



CAST DISPLAYED — Two-year-old Michael shows his mother, Mrs. Carmel Gauci, the cast on his hand where specialists transplanted a section of rib bone to his thumb. Michael was born without a bone connecting his thumb tip to his wrist. He is recovering from surgery at Los Angeles Orthopedic hospital. In about six months, tendons will be transplanted from his foot to make the thumb functional. (UPI Telephoto)

Leukemia Toll Shifts To Older Age Groups, Cancer Group Reports

Leukemia, once thought of as only a childhood cancer, has shifted its heaviest toll to older age groups. Although leukemia each year takes the lives of more children than any other disease, it kills five times as many adults. If present rates continue, 13,000 persons will die of leukemia this year, and 2,000 of them will be children under 15 years of age.

The American Cancer Society pointed out these facts to place leukemia in its proper focus among all types of cancer, which claim the lives of a quarter of a million Americans each year.

Chance of Solution

Dr. Robert Turner, medical director for the Jackson county unit of the American Cancer Society said that research to solve the riddle of cancer has a likely chance of solution in leukemia ahead of other types of cancer. He described leukemia as a cancer of the blood-forming tissues.

"We feel leukemia may be solved first among cancer diseases for two reasons," Dr. Turner said. "First, great headway is being made in finding chemicals which check the disease for a time. A dozen compounds have been used with varying degrees of success in treating patients with acute leukemia.

"Secondly, there are clues which suggest that leukemia may be caused, or at least triggered, by a form of virus. If this is so, the eventual prevention of the disease with a vaccine would become a possibility.

"Research which strengthens this theory includes the recent findings of Dr. Steven O. Schwartz, of Hektoen Institute in Chicago, who induced leukemia in mice with a fil-

tered liquid from the brains of persons who had died of leukemia."

Supported by Society

Dr. Schwartz, whose work is supported by the American Cancer Society, later went a step further, and injected human volunteers with the same filtrate. Blood serum from the volunteers was found to protect mice against leukemia. This discovery suggests that a vaccine may one day be developed to control leukemia in human beings. None of the men in the experiment developed leukemia due to what Dr. Schwartz believes as a natural resistance.

Other scientists have observed under the electron microscope what they believe are virus particles obtained from the lymph nodes of persons suffering from leukemia.

Changing Incidence

Science also is interested in the changing incidence of leukemia which, in the last few years, has remained about stationary in children, but has mounted alarmingly among the older age groups, according to American Cancer Society statistics.

In women 60 to 65 years of age, the rate more than doubled from 1930 to 1958, jumping from 5.2 per 100,000 population to 13. For men of this age, for the same period, it more than tripled, rising from 6.6 to 20.6.

The incidence rate for children remained practically unchanged.

Pointing out that the American Cancer Society has currently allocated more than \$1,500,000 in a broad program of research related to leukemia, Dr. Turner appealed to all residents to contribute to the Cancer Crusade to step up research in leukemia and the other forms of cancer.

Association Names Irish as President

Chester Irish, assistant manager of the Medford branch of the First National Bank was elected president of the Jackson County Tuberculosis and Health association at the 44th annual meeting recently.

He succeeds H. P. Jewett, Central Point, who has served for the past two years, and who was honored at Friday's meeting as the first man to head the association, one of the oldest in the community. Jewett has also served as the association's representative and chairman of the board of health.

Speaker at the meeting was Dr. Ambrose Churchill, director of the tuberculosis section of the Oregon state board of health.

Other officers elected included Mrs. J. W. Grigsby, vice president; Mrs. Ray Frisbie, secretary; and Mrs. Vernon Thorpe, treasurer.

Chairmen Elected

Committee chairmen elected included seal sale, Mrs. Fred Brennan; case finding, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Iverson; health education, Mrs. M. O. Grove; television, Mrs. Ivan Burton; Sparrow memorial, Mrs. Louis Ulrich; finance, Gerald Latham; rehabilitation, H. Chandler Drew; volunteer services, Mrs. E. W. Sikkels; family life, Mrs. Henry Padgham; and patient care, Miss Helen Bullis.

Members at large elected were Jewett, Mrs. R. B. Knight, Dr. Kenneth Baker, Mrs. Allen Perry, Mrs. Robert Minear, Emmett Bullard, Mrs. R. H. Wilcox, Talent, Mrs. Alvin Roberts, Central Point, Mrs. Ed Knapp, Harry Barker, Mrs. Una B. Inch, Glenn Hale, Eagle Point, Mrs. Evelyn Watson, Mrs. Jack Walker, Mrs. Que Jamison, Ashland, and Mrs. Chester Guches.

Advisory committee members are Dr. A. E. Merkel, county health officer; Mrs. Martha Donohue, R.N.; Alf Mekvold, county school superintendent; Miss Frances Clink,

supervisory health nurse; and Dr. W. W. Stevenson, president of the Jackson County Medical Society.

Guests Introduced

Guests introduced at the meeting included members of the Providence Guild of the Sacred Heart hospital who have contributed thousands of volunteer hours doing clerical work at the association's chest x-ray clinic each week.

Representing the Guild were Mrs. J. W. McDuffie, Mrs. H. A. McCullough, Mrs. Helen O'Neal, Mrs. Lawrence Duff and Mrs. Thorpe.

Other guests introduced included Mrs. J. R. Boe, Grants Pass, and Mrs. Edna Sutton, executive secretary of the Josephine county Health association, and Mrs. Margaret Lamb of the Oregon Tuberculosis and Health association, Portland office.

Mrs. Louis Ulrich, who was one of the original members of the board of the association, was given special recognition.

MHS Student Wins First Place in Pythias Contest

Mike Phillips, Medford High school student, won first place in the 16th annual Knights of Pythias speaking contest held recently in the KP hall. Galen Roberson, Ashland, won second place; and Carl Washburn, Medford, third.

Other participants were Bill Skeeters and Susan Harper, Eagle Point; Pat Diedrich, Phoenix; Al Kroon, Crater High school; and Marsha Belknap, Medford.

Wins First Place

Phillips also won first in the lodge district contest April 24. Sue Mehlhoff, Grants Pass, was second.

Phillips also won first place

in a contest between Medford and Grants Pass districts April 24. Sue Mehlhoff, Grants Pass, placed second. Judges were Mrs. Verna Thatcher and Mrs. Bernice Kunzman, Medford, and Clyde Thompson, Grants Pass.

Phillips will enter the state contest at Portland. Winner there will enter the western regional contest at Spokane, and the finalist will travel to Miami, Fla., for the national contest.

The national first prize is a \$1,500 scholarship to any college or university selected by the winner, or, at the election of the winner, a \$1,500 cash award to be expended solely on a foreign cruise by steamship touching at least three foreign countries for the winner and his, or her, parent or coach. Second prize is a \$700 scholarship. Four other prizes of \$500 each will be offered.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

SECTION B MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1961 PAGES 1 to 8

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