SHOWS MEDAL TO DAUGHTER — President Kennedy Saturday authorized the government's highest civilian decoration for Dr. Frances O. Kelsey, the medical officer who blocked the general sale of Thalidomide in the United States. Kennedy will present the President's Distinguished Federal Civilian Service medal to Dr. Kelsey Tuesday. Here, at her home in Chevy Chase, Md., Dr. Kelsey shows her daughter, Christine, 12, a UPI telephoto of the medal. (UPI)

Top Civilian Medal Ordered For Doctor Who Blocked Drug Sale

Hyannis Port, Mass. – (UPI) – President Kennedy Saturday authorized the government's highest civilian decoration for Dr. Frances O. Kelsey, 48, the medical officer who blocked the general sale of the fetus-deforming drug Thalidomide.

Next Tuesday in Washington, Kennedy will confer the President's Distinguished Federal Civilian Service Medal on the Canadian - born doctor, a medical officer for the Federal Food and Drug administration.

Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said Dr. Kelsey would be cited for her "high ability and steadfast confidence in her professional decision" to prevent the marketing of the drug, a sedative which has been blamed for birth deformities.

At his news conference Wednesday, Kennedy praised Dr. Kelsey's work and urged all American women to search their medicine cabinets for samples of Thalidomide and destroy the drug immediately.

Salinger said Anthony J. Celebrezze, new secretary of health education and welfare, suggested to the President a few days ago that Dr. Kelsey be added to the honors list.

"Dr. Kelsey's action in resisting pressure for approval of the marketing of Thalidomide has prevented a major tragedy of birth deformities in the United States," a special White House statement said.

This referred to the unrelenting manner in which the FDA doctor turned down repeated demands of the drug manufacturer that the sedative be licensed for general U.S. distribution. Experimental samples had been delivered to over 1,700 U.S. physicians and since the evidence of birth deformities traceable to the drug appeared in Europe, the FDA has been attempting to round up all Thalidomide supplies in this country.

federal civilian service was

The award for distinguished established in 1957. The first medals were presented in 1958. Five recipients for 1962 were announced by the White House two weeks ago.

Causes of Mounting Welfare Caseloads Noted By Analyst

Salem – (UPI) – A fiscal analyst for the legislature has stated that mounting welfare caseloads in Oregon are "directly traceable" in most instances to dissolution of families, and unemployment.

Cleighton Penwell of Salem, analyst with the Legislative Fiscal committee, tied dissolution of families to heavy increases in the Aid to Dependent Children program, and unemployment to another big category of welfare – General Assistance.

In a report to the committee titled "The Cause of Public Dependency," Penwell described family dissolutions as divorce, separation, desertion, and cases of unwed mothers.

Up 26 Per Cent

In the past 10 years, the number of Oregon welfare recipients has grown 26 per cent, to 52,423 cases in 1961.

Penwell noted that in this period, ADC caseloads gained 130.8 per cent.

He suggested a number of guides in studying ways to reduce public dependency, including:

– Grants and services should not be set at levels that encourage long term dependence.

– No action should be taken which would put Oregon at a disadvantage with neighboring states in terms of attracting welfare recipients.

– No welfare grant should exceed the normal income level of any substantial segment of the gainfully employed.

Intensify Analyses

Penwell said welfare laws are very liberal, and that the best method of cost control is to intensify analysis at the time appropriations are being made by the legislature.

Penwell also reported that:

– The state Welfare commission will spend only about $1,073,853 of the $3.3 million appropriated for the new state medicare program, turning $2.2 million back. It was estimated that 55,000 persons over 65 were eligible. But Penwell said only 7,018 applications were received the first eight months of the program. And of those only 4,948 persons were found eligible.

Visitors To State Parks In June Noted

Salem – (UPI) – The Oregon Highway Department has announced that 1,698,507 persons visited the state's parks in June. This is about equal to the total population of Oregon.

The figure was nearly 75,000 greater than for June, 1961.

More than 4½ million persons visited Oregon's parks in the first six months of the year, an increase of 100,000 over 1961.

Biggest attendance for a single park in June was 104,490 at Yaquina Bay State Park at Newport. The figure was up 10,000 from last year.

Others showing big increases included:

Peter Skene Ogden Scenic Wayside in Jefferson and Deschutes counties 31,770, up 17,000; Crown Point State Park east of Portland 43,850, up 18,000; Lewis and Clark State Park, near Troutdale 31,050, up 14,000; Jessie M. Honeyman State Park, near Florence 68,400, up 14,000; and Wallowa Lake State Park 38,340, up 9,000.

Gas Explosion Rips Kansas City Area

Kansas City – (UPI) – Residents of a once-peaceful neighborhood viewed the charred ruins of their homes Saturday, thankful to have escaped a fiery gas explosion which devastated a two-block area.

A double explosion, the second one followed by a mass of flames, rocked the neighborhood Friday. A day-long odor of leaking gas and the first explosion gave residents sufficient warning, and all fled before flames engulfed their homes.

The fire remained a mystery Saturday.

A few residents of the neighborhood were injured, none seriously, but there were no fatalities. Two firemen and a police officer suffered minor injuries later battling the blazes which spread over a two-block area.

Crash Halts Flow Of National News

La Salle, Ill. – (UPI) – A car driven by a boy ran off a detour, slammed into a fence post and caught fire and within a few minutes Friday night the flow of news across the nation was halted.

The flames spread to overhead cables carrying teletype signals to newspapers and television and radio stations from the wire services. Service was not restored for more than an hour.

