

Overcrowded Conditions Cited in Deaths At Wisconsin's Home for Mentally Ill

Editor's note: Wisconsin authorities disclosed recently that in the past two years, a bacillus-caused disease, shigella dysenteriae, had spread through the State's Southern Colony and Training School at Union Grove, Wis., and had been the primary or secondary cause of half of the 109 deaths at the institution in the past 24 months. To find what lay behind this death rate, United Press International sent a reporter to the colony. Here is what he found.

By JAMES S. BROOKS

Union Grove, Wis. — (UPI) — In Wisconsin's Southern Colony and Training School, there are almost 1,600.

More than 900 of these must be fed from spoons three times a day. They must be fitted with diapers. Some must be at hand always to see they do not hurt themselves or others.

These are the mentally retarded, the charges of the state of Wisconsin.

And Wisconsin's problems with them, and record in caring for them, is little different from those of the 49 other states of the union. In fact, the attention and the concern shown in this state probably are far greater than in some.

This was why, after the Memorial Day week end revelations of death and suffering from bacillus-borne disease at the Southern Colony, that Supt. John M. Garstecki got letters.

Letters of Sympathy "Institution superintendents from all over the country have written sympathizing with what has happened," he told United Press International. "They all say they have experienced or are experiencing the same thing."

During that week end, Gov. Gaylord Nelson in a speech mentioned illness among patients at the colony. The UPI found that at various times in the past two years shigella dysenteriae had raged through the colony, causing 1,500 to 1,800 cases of the bacillary disease, and Garstecki estimated it had been primary or secondary cause of half of the 109 deaths in the institution in the previous 24 months.

In these days when almost daily newspapers tell of some new advance in science against age-old problems of disease and its treatment, how can these things be?

It is not for lack of effort — not here, at any rate.

Hopes for Patients

Fredericka Bardwell chief psychologist, reported to the Board of Public Welfare this year. "Today, there is hope for these people and we have made wonderful progress—it's just that we have so much farther to go," she said, and to emphasize, she called the colony in 1947.

"There was a prevailing tone of sobriety and quietude interrupted occasionally by the raucous screeches or verbal barrages of patients. Beneath the apparent calm there was a rampant sense of apprehension and intrigue... those were the days when patients, who had no program and did not participate in institutional upkeep, produced a motley sight, seated or tied to benches which were lined against the walls and, if nothing else, they learned to be silent when silence was demanded."

But... The budget allows for 28 nurses. Only 21 can be found to hold the jobs, and Garstecki believed 75 are needed. "A nursery that contains a whole constellation of medical rarities" houses 31 children where there should be only 20. How do you prevent disease in this situation?

Suffer Staff Shortage

"There are five staff positions for doctors, and a salary for an inexperienced medical school graduate amounts to more than \$10,000 annually for a job with a 40-hour week. According to Dr. Louis J. Ptacek, the colony's medical director, the works "lacks prestige and too many young doctors feel it is the failures in private practice who turn to institutional work."

In the wards designed for the most severely handicapped there are 130 patients

where there should be only 108. Some need cribs, because they will fall out of beds without sides. The cribs are inches instead of feet apart.

The recreational area is used as a dormitory.

And Garstecki recalled that a basic medical test told of shigella dysenteriae as a disease "common in concentration camps, army barracks and overcrowded mental institutions."

Lifespan Increases

The number of patients, and the type, combine to cause such outbreaks as the one which turned attention here. Before the discovery of antibiotics and the "wonder drugs," the life span of a deficient child who also was suffering from physical impairment was brief. Many died in infancy, others did not last beyond their juvenile years.

Today, there are "children" at Southern Colony who were born 80 years ago. The average age of the patients is 15. Many are far into their 30s and 40s. "Today," said Mrs. Bardwell, "the patients are arriving at a younger age, many of them with multiple handicaps and most of them with handicaps that are more severe than they ever were before. They are mentally retarded and additionally are suffering from physical and mental sicknesses in many cases."

Wisconsin has spent \$10 million on development of facilities here in the past 10 years. The current \$3,500-

Space Surplus Seen In Welfare Move

Salem — (UPI) — Unless the State Public Welfare Commission is moved from Portland to Salem, the state will have a surplus of space in the capital mall, the Oregon Statesman said today.

