



HEADED FOR CHILE - A 19,500 pound water purification van is loaded aboard an Air Force C-124 Globemaster as part of a 40-plane airlift to Santiago, Chile, of two complete Army field hospitals for relief of victims of quake-devastated South Chile. (UPI Telephoto)

Emergency Service Important Aspect Of Area Hospitals

(Editor's Note: This is the last in a series of articles in which financial problems and major services of hospitals are discussed. Today's article, which discusses emergency service, was prepared in cooperation with two valley hospitals and the Jackson County Medical Society.)

Emergency service is an important responsibility of both the hospital and the medical staff of the hospital.

The responsibility is greater in an area where demand and financing do not warrant a resident physician at the hospital, as is the case with Sacred Heart and Rogue Valley hospitals.

The emergency service at both hospitals is manned by the medical staff of each hospital on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week basis. Each staff physician is on duty for one 24-hour period, although he may not be at the hospital during the full day. He is, however, easily located by hospital authorities in an emergency.

A patient should try to call his family doctor before going to the hospital, since this would speed up handling his case, hospital officials suggested.

Each hospital maintains an emergency nurse on duty at the emergency ward on an around-the-clock basis all week. It is the nurse's duty to work the patient as much as possible until the arrival of the physician, either the patient's family doctor, or the emergency doctor.

But she cannot, without doctor's orders, proceed with treatment, nor can she officially diagnose an emergency case, even if the patient's case is apparent, such as a broken leg or other injury suffered in an accident.

It is the physician who makes the final diagnosis, instructs the nurse as to treatment and decides whether the patient needs hospitalization.

An emergency as defined by hospital administrators is "a situation in which the human life is in danger." Not all cases which enter the emergency ward are of this type, administrators say. Many of them, even those which at first are considered emergency cases, are not even admitted to the hospital.

For example, last year both Sacred Heart and Rogue Valley hospitals handled about 4,000 emergency cases. Of that number only about 5 per cent were actually admitted as hospital patients.

In a recent month, 63 per cent of the cases handled in the emergency ward of one local hospital were considered actually as legitimate emergency cases. They include accident victims and similar type incidents in which a person was injured, or suffered an acute attack of an ailment.

But the other 37 per cent were cases such as influenza, common colds and other minor complaints, which both physicians and hospital administrators agreed should have been cared for at the physician's office or clinic.

Many of those included in the 37 per cent are persons who repeatedly appear at the emergency ward for a variety of reasons.

Hospital administrators urge all persons to have a family physician, for it is he who is called if the patient seeking emergency care has a family physician and he is available.

If the family physician is not available, or the patient is in such condition that he cannot give the name of his physician, the emergency doctor is called. In many cases, when persons are taken by an ambulance service, the hospital has been notified an emergency call is on its way, and hospital officials contact physician on emergency call.

Should the case warrant more immediate attention, a physician in the building is contacted. He administers emergency treatment until the person's family physician or the emergency doctor arrives.

Hospital administrators noted that the community also has a responsibility to help maintain a competent emergency service. Rogue Valley's emergency ward cost valley doctors about \$80,000, and this, administrators say, "is a large investment by the community." The one at Sacred Heart hospital cost about the same.

Commenting on persons who seek emergency service for minor complaints and other discomforts such as the common cold, hospital administrators noted that the total cost of diagnosis and treatment probably is more. This is because of the hospital's charge for the service. If the patient, administrators say, went to the doctor's clinic or office, he would be charged only for an office call, plus any drugs prescribed.

ASSESSORS NEVER MISS - Riverside, Calif. - Mrs. A. Harold Wishart, complaining Thursday that she and her husband have been passed by census takers in 1940, 1950 and 1960, quipped "The assessors never seem to miss us."

Man's Request for Cup of Tea Leads To Request by Wife To Obtain Divorce

Loughton, England - When George Lusher's wife bawled him out for coming home late from golf one day, he decided not to say another word to her until she apologized.

The way Mrs. Lusher figured it, why should she speak if George didn't? From 1949 to 1956, through the Korean war, a labor government, leaky plumbing and the rampages of two healthy, young children, the Lushers did not exchange a single word.

The Starter - Then George asked for a cup of tea. The result—everyone knows how one word will lead to another—landed the couple in divorce court.

High Power Line Kills Youth, 17

Milwaukee - A 17-year-old Milwaukee high school senior was killed instantly when he touched a power line carrying 12,000 volts Thursday night.

Killed was William Matson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Matson of Milwaukee. Matson grabbed onto the power line while about 30 feet in a tree. Two other boys, David Hunemiller, 15, and Thomas Cundena, 12, of Milwaukee, also had climbed the tree with Matson but were unhurt.

They said they had been climbing about five minutes before Matson grabbed the line.

Editorial Writer Dunked in Columbia

The Dalles - Editorial writer Al McCready of the Oregonian took a bath in the Columbia river Thursday with his clothes on.

McCready was dunked in the Columbia with the help of a push from Bob Paulos, editor and publisher of the Dalles Daily Chronicle.

It all came about because of a friendly wager between the two men concerning last Friday's voyage of the destroyer escort USS Edmonds up the Columbia river.

McCready had written an editorial saying the Edmonds might have some trouble making the trip. Paulos countered with an editorial in which he offered to be dunked in the Columbia if the vessel didn't make it without difficulty.

