

The Medical Roundup

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The Vacation Diarrhea

Every summer physicians see travelers who say shortly after they reached a foreign land, or perhaps just one of our national parks, they were seized with a violent diarrhea. Fortunately, in most cases the spell lasted for only 12 or 24 hours. For many years, we in the United States thought of such travel diarrhea as attacking mainly persons who were visiting in the republics south of the Rio Grande. Also, for years, practically everyone assumed that the cause of such upsets is infestation with an ameba, a single cell microscope parasite, which grows in the large bowel.

The last time I visited our sister republic to the south, I realized that the cause of my violent intestinal upset could hardly be due to amebiasis because it hit me on the night of my arrival, and it lasted only 10 hours. Later, microscopic studies showed that I had no amebiasis. The attack was exactly like many others I have had, when at home, or in New York, or when traveling in the western Rockies. That such brief gastrointestinal upsets are probably due to a special virus is shown by the fact that sometimes a third of the nurses in a hospital will be stricken at one time. Often, in such epidemics, the disease is called intestinal flu.

Discharges Studied
Recently, a big study was made of hundreds of exchange students, some of whom went to Mexico, others to Europe. Wherever they went, perhaps a third of them quickly came down with a brief attack of severe diarrhea. Their discharges were immediately frozen and shipped to university laboratories in the United States where they were well studied by experts. As I remember, no definite cause was found for the trouble. Students who went to

countries on the Mediterranean Coast had a little more intestinal trouble than did the students who went to the northern countries, such as Norway and Sweden. Even some tourists who went to Hawaii had trouble in spite of the fact Hawaii is usually salubrious and has a good clean water supply.

What seems probable is that when a person travels he comes in contact with viruses to which he is unaccustomed and hence not immune. Then, wherever he is, he can get into trouble.

Bacteriologists have pointed out that each summer perhaps 50 million of our people stream out from their cities to resorts, and to national parks, where they put much strain on the local facilities for eating. I know that in some parks I have had to wait for the second or third sitting in the huge dining halls. Under such circumstances, dishes and knives and forks may escape sterilization.

Also, some of the employees may well be carriers of viruses, amebas, and germs that can cause dysentery.

Whenever there is any doubt about the medical inspection of the water supplies and water sheds, the wise person will drink only bottled water or boiling hot tea. One important point is commonly missed by the traveler. He may order a bottle of spring water, but when it comes to his table the water may be in a glass, into which a bus boy, perhaps with dirty hands, has put ice cubes. Many a time when traveling in a foreign land I have found it difficult to get a waiter to understand that I must have the bottle of spring water opened at my table and not with ice cubes.

As many people know, in some foreign countries it is not safe to eat salads. Then, only freshly cooked foods should be eaten.

Dangerous Food
When traveling in a hot summer, would never think of eating hamburger because in some places bacteriologists from the State Board of Health have found ground

Yankee Ingenuity

U. S. Patent Office Runs Almost 200,000 Applications Behind

By DICK WEST
Washington - (UPI) - According to a magazine article published this week, the United States is experiencing an invention explosion of even greater magnitude than the population explosion. Our old Yankee ingenuity is sparking new ideas so fast that the U. S. Patent Office can't keep up with them. At last count, it was almost 200,000 applications behind.



West ideas so fast that the U. S. Patent Office can't keep up with them. At last count, it was almost 200,000 applications behind.

To realize how really big the backlog is, one must consider a statement made by Patent Commissioner David L. Ladd in an interview with U. S. News & World Report. Ladd said the problem could not be solved by hiring more employees.

I never thought I'd live to see the day when a bureaucrat would make a statement like that.

It shook me up so much that I stopped by the Patent Office and picked up a copy of its weekly list of new inventions. I could immediately understand why Ladd

meat swarming with billions of disease producing germs. The only hamburger that is safe to eat has been recently ground, and made from good beef, just taken out of a refrigerator. Hamburger made from scraps thrown by a butcher into a basket behind his counter is a dangerous food, particularly in a hot summer.

Another dangerous food in the summer is the cream that is put into chocolate eclairs and cream puffs and other such pastries. I have known persons who had a stormy night after eating a cream which had become heavily infected with some bacteria-producing organism.

If you are a sensitive, allergic person, you'll want to read Dr. Alvarez' booklet "Asthma, Allergy and Hay Fever." To obtain your 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.

was feeling desperate. During that one week alone, his office issued more than 900 patents, the scope and variety of which would make your head spin except for a few inventions that apparently were designed to make your head stop spinning.

Here are just a few of the devices that were awarded patents in that period: A disposable paint brush; a machine for skinning fish; an apparatus for measuring the length of trousers; a retractable awning that you can run out over your auto's windshield when it starts to rain.