The car was driven by Terry Caldwell, 16, LaSalle, on a detour of U.S. 6, two miles east of here. Caldwell was not injured. Two companions with him received bumps and scratches.

Birth Control Pill Being Checked

Washington – (UPI) – The Food and Drug administration Saturday pressed an investigation of a birth control pill given to six women who later died of blood clots.

The FDA announced there have been 28 cases reported since September in which women given the contraceptive pill, Enovid, developed a blood clot called thrombophlebitis.

Six women died, but the agency, in announcing the investigation of Enovid, cautioned that fatal blood clots can be caused by many things unrelated to any drug.

The British Medical Journal reported that four women in Britain who were taking the pills suffered complications, which in one case proved fatal. The Journal added, however, that it has not been proved that the complications were caused by the drug.

Firm Defends Drug

The pill's manufacturer, G. D. Searle and Co. of Chicago, said a "supercharged atmosphere over Thalidomide," the baby - deforming drug, was responsible for the FDA's investigation of Enovid.

The company said a woman taking oral contraceptives runs no more risk of blood clots than a woman in normal pregnancy.

It was the second investigation ordered into the contraceptive pill since it was approved for commercial sale in May, 1960, on the basis of what the FDA called "extensive research data."

In Congress, there were indications that the FDA won't be given any broad new powers this year to control the sale and manufacture of drugs. Chairman Oren Harris of the House Commerce committee said he was not going to push for quick action on the administration's drug control program.

Announcement of the Enovid investigation came shortly after the FDA reported it had found that 67 doctors in the nation late last week still had supplies of Thalidomide. The FDA said it seized and destroyed all the pills it found and was continuing its search.

To Issue Information

The FDA said it had ordered Searle to supply doctors full information on the blood clot cases.

The investigation does not interfere with the sale of the contraceptive pill, which is available by a doctor's prescription only.

Searle reported last December that the deaths of two women in Los Angeles were associated with the use of Enovid. The FDA, after an investigation, said it could not establish that the deaths were caused by the drug and the manufacturer concluded that it was "only coincidental" that the women had been taking Enovid.

But since then, the FDA said, it has received information that there have been about 26 more cases of thrombophlebitis, including four deaths, among women taking the pill.

Debt-Ridden Fair Gets Groener Aid

Damascus – (UPI) – State Sen. Richard Groener (D-Milwaukie) came to the aid of the Little World's Fair Saturday with a $400 check and plans to form a committee to save the show.

Fair President Garland Wiley said Groener had written a check to cover a $352.12 debt which resulted in the fair's closing Friday.

The fair reopened late Saturday morning.

A credit bureau filed a writ of attachment on behalf of the Nu-Way Printing and Envelope Co., Portland, forcing the closing.

Groener also annnounced the formation of a Save the Little World's Fair committee. He said the committee will sell an admission ticket and a souvenir of the fair for $1. The money will be collected by the committee and used to pay off the fair's debts.

Groener also said he may ask the 1963 State Legislature to cut the fair in for a share of state racing revenue, which is divided among county fairs and other exhibitions.

Good Clean Show

Groener said he acted because "no liquor is sold on the grounds and it's a good, clean show."

He pleaded with other creditors to hold off while the show tries to regain its strength. Vice President Ed Mills said the fair still has debts of $60,000.

Wiley also hinted that the Seattle World's Fair may be able to offer some financial aid. He said Seattle officials have told him the advertising for the Little Fair has helped the big one and asked him to hold on until Monday, if possible.

"I feel very, very happy," Wiley said after Clackamas County Constable Tom Miller opened the padlocks on the gates. "Senator Groener is a great Oregonian and a great American."

Members of Army Reserve Take Part In Demonstration

Lt. Col. John F. Rush, Medford, commander of the Second Battalion, 414th Regiment (BCT), has announced that selected members of the unit participated with Regular Army personnel in a demonstration of the Army's new M-14 rifle at the 104th Division's summer training camp at Camp Roberts, Calif.

The M-14 rifle has a 20-round magazine, and may be either semi-automatic or fully automatic. According to Maj. Ray E. Stewart, Medford subsection commander, with the Second Battalion at its summer encampment, the new M-14 will eventually replace the Browning Automatic rifle, the M-1 rifle and the 30 calibre machine gun.

Distribution of the new weapon is being made to Regular Army units and in the near future the M-14 will be the basic weapon of U.S. Army Reserve units.

Members Participating

Members of the Second Battalion participating in this demonstration were First Lt. Donald W. Johnson, S. Sgt. Douglas C. Ugstad, Grants Pass, First Lt. Robert D. Murphy, S. Sgt. Richard J. Swinney, Specialist Four William B. Katzenbach, Pfc. Gary W. Smith, Medford, Specialist Four Dale Smith, Grants Pass, Company E; Sgt. Robert P. McNab, Sgt. Judson Parsons, Specialist Four Edgar P. Head, Specialist Four Dary M. Johnson, Specialist Four Robert A. Blackburn, Medford, Company F; First Lt. Edward T. Cobo, Sgt. John R. Ellis, Ashland, Specialist Four Richard F. West, Williams, Specialist Four Glenn D. Boles, Pfc. Arthur W. Glocker, Medford, Specialist Four Farlene O. Cochran, Grants Pass, Company G; First Lt. Harold R. Heaton, Specialist Four Bob N. Merrill, Specialist Four Gary R. McCollum, Pfc. Howard E. West, Klamath Falls, Company H.

The Second Battalion left Camp Roberts Saturday afternoon, and was expected to arrive in Klamath Falls at 5 o'clock this morning. The unit was expected to arrive in Medford at 7:45 o'clock this morning.

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