

PARENTS TO PUT IN REQUESTS

Polio Vaccine Now Available In State For Public, Private Shots

The State Board of Health has announced that the first shipment of poliomyelitis vaccine has been received at the State Laboratory of Hygiene for distribution to county health departments throughout the State.

Although the amount received is adequate for only the first inoculation of 59,000 children in the five-year through nine-year age group, it is expected that an additional allotment will be available soon to provide the second inoculation for the same number of children. While three inoculations—the second to follow the first two to four weeks later and the third or booster inoculation to follow the second seven to nine months later—are recommended for the most complete protection afforded by the vaccine, one of two inoculations have been found to provide a great deal of protection among children who received the vaccine under the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis vaccination program several months ago.

The incidence of poliomyelitis among seven million vaccinated children (one shot only) has been from 25 per cent to 50 per cent lower than among those children who did not receive the vaccine.

It is expected that among those who are now receiving the second inoculation and will later receive the third inoculation to complete the series of three recommended treatments, the incidence among vaccinated children will be considerably lower during the 1956 poliomyelitis season.

Parents Urged Act

The results so far are most encouraging, and it is hoped that all parents will seek vaccination for their children as rapidly as the vaccine becomes available for administration, by applying to private physicians or to local health departments, the State Board of Health announcement said.

The present supply of vaccine does not meet the demand, and it is not expected to meet the demand for several months to come. The present shortage, however, should not influence parents to delay in applying for vaccination by their family physician now or applying for vaccination through their county health department as the vaccine is available to county health departments.

Signed parental requests for the vaccine will be required by all county health departments before a child will be vaccinated. These requests should be placed on file with the county health departments or with family physicians in order that immediate service can be given as vaccine becomes available.

It is recommended that the five-year through nine-year group be served first.

There are in North Carolina a total of 428,599 children in the five-year through nine-year age group. Of this number, 198,466 children were given the first inoculation early this year and are now receiving the second inoculation to complete the National Foundation's first-grade and second-grade vaccination program.

For Private Physicians

The unvaccinated in the five-

year through nine-year age group at the close of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis program is 232,133. To serve this group of children, about 225,000 cc. of vaccine (sufficient to provide first and second inoculations for 112,500 children) has been released for administration by private physicians prior to the purchase or release of any vaccine for administration by county health departments.

This leaves a total of 119, 633 children in the state (five years through nine years) for whom vaccine is not yet available. It is expected, however, that the State Board of Health will be able to release, through county health departments within the next ten days, sufficient vaccine to give the first and second inoculation to approximately 62,000 children who may obtain it without cost at county health departments.

Would Still Run Short

Assuming that the parents of all children in the five-year through nine-year age group would wish their children vaccinated immediately, there would still be a total of 57,633 children for whom vaccine is not yet available to either the private physicians in the state or to county health departments.

Those who can afford to pay for the vaccination of their children by their family physician are urged to apply to their family physicians for it. Insofar as the supply available to county health departments will go, it will be given without charge for the vaccine or for administration. Even though no means test can be required according to appropriation act providing vaccine to health departments, it is intended for the indigent or medically indigent—30 per cent of our children.

The United States Public Health Service reports that "since revised production and testing standards were adopted last May, there has been no association of poliomyelitis with any vaccine released for use". With this record, and with many millions of children involved, the State Board of Health has full confidence in the safety of the vaccine and believes that no child for whom vaccine is available should go without it.

First Come, First Served

In North Carolina there are 1, 677,441 children from birth through nineteen years of age who are included as eligible for vaccination under the Federal Poliomyelitis Vaccination Assistance Act. To serve all eligibles in the State would require more than a full year under the present or expected rate of vaccine release. That means that a great many children may go through the 1956 poliomyelitis season without having received vaccine.

It boils down to a question

of "first come, first served," and for that reason the State Board of Health recommends that all parents who want their children to have the protection against poliomyelitis that is available to them should apply for their vaccination to their family physician or to their county health department without delay.