A page one story said that this accounted for "apparently a good part of the urgency for Gov. Mark O. Hatfield's controversial order" for the move.

The story stated that Finance Director Freeman Holmer "says frankly that without bringing a major agency, such as welfare, to Salem, the state would have a lot of unused office space here."

Gluckmann Case Remains Mystery

San Francisco — (UPI) — The disappearance of aviator Peter Gluckmann over the Pacific seven weeks ago today remained a mystery and the U. S. Coast Guard said it is without further clues.

Gluckmann, who vanished while attempting a non-stop flight from Tokyo to New York, was last heard from April 27 by a U. S. Coast Guard vessel between Tokyo and Midway Island.

4-H NEWS

Westside Rabbitteers The June 4 meeting was called to order by Treasurer Laurene Kellow in the absence of the president and vice president.

Flag salutes were given. Minutes were read and approved. Under committee reports, the fair equipment committee reported. A committee was appointed to check at the stores to see if we may use their stores for our cake and flower sales.

Nine members were present. We had a record book check. All record books were up to date.

After the meeting we had a judging contest. The meeting was adjourned to refreshments. The meeting was at Dwight Harshes. Our next meeting will be at Susan and Mary Louise Truilly's house.

Karen Alldridge, Reporter.

Antelope Livestock Club The monthly meeting of the Antelope 4-H Livestock club was held June 10 at the home of Don Geren. The dairy club was in charge of the meeting. We judged two classes of dairy animals and reasons were given on the classes by different members and Earle Jossy.

The livestock club donated \$100 toward the construction of the Eagle Point Community club, and gave two \$50 scholarships for 4-H Summer school.

The annual club picnic will be held July 24 at 1 p.m. in Lithia park. We will go swimming at Twin Plunges afterward. Everyone is to bring a potluck dinner.

The next meeting will be held July 8 at 7 p.m. There will be sheep judging. Georgia Hubbard, Reporter

000 budget breaks down into a per capita expenditure of \$190 per patient per month. The retarded still are not receiving adequate treatment.

Need Equipment, Buildings

"The institutions in America are doing the best they can with what they have to work with," said Garstecki. "But they don't get the attention they need. Every institution wants to do a good job and they have staffs vitally interested in their work. They can do a good job if they have the staff, the equipment and the buildings they have to have. It all boils down to one question: give us the money and we'll do the job."

"The job" is one to frighten any but the dedicated souls who work in places like Union Grove.

Some ask the inevitable question: why keep these children alive?

"Well, not only because they are human beings and therefore deserve such care, but because of what medical science may do for them in the future," said Garstecki.

"We are just waking up to the problems of the retarded. We're making progress, but we're still many years behind the times. How do we know what medical research will uncover in the next 10 years? How do we know how many of these children will have a chance to live full lives?"

"Would you be willing to serve on a board to decide who lives and who dies?"

104 State School Districts Dissolved

Salem — (UPI) — Since August of 1957, 104 of the state's 709 school districts have been dissolved by consolidations and annexations.

The Board of Education heard this progress report from the Oregon Department of Education. Reorganization of school districts was ordered by the 1957 Legislature.

The consolidation is being worked on by county committees and the 104 consolidations were accomplished by 24 of Oregon's 38 counties.

In their place, 47 new administrative school districts in 19 counties have been created and as of May 31 this year, Oregon had 539 school districts.

He announced he has ordered formation of committees representing both European settlers and Algerian Moslems to draw up recommendations for the North African territory's future.



SERVICE—Shown being presented with the "Service Under Fire" award is Kip Thomas, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Red) Thomas, 170 Sherman st. Ashland. The award, presented by Dale Prentice representing the Jackson County committee of the Keep Oregon Green association, was presented to Young Thomas for service during the Ashland forest fire last summer. He worked with his father along the fire line on several occasions and helped suppress hot spots with shovel, hazel hoe or one inch hose. KOG officials report that well over 1,200 Jackson county boys and girls are members of the fire prevention program. (Knackstedt Photo)

Algeria May Reject Offer by de Gaulle

Paris — (UPI) — Sources close to the Algerian rebel high command indicated today it would reject as inadequate President Charles de Gaulle's latest offer to negotiate a cease fire.

De Gaulle made the offer last night in a new bid to end the five-year-old Algerian war.

