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Facts Revealed On Leprosy

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: Please reply to this letter in your column.

I, as you stated recently "Hansen's Disease," never known as leprosy, is not easily communicable why are the leprosy patients isolated?

Why do we need leprosy tests, such as the test in California, La? And why have people been fearful of this mysterious disease since 1000 B.C.?

Why are only close relatives allowed to visit patients in leprosy hospitals?—R.E.M. OF KENNESAW, WIS.

Dear R.E.M.: I welcome the opportunity to answer your question, which I'm sure are shared by millions of other readers who know nothing about this disease.

1. The isolation of "Hansen's" is a hangover from the biblical laws as set forth in the Book of Leviticus. Since little was known about the treatment of any disease in those days, separation from society was the law of the land. This included the mentally ill as well as the physically ill.

2. Such places as the leprosy hospital in Carville exist today because ignorant and fearful common sense refused to pass legislation which would enable victims of Hansen's disease to be treated in public hospitals.

3. It is not true that only close relatives can visit patients (not inmates, please) at the leprosy hospital. Anyone who wishes to visit a leprosy patient may do so—as I have done.

Dear Ann Landers: Neither my husband nor I drink alcoholic beverages. Drinking is prohibited by our religion and we have both entered in the strict tradition of our church.

We moved to this city a few months ago. Because of my

husband's drinking and my interest in many parties and I will be doing a great deal of entertaining.

Next month we will be going to a dinner party. My husband feels that if we don't wear a certain dress we may be considered peculiar. Furthermore, he says the folks may not wish to come to my home again if I don't want to hurt my husband in his wife, but when we wear that dress in our home will I be reluctant to start one. If you say I am wrong I will reconsider.—FRANK REBEVER

Frank Rebever: It's a sad state of affairs when people who don't drink liquor are afraid of being considered social freaks.

Anyone who would refuse to visit your home because he can't get a full there would represent no great loss if he stayed away.

Dear Ann Landers: Several weeks ago you had a letter in your column from a woman who wanted to know if marrying a divorced man was like having a monkey on—so she phoned it. "Marrying somebody else's trouble" I'd like to add something from experience.

I am 36 and I married a divorced man a year ago. I was divorced myself as I couldn't criticize him on that score. When we were going together he treated me as if I were a Dresden doll and he was afraid I'd break. Now that we are married I find that the things he said about his first wife seem to be true of him. He has a violent temper, no respect for the truth and he drinks too much.

My mother warned me that a divorced man would be a poor marriage risk. She said divorced women are different because women learn from a mistake but men don't. How about this?—TIM VIEW

Dear Tim: Statistics don't support your mother's theory. When both parties have been once divorced the chances for a successful marriage are

Space Experts Say Only Atomic Power Can Put Men On Mars

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The space experts say only atomic power can get men on Mars. If that is the case, the first manned expedition to search for life on the Red Planet appears to be at least 20 years away.

Some years ago officials of the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) were looking at nuclear reactors which would be ready for testing in 1965.

Now they talk of 1970 or 1975 as the first flight test date—and they concede this is an optimistic forecast. Even if this schedule is met, approximately 4-year-old reactors will be ready for deep space missions before the 1970-1975 period, the experts say.

As of last June 30 the AEC and NASA had spent \$450 million on Project Rover, the joint enterprise to develop an atom-powered rocket for exploration of the outer system beyond the moon.

Through the current fiscal year, which started July 1, Rover spending is expected to add up to \$607.6 million.

Could Reach 20 Billion By the time the first nuclear rocket has passed itself in flight, the cost may reach 20 billion, approximately what it took to develop the first atomic bomb.

By that time, with luck, the first Americans will have landed on the moon and returned with samples. They will have made the round trip on chemical rocket power.

Chemical energy is good enough for moon trips. But for flights as far as Mars and back, engineers want the fantastically greater power provided by the splitting atom.

If the rockets were ready, 1973 would be a good year—the astronomical reasons—to try for Mars. Other less favorable opportunities will present themselves in 1975 and 1981.

But the chances of having nuclear rockets at their disposal in the next 15 to 20 years are an uncertain lot. The space planners are now resigned to putting off manned trips to Mars until after 1981.

Until Nov. 30, 1965, the nuclear rocket people were confident that they could fly a jet model. If not by 1965, at least by 1966 or 1967.