A self-cleaning ash tray; a hair brush that is grounded so that it removes static electricity from hair; a serving spoon that you can eat when you have finished serving.

There was even a new, though not necessarily better, mousetrap. If my understanding of the way it

works is correct, it lures a mouse into a container where he eats so much cheese he becomes too fat to get back out again.

I assume the mouse stays there until the fatty diet and lack of exercise raises his cholesterol content to the point where he suffers a fatal heart attack.

To my mind, however, nothing points up to the complexity of modern life quite so much as a new type of brassiere invented by a lady of Bridgeport, Conn. This device is described as having seven segments, one being "a pair of shoulder straps, each connected at its forward end to said upwardly directed apex of a respective transition member and connected at its rearward end to the upper edge of said band at a point adapted to be disposed at the back of the wearer."

All of that just so some doll can look good in a sweater. No wonder the patent office is swamped.

Argentine Winner Mapping Next Step

Buenos Aires, Argentina - (UPI) - Dr. Arturo Illia, the moderate candidate who outpolled his nearest rival by nearly a million votes, Tuesday charted his next moves toward the Argentine presidency.

Illia, candidate of the People's Radical party, had 169 electoral votes on the basis of Sunday's peaceful nationwide balloting, but he lacked 70 for an absolute majority in the 476-member Electoral College meeting July 31.

He planned to start negotiations with candidates of other parties within a few days. It was not yet clear whether Illia would receive sufficient backing for his own candidacy or would limit himself to a key role in picking the president.

HIS CUP OF TEA
Southampton, England - (UPI) - Hard-drinking Irish playwright Brendan Behan arrived here Tuesday by ship from New York and announced: "Most people don't know I'm an expert on tea." His only comment on the United States: "Their tea tasted as if it was made with cigarette butts."

Gaston Woman Meted Four Years

Hillsboro - (UPI) - Mrs. Evelyn Flett, 34, Gaston, has been sentenced to four years in the state penitentiary on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

Mrs. Flett was to have stood trial in Washington County Circuit Court on a charge of manslaughter resulting from the knife death of her husband, Eldon, in November, 1961. The state dismissed the manslaughter charge when Mrs. Flett pleaded guilty to assault.

She was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to seven years in prison in March, 1962. That conviction was later reversed by the State Supreme Court, which said irrelevant testimony had been allowed.

FOOD FOR ALGERIA
Algiers, Algeria - (UPI) - An agreement was signed here Tuesday between the American CARE organization and Algeria under which an estimated \$15 million worth of U.S. food will be distributed to 1.4 million Algerians. The year-long program will begin in September.

Astoria To Join German Village in Birthday Observance

Walldorf, Germany - (UPI) - This German hamlet and Astoria, Ore., join together this month in celebrating the 200th birthday of a butcher's son who founded an empire in the new world that still stands.

Johann Jakob Astor was born in Walldorf, July 17, 1763, the son of a poor butcher, according to the village chronicle. But young Astor emigrated to North America and made a fortune. He also founded Astoria. His grandson, William, furthered the family empire by founding the famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York in 1866. William henceforth called himself Waldorf-Astoria, but no one knows why he dropped the second "L" in Walldorf.

Astor Left at 18
The highlight of Astor Week in Walldorf July 17-23 is the establishment of a sister-town relationship with the Oregon city. The mayor of As-

toria is expected to attend the festivities.

"Nobbele," as butcher's son Johann Astor was known to his friends, left Walldorf at the age of 18 and joined his older brother in London. Then in 1784, he left for the new world and got a job as apprentice with a New York fur dealer.

Within a year he had started his own firm, buying furs in the Hudson river hunting grounds and Canada, and selling them in London at a good profit. In 1810 he sent an expedition to the West Coast and founded Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia river.

One reason for the link with Astoria is an attempt to revive the relationship, Walldorf Mayor Wilhelm Willinger said, "but we do not expect a donation from the rich uncles in America."

Twenty families named Astor now live in Walldorf, which sports an Astor Garden, an Astor Monument, the Cafe Astoria, and the Astor House, a home for old people built with a \$50,000 donation from Johann Astor.

CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK

Salem - (UPI) - Gov. Mark Hatfield has urged Oregonians to observe the period July 14-20 as Captive Nations Week.

SWEET CHERRY WEEK
Salem - (UPI) - This week has been designated as Oregon Sweet Cherry Week. Gov. Mark Hatfield has announced, "Nobbele," as butcher's son Johann Astor was known to his friends, left Walldorf at the age of 18 and joined his older brother in London. Then in 1784, he left for the new world and got a job as apprentice with a New York fur dealer.

