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ARE YOU ONE OF THE 53%

In a DHEW Newsletter, there is a disturbing item that should be brought to everybody's attention. In the first 9 months last year there were 15% more cases of paralytic polio than in the same year of 1957. Of the six states most seriously affected the majority of paralytic cases were among children under the age of 5. Four out of five of these children had received no vaccine. Throughout the country 53% of the population under 40 years of age have not had the basic three injections and over a third have had no vaccine at all. Whether or not we rid ourselves of polio depends upon prevention by means of adequate vaccination. Remember, polio is a contagious disease and when you are adequately vaccinated you protect not only your loved ones but the people you come in contact with. Are you one of the 53%?

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We've just heard about the man who spent \$10,000 to get rid of halitosis, only to find out that his friends didn't like him anyway.

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WELCOME TO -

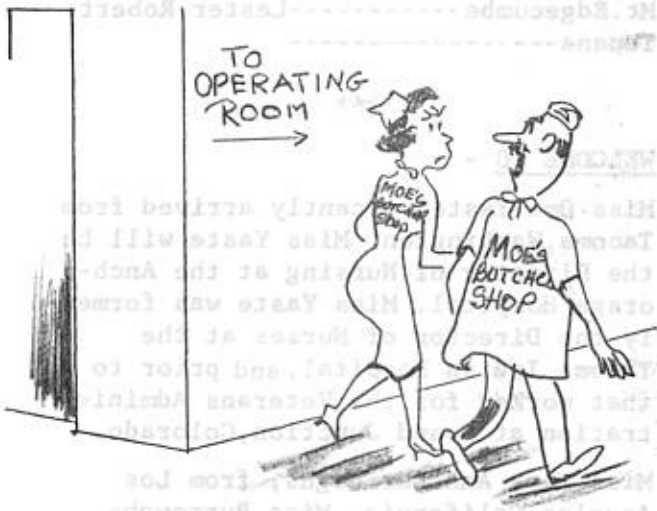
Miss Oma Yaste, recently arrived from Tacoma, Washington. Miss Yaste will be the Director of Nursing at the Anchorage Hospital. Miss Yaste was formerly the Director of Nurses at the Tacoma Indian Hospital, and prior to that worked for the Veterans Administration at Grand Junction, Colorado.

Miss Mary Ann Burroughs, from Los Angeles, California. Miss Burroughs will be the new Director of Nurses at Tanana, replacing Ethel Jenkins. Miss Jenkins leaves Tanana February 17 to return to her home in Arizona.

AREA EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S CORNER

I suppose that most of you have read or heard about the "on-again-off-again" decision of Internal Revenue Service in relation to taxing the cost of living allowance paid to Civil Service people in Alaska. The Internal Revenue Service decided early in January that Alaska's becoming a State made the cost of living allowance subject to taxation. There were many protests. Senator Bob Bartlett wrote a letter to the Internal Revenue Service in which he called their attention to the fact that the legal status of Alaska had nothing to do with the payment of the cost of living allowance. He said in effect that if the Internal Revenue Service ruled three years ago that the cost of living allowance was not taxable, it was still not taxable because Alaska statehood had nothing to do with the matter. A few days later, the Internal Revenue Service reversed itself and our cost of living allowance is not subject to Federal Income taxes.

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"Next time look to see whose laundry you get back!"

JUNEAU HOSPITAL CLOSED

Early in January the Division of Indian Health gave final approval to the closure of the Alaska Native Hospital at Juneau. The closing of the hospital is to be followed by the establishment of an outpatient clinic at Juneau in space to be made available at St. Ann's Hospital. The outpatient clinic will be staffed by a Public Health Service Medical Officer and necessary nursing, clerical and other staff. Patients requiring hospitalization will be hospitalized at St. Ann's Hospital under contract or, in some cases, will be transported to Mt. Edgecumbe for admission to the Alaska Native Hospital there.

It is understood that there are no patients in the Juneau hospital as this is written on February 9, but most of the employees are still on duty awaiting the expiration of the 30-day notice period. Actually most of the employees will continue to work for the Public Health Service at Mt. Edgecumbe or Anchorage, or at the outpatient clinic in Juneau. A few who cannot leave Juneau and who cannot be used at the outpatient clinic will have to be separated.

The hospital building at Juneau is in very high demand by other Federal agencies for use as office space. It is anticipated that the building will not be idle very long. The hospital has been closed because the drop in the tubercular patient load has made it unnecessary to hospitalize tuberculosis patients there. The general patient load was much too small to warrant full-time continuation of a hospital established in such an old building. The Juneau Hospital was the oldest hospital under the Native Health Program, having been constructed sometime in the 1920's.

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Everyone has a useful purpose in life, even if it is only to serve as a "horrible" example.