organizations throughout the United States in honoring the Hormel company of Austin, Minn., as the first packinghouse with nationwide distribution to receive the American Humane association's seal of approval for humane processing of all major food animals.

The American Humane association is a federation of 507 humane groups including the Southern Oregon Humane society. Its seal of approval is awarded to packers that meet rigid standards in handling, stunning and slaughtering of livestock. Hormel processes 4,000,000 head of livestock each year.

The term "blackball" stems from ancient Greece, where white or black balls were dropped into an urn, in voting for or against.

Populaires Plan Entertainment

Ashland—"An Evening With The Populaires," the second annual evening of entertainment by the Southern Oregon college Populaires singing group, will be presented in Churchill hall auditorium, April 27 and 28, at 8:15 p.m.

According to Louis O. Clayson, director, the show will include various musical numbers correlated with lighting and choreography to enhance the program. Special lighting effects are handled by Peter Lungreen, with Pat Leek and David Deller assisting with the choreography.

Built around the 14 voices of the Populaires and spiced by numbers from the male quartet, male ensemble, girls ensemble, soloists, and top flight musical accompaniments, the program will include a Broadway revue, a Minstrel show, and scenes depicting opera and folk music.

The program is a benefit, Clayson announced, with proceeds being used for the purchase of the new mens' dress coats for the coming Populaires' tour during which the organization will visit many Oregon high schools.

Tickets may be purchased from members of the Populaires; The Mart, Ashland; the Student Affairs office at SOC; and Puruckers, Medford.

Entire communities in the southern provinces of Spain live in natural caves under the ground. Their homes will range from single rooms to as many as 20 chambers with tiled floors and whitewashed walls.

Barbara Ann Burns Starts Jail Term

Los Angeles (UPI)—Barbara Ann Burns, 21, daughter of the late comedian Bob (Bazooka) Burns, began a 90-day jail term Thursday on narcotics addiction, four months late.

Miss Burns was convicted last June of the misdemeanor and ordered to begin her jail term last Dec. 5.

"I was so scared to come back," she said in Municipal court Thursday after she surrendered. "But I'm tired of running and I want to clear up this trouble."

The lanky brunette said she fled to New York and returned here about three weeks ago. She was arrested Jan. 8, 1958, in a Hollywood apartment and told officers she was addicted to heroin.

