

Bone Cancer Rhythm Noted

London (Science Service) — There is a season for bone cancer. A study of bone sarcomas or tumors in some 74 persons indicates there is a seasonal rhythm in the onset of symptoms. There were more tumors during the months June through November than for December through May, a researcher reports here in the British scientific journal "Nature."

Dr. C. H. G. Price of the University of Bristol says that patients under 30 years of age with tumors of the long bones were asked when they first complained of any "definite symptom" directly related to their bone tumor. About nine cases a month had bone pain, or pain and local swelling, first apparent in the summer and fall; the winter and spring averaged about three cases a month. These differences do not appear in persons older than 30 years of age, Dr. Price pointed out.

This "summer incidence" in bone tumors appears about three months after the spring peak in bone growth. Possibly there is a "biological linkage" between the spring growth and the subsequent appearance of bone tumors, the British scientist suggests.

About 73 per cent of all American families own at least one automobile.

Scientists Seek to Harness H-Bomb For Industrial Use

Washington — American scientists have scheduled three experiments during the next two years to harness the hydrogen bomb for industrial use.

By setting off nuclear explosives deep in the earth they hope to:

Produce a vast underground reservoir of power and heat and large amounts of man-made isotopes in giant salt domes in southern New Mexico.

Carve out a new harbor near Cape Thompson in northwestern Alaska.

Unlock huge amounts of oil from shale formations in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

The salt-bed shot is currently scheduled for July, 1960. The Alaskan harbor shot probably will be set off in the spring of 1961, and the shale shot sometime after that date.

The experiments are a part of the program known as Project Plovershare started by the Atomic Energy commission in April, 1958. It is in line with the administration's policy to develop peaceful uses for atomic energy. These three experiments are moving out of the planning, survey and investigation stage into the experimental stage.

Great Projects Envisioned

But the scientists have a number of interesting proposals in the "talk stage." Through the use of underground nuclear explosives

they believe the huge fields of Athabasca tar sands in Alberta, Canada, can be heated and the oil drained off; that secondary recovery can be made of oil in this country by blasting underground petroleum pools inaccessible at the present time; that low-grade and inaccessible mineral deposits can be successfully mined through leaching; that fresh water can be created out of salt water, and that huge underground storage reservoirs of water and large dams and canals can be built — even a second canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

Laymen also have come up with ideas for Plovershare projects. A woman recently urged AEC to use the H-bomb to kill all their snakes in Africa.

Her idea was, of course, far-fetched. But Congress has the same opinion of many of the Plovershare proposals. Sen. Dennis Chavez (D-N.M.) and Sen. Gordon Allott (R-Colo.) have called some of them "pipe dreams." The House Appropriations committee recently questioned the "urgency" of making a crash program out of Plovershare on the basis of the ideas presented to the committee.

Much Opposition

Industry has shown little interest in the program. AEC Chairman John A. McCone has noted that "we have not got a customer for the (Alaskan) harbor." AEC also has

no customer for the power it hopes to generate in the southern New Mexico salt beds. No oil or chemical company has come forward to finance half of the \$2.6 million shale shot, although the government solicited such private financing in letters to 70 companies on Feb. 18. The government has now scaled down its hopes to a \$500,000 industry contribution.

Local citizens who live near the proposed test have expressed concern about danger from radiation or to property in the vicinity of the test sites. This concern has been reflected in a general wait-and-see attitude about the shots on the part of their Congressional delegations.

AEC has sought to dispel these fears. AEC has tied the entire Plovershare program to underground experiments.

Scientists claim that on the basis of the Rainier shot which took place in Nevada in 1957, they have proved that underground nuclear blasts cause little shock in the site area, and virtually no radiation or contamination.

AEC Chairman McCone has stated repeatedly that the commissioners have not yet finally approved any Plovershare experiment. Furthermore, none will be approved, he said, that would endanger human or animal life, vegetation or the land area around the site of the shots.

Chairman Clinton P. Anderson (D-N.M.) of the Joint Atomic Energy committee and Sen. E. L. Bartlett (D-Alaska) are in favor of going ahead. Anderson recently listed the Plovershare program as one which should definitely be included in AEC's "long-range" planning. He told Congressional Quarterly on Aug. 19 would come up with some valuable industrial uses for nuclear explosives under Plovershare. He said he subscribed to the old theory of "nothing ventured, nothing gained."

Sees Aid to Alaska

Bartlett is enthusiastic about the prospects for scientific advances under the Alaskan harbor experiment. "I believe it has terrific possibilities in the field of foreign relationships in demonstrating that this mighty force can be used for the good of mankind," he said. The exhaustive surveys now being made in the Cape Thompson area preparatory to the tests will also benefit Alaska greatly, he said. If the test proves out, he added, perhaps a waterway could be blasted across the Alaskan peninsula, providing an inland waterway from southeastern Alaska to the Bering sea. "I am thrilled, no less, by its possibilities," he said.

AEC has been marking time with Plovershare experiments because of the current U. S. ban on nuclear weapons testing. The three nuclear powers, the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union, have been discussing a permanent nuclear weapons test suspension by treaty at a Geneva conference since last Oct. 31. (Copyright 1959, Congressional Quarterly, Inc.)

Albany Man Dies In Head-On Crash

Albany — (UPI) — William Herbert Cade, 34, of Albany, died Wednesday afternoon in a head-on collision on Highway 20, about one-quarter mile west of Albany.

The driver of the other car, Mrs. Katherine Callahan, of Mesa, Wash., was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis, where her injuries were reported not serious.

State police said Mrs. Callahan was traveling west toward Corvallis to visit relatives, and Cade was coming toward Albany when the cars collided at 12:30 p.m.

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Unions to Aid Steel Workers

Washington — (UPI) — Leaders of seven million labor union members Wednesday authorized payment of one million dollars to support striking steel workers.

Walter Reuther, speaking for 68 unions voting the payment, said, "We consider the steel strike a strike of the entire labor movement."

The payment was authorized at a meeting of the executive board of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union department.

Reuther told a news conference that plans are being worked out for additional contributions by individual unions and by union members.

Fluoridated Water

Washington — (UPI) — The Public Health service reports that one person in three using central water now gets fluorides with the water.

The fluoride found naturally in water is identical in its effect to fluoride used in controlled fluoridation, said Dr. John W. Knutson, Chief Dental Officer, PHS.

Oregon Cattlemen To Get Certificate

Salem — (UPI) — Ervin L. Peterson, assistant U. S. secretary of agriculture, will address members of the Oregon cattle industry at the Oregon state fair here Sept. 11.

The address will be the featured event of the celebration by the cattlemen of attaining certified status as brucellosis-free. Only 19 other states have achieved this goal.

Peterson, former Oregon agriculture director, will present the formal certificate of achievement to Gov. Mark Hatfield. To attain the certified status each county in the state had to have less than one per cent of its cows and five per cent of its herds free from brucellosis.

The fair management has proclaimed the day as stockmen's day.

Americans spent about two billion dollars on foreign travel in 1958 approximately one third of it for transportation, reports the National Industrial Conference Board.

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