

Report Given On Polio Spread Thru The Nation

Polio, sweeping 32 states in the devastating epidemic of 1949 is leaving in its receding wake a medical problem which will tax the resources of the National Foundation for months to come. Sam Ogilvie, Wilkes chapter chairman, declared today.

Returning from a regional emergency "war council" of March of Dimes directors recently held in Charlotte Mr. Ogilvie gave this summary of the situation:

Polio cases will exceed 40,000 making 1949 the blackest year in the history of the disease. More than 31,000 cases already have been reported.

Peak was the week ending Aug. 20 with 3,422 cases, the week ending Sept. 17 there were 2,612 and Sept. 24—2,192 cases.

The epidemic will cost over \$31,000,000 for medical care. Emergency aid from Foundation headquarters already exceeds \$6,400,000. Daily outgo is \$100,000.

Reports presented to the directors and chairmen showed a different pattern in this year's outbreaks. They were more spread out and more general in character.

The epidemic, however, did not find the National Foundation unprepared Mr. Ogilvie said. Instead, thanks to the contributions of millions of people to the March of Dimes infantile paralysis is being fought from every side and from every angle.

The conference brought out the fact that even with the funds raised by the polio epidemic emergency campaign the fight against infantile paralysis will have to depend upon an all-out March of Dimes drive in January, Mr. Ogilvie said, adding:

"All through the epidemic of 1949 the chapters of the National Foundation have been doing a grand job. As their treasuries became empty the Foundation came quickly to their aid. No case coming to our organization for attention has been neglected.

"Instead of 300 hospitals for polio patients the epidemic required over a thousand. As of September 24 the National Foundation shipped 583 respirators (iron lungs) to places where they were needed to save lives. For emergency duty there were recruited 137 physical therapists, 2,255 nurses and in addition consultants, epidemiologists, resident physicians and polio aid teams.

"The fight is not over. These thousands of victims must be restored to health by all that medical science can provide. Yes, the epidemic has gone its wicked way but it is not over for those who were stricken.

"Their struggle to recover will continue for months and months and through the March of Dimes drive in January we will not fail to provide the funds to help them and to eventually stamp out the mysterious crippling disease of infantile paralysis."

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Fourteen Trappistine nuns, trained in Ireland, are now in Wrentham, Mass., where there has been established Mount St. Mary's Abbey, a \$300,000 convent, and the first of that order in the United States. The group is composed of seven Irish nuns, six Americans, and one Canadian, under the leadership of Mother Bernard as Mother Prioress. They come from St. Mary's Abbey, Glencairn, Waterford, Ireland. The order is the famine counterpart of the famed Tappist monks of Europe and America. The nuns and monks have similar vows of seclusion, poverty, manual labor, prayer and silence. At Wrentham they have a 500 acre estate and they will do all the work there themselves.

Despite communist army control of Nanking City, China, the noted Ginling Christian College for women there reports an enrollment of over 200 students, general activities "as usual", and the establishment of a two-year course in nursery school education. "The students have been faced by a real and difficult problem, says the president, Miss Wu Yi-fang. "On the one hand there is the appeal of the victorious liberating army and the call for additional workers in various lines. On the other hand, they are uncertain about future financial support from their families and about their own future work. Emotionally they have been under a severe strain in being cut off from their families." Dr. Wu adds that faculty-student committees now study together changes in curriculum, organization, and student life.

Driver Freed In Road Death

Elkin.—Samuel G. Harris was exonerated Wednesday in the death of Daffron O. Davis, of State Road, who died recently as a result of injuries received when struck by Harris' automobile.

Twenty-four other cases were disposed on in the newly-organized courtroom above the city hall. Judge H. H. Llewellyn was in charge.

Women IN THE CHURCH

Migrant workers in the agricultural areas of the United States—whole families who travel from harvest to harvest and are the backbone of the canning and related winter-crop enterprises of the nation—are "haunted by antagonistic community attitudes and by inferior social status," says Miss Edith Lowry, executive secretary of the Home Missions Council of North America. Miss Lowry has been one of the leaders in placing consideration of the plight of agricultural migrants on the agenda of the Home Missions Congress to be held in Columbus, Ohio, early in 1950. Disintegration of family life, growing illiteracy among the children, exploitation of labor, and exclusion from church and school facilities and from proper housing and health care are among the disabilities of the migrants to be considered by the Congress.

