



EXPLOSION CRATER—The above picture, made Aug. 7, 1959, shows a portion of the devastation in Roseburg after an explosive-laden truck exploded in the downtown area. The picture was made at the edge of the crater where the truck had stood. (UPI)

Roseburg Notes Third Anniversary of Fire, Truck Explosion Which Claimed 14 Lives

By JAMES J. DOYLE
Roseburg (AP)—Three years ago today this Southern Oregon lumber community was rocked by an explosion that carried the face of the city and etched a dark memory in the minds of its people.

Aug. 7, 1959, about 1 a.m. A fire of unknown cause began in the crinkled paper of a trash can in a near downtown garage.

Ten minutes later the flames licked at the sides of a truck parked near the building. The truck was loaded with several tons of explosives—dynamite and ammonium nitrate.

The truck's driver, George Rutherford Jr., Chehalis, Wash., was awakened at his hotel a few blocks away by the cry of "fire." He leaped from his bed and headed frantically for his truck. More than a block away, he was stopped in his tracks and hurled backwards by the force of a blast.

Six Blocks Leveled

The explosion leveled about six city blocks. It rocked the downtown area of the city; it blew out windows and scattered merchandise on the streets; it made a shambles of stores; autos were overturned and set aflame; splintered glass flew on a path of destruction; it twisted the frame of a three-story school building, pushed in walls more than 15 blocks away; it caused property damage more than a mile away.

Fourteen persons died as a result of the explosion. The last one to die was a teenage boy, Jerry Stiles, who lay in a coma for a year and

a half.

The injured cried. They were taken to windowless hospitals. There were more than 50 hurt, many of them critically.

Asst. Fire Chief Roy McFarlane and Patrolman Donald DeSues died in the blast as they were answering the fire alarm.

Mrs. Dennis Tandy, expecting a child, told how her husband saw the fire, sent her home and stayed to fight it. "That was the last I ever saw of him," she said.

Mrs. Alvin Kuykendall, 41, was watching the fire from her window. She died a few days later from the glass that was hurled in her face and eyes when the explosion took place.

Searches Begin

After the shock wave passed, the terror began as residents looked for missing loved ones, relatives and friends.

The explosion dug a crater in the earth 40 feet across and several feet deep. Only a line around the foundation remained of the garage. Here and there in the six-block area a wall remained standing in a swirl of dusk and smoke, a solitary pillar licked by flames, stood upright in a pile of rubble, nearby railroad tracks were twisted and charred.

By dawn the city had mobilized. The National Guard roped off the area and begun patrolling the streets.

The day dawned hot and sticky over a mist of acrid smoke. The police chief walked back from the devastated area, slumped and tired. He asked with grim humor, "anybody want to buy a town?"

There was talk about how it happened and why, and a firm resolve that laws would be passed to make sure it never happened again.

The truck was parked in the near downtown area because the driver had heard that motels outside the city were full. He had been given permission to park the truck.

The courts cleared away

most of the litigation last year. The suits, for the most part, were settled for a fraction of the loss.

Society Support Needs Education

Eugene—American society cannot maintain itself if it does not have an abundance of capital investment in education, according to Dr. Keith Goldhammer, professor of education at the University of Oregon.

In an article in Oregon Higher Education, a quarterly published by the Oregon Association for Higher Education of the Oregon Education association, Dr. Goldhammer wrote about the economic and social benefits of the investment in education.

He indicated that the threat to the American economy was in the maintenance of frivolous and luxurious living standards while capital investment in education was being neglected.

"Apparently this unevenness of the blessings of Americans is the result of our failure to put into perspective the proper financing of those activities which create material wealth and those activities which create social wealth," he wrote.

"A major problem confronting the American citizen today is the investment in and the wise deployment of our human resources for the purpose of improving the conditions under which life is both possible and desirable.

"If it were ever wise policy to be indifferent to the educational needs of all children, in this age it is a matter of flouting with social impoverishment if any human potential is left to waste on the human ashheap."

London (AP)—Notice in a public library: "Readers are reminded that smoking is forbidden and are requested not to engage in audible conversation."

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

Emeritus Consultant in Medicine
Maxo Clinic
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(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1962)

Lupus Erythematosus



Dr. Victor E. Pollak has made a particular study of the abnormal proteins (complicated chemicals) found in the blood in half of the patients with LE (lupus erythematosus) studied. One of the most interesting things that he found is that half of the relatives of the patient have, in their blood, the same type of abnormal protein that the patient has, and this can explain why the disease can be passed on by apparently healthy "carriers." We find the same thing in families of diabetics and epileptics, where a carrier, who does not obviously have the disease, can pass it on to his child or his grandchild.

Physicians are becoming ever more inclined to believe that LE is one of a number of diseases in which the person becomes allergic to some of his own proteins. The symptoms vary greatly from patient to patient; a d and hence, sometimes—especially in the early stages of the disease—the diagnosis is difficult. Often, all the physician may see is disease of the heart, the kidneys, the blood vessels, or the skin.

