

The Medical Roundup

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Typhoid Fever Still a Danger

When I was a boy, virtually everyone had to suffer from typhoid fever, and many people died of it. This miserable illness lasted for at least six weeks, often taking the patient to the edge of death. In the old days, people living in a city on a river drank the sewage which was dumped into the river by a city farther up, and, as a result, almost everyone suffered from typhoid fever, dizziness and diarrhea.

It took many years to convince the city fathers that it wasn't nice or healthy to drink sewage, and that it would pay to filter the river water and then to treat it with chlorine so as to kill the germs. Typhoid fever was a common occurrence on farms, where germs from the outside privy went through the soil into the well.

Some 40 years or so ago, with the introduction of the proper handling of sewage, and the constant efforts of health officers to keep water supplies free from deadly germs, typhoid fever almost disappeared; we physicians seldom saw a case of it.

As our older people can remember, during our war with Spain almost all of the soldiers who died lost their lives not because of wounds—but because of typhoid fever. They died in the first camp to which they were sent. Typhoid fever used to be one of the worst curses of armies.

Fortunately, a method of vaccinating against the disease was developed at the time of World War I, and as a result, typhoid fever was seldom seen during that war, or in World War II.

Due to Food Infection

During the past 40 years, most of the outbreaks of typhoid fever have been due to the infection of food by cooks who are carriers of typhoid fever. Most carriers have a chronically diseased gallbladder which is always full of the deadly germs. The germs are eliminated by the body, get on the carrier's hands and from them get into the food being prepared.

Every so often, I read in the papers that some 200 or 300 persons who went to a church luncheon came down with a violent indigestion. Later, some of the persons develop typhoid or paratyphoid (like typhoid) fever. In those cases, the health authorities find that some woman who, the night before, prepared a big dish of perhaps spaghetti was a carrier of typhoid fever, and it was she who infected the food.

One interesting woman who played hide-and-seek for a long time with the health officers of New York State was a certain "Typhoid Mary" who cooked for wealthy people with country estates.

Every so often, a physician would report that out of 10 or 12 people on an estate, perhaps seven or eight had come down with typhoid fever. A health department investigator would immediately go to the place to study the problem, but Mary would see him coming and go out the back door.

She would then drop out of sight until she started another epidemic on another estate. Eventually, when she got caught, she promised never to cook again, but she was hostile and did not keep her promise. Soon she was back at her old job of starting epidemics of typhoid fever. The second time the health officers caught up with her, they built on an island a nice little cottage for her, and saw to it that she remained there comfortable for the rest of her days, a guest of the state of New York.

Found Carriers

I was once a guest in the home of a former professor of public health at Harvard, and he told me of a time a

big American-owned mining company in South America begged him to come down and help them; they could hardly keep going because most of their employees kept coming down with typhoid fever. My friend went to the mines and quickly found that their chief cook was a carrier; he was fired, and the epidemic stopped.

No sooner had my friend gotten back to Boston when he got a telegram from another American corporation in South America, saying that they were paralyzed by an epidemic of typhoid, and what should they do? The professor telegraphed "If your new cook's name is —, fire him." Their new cook turned out to be the same one who had infected the other company.

I read that recently a "Typhoid Gretchen" was found in an American Youth Activities camp in West Germany. One day she made a potato salad big enough to serve 400 persons, and 60 of them came down with typhoid fever.

Later, it was found that in 1945 she had been identified by the German health officers as a "Typhoid Mary," but like her namesake, she had escaped and had gone back to her old tricks.

Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any way of treating these carriers so that they will no longer be a danger, and so far it has been impossible to keep from going back to their work of cooking for people.

As I write this, I read of the severe epidemic of typhoid fever in Zermatt, Switzerland, due apparently to the leakage of sewage into the pipes carrying the city's water. All people who have drunk that water should be tested for amebiasis.

Many persons are puzzled by their blood pressure reading. They do not know what a blood pressure of, say, 150 over 100 means. "High Blood Pressure," by Dr. Alvarez, is an informative booklet which will answer many questions on this subject for you. To obtain a copy, send 25 cents and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

Springfield Mill Closure Planned

Springfield, Ore. — (UPI) — Georgia Pacific Corp. will close its Springfield sawmill after the day shift April 26, the company announced Wednesday.

The announcement was made in a letter to all employees signed by sawmill manager J. O. Dixon.

