

Taxicab Driver Who Adopted Children Is Being Adopted

By JAIME PLENN
United Press International
Mexico City (UPI)—A taxicab driver who "adopted" more than 300 children is now in the process of being "adopted" himself.

The American Society of Mexico has extended its welfare program to lend a hand to Porfirio (Poppi) Guerrero with the humanitarian job he undertook eight years ago singlehandedly.

Working with affiliated groups, the society has formed "Pro-Poppi's Kids Committee" to help Poppi Guerrero finance a building where he can carry on the task he assumed.

The San Francisco Cultural Center which Poppi has kept going miraculously, was started by a parish priest who tried to bring rudiments of learning along with food and clothing to children of poor families and orphans.

Hauled Padre
The priest and Poppi got acquainted while the latter used to haul the padre on some of his charity errands. Learning of the mission, Poppi soon found himself drawn into the endeavor, donated his services and soon was contributing cash. In addition, he spent all his spare time at the center, and that's when he came to be known as Poppi to the kids.

In 1952, the priest died, and it looked as if the center was doomed.

The taxi driver's inquiries brought no response from any individual or organization willing to carry on. He realized that if the work was going to be continued, he would have to shoulder the burden.

Right off he ran into trouble. The landlady who owns the four-room, one-story building housing the center slapped on a 20 per cent rent increase, raising it to 600 pesos (\$48) a month.

That's when Guerrero

started thinking about building the center its own home.

Hears of Plan
Jose Martinez Cerrillo, editor of the American Society's monthly publication, The Bulletin, heard about Poppi and his brood.

He wrote an article, with the result that the society's Social Service Committee began making and sending hundreds of shirts, dresses and other articles of clothing to the children.

That was a big boost toward filling the daily needs which Poppi had been trying to provide by his own earnings and by soliciting from others.

The center is registered with educational authorities as a day school for children from kindergarten to second grade. Theoretically the parents are supposed to pay a token fee of 40 cents per month for each child.

But fewer than half ever pay, so Poppi has to scrape

together additional money to pay each of the five teachers the low fee of \$8 a month they charge—but which they do not get most of the time. There also are quite a few orphans among the children of the center.

Donate Services
Eleven doctors now donate their services to watch over the health of Poppi and his charges. One is nearly always on duty. The tiny dispensary is filled with medical samples that the doctors donate.

Nearly 200 breakfasts are sent over each morning from a public school program's office. Sometimes Poppi gets leftovers from restaurants, sometimes private citizens or companies send money or boxes of food.

A new-found friend is American Society member, Ralph K. de Loach. He took an interest in the center and is now making regular contributions of eggs and other food from his farm. He also is introducing some U. S. type organization and formed the committee to sponsor the center.

Contributions also are coming in from all over Mexico, and from many residents of the U. S. who have heard of the work.

8,500 Moroccans Still Stricken With Paralysis

Philadelphia, Science Service—Some 80 per cent of the 10,000 Moroccans paralyzed last November by eating adulterated cooking oil are still stricken. Only about 20 per cent are cured, and 30 per cent are making marked progress.

To aid treatment of the 8,500 in the rehabilitation centers established by the League of Red Cross Societies in Morocco, five doctors from the University of Pennsylvania here have volunteered to spend a month each as medical advisers there.

The 10,000 Moroccans were stricken after eating food mixed with an oil used to flush engines of jet planes. Most of the victims are under 18 years of age.

Twenty-seven Moroccan merchants were found guilty of preparing the poisonous concoction to increase profits. Five were given death sentences and the others were imprisoned for life.

No To Be Paid
The five Philadelphia doctors will not be paid for their services, but the American Red Cross will provide travel expenses, and the Medical International Cooperation Organization (MEDICO), a non-profit organization, will pay living expenses.

The Philadelphia physicians who will go to Morocco are:

Dr. Wilmer M. Anderson, William J. Erdman, Albert A. Martucci, David G. Young and Igho H. Kornbluh. The first to go was Dr. Anderson July 25, who will remain through August. Each doctor will remain for an overlapping period to break in his successor.

At present a medical staff of 50 from Red Cross societies in 13 nations is caring for the paralyzed victims. The American Red Cross has provided two nurses and six physical therapists since the outbreak to help with the treatment.

Wool Fibers Shrank With New Process

Albany, Calif. (Science Service)—A chemical treatment that shrinks wool fibers may be the basis for improved manufacture of wool felts, the U.S. department of agriculture here reports.

Dimethyl sulfoxide, an inexpensive, commercially available liquid, shortens fibers by rearrangement of the wool molecules and thus effects a permanent hardening and toughening of the felt. Relative hardness of the felt can be controlled both by the length of time the felt is left in the solution and the temperature of the bath.

Aim of the improved process is to lower the cost of felt manufacture by reducing the amount of mechanical beating now required to harden felts.

