

Dr. Michal Makes Report On Local Immunization Survey

The following is a report by Dr. Mary Michal, local Health Director, on an immunization survey made by the Public Health nurses in Watauga County Schools—1st grade pupils—in September, 1962.

Four hundred and thirty children were enrolled in the first grades of our schools in September, 1962. These four hundred and thirty children were not 100% protected against the usual communicable diseases for which we have protection when enrolled in the first grade.

Besides the communicable disease for which we can protect a child he will, of course, be exposed to other things for which we do not have protection: mumps, chickenpox, German measles, streptococcal infections of sore throats and ear trouble for which he may have very little or no resistance. We shall soon have protection against measles, which up until now has been a serious threat, as it is not at all a mild disease. For scarlet fever, we have the protection of new treatment in the latest antibiotics so that this should not be associated with serious illness and complications.

But what of the child that has not been adequately protected against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, smallpox? Already in 1963 there has been one case of diphtheria in North Carolina. Occasionally a case of smallpox develops in the United States because a person coming into the country has been exposed but has not come down with the disease—in other words, was in the incubation period. The polio cases that occur each year, the majority of them paralytic, are much more common in persons, particularly children, inadequately or not at all protected. Tetanus is a constant threat, particularly in agricultural areas, and every wound or injury to the skin or tissues of the body can become infected with tetanus, which is almost always fatal. Unfortunately, we have cases of whooping cough every year, which



COFFEE DAY.—Mrs. Tine Edmiston and Sonny Klutz of Sonny's Grill in Blowing Rock, hold an Easter Seals Coffee Day sign for patrons to see. This is one of many restaurants and drug stores in the county who will donate all coffee money to the Easter Seals Campaign Saturday.

though vaccination does not protect entirely against, does give very adequate protection against serious illness and complications. Therefore, the following statistics are very indicative of the interest taken by us in protecting our children.

Twenty-one of these children, or 4.88%, have no smallpox scar and therefore have no protection against smallpox. Only four of these or .09% had their vaccination delayed because of some physician's order to do so. Probably all of these could have been protected if given the vaccination early in infancy when it should have been given. Eleven of these children, or 2.56%, lacked their diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus immunizations. The same number lacked their polio protection while another seventeen, or 3.95%, had not received their second and third DPT and polio immunizations. This should be started early in infancy. There were inadequate records available for twenty-one, or 4.88%, of our children, pointing up the fact that each parent should be certain to keep a record of all immunizations their children

receive and have these ready to present at the time of enrolling them for school, in accordance with the state law.

This year let us see that our children are adequately protected in infancy and if past that age and they have not been protected, let us take care of this responsibility now. I am sure we all realize how fortunate it is that we live in an age when these devastating diseases are no longer killing our infants and young children in the numbers which occurred not too many years ago. When things become past history, it is easy to forget them, but I am sure that all older citizens can remind the younger parents of families they knew in which five or six members of the family died of typhoid fever, diphtheria, whooping cough or some other communicable disease. This should not happen in even isolated cases today. See your family doctor and check on the immunization status of every member of your family, since basic immunization needs to be followed by periodic booster doses.

Seal Sale In Final Week

As the Easter Seal campaign swings into the final big week, prospects for one of the most successful drives in the history of the campaign in Watauga county are in evidence, according to Chairman Blake Brinkerhoff. Perhaps the main reason for the fine response of the citizens of our county this year stems from the way funds to be kept in the county will be spent.

It is the intention of the Easter Seals committee either to establish a scholarship for additional study by the County Speech Therapist, or add a scholarship for use by a second person entering this new field. The great amount of good that has been accomplished by the therapist, Mrs. Council Cook, in her first year of service in this capacity, cannot be overstated. She has helped 71 students in our county schools with speech problems to make great strides in overcoming their handicaps, and she has become aware of many more cases that one person just does not have the time to deal with. Therefore, the need for additional help is great, and the Easter Seals committee hopes to encourage others to aid in this effort through the Scholarship Fund.

According to Mr. Brinkerhoff, "Much has been given in terms of time, effort and money to make this campaign a success, but there is still opportunity for more assistance to this cause that benefits our county and state efforts to combat the effects of crippling diseases."

Directors BR Chamber To Meet Friday Night

The regular meeting of the Directors of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce will be held Friday, April 12, at 7:30 p. m. All members are invited to attend.

The only people who have the power to destroy American capitalism are American capitalists.

Emergency Blood Needs Bring Drastic Actions

By JOE McCLUNG

Have you ever received a phone call from the hospital in the middle of the day or night and asked if you could possibly come down and give a pint of blood for a patient?

This is not a common practice, but then it is not unheard of either. You might ask, why does the hospital call for blood when they are supposed to get it from the Red Cross?

This is done only when an unforeseen emergency occurs and the blood cannot be obtained from the Charlotte blood center in time to be of use for the patient.

The hospital always tries to keep an ample supply of blood on hand for emergencies and also when an operation is scheduled. But then again, occasionally complications might arise with an operation and additional blood will be needed and then the call from the hospital will go out for blood donors.

Several months ago in our own hospital, an operation occurred and the hospital had ordered blood for the use in this case, but complications arose and the patient used over 30 pints of blood before completion.

One might wonder where all of this blood came from and the answer is simply that the supply ordered for the patient was exhausted before the operation had been completed and with the use of the hospital and Red Cross donor records, they were able to get the correct type and the donor without losing any time. Additional blood, in the meantime, had been ordered from the Charlotte blood center.

In a particular case like the above mentioned, which was an emergency, the North Carolina highway patrol was asked to

help in getting this blood from the Charlotte Blood Center. A relay, set up by the highway patrol of Watauga county and through the cooperation of the various patrolmen in each county from Charlotte to here, the blood arrived in a much shorter period of time than it would have through the regular means of transportation.

Deeds of this type, in the interest of one's fellowman are often performed and the sincere concern taking place behind the scenes. The hospital, playing an ever important role in the needs of the patient and through Red Cross, always striving in every way to see that the needs of all are met.

But how can the importance of each of these continue? Only through the continued support

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by the blood donors who so faithfully contribute to the Red Cross Blood Program. Through your efforts, needs all over this region can be met daily.

Each week, over 1800 pints of blood are dispensed from the Red Cross Blood Center in Charlotte. And never a week goes by that we, in Watauga county, do not receive our needs.

Will you plan to give a pint of blood Tuesday, April 23, at East Hall on the college campus? You are needed between the hours of 11 a. m., and 5 p. m., to help in this worthwhile cause.

Please give. Give of yourself.

Legion Ladies Meet Friday

Watauga Post 130 American Legion and the Watauga Unit of the Auxiliary will have their meeting on Friday night at 7:30 p. m. This meeting is for the purpose of electing officers for the incoming year. Both organizations will elect officers, and all members are requested to be present. The business meeting will also be held on the same date.

Air Force jet tanker exploded over guardhouse in Alaska killing nine.

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