Fly-Tying Classes Each Friday at YMCA

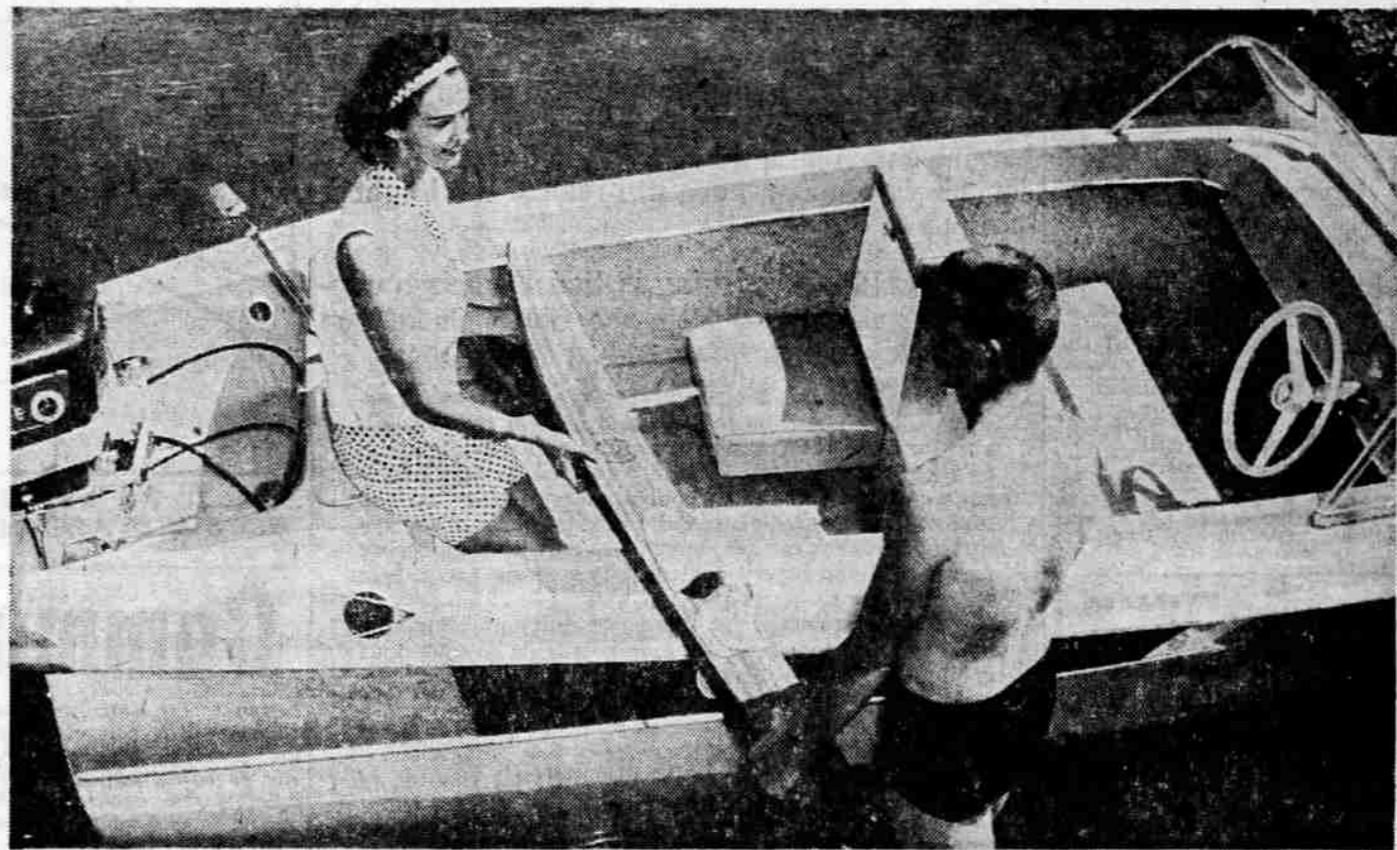
For those who like to make their own fly rod tasty bugs for fishing, Jack Crump, a local professional fly-tying expert, is teaching a class each Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the YMCA Craft room.

Boys over 12 and their dads who are interested may still sign up or attend tonight's session.

ASKS BOOK CHANGES

New York (UPI)—Publishers of textbooks were asked Wednesday by New York City's Board of Superintendents to include non-whites in book illustrations to insure authenticity in representations of the contemporary social scene in view of the city's large and varied student population.

materials—vises and materials needed will be on hand.



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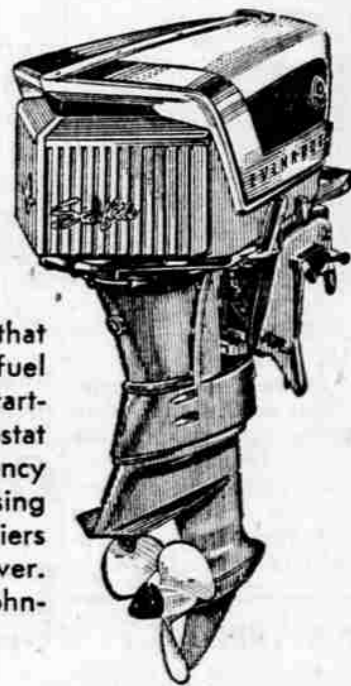


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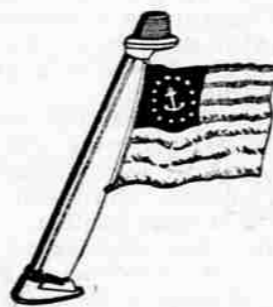
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