With the view of assuring an equitable distribution of vaccine throughout the State and making it available to as many children as possible, the State Board of Health will assist retail druggists and private physicians in obtaining vaccine from retail or wholesale druggists within the State where it is available.

Cooperation Planned

Physicians needing vaccine for their private patients should, therefore, make their needs known to their county health officer, who will obtain information

from the State Board of Health as to where it may be purchased. Likewise, if wholesale and retail druggists will keep the State Board of Health advised when they have a surplus of vaccine on hand, this information will be passed along to those communities where there is a shortage. Reports of both shortages and surpluses of vaccine should be submitted to the State Board of Health in writing.

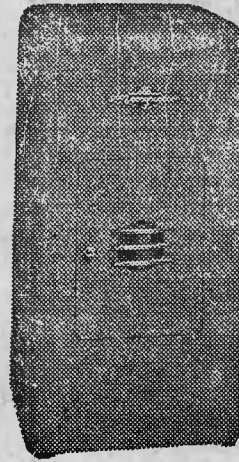
FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills at home will do much to reduce fear and panic should a blaze break out at night, advises the Institute for Safer Living. Studies by the Institute show that hundreds of persons, mostly women and children lose their lives each year because they are not trained to meet such an emergency.

It is illegal to pass a vehicle waiting at a railroad crossing for an approaching train.

