

**SURPLUS IS EXPENSIVE**

New York—(UPI)—Uncle Sam is spending \$1,500,000 a day just to store the surplus grain that keeps piling higher in the nation's storage bins. The U.S. already has more than \$9 billion invested in price-supported farm products, and the cost is climbing at the rate of some \$3 billion annually, according to the Committee for Constitutional Government.

**Five Accidents Reported to City Police in Two Days**

Five traffic accidents in Medford were reported to city police Thursday and Friday. There were no injuries, city police said. Police said two cars were considerably damaged in an accident on East Main st. between Hawthorne ave. and Tripp st., about 9:45 a.m. Thursday. June Jeanette John-

son, Talent, was cited for failure to yield the right of way after she made a left turn in front of a car operated by Wayne Heuston Safley, 2111 Hillcrest dr., police said. An accident at 12:15 p.m. Thursday on North Riverside ave. between Fourth and Fifth sts., involved cars operated by Edna May Harmon,

509 West Jackson st., and Robert Henry Johnson, Trail, according to city police. No citations were issued. Driver Cited. Frances Anne Scannell, route 1, box 35, Medford, was cited by city police for failure to yield the right of way after the vehicle she was driving was involved in an accident with a car driven by Beatrice Edna Beck, 4218 South Pacific highway, Thursday afternoon at Third and Front sts. City police said a car driven by Duke Miles Guile, 1945 West Main st., was struck by a car operated by Donna Lee McCall, 525 Boardman st., as he was pulling out of a parking place at Riverside ave. between Alice and Liberty sts., Thursday evening. No citations were issued.

Citations were issued to Mable Cupp Matney, Gold Hill, for following too close, and James Nichols, 5974 Harris rd., for failure to obtain an Oregon driver's license, after their cars collided at Sixth st. and Central ave. about 7:45 p.m. Friday, according to city police.

**49 Flu Cases Are Reported in County**

Forty-nine of the 83 communicable disease cases reported in Jackson county this week were influenza cases, Dr. C. I. Drummond, public health physician said today. Thirty-four influenza cases were reported in Medford during the week, with five in Ashland and Rogue River, three in Evans Valley and two in Jacksonville.

Other communicable disease cases reported this week include German measles, Medford 2, Jacksonville and Shady Cove 1 each; scarlet fever, Ashland 2; pneumonia, Medford 4, Ashland 1; whooping cough, Ashland 7; measles, Medford 1; strep throat, Ashland 2, Medford 1; chicken pox, Ashland 9, Rogue River 1; and mumps, Evans Valley and Medford 1 each.

Salem—(UPI)—Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton is of the opinion that the State Emergency board may allocate funds to reimburse circuit judges for 1957-59 travel expenses.

**The Medical Roundup**

by *Walter Alvarez*  
Emeritus Consultant in Medicine, Mayo Clinic  
Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic

**Some Difficult Medico-Legal Problems**

Many years ago, when I was starting out in practice, a nice, able woman taught me much. After a minor auto accident, which didn't much bother the people who were with her in the car, she got a back ache and sued for compensation. She took to her bed and stayed there for over a year.

All but one of the many ex-

perts who examined her and x-rayed her agreed that nothing wrong could be found to explain her distress. Great confusion was then caused by a man who thought he could see a crack in one of her pelvic bones. With this opinion to back her up, the woman refused to accept the settlement offered her, and demanded more money.

Because she was quite without funds, from the first, all her expenses had been borne by her (moderate income) family. I was impressed by such facts as that the accident had been a minor one; that I could not find any sign of an injury, and she had shown no improvement in 14 months.

One sad feature about a case like hers is that, after a year of illness, if a doctor were to suggest that the symptoms were all due to anxiety, the woman's reaction would be one of great anger; all she would do would be to order the doctor out of her room.

**Went Back To Work**

In this case I advised the family to tell the woman what was true, that they were broke, and could no longer go on paying her many bills. With this, she got up out of her bed, she dropped her lawsuit, and went back to work. I knew her for years afterward, during which time she remained perfectly well. I could describe many such cases.

