

STATE TB CASES SHOW DROP OF 22

Only 974 cases of TB were reported in North Carolina in 1973 according to Dr. Roy Berry, head of the Tuberculosis Control Section of the Division of Health Services. This is a drop of 22 cases over 1972.

Berry said TB has declined in the state anywhere from two to 25 percent each year since the anti-tuberculosis drug, isoniazid, became available in the early 50's -- with the exception of 1954, '63, and '70, when a slight increase was recorded. In 1950, 3,653 cases were reported in North Carolina. By 1960, the number was down to 1,440.

The report revealed that most of the TB cases, 513, were confined to the 41 counties that comprise the Coastal Plain area of the State. The Piedmont was next with 406 cases, and the Mountain counties last with 53 cases.

A breakdown of the cases reported in 1973 shows 62 percent were over 45 years of age, 66 percent were non-white, and 70 percent were male. The rate of cases per 100,000 population for non-whites was 53.8, nearly three times that for the state as a whole.

Berry said one of the significant reasons for the high rate of TB among blacks is that they are more susceptible to the TB organism than whites. He pointed out that blacks did not have the disease until they had contact with the white man, who has been wrestling with it since the time of the pharaohs. He said some of the Egyptian mummies examined during recent years had TB of the spine.

Berry said the anti-tuberculosis drug is used not only to treat and cure active cases, but to prevent the disease from developing among those who have been exposed, as well as others infected early in life. "Gradually", he noted, "the preventive approach has paid off by reducing the

number of admissions to TB hospitals. "An initial period of hospital treatment is recommended for active TB patients until they become non-infectious," Berry explained. "Once the patient demonstrates he is responding to the drug, can take the drug without experiencing side-effects, and is no longer infectious to others, treatment can be continued at home."

Berry warned, however, that there is no instant cure for TB--even with modern drug therapy. "Neither is it a matter of a few months," he said. "It takes at least two years. This means taking anti-tuberculosis medications for the whole period. Even for preventive treatment, a one year's course is considered necessary."

Berry said the accelerated rate with which TB patients are brought to a non-infectious state (about three months), has resulted in tremendous economic savings to the state. TB

hospital personnel, experienced at diagnosing and treating all sorts of chest disorders, are turning their attention to such chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases as emphysema,

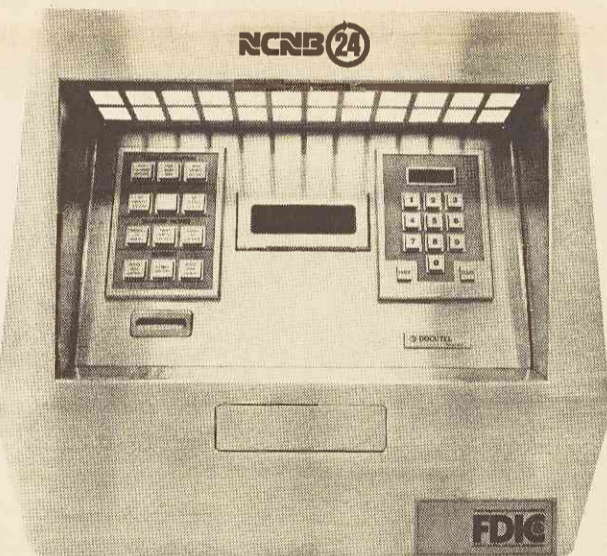
bronchitis, asthma, occupational lung diseases and lung cancer. Berry said severe lung diseases are among the fastest growing causes of death in the United States today.

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Boxing Meet Planned

HIGH POINT - The High Point Police Department's Community Services Division has announced that the Police Boxing Club will hold a boxing meet on May 25 at the High Point City Lake gym.

The meet, which is scheduled to begin at 7:30 P.M., will feature some of the area's top fighters as well as boxers from Charlotte, Winston-Salem,

and Gastonia. There will even be a boxing clown for the kids!

Tickets for the meet are \$2 apiece and can be purchased at the Police Department, local sporting goods stores and other participating area businesses, or at the door on May 25. The proceeds from the ticket sales will go toward sending two of the High Point Police Boxing Club's boxers to the A.A.U. national tournament in Knoxville, Tennessee, and two other boys to the 1974 Junior Olympics.

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