

Polio Drops Below 1,000 Mark in Spectacular Triumph Today



TREATMENT GIVEN—Rheumatoid arthritis victim, Julian Riley of Manchester, Ga., is given a treatment in a whirlpool bath machine at Warm Springs Foundation. (UPI)

By AL KUETTNER
United Press International
Warm Springs, Ga. — (UPI)—
Medical science has few victories that can stand alongside the spectacular triumph over polio.

Last year the total polio cases in the United States dropped below the 1,000 mark for the first time since records were kept. In 1952, a total of 57,876 cases had been recorded.

The victory comes on the 25th anniversary of a project known to a generation of Americans as "The March of Dimes."

That voluntary outpouring of dimes from school children, the change from restaurant checks and the leftovers from housewives' cookie jar banks largely financed the research that produced revolutionary new treatment for victims and finally the immuni-

zation of the Salk and Sabin vaccines.
Fight Was Varied
The fight against polio had many skirmishes and many strategists. There was Miami Beach Hotelman Henry L. Doherty, who conceived the idea of holding \$1 admission dances in every town in the country on the birthday of then President Franklin D. Roosevelt, himself a polio victim.

There was comedian Eddie Cantor, the man credited with coining the phrase, "The March of Dimes."

There was Basil O'Connor, a New York lawyer who became the brains of the fundraising drive that would pay for the battle.

And there was FDR. Those who knew him in the early days of the polio struggle recalled that the President was the means of giving dignity to polio sufferers for the first

time. Roosevelt had a deep love for Warm Springs whose 88-degree water he believed had special beneficial effects. He had a "Little White House" there and died in it in 1945.

One day McKenzie King, then Prime Minister of Canada, stood at the rim of the swimming pool that is fed by springs which flow from inside nearby Pine Mountain to a depth of 4,000 feet into the earth where they are heated and return to the surface.

King turned to L. Duncan Cannon, now administrator of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation plant and facilities, and asked: "Is it true that something in the water helps polio patients?"

"No, Mr. Prime Minister," Cannon replied. "You could heat the water in Toronto and get the same results."
The man in the swimming pool snorled, "Dunc, you sound just like those damned

doctors. I know there's something in this water that helps me. Why, I can't walk in the pool at the White House but I can walk here."

The year was 1933. The man in the pool was President Roosevelt. And there was no known cure for polio.
March Begins
On Jan. 30, 1934, in an old abandoned Civilian Conservation Corps building across the highway from the foundation and in plush ballrooms around the nation, bands struck up melodies and socially-prominent ladies manned the ticket counters for the first birthday balls.

That year about \$1 million was raised and \$100,000 was earmarked for the first research program "to stimulate and further the meritorious work being done in the field of infantile paralysis."

Research brought changes in treatment. The standard for polio patients had been extreme immobilization in plaster casts followed, after many months, with exercise. By then changes had taken place in muscles and joints, making recovery difficult.
Rigid splits were eliminated and apparatus was developed that would allow the patient to exercise early. Muscle re-education became a major phase of treatment.

"We learned to walk the tight rope between rest and activity," said Dr. Robert L. Bennett, Executive Director of the Foundation and Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine in Atlanta's Emory university.

To medical scientists like Bennett, polio actually became something of a blessing in disguise.

"Polio was God given to teach us how to care for far more difficult problems," Bennett said.

"Through polio treatment, we have learned much about arthritis, broken backs and necks, the progressive crippling diseases, paraplegia (immobilization of lower extremities) and quadriplegia (all extremities)."
Still Big Job
There were those who thought that, with the end of polio, Warm Springs would have served its purpose. A tour through the place shows that nothing is further from the fact.

Today the Foundation is treating and rehabilitating a wide variety of immobilizing ailments and is operating a graduate training program in therapy for doctors and nurses. Georgia is building a rehabilitation center on foundation-deeded property.

The big job here today, as in the past, is to return a patient to normal pursuits, trained to compensate for partial disability.

In a special function therapy department, disabled mothers are taught with a life-size doll how to care for infants. They learn to make beds, open doors and get into the family car. They try all manner of door latches to find the one they can open best with fingers, wrists or elbows. These are all labeled so the patient knows which one to order from the carpenter back home.

The Department is equipped with various types of kitchen and living gadgets at different heights to suit all patients. Light switches are varied, including one that turns on and off from the pressure of the tongue.

"The battle fought; the victory won," reads an inscription on one of the buildings. But to Bennett and his staff the victory over polio was

merely the threshold of more difficult and challenging work that he feels will still be going on at the 50th and the 100th anniversary of The March of Dimes.

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IN NEW BUSINESS—Former airline pilot Oscar W. Cleal, 43, takes a customer's order on the telephone and jots it down for his secretary. Cleal, whose flying days ended when a berserk gunman fired a bullet into his head, rendering him fireless, has been registered by the New York Stock

Pilot Shot by Berserk Gunman Now Authorized Stock Broker

Menlo Park, Calif. — (UPI)—
Eighteen months ago Oscar W. Cleal settled himself in the pilot seat of a Pacific Airline plane in Chico, Calif., for another routine flight in his 15-year career with the company.

A few moments later, Bruce Britt, 40, boarded the DC3 without a ticket and pulled a gun from his coat when the ticket agent tried to force him off. Britt opened fire, wounding the agent and narrowly missing a passenger.

The agent, Bill Hicks, was station agent at Medford, Ore., airport from 1956 until 1959, transferring to Eureka and then to Chico. He has since been transferred back to Medford, where he is again station agent.

He is now able to carry on his airline duties but is restricted in his activities due to injuries suffered in the shooting.

Britt is serving a 1 to 14 year term in California's Folsom Prison on each of three counts of attempted murder.

Bullet Fired Into Head
The gunman forced his way into the cockpit and ordered Cleal to take off immediately for Arkansas. When the pilot attempted to restrain Britt, the berserk man fired a bullet into Cleal's head.

Britt was subdued by the copilot and other passengers, and Cleal was rushed to a hospital where doctors saved his life. But, he lost one eye

completely and lost the vision in the other.
Cleal's flying career was over at 42, an age when few men, especially a blind one, would consider starting over. Cleal decided to be an exception.

During his convalescence, after he was released from the Stanford-Palo Alto Hospital, Cleal turned to the investment securities business in which he long had an interest.

At his Menlo Park home with his wife, Evelyn, and their two children, Lindsay, 7, and Wendy, 4, Cleal studied economics, finance and all facets of the securities business.

Used Tape Recorder
His wife read to him in the evenings, and he used recorded textbooks when she was busy at her duties as a housewife.

Last summer he went into training with the Menlo Park office of Shearson, Hammill & Co., a brokerage firm. And Monday, after a year and a half of study, Cleal was registered by the New York Stock Exchange as an authorized broker.
James E. Ryan, manager of the Menlo Park brokerage office, said Cleal was a full-time secretary and the use of electronic sound equipment that enables him to handle securities work, despite his blindness.

"As far as we know, he's the only blind broker registered with the stock exchange," Ryan said. "His friends are very proud of him."

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