



**TROUPE RETURNS**—Comedian Bob Hope, accompanied by, from left, Amadee Chabot, Anita Bryant, Lana Turner and Janis Paige, returned from a 20,000-mile tour of military bases during which they entertained troops. Hope holds a Philippine bow and arrow he collected as a souvenir. (UPI)

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**MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE**  
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**The Medical Roundup**

by *Walter Alvarez*

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 (Register and Tribune Syndicate,  
 1963)

**Acute Rheumatic Fever**

It is important that an acute rheumatic fever be quickly recognized in a child, if only because if the disease is neglected, there is the danger that lasting damage will be done to one or more of the child's heart valves. Recently, 455 patients who having been sent in with the suspicion of having rheumatic fever, were found not to have any rheumatic or related disease. What happened usually was that the heart murmur that had been heard was what is called a functional one, due perhaps to a relaxation of the ring of muscle around the valve, and not due to any injury to, or destruction of, part of a heart valve. A few murmurs were due to a mild degree of congenital heart disease.

Also, in many cases what was thought to be an arthritis proved to be only a pain (called an arthralgia) in a joint. Many children complain of pains in their joints and in their limbs — pain the cause of which is never understood. A number of the children who when seen at home were thought to have a low grade fever were found not to have enough rise in the body temperature to be called a fever when watched for a while in a hospital.

**'Swab' of Throat**  
 Other children who were supposed to have the particularly dangerous germ, a streptococcus — in their throat — were found not to have it. A doctor took a "swab" of the throat and set it to a bacteriologic laboratory where the germs were cultured (grown in a test tube) and then identified.

A number of children were supposed to have a beginning St. Vitus dance, but in none of the cases did the experts at the hospital think that the child's occasion a lily jerky

movements were due to what we doctors call chorea. This chorea is sometimes associated with rheumatic heart disease.

There are a few diseases which are sometimes very difficult to differentiate from rheumatic fever in their early manifestations. One is the severe rheumatoid arthritis which can attack children.

**Test Helpful**  
 Very helpful in making a diagnosis of any serious disease is a laboratory test called "the red blood cell sedimentation rate" (or the "sed rate") — a test in which one measures the time it takes the red blood cells to settle out of the fluid part of the blood. When this rate is very slow, it strongly tends to rule out the presence of rheumatic fever. In the presence of a true rheumatic fever, the rate is likely to be very fast — up around 100 millimeters in an hour.

Obviously, the correct diagnosis of rheumatic fever should quickly be made, so that when it is really present the necessary treatment can be quickly instituted — treatment which can save the child from much trouble with his heart valves during the remainder of his life. The only reason I mentioned the above case is to show mothers that it is often well to ask for a consultation with an expert. We doctors can sometimes be needlessly alarmed.

**Bomarc B Missile Intercepts Aircraft**

Elgin AFB, Fla. — (UPI) — The Air Force, using a new electronic device, Wednesday successfully intercepted a low flying aircraft with a Bomarc B missile.

It was the first low altitude interception for the ground to air missile, which has hit high altitude targets repeatedly in previous tests.

Officers said the strike was "made possible by a newly developed electronic installation" in the airplane tracking the drone target.

**Special Training Institutes Slated At Oregon State**

Corvallis-Oregon State university will be a leader again this summer in providing special training in science and mathematics for superior high school students from across the U.S.

OSU received two of the 167 grants awarded by the National Science Foundation to leading educational and research institutions located throughout the country. It is the only Oregon school on the select list.

About 6,500 outstanding U.S. high school students will be chosen for the special advanced training in an effort to accelerate their educational development. The training is beyond that available in high school courses.

One of the grants to OSU is for a six-week training institute in earth and atmospheric sciences. Twenty-five top high school boys who have completed their junior year will be picked for the June 24 to Aug. 2 program. Dr. John F. Tatom of the atmospheric science branch of the OSU science research institute will be in charge. The NSF grant in support of the training was \$11,715.

The other grant, for \$24,385, will support a seven-week mathematics institute for 55 boys who have finished the 10th and 11th grades. Dr. Robert E. Gaskell, professor of mathematics, is program director. A similar institute last year drew outstanding youth match "whizzes" from as far away as New York City.

Selection of youths will be based upon scholastic ability, scientific motivation, and high school science-math teacher recommendations. OSC officials said. The NSF grants cover costs of instruction and some room, board and travel funds for the superior students picked for the programs.

**Business Plans New Building at Salem**

San Francisco — (UPI) — Moore Business Forms, Inc., will build a \$3 million plant in Salem, Ore., president W. H. Browne announced today.

The new 80,000-square foot plant will be built on a seven acre site and will replace Moore's present Salem plant. Construction of the building was scheduled to begin in the spring of 1963 and be completed by the following September, he said.

**CAN BE PROBLEM**

Westmill, England — (UPI) — A bulldozer clearing a road near here Wednesday scooped up a small car hidden beneath a snow bank and dumped it over a hedge.

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