The closure will affect 214 employees. Dixon's letter said present market conditions make it impossible for the mill to operate profitably. It said the closure will be permanent. The mill has been operating with only a day shift for several months.

Georgia Pacific also operates two plywood plants and a specialty board plant in the Springfield area. The company purchased the big mill from the pioneer Booth-Kelly Lumber Co. in 1959.

Bash on Staff of Radio Observatory

Francis N. Bash, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Bash, 1325 Bundy st., is now on the staff of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, W. Va.

A radio astronomy major at Harvard university, Bash completed requirements for a master of arts degree there, and is listed among the approximately 400 students who received mid-year degrees from Harvard recently.

Bash has served as a scientist on the observatory staff since December, 1962.

Duncan Opposes Duplicate Bills on Major Legislation

By YVONNE FRANKLIN
Mail Tribune
Washington Bu:22u

Editor's note: This is the second in a series on legislation sponsored by Oregon's congressional delegation.

Washington—Freshman Congressman Robert Duncan (D-Ore.), Medford, has introduced but one bill since his arrival in the nation's capital, legislation to create a national seashore in the Dunes area. As he says, "I think it is silly to print up all those extra bills at the expense of the government."

He agreed with Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.), that duplicate bills of major legislation cut no mustard with congressional committees.

Duncan has been kept busy with his committee assignments, but he has managed a course in speedreading to help him cut through yards of material he must absorb to keep up with legislation.

His past service as Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives gave Duncan seniority over five other freshmen on his Interior committee. He also sits on the Agriculture committee and is hopping (two committee meetings a morning, he says) by four subcommittees: Feed Grains and Manpower subcommittees on Agriculture and Mining and Irrigation subcommittees on Interior.

In an interview, Duncan gave tentative approval to a couple of Administration bills, the Youth Conservation Corps and the principle of federal aid to education, but expressed reservations about the Domestic Peace Corps. He thinks the country would be derelict in its duty if more money is not spent on education, if only to win the cold war.

"Now we fight with test tubes and computing machines," he said. He also needed the American Medical Association.

Noting that they favored federal aid for construction of medical and dental schools and loans to medical students while opposing medical care for the aged under social security, Duncan observed: "Apparently this assistance to doctors isn't socialist."

Duncan's manpower subcommittee has just voted out an extension of a law grant

ing United States farmers the right to import Mexican braceros for so-called stoop labor. This legislation was opposed by the National Council of Churches and many other groups and supported by the Farm Bureau. The Council contends that the Mexican workers depress wages for domestic labor, and the Farm Bureau maintained stoop labor is unavailable otherwise. The administration wanted an extension for one year. Duncan joined in voting out a bill extending the life of the treaty for two years with restrictions similar to the old treaty, which reduced the

number of braceros from a peak of 445,000 workers in 1956 to 195,000 last year because American farmers must try to get U.S. labor before contracting for the braceros. "I don't like the program," said Duncan, "it's the closest thing to indentured servants in this country, but we need it. If Jackson county fruit rots on the trees, we are hard hit. But the tendency to use braceros is down. I look forward to phasing it out."

Reasonable Efforts Claimed

Duncan said Oregon pear growers had made reasonable efforts to obtain local or domestic people. The bill should

be voted by the full committee later this month. Duncan wants to look at the big picture on trade relations with our allies. He was not in favor of an import quota on Canadian lumber; he wanted more "evidence" from the lumber industry of unfair competition, noting that one firm showed profits up \$3½ million over the previous year.

He ruefully pointed to the pressures on congressmen to "wear two hats" on these matters affecting the economy. On the one hand, the lumber people want a quota on Canadian lumber imports, where

as the pear growers, who want to export to Europe have been adversely affected by a French ban on U.S. exports of fruit, want the government to retaliate in kind. "We must look at it in context," Duncan said. "Canada is one of our biggest customers. People who generally are against government subsidies ought to know that quotas and tariffs are subsidies under another name, and it is the American consumer that ends up paying for them."

"There are areas where government assistance can be justified — where we ought to equalize unfair competitive

advantages — but I like to see industry stand on its own feet," he continued. Duncan said the government has the authority under the Trade Expansion Bill passed last year to retaliate against France if she continues to bar American fruit. He worries about the possible harmful effect on Oregon fruit if France is successful in barring American products so that France can supply Europe under a Common Market agreement.