Get Strange Results But in a test of a lightweight version of the atomic rocket engine at Nevada last November some strange things happened that the designers had not anticipated.

The reactor core, as a result of unexpected vibrations, began to break up and spit out parts of itself in a short-lived exhibition of fiery fireworks.

As a result, the whole business had to be redesigned, and it may be 1965 or early 1966 before further ground testing of a nuclear reactor can be undertaken.

After that will come the long and difficult task of putting the hardware together for a flight test in 1970 or 1975. It will take nearly a decade longer to perfect manufacturing atomic rockets.

People familiar with other fields of atomic research and development are not surprised that Rover has run into trouble. The atom is by nature steam and dangerous.

Fears Intense Experiment in the case of the nuclear rocket, the engineers are demanding something that can operate reliably at extremely ranging from about 100 degrees below zero—the temperature of the liquid hydrogen propellant—to 5,000 degrees above zero, the temperature of the reactor fuel core.

It must be able to make this transition in a matter of seconds, shut down for a brief cooling period, and then start up again in the next fraction of space.

The designers expect to test it in its flightlike reactors before they are ready to build an actual rocket engine. So far they have ground-tested six reactors.

If they have not into trouble already, they expect more trouble in the future. But they intend to keep plugging, because the long future of space exploration depends on their success.

As of July 1, 1965, some 700 persons, exclusive of construction workers, were employed at the Nevada nuclear rocket test grounds. By Jan. 1, 1967, this number is expected to grow to 2,700.

Old atomic hands in Congress

hope the project won't run out of steam before it achieves its goals. They recall the old program in developing nuclear engines for aircraft which theoretically would be able to fly hundreds of times around the earth without refueling.

By the time the nuclear atom engine was dumped off in 1961, it had cost the taxpayers \$1 billion. There still is no atom

thing as an atom-powered airplane. The way things look now there never will be.

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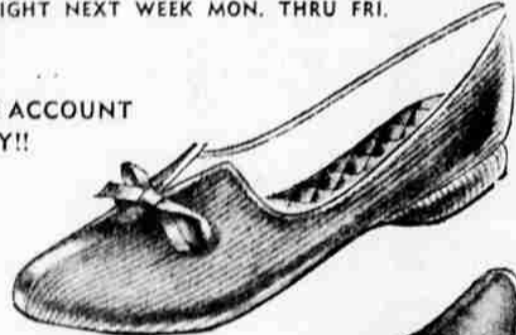
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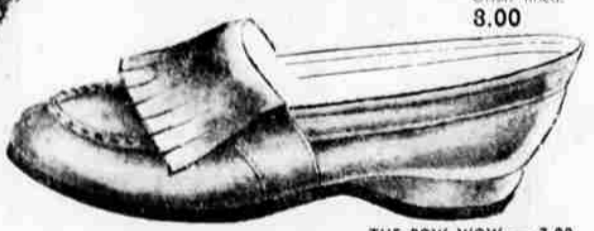
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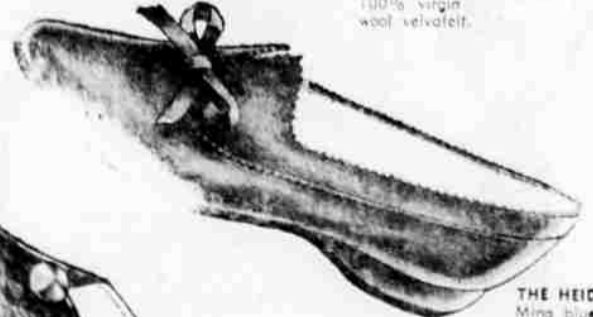
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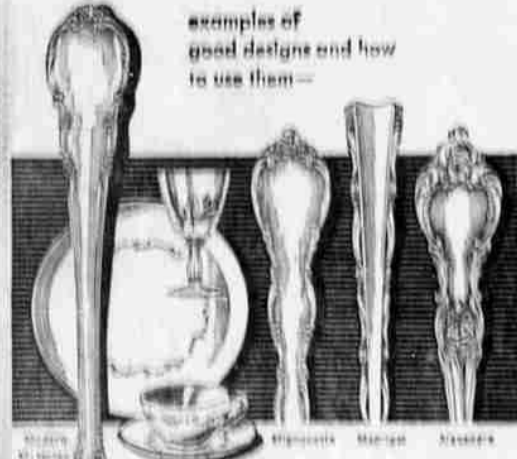


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