HELP SUPPLIED
New York (UPI)—Over 10,000 college girls with office skills will find jobs this summer through the Kelly Girl Service, Inc., which calls itself the largest supplier of female help to American industry.

COMMUNICATIONS
London (UPI)—The world's longest single telephone cable handling transmissions in both directions is being laid under 530 nautical miles of the North Sea to connect Britain with Sweden.

Astronaut May Be Fired Into Orbit During Next Year

By LILLIAN LEVY
Science Service Writer
Washington—Out-of-this-world predictions by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will put a man on the moon about 10 years from now, fire an astronaut into orbit next year, and launch an orbiting astronomical observatory by 1964.

Judging by past performances since January, 1959, the target dates for these goals and others set by the government's civilian space agency may be achieved as predicted.

Early in 1959, NASA officials told a Senate committee that eight satellites and two deep-space probes would be launched in 1959, and six satellites and four deep-space probes in 1960.

In 1959, 12 satellites were successfully launched under NASA's auspices, of which one was a deep-space probe.

As of today, five of the six promised satellites have been fired into space, including Pioneer V, another deep-space probe. What is even more important, the 1960 U. S. satellites still are transmitting scientific data.

Also promised for this year are close to a hundred rocket soundings to an altitude of about 4,000 miles, an astronaut in the nose-cone of a rocket.

There is some inclination to doubt the astronaut firing because NASA's program in this area called for several successful launches and recovery of animal-occupied rockets. There have not been enough of these to warrant rocketing a man into an earth orbit, it is believed.

Immunity in One Polio Shot Seen

Copenhagen (Science Service)—Immunity against poliomyelitis should be possible with just one injection of killer polio virus vaccine, Dr. Jonas E. Salk of the University of Pittsburgh school of medicine told Science Service at the Fifth International Poliomyelitis conference here.

The question of how many shots are needed for complete immunization is one of potency. Dr. Salk said past vaccinations show that, in some cases, complete immunization was achieved with one shot.

General rules for the behavior of killed virus vaccine have been found by analyzing experiences with the vaccine during the last five years.

Dr. Salk said that more shots were needed in cases where the vaccine was not so potent. In the United States immunity has been 90 per cent to 92 per cent effective after two doses and 96 per cent after three doses.

In other countries, the killed virus vaccine has been 95 per cent to 96 per cent effective after three doses.

There is no known decline in immunity after six years, Dr. Salk said, although such permanence was not expected. Shortly after the vaccine has been given, immunity is high. Then it levels off, and so far the level of immunity has not declined. The immunity had been expected to drop.

Dr. Salk said that the cost of the killed virus vaccine should not be a limiting factor in using the vaccine.

Federal Law To Increase Protection

Washington (Science Service)—Proposed federal regulations governing interstate movement of breeding poultry, baby chicks and hatching eggs will offer increased protection against pullorum disease and fowl typhoid, the U.S. department of agriculture reports.

The proposal would require that poultry and hatching eggs shipped interstate must originate from flocks not infected with pullorum or fowl typhoid as indicated by an official blood test.

Poisons Isolated From Clams More Toxic Than Gasses

Washington, Science Service—Poisons isolated from clams and from the puffer fish have been found to be several times more toxic than the most powerful nerve gases known.

Small amounts of these animal poisons can temporarily block nervous transmission and conduction, but how they do it is still a puzzle.

A research team at Columbia University found that the equivalent of one drop in a rain barrel (a concentration of .0001 microgram per milliliter) of either poison would block electrical activity in the frog sciatic nerve fiber within 30 seconds.

Different concentrations of each poison were required to effect blockage under certain conditions in experiments with electric eels. But each poison was capable of shutting off both direct and indirect stimulation.

Presence of Curare
The presence of curare, a drug that paralyzes muscles by jamming the transfer of an impulse from nerve to muscle, had no effect on the amount of clam or puffer-fish poison required to block response to direct stimulation.

Several explanations have been proposed for the action of these poisons, but all to date have either been ruled out by preliminary tests or have not been tested sufficiently.

"At present, no satisfactory explanation can be given

New Process Would Cut Uranium Expenses

London (UPI)—A New Zealand scientist has proposed a method of processing uranium ore from deposits found on the west coast which will cut heavy treatment plant expenditures.

The research is reported by Dr. W. D. Dettbarn, H. Higman, P. Rosenberg and D. Nachmansohn, all from the departments of neurology and biochemistry, college of physicians and surgeons, Columbia University, New York.

Fisher Has Story About Good Fishing

Dallas, Tex. (UPI)—In his campaign for county commissioner Bill Fisher passed out wallet cards which showed the best days for fishing.

It turned out election day was designated as a dandy day for anglers. Fisher's story about those cards. He lost the race.

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