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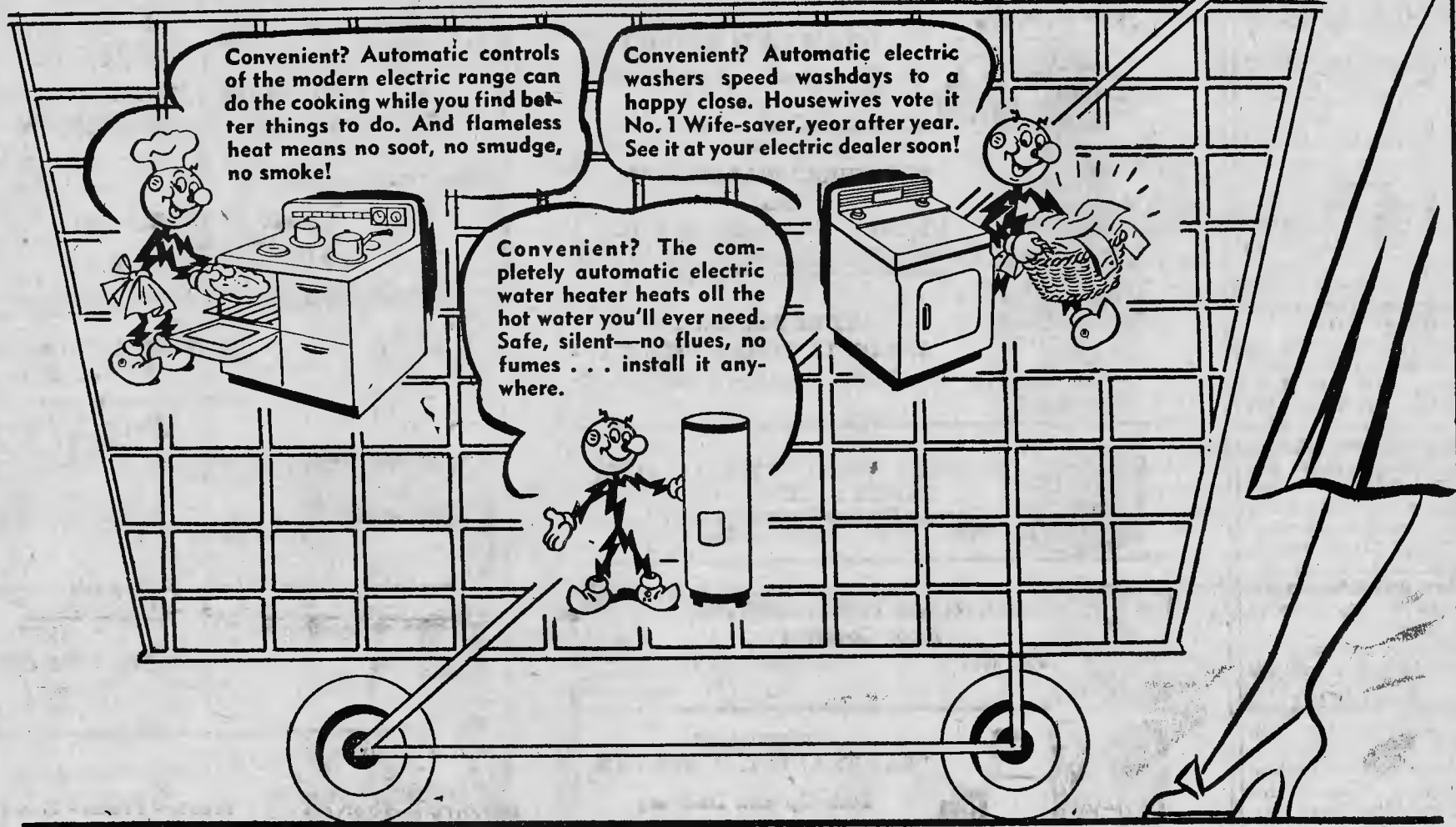
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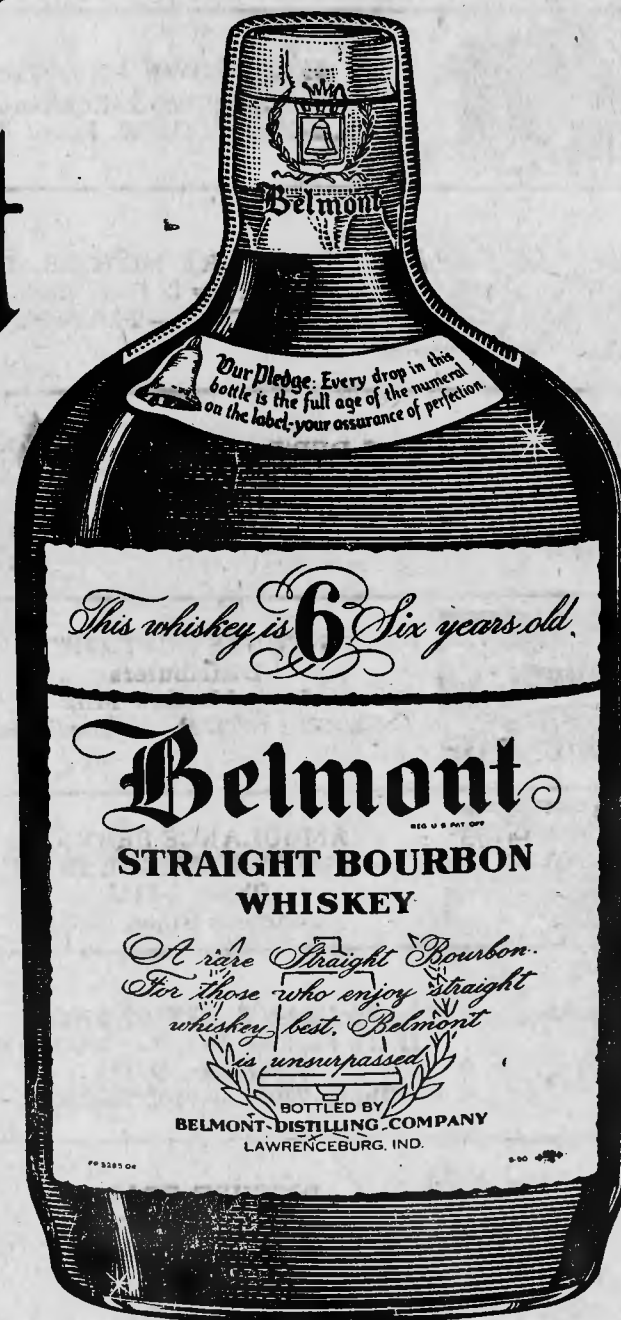
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