

Extra Chromosome Invariably Found Among Victims of Mongolian Idiocy

Editor's note: This is the last of four dispatches on the efforts of science to expose the secrets of life.

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor

New York — (UPI) — Until recent years, it was generally agreed that human cells contained 48 chromosomes, except germ cells, which had 24. Now it is firmly established they have 46 and that germ cells have 23.

Only last year some scientists began counting chromosomes in the cells of patients afflicted with Mongolian idiocy. So far, they've counted the chromosomes of hundreds of idiots and invariably the count was 47, or one more than normal.

Chromosomal disorders have been demonstrated in the past two years in scores of persons of uncertain sexual constitution, persons who bear some physical characteristics of both sexes. No such disorders have been found in persons with normal chromosome number.

Responsible for Cancer
DNA is the substance of chromosomes and genes. You have to suspect that faulty DNA is responsible for these and many other of our curses and killers, including cancer.

Scientific techniques are advancing at a terrific pace. It used to be that many "facts" of life, such as the number of chromosomes in human cells, were deductions or surmises. More and more "facts" are becoming facts. When more facts of DNA are known, science will have many useful and usable answers.

Cancer cells have an unbridled power to multiply. Yet they originated from cells whose multiplication was strictly disciplined. DNA controls cellular chemistry.

Automation Said Biggest Problem

Washington — (UPI) — President-elect John F. Kennedy was reported to feel that unemployment caused by the elimination of jobs due to automation is "one of the biggest problems" the country must solve.

Kennedy's views were relayed to newsmen by Rep. Elmer J. Holland, (D-Pa.), after he paid a call on Kennedy Thursday to discuss "the impact of automation on unemployment."

Holland showed Kennedy still incomplete results of a study he is making of the number of workers displaced by automation. The congressman is conducting the survey to bolster support for his proposal to set up a presidential commission to help deal with the problem.

Kennedy asked Holland to submit a report on the study when it is completed. The President-elect did not indicate whether he would ultimately support the proposal for a presidential commission, Holland said.

Famed Prohibition Era Agent Dies

New York — (UPI) — Funeral services will be held today for former federal agent Moe Smith, member of the Prohibition Era team of "Izzy and Moe" who were responsible for arresting thousands of bootleggers, bartenders and speakeasy patrons.

Smith, 73, died Wednesday at Sydenham Hospital. His partner, Izzy Epstein, died in 1938.

Izzy and Moe gained national fame for their comic antics and disguises they used in running down booze peddlers during the early years of Prohibition. They posed as grave diggers, conductors and politicians in their zeal to trap violators.

TV Christmas Party

Hollywood — (UPI) — Red Skelton attended a Christmas party Thursday via closed circuit color TV. The red-haired comedian, recovering from surgery Monday to close a rupture in his diaphragm, lay on his bed in Cedars of Lebanon Hospital while fellow workers greeted him from his own studio 4 1/2 miles away.

Wall Street Chatter

New York — (UPI) — Alexander Institute calls Chrysler an attractive speculation on a near and intermediate term basis also offering interesting longer term possibilities based on the possible recovery of its share of the auto market.

"Full 1960 profits are expected to approximate \$3.25-3.75 per share, which should allow either liberalization in the current 25 cent quarterly dividend or a substantial year-end extra.

"Projections of earnings in the area of \$6 to \$7.50 per share have been made for the 1961 year, dependent entirely on a sound business year for the general economy," the institute says.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Portland — (UPI) — Rail traffic between Portland and Seattle was back to normal today following repairs to tracks and cleaning up of wreckage from a freight train collision near Castle Rock Wednesday.

Walter K. Gutman of Stearns & Co. says there is very good opinion in analytical circles that American Telephone will raise its dividend to \$3.60 a few weeks before the annual meeting next May.

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