

Home Treatment Of Tuberculosis Is Successful

Washington - (Science Service) - A state-wide "home-treatment" experimental program for patients with active tuberculosis has proved highly successful in Mississippi.

Seven years ago, 1,712 victims of active tuberculosis were hospitalized in that state. Of this number, 80 per cent received no care or treatment of any kind. The state's 783 beds for tubercular patients were almost completely occupied.

But by 1956, this backlog was cleared up. Additionally, nearly 85 per cent of newly reported cases were being treated.

Isoniazid Used
This was accomplished with "isoniazid, in combination with other drugs, and enthusiasm," Dr. Durward L. Blakey, Mississippi State Board of Health, and Public Health Service workers, Dr. Raymond Hofstra, Esther Gilbertson and Jewell G. Wyman have reported to the Public Health Service here.

For the large number of patients who could not be hospitalized because no beds were available, the outpatient drug therapy program proved a new hope for restored health.

Local health departments, with the support of county and state health workers and the cooperation of private physicians, were responsible for making the program work. Because of the poor financial condition of the state, funds needed for drugs had to be obtained locally. Whenever practical, patients were encouraged to contribute something toward the cost of the program. The authors believe these payments, however small, "had a good psychological effect on the patients, encouraging them to maintain treatment," as well as helping to ease the burden on local health departments.

Counties Participate
Two years after the program was initiated, every county in Mississippi was participating. The home care program included patients who had been hospitalized and discharged.

Of this group, 63 per cent were discharged with medical consent as no longer needing treatment. Those who entered the program without prior hospital care and were so discharged numbered only 29 per cent. Hospitalization, therefore, is still recommended "whenever practical."

The study revealed, however, that the simple objectives of the program had been achieved: "to protect the health of the community by reducing the sources of infection and to improve the health of the patients through treatment."

Beryllium Refining Process Discovered

Washington (Science Service) - High-purity beryllium, containing less than one-half a per cent of undesirable materials, to meet space age requirements can be obtained by electrically refining beryllium scrap metal, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Mines reported here. Beryllium's important uses are in nuclear reactors and in temperature-resistant materials for missiles and satellites.

The new method, developed by three scientists at the bureau's metallurgical research laboratory in Boulder City, Nev., uses what is known as the fused-salt process. Use of the technique for refining other metals is under investigation.

Beads of beryllium are used as an anode in the bottom of a special air-free electrorefining cell of the type developed by the bureau to refine titanium. Molten salts of potassium, lithium and beryllium serve as the electrolyte. Crystals of the near-pure beryllium form on the cathode much as rock candy builds up on a string.

The investigations on beryllium refinement were made by M. M. Wong, F. R. Cattoir and D. H. Baker Jr.

City's Officials Add to Confusion

Roswell, N.M. - The fire alarm rang and all the traffic lights in Roswell began blinking yellow, as in all emergencies.

Fire Chief George Daniels jumped in his new station wagon and took off.

Police Chief L. O. Thompson hopped in a squad car and rushed away.

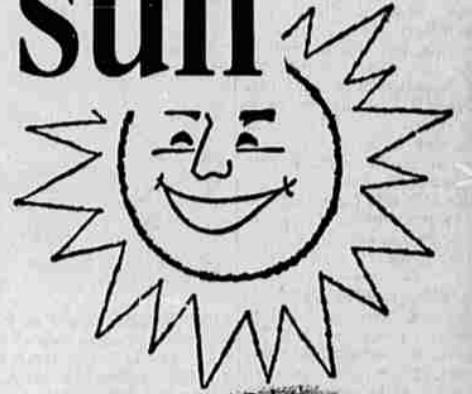
They met abruptly at a downtown intersection.

Daniels received hospital treatment for head cuts and pavement burns. Thompson suffered cuts and bruises.

The cars? Minor damage. The fire? Easily extinguished.

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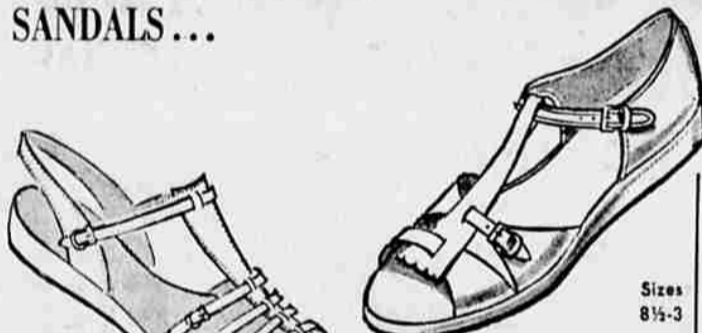
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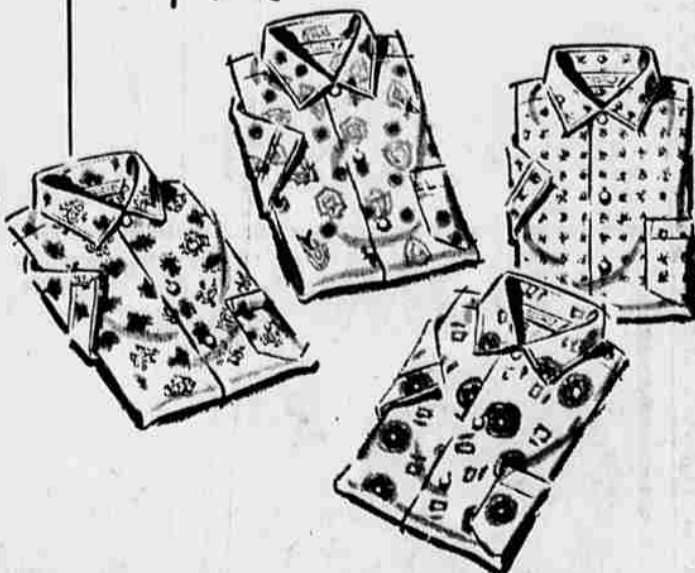
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