The disease is found usually in women. Either it is occurring today more frequently than formerly, or else the diagnosis now is being made

more often and with a greater degree of accuracy. Fortunately, today, the diagnosis is made more easy with the help of the so-called LE cell, discovered in the blood by Dr. Hargraves some years ago. Also, now the diagnosis can be made by finding abnormal proteins in the blood. Interestingly, Dr. Pollack now can show that as a woman gets worse, she gets more of the abnormal protein, and as she gets better she has less of the abnormal protein.

What is hopeful is that Dr. Pollak and his associates say that a better understanding of the disease, together with the use of cortico-steroids, has "dramatically changed the outlook of patients with lupus." They are now more likely to get well and stay well.

Histoplasmosis

Since 1948, it has become more and more clear that a considerable percentage of our people, particularly in the Ohio Valley region of the United States, are infected with a fungus-like disease which behaves somewhat like tuberculosis. It is characterized often by enlargement of the liver and the spleen, perhaps with fever, anemia, and a low white blood count. Because the parasite lives in the soil, flare-ups are likely to occur whenever strong winds whip up much dust. Also, people who go from the city to live a relative on a farm in the Ohio Valley can come down with the acute form of the disease.

In a recent number of the

Journal of the AMA, it was reported that Drs. M. L. Furuslow, Joseph Schaeberl, Ph.D., F. E. Toth, Irene L. Doto, M.A., and H. J. Lynch Jr., of Kansas City, Kan., made a survey of 45,000 patients found in more than 80 hospitals, and found 7.5 per cent who reacted positively to the test for histoplasmosis. About a fourth of those with positive tests for the fungus could be shown to have an active infection, with or without tuberculosis. Because the disease can be a serious one, it is highly important that physicians now realize how common the disease can be, especially in the Ohio area.

Baby-Sitters Test Is Topic of Article

The Medford "Sitters" Test" for baby-sitters, being used by many Medford parents gains nationwide publicity in the September Family Life issue of "Together," Methodist family magazine.

The test, a printed list of 10 questions prepared by a pediatrician, a police captain, a school nurse, a Parent Teacher association leader, and the town's director of public safety, is designed to prevent the tragedies that sometimes result when parents hire the wrong baby-sitter. If a prospective sitter can't answer at least eight questions right, parents hire another sitter.

In addition to passing the test, Medford sitters must have pleasant, stable personalities and be able to cook and serve simple meals, prepare formulas, bathe, dress, and diaper a baby, provide first aid for cuts and bruises, and—if necessary—give artificial respiration, the article reports.

A facsimile of the test and the answers accompanies the article.

states of the United States, one rarely finds the infection. Evidently, all physicians who have to do with tuberculosis sanatoria are going to have to test all of their patients with great care to make sure that they are treating tuberculosis and not histoplasmosis, or TB plus histoplasmosis.

High Blood Pressure

For some time a few physicians have claimed that an excess use of table salt can raise the person's blood pressure. Now come Dr. Lewis K. Dahl with Martha Heine and Lorraine Tassinari who say (in "Nature" magazine) that whether or not table salt raises the blood pressure depends on the family predisposition—whether it be in mice or men. Some persons who

add very little salt to their food will get high blood pressure, while others who use large amounts will remain normal. This suggests that the person who has a tendency to high blood pressure, such as can show up in youth, might do well not to dump salt on his food before tasting it.

Did you know that your blood pressure varies from time to time? For facts about your blood pressure, read Dr. Alvarez' booklet, "High Blood Pressure." Send 25 cents and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 987, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

GATE CRASHING, for one reason and another, seems to be on the increase. One particularly brash specimen crashed a wedding party in the Bronx recently, liberally sampled the champagne and the hors d'oeuvres, and then attempted to embrace the bride. The bridegroom, discovering that he was a crasher, promptly booted him down two flights of stairs.



The crasher had the groom arrested for assault and battery. When the police captain heard the groom's explanation he turned on the crasher and demanded sternly, "You attend a wedding without being invited, get into an altercation with the bridegroom, and now complain that the latter kicked you downstairs. Can you produce witnesses?"

"I sure can," asserted the crasher. "All seven men I invited to the wedding."

James Thurber once encountered a lady at a cocktail party who assured him that his books were even funnier in French. "Ah, yes," mused Mr. Thurber, "I lose something in the original."

Radical books—both on the extreme left and the extreme right—have lost a lot of their sales appeal in recent weeks. "The only way you can sell these lunatic fringe tomes today," complained one bookseller "is to throw in free an extra pair of pamphlets."

Jonathan Winters overheard a beatnik mother threatening her young son. "The next time you say naughty words, I'm going to wash your face with soap."

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