He also suggested that McCready agree to do the same if the Edmonds did make it. McCready did. The Edmonds did. And Thursday McCready got his bath.

As the judge later quoted Mrs. Lusher, George's seven year reign of silence was just a "sulk."

Since the couple were not speaking, there of course could be no talk of a divorce. They remained under the same roof, George—a traveling salesman—got his own meals. Day after day, month after month, year after year neither George, now 54, nor Mrs. Lusher, now 48, so much as grunted in the other's direction.

"I just let it go on and did nothing to help my husband out of his silence," Mrs. Lusher was quoted as telling the judge. "I expect I could have ended it at any time."

Finally, she said, she wrote George a letter suggesting the possibility of conversation, and his request of a cup of tea was the result.

Mrs. Lusher said the falling out after they started talking to each other again was about George's reluctance to do his share of the dishes. That, she said, made a divorce mandatory.

The judge, however, did not agree. He turned down her petition, ruling that "in their own way, each is still fond of the other."

His honor did concede, however, that George "when upset tends to withdraw and become silent."

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Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

'Strange' Salamander Always Misunderstood

The salamander had a fish for an ancestor back a few hundred thousand years ago, and some of them just can't seem to get over it.

Of the hundred or so varied kinds, scattered pretty generally throughout the United States, some live only their early lives in fresh water ponds. But at a certain stage in their development they leave the home pond and spend a couple of years on land.

Then, as if remembering their early life, they return to a pond, some to spend the rest of their life in the water.

A salamander is a tailed amphibian, sort of a tadpole-like creature that never sheds its tail. They are lizard-like, but they have no scales or claws.

Many Names - Salamander names, because there had to be so many, are mostly descriptive words denoting color, preferred habitat or some other individual characteristic. So we have tree, worm, two-lined, long-tailed, blind tiger, slinky, four-toed, purple, red, spotted and cave salamanders, as well as painted, red-banded, dusky and others to numerous to mention. The fresh water newt, mudpuppy, water-dog and hellbender are all salamanders, and all of course look like wet lizards.

These strange little creatures always have been misunderstood. Mythology pictures them in a strange and unjustified light. It gave the poor things a reputation that a real dragon couldn't possibly live up to, crediting it as a creature that breathes fire.

To make the poor thing even more fearsome, the creators of these legends imagined the salamander as assuming the form of a man who groveled in the dirt and waited with bared fangs for a human victim. The salamander of mythology was only the brainchild of an over-stimulated imagination. Other superstitions gave the creature a fire-proof reputation.

Advocates of this idea believed the creature could walk through fire and emerge unharmed.

Newt Relative - About the nearest relative the salamander has is the fresh water newt. It is also related to frogs and toads, all of which belong to the chilly-blooded family of creatures known collectively as "the amphibia."

Unless the pond where the strange little creatures live dries up, few people suspect the presence of the salamanders that may be living there. Even then the creatures may bury themselves in the mud and live for some time in a semi-dry environment.

They are all pathetically harmless and relatively helpless. They are sometimes used as aquarium pets, and make interesting inmates of a gold fish bowl.

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a Judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Karen R. - I don't know whether I really love him. Mrs. L. R. - This is no time to back out of the marriage.

Karen R. - I am 19, engaged to be married and worried to death. My fiancé is 33, very nice-looking and a good provider, but I am beginning to feel I don't really love him. We had physical relations and ever since I haven't felt the same about him. It isn't that I found love-making disappointing. I realize this may change in time. It is more that I see many things about him that I don't like. John is arrogant and pushes everyone around. Maybe he'll start treating me like that.

My parents think a lot of John and my mother thinks I should go ahead with the marriage. My dad washes his hands of the whole thing because of what I've done.

Mrs. L. R. - This is no time to back out of the marriage. If Karen doesn't marry John now, I don't know what will become of her.

I feel I've failed as a mother. I tried to bring Karen up with the right attitudes. I never suspected she would go and do a stupid thing like this. She seems to think it's better to find out before the marriage that things are not as they should be, but I can't make her understand she will feel differently once she is married.

I am annoyed with John for inducing Karen into having relations with him, but outside of that I feel he is a good man for her. She needs a strong person to keep her under control.

The Council: We don't go along with the idea that any adult woman should have someone else "to keep her under control." If Karen is

mature enough for marriage she must be her own supervisor. If she is not mature enough, it is doubtful whether the marriage can be a success.

We suspect there has been a bit too much parental pressure behind this relationship from the beginning. Karen may have had doubts about John she didn't dare confess to herself or her parents. Possibly she thought having physical relations with him would be a "trial" of whether she really loves him. Now she feels she has a more legitimate basis for her negative feelings.

Of course Karen should be aware of the fact that she has had the worst possible introduction to the physical side of marriage and that her immediate reaction is no indication of what the future holds in store. But we don't think her objections to John's personality should be completely glossed over by her parents.

Mrs. L. R. is evidently afraid her daughter will "go wild" if she continues unmarried. We think, however, that the danger may be just as great if she is pressured into an undesired marriage. No man can "control" a wife who doesn't respect him and deeply wish to give her loyalty and love.

Mrs. L. R. attaches too little significance to John's role in this affair. She doesn't seem to realize that the maturity and strength with which she so strongly credits him failed him completely on a crucial issue.

Karen needs help in gaining emotional maturity, but probably from a qualified doctor—not from a man who has proven his lack of good sense and moral stability. (Copyright 1960, General Features Corp.)

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