Duncans Attend Kesler Klan Meet

Dr. and Mrs. H. G. Duncan and son, Eric, attended the Kesler Klan reunion at Providence Methodist Church near Salisbury Sunday, October 9. Special music was rendered by the church choir. The principal address stressing the importance of family life and tradition was given by Hugh Mitchell of Statesville. In his discussion of the Klan-Alexander branch of the Klan Dr. Duncan pointed out that six Kesler women from Rowan married in this section and from these unions have come outstanding physicians, lawyers, teachers, businessmen and farmers. J. C. Kesler of Salisbury gave the Klan history. Dinner was served on the grounds with the local pastor returning thanks. In the afternoon session J. C. Kesler was re-elected president and Dr. Duncan vice president of the western division. Mrs. Duncan was given special recognition by the secretary — Mrs. Jaunita Kesler Henry—who was a schoolmate at Woman's college. On their return the Duncans visited Mr. and Mrs. James Lackey of Statesville, and Mrs. Julia Leach of Hiddenite.

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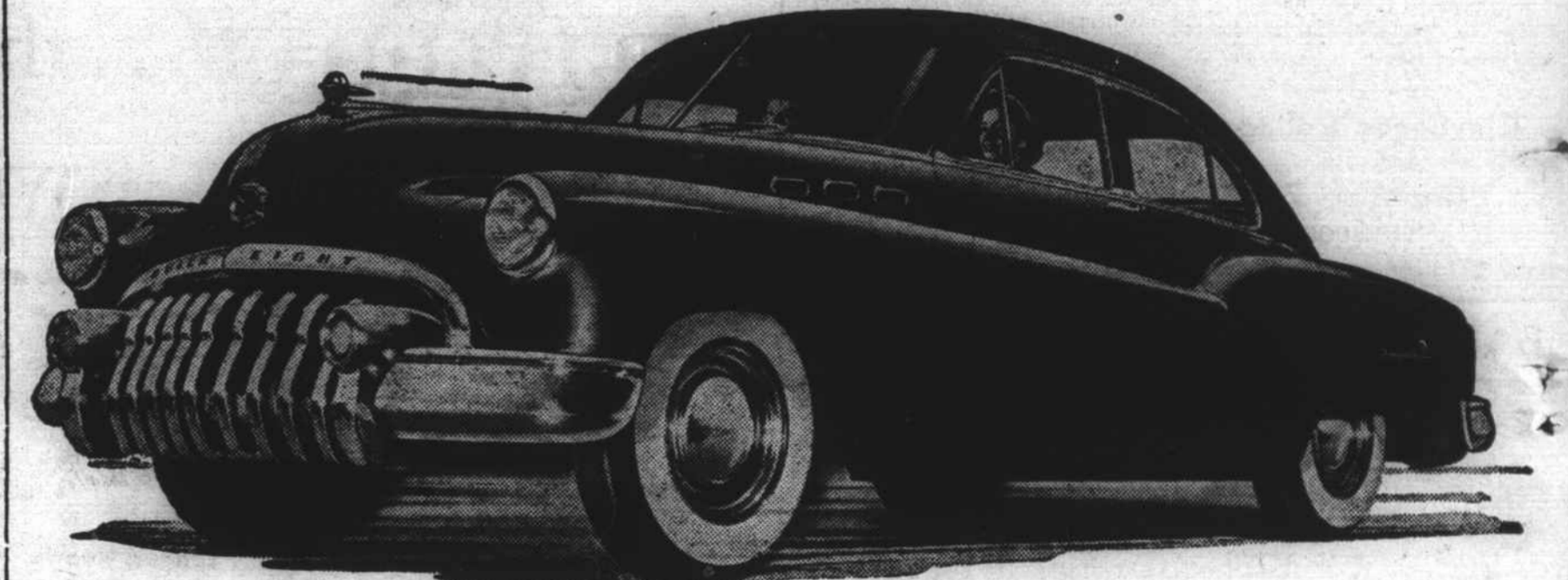
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