Family Name Remains
Martin Astor runs a leather goods store in Walldorf, Hermann Astor is an upholsterer. Dr. Karl Astor is the village physician, and there is an Astor on the Astoria-Walldorf soccer team.

A picture of Astoria, Ore., decorates the dining room of the tiny Walldorf hotel, and another room contains a replica of a cabin in Johann Astor's flagship Tonquin that sailed past Cape Horn in 1810.

Enthusiastic Walldorfers also changed the name of their main road from "Nusslocher Strasse" to "Johann Jakob Astor Strasse," and put up huge posters at the outskirts of the village advertising the birthday party.

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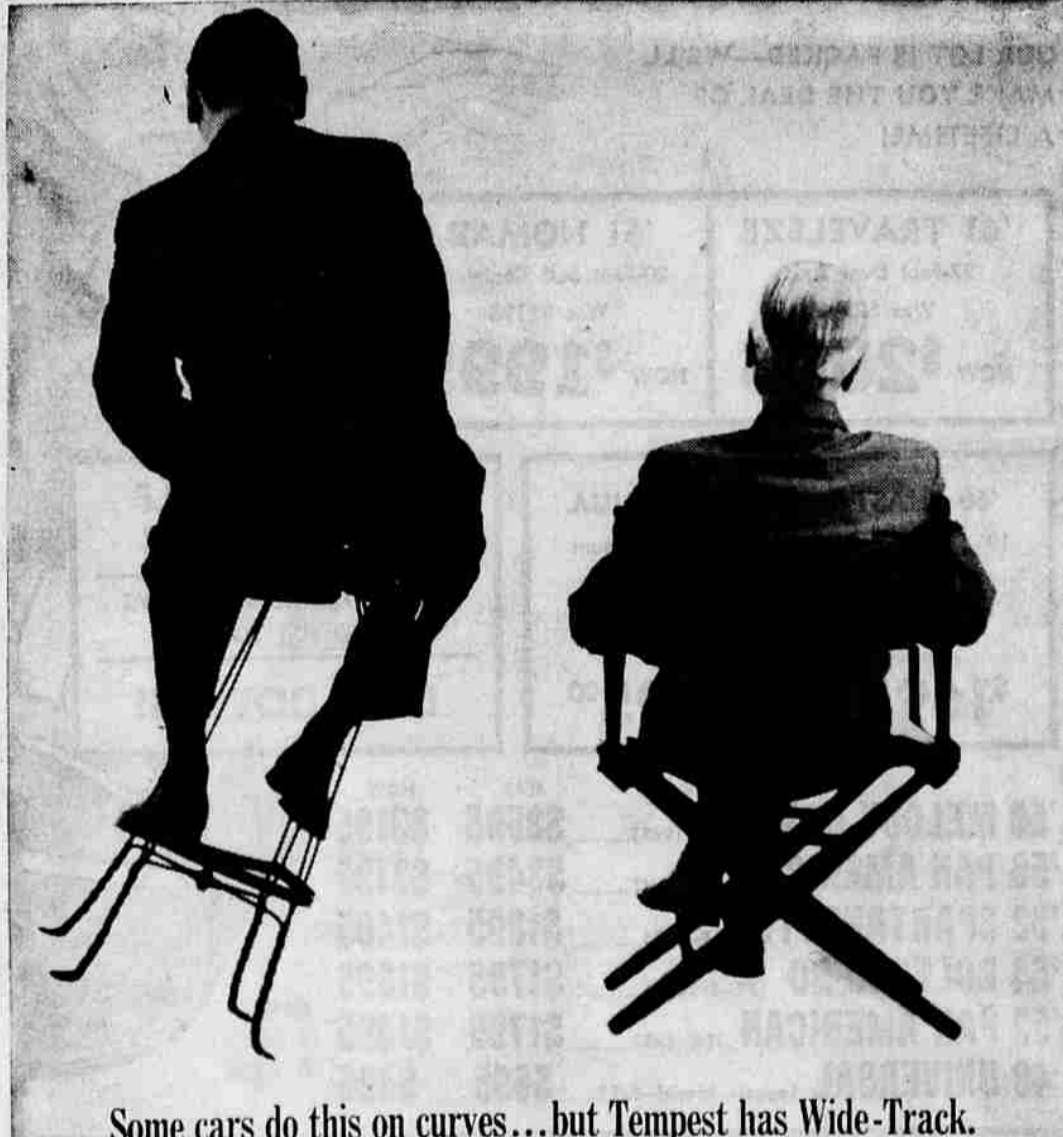
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