

## Accordianist Wins DAV Talent Event

Ed Swing, 15, an accordion student of Caesar Muzzilli, won top honors Friday evening at the 12th annual Disabled American Veterans Amateur Talent tournament held at the Medford High school auditorium.

Winning the dance division with a cow girl ballet was Sheri Linn Bethel, 13. Scott Thurston won the junior division prize with a tap dance.

Enos Naffziger, 82, won the added event this year of an old time fiddle contest.

Miss Martha Wyatt, Miss Oregon of 1962, appeared and gave the highlights of her trip to Atlantic City, N.J., the Miss America competition.

Judges for the contest here were Vincent Hagen, Salem, junior vice department commander; Edward Branchfield, past department commander and chairman of the Oregon department of veterans affairs' advisory committee; Mrs. Robert Wolfe, department senior vice commander, and Vaughn Beer, local commander.

## Body Found in Salem Hotel Room

Salem — UP — The body of a woman identified as Mrs. Jeanette Ritchie Lepper, about 30, was discovered Sunday afternoon on the bed of a room at the Argo hotel here, Salem police said today.

Detective Capt. Glenn Bowman said a note was found in the room, and several empty pill bottles were on the floor beside the bed.

Bowman said he believed the woman was from Kelso, Wash. The woman had been dead about one week. Officials were awaiting the results of an autopsy.

## The Medical Roundup

by *Walter C. Dean*  
Emeritus Consultant in Medicine  
Mayo Clinic  
Emeritus Professor of Medicine  
Mayo Clinic  
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1962)

### Porphyrria

As physicians are now coming to recognize porphyria, which in this country is a rather rare disease, more and more persons are writing me to ask what it is, and what can be done about it. I am particularly interested in this problem. Dr. Geoffrey Dean of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, has just written what, when published in London, will be the world's best book on the subject.

Some 15 years ago, when Dr. Dean started practice in South Africa, he discovered that in that country porphyria is a rather common disease. As he said recently, "I was generally called in consultation to see a young woman who was mentally disturbed, and at first was thought by her physician to be hysterical."

Because so many of these patients complained of abdominal pain, many were operated on, and many were given the now favorite anesthetic—sodium pentothal. Sometimes the doctor would notice that in the bad flare-up of the disease that usually followed an operation, the urine had a reddish-brown color, especially if it was left in the sun. The urine would fluoresce (glow), and when examined with an instrument called a spectroscopic, it showed what

looked like a row of rainbow colors with dark bands such as are typical of porphyria.

### Porphyria Broken Down

The most important porphyria in the body is one of the main constituents of hemoglobin, the red coloring-matter of our blood. Ordinarily, when red blood cells die and are destroyed, the porphyrins are broken down into harmless bodies and thrown out of the body in the urine. In the cases of persons suffering from porphyria, the porphyrins do not get completely broken down and thrown out, and so they stay in the body, where they poison the person's nervous system.

As Dr. Dean says in the manuscript of his coming book, the persons who are acutely ill, as they usually are right after an operation in which pentothal is used, tend to develop a generalized neuritis, which gives them pains all over.

On talking to the relatives of these persons, Dr. Dean has found that usually several other members of the family have the disease, and some of them have noticed that at times their urine was red. Some of them at times have become a bit paralyzed, and some have died, usually after an exploratory operation in their abdomen.

Many of the men in these families had, on the backs of their hands, a skin so thin and sensitive that it was easily broken when the hand hit something. Often the skin blistered in the sun—so badly that scars were left. The first patient that Dr. Dean saw with acute porphyria was a young nurse whose father had this overly sensitive skin—as did three of his brothers. The nurse's father's father and grandfather also had the sensitive skin.

These persons so interested Dr. Dean in the heredity of the disease that, with the help of a genealogist, he traced 476 members of the nurse's family. He found that 74 of them appeared to have suffered from porphyria. He found that children born of porphyric parents tended to inherit the disorder.

In South Africa Dr. Dean has now located on a huge diagram of a family tree, all of his patients seen with porphyria. They are all descendants of a man and his wife who were married in South Africa in 1688. The man was Gerrit, the son of Jan, and his wife was Ariantje, the daughter of Jacob. At least 10 of their grandchildren inherited the tendency to porphyria. Now after seven generations, this disease is so common in South Africa that it shows up in 1 in 250 of the white population. Because of this, today every patient who comes into a hospital in South Africa is tested for porphyria.