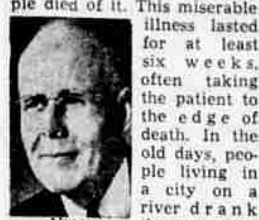
"Perhaps it is time to say, 'All right, De Gaulle, here is

the way we feel about French wines' which wouldn't make the wine makers in the U.S. angry," he said, but expressed caution at the danger of setting off a chain reaction on tariffs.

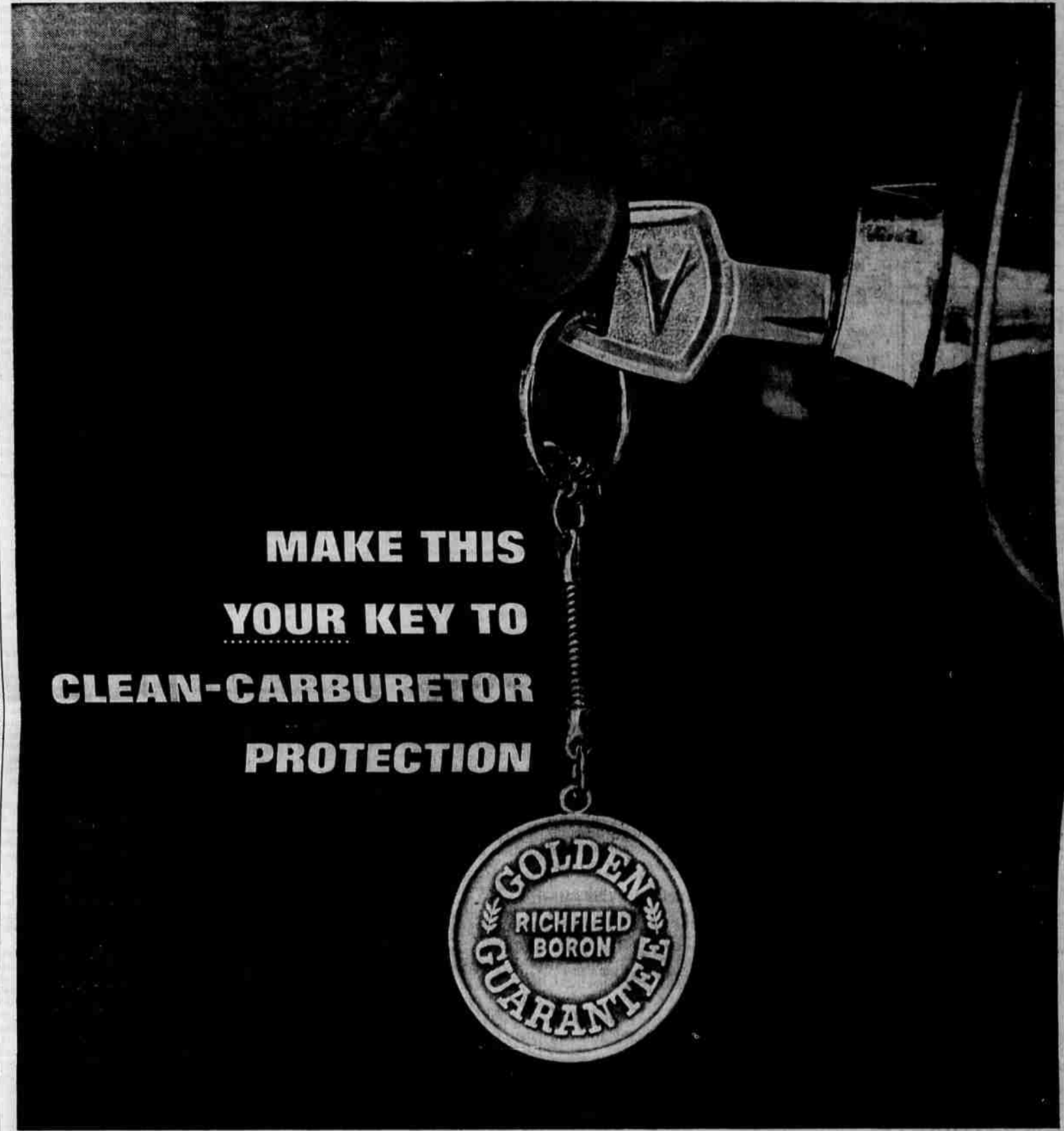
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Franklin



Alvarez



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