He announced he has ordered formation of committees representing both European settlers and Algerian Moslems to draw up recommendations for the North African territory's future.

Beck Conviction Allowed To Stand

Olympia — (UPI) — The State Supreme Court decided Tuesday to let former Teamster president Dave Beck's grand larceny conviction stand.

An order issued by Chief Justice Frank P. Weaver said the majority of the court had voted to adhere to an earlier ruling.

However, the court was evenly divided once again on Beck's appeal.

The vote was 4-4, with Judge Harry Ellsworth Foster, a one-time attorney for the Teamsters Union, disqualifying himself.

U.S.-Japan Treaty Ratification Near

Washington — (UPI) — Senate machinery was geared today to ratify within the next few days the U.S.-Japanese defense treaty which has become a potentially explosive diplomatic time bomb in President Eisenhower's visit to the one-time enemy country.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman William Fulbright (D-Ark.) announced he hoped to call the pact up for Senate approval Thursday. He said he foresaw no opposition to it.

This could mean that the treaty would be ratified by the Senate before Eisenhower's Sunday arrival in Tokyo where the President faces the possibility of dangerous, anti-Americans and others who oppose the pact.

Runaway Balloon Heads for Hawaii

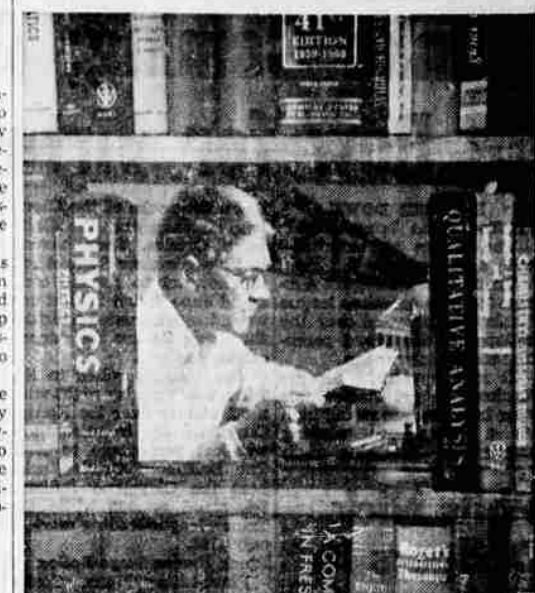
San Diego, Calif. — (UPI) — The Navy's runaway balloon — launched 10 days ago in Georgia — appears headed for Hawaii today.

The 40-story plastic bag was caught in westerly winds of about 10 knots which at last report had taken it more than 1,400 miles out over the Pacific. It was about 50,000 feet high.

Dangling from the huge balloon was a two-ton gondola loaded with scientific instruments to sample cosmic ray activity. Navy spokesmen said the data collected by the instruments should be invaluable because of the unexpected length of time of the flight.

CHICKENS STAMPEDED

Ridley, England — (UPI) — Farmer Alfred Woods says a jet flew over his farm and stampeded 900 chickens into the corner of a shed where 200 pullets were trampled to death. He asked police to find out which jet it was so he can sue for his dead chickens which he valued at \$404.



...This book makes his college education possible

A young man needs many books for a college education. But the most important of these is the book that makes it all possible... a passbook for a savings account with us. Why not open an account for your children's education? Start it while they're young and add to it regularly...it will earn excellent returns. Stop in and see us today!

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Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Manila—President Eisenhower, addressing a joint session of the Philippine Congress:

"The basic antagonism of the Communist system to anything that it cannot control is the single, most important cause of tensions between free nations... and... the rigidly controlled Communist bloc."

Des Moines, Iowa—State Safety Education Director William Burnett, stating it's all right for men to glance at a pretty girl while driving so long as they don't stare too long: "A good driver keeps his eyes moving, glancing quickly right and left as well as looking straight ahead. If your glance happens to catch a pretty girl walking along the street, how can you help it?"

Miami—An Eastern Airlines spokesman describing the airline's efforts to telephone pilots and tell them they will be violating a federal court order unless they end their walkout:

"At some places we got no answer. A few places members of the family answered and said they didn't know where the pilots were."

Hollywood—Honey-blonde unmarried actress Lori Nelson, explaining why she hasn't been whisked away by a handsome leading man with a mansion in Beverly Hills, a sports car and a small ranchero: "I don't like actors."

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