For instance, an athletic young woman from a wealthy, but "screw-bally" family slipped on the floor of a gymnasium and felt a jab of pain in her back. Being by nature a great worry-wart, she hurried to see her doctor. On x-raying her back, he thought he could see "a bad fracture." "She had a broken back," so he rushed her to a hospital, and there put on a big body cast. The lady settled down happily into the life of the hospital and remained there for much of a year.

Then came Pearl Harbor Day, and she jumped up out of bed; had the cast cut off; and joined the WAAC's. Without one bit of pain, she worked hard all through the War. On returning home and leaving the Army, she again felt a little pain in her back. Her old doctor said that her back was still broken, and put her again into a cast. Again, there were months of hospitalization, until her family objected, and brought her to see me.

One glance at the x-ray films of her back showed that, instead of a fracture, all she had was a congenital peculiarity, something she had had from birth. Expert x-ray men agreed with me. It seemed obvious that all the woman had was hysteria (not hysterics).

**Went Back to Cast**  
Accordingly, I took off her cast and threw it away. Next day, I took away her wheel chair, and then I took away her crutches. For a week she walked about town with her mother, but then, like so many persons of this type, she got more and more annoyed because her pet illness had been taken a way from her. She turned angrily on me, and went back to her sympathetic doctor and another big cast.

Now, if I had shown that woman to a jury of psychiatrists, neurologists, orthopedists, and roentgenologists, I am sure they would all have agreed in a few minutes on three points: (1) that the back was normal; (2) that the accident was too slight to have broken any bones; (3) that no person with a broken back could have suddenly gotten up and gone to work, and (4) that the woman had behaved

**TRUTH HURTS**

Pownal, Vt.—(UPI)—After health officer Marion Nichols said the drinking water at three of the town's five schools was contaminated and she condemned as unsanitary a building in which 27 persons lived with next to no plumbing facilities, Pownal officials accused her of giving the town a bad name.

**Savings Bond Sales Show Decline Here**

Sales of series E and H savings bonds in Jackson county last months were slightly below sales in the same month in 1958. George W. Minnaugh, state director of the savings bonds division, U.S. treasury department, said that total sales of bonds in Jackson county last month amounted to \$62,931, compared to a November, 1958, total of \$66,942. The county followed the trend in Oregon, he said, with the state's total sales last month amounting to \$2,437,981 compared to \$2,974,403 for the same month in 1958.

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**MONITOR FLIGHTS**

Washington—(UPI)—The Federal Aviation Agency has begun 30 days of round-the-clock monitoring of all scheduled airline training programs and flight operations to search out and correct irregularities and deficiencies, according to FAA Administrator Elwood R. Quesada.

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throughout in a typically psychotic way. But what chance would I have had if I had had to go into court to try to prove these contentions before a jury of lay men and women who never in their lives had seen a case of severe hysteria like that? If the woman had been wheeled into court in her big cast, and her doctor had assured the jury that, in his opinion, she was ruined for life, I would not have expected them to believe what I said. They would probably have awarded her tremendous damages.

**Jumps Out of Bed**

Sometimes we doctors will be almost certain of hysteria, and yet unable to prove it, until perhaps the woman gives herself away—as when, while apparently very ill, she jumps out of bed and goes to a dance! I remember a young woman from Cuba, who, in a hospital bed in Minnesota, lay groaning and writhing with what she said was unbearable pain in her stomach.

As I watched her, I had grave doubts about the reality of this pain. Then her mother remarked that it was snowing. With this, the girl, who had never seen snow, jumped up and ran to the window, where she stood for the next half-hour entranced with the sight of the falling flakes. Later, her home surgeon explored her abdomen and found nothing wrong.

My feeling is strong that some day in the future juries that must decide in regard to a highly technical problem, that needs a world of training and experience, will have to be made up of experts in Dr. Alvarez's booklet on heart trouble may be obtain-

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