### Fails To Be Recognized

Fortunately, in the rest of the world the disease is not common. It appears so uncommonly here in the United States that usually it fails to be recognized; we doctors see so little of it that we fail to think of it when a nervous woman comes in, complaining of abdominal pain with a spell of nervousness, or perhaps a "nervous breakdown."

Unfortunately, as so commonly happens with hereditary diseases, we physicians know of no way of removing all of the tendency to the trouble. What we must do is first, to warn these people never to take barbiturates, which can cause a serious and dangerous flare-up of the disease. Most dangerous of all is an operation in which sodium pentothal is used as an anesthetic.

Second, we physicians should urge the patient to communicate with every relation he knows and to suggest to each one that he have his or her urine tested for an excess of porphyrins. If these are present, the person will know of the danger.

This is the season of the year when most of us are inclined to add weight because of the tempting holiday foods. If this is a problem for you, send for Dr. Alvarez' booklet, Weight Control. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and 25 cents 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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## VA Questionnaire Cards on Income Have Been Mailed

Veterans Administration income questionnaire cards, usually mailed out with the December VA checks to veterans' widows and children receiving pension from the VA, were mailed out with the November, 1962, checks in order that all pensioners will have two months to complete this form, instead of one month.

The Jackson County Veterans' Service office has urged all veterans, widows, and children and parents to return their cards in December if they have a fixed income and if they do not have to wait for their W-2 forms before filing.

Any income questionnaire card which has not been returned before Jan. 31, to the Veterans Administration office which sent it to them, will have their pensions discontinued.

Whether income is excessive or not the questionnaire must be returned to prove the pensioner was entitled to the pension paid to them by the Veterans Administration during the year 1962.

There are four types of questionnaires, the same as last year. The forms are similar but they must be completed carefully so as not to cause loss of pension. A mistake could hold up a check

as much as two or three months, it was stated.

The questionnaire card must not be folded, or torn or damaged in any way which would prevent it from going through the IBM machines. Care should be taken in completing the card neatly without erasers, if possible, officials added.

A good plan is to write answers on a separate sheet of paper and check it. If correct, copy it onto the official card—and mail promptly, as soon as completed, to avoid delay in getting pension, or compensation in case of the Gold Star dependent mothers. Those wishing assistance in

## Children in Moscow Have Holiday Bazaar

Moscow — UP — Moscow children have a holiday bazaar in their favorite store, the House of Toys, but as usual the Christmas theme is absent.

Moscow Radio said the children are being welcomed by "Father Frost" and the Snow Maiden, the Soviet substitutes for St. Nick. It said the display includes an artificial pine forest that smells like real pine.

Filling out their income questionnaire cards should contact the Jackson County Veterans Service office in the county courthouse annex in Medford.

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| Catsup         | Highway                      | 20-oz. bottle | 25c   |
| Kotex          |                              | 12's          | 37c   |
| V8 Juice       | Vegetable juice              | 46-oz. Can    | 39c   |
| Shortening     | Velkey                       | 3-Lb. Can     | 59c   |
| Facial Tissue  | Truly Fine. Box of 400       |               | 5/\$1 |
| Mayonnaise     | Best Foods                   | Pint          | 59c   |
| Margarine      | Coldbrook                    | 6 Lbs.        | 99c   |
| Salad Dressing | Piedmont                     | Quart         | 33c   |
| Fisher's Zoom  | Cooked Cereal. 16-oz.        |               | 29c   |

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For a quick meal

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Deep Dish Pies Swanson, beef, chicken, turkey. 16-oz. 59c  
Captain's Choice

Breaded Fishsticks Breaded 12-oz. 3 for \$1

TREND SOAP Powdered 2 — 12½-oz. Pkgs. 39c Liquid — 22-oz. size 49c

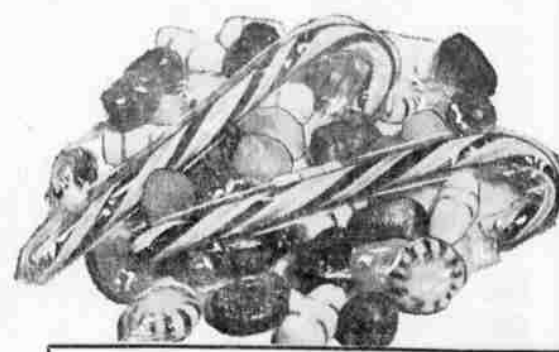
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