ent May Be Needed

blood sample shows a higher than amount of lead, parents will be asked to e child for a second test to check the result. If the reading remains high, a specialist will advise treatment.

e blood lead levels are in the dangerous physician may recommend a medicine e the lead quickly.

levels are higher than normal but not gerous range, specialists will search for ce of lead in the home so that it can be ed. Once a child stops taking excess o his system, the level of lead in his ll naturally fall to normal levels.

Paint Must Go

communities have laws dealing with ination of old leaded paints in rented s. Others offer the services of techni- search for sources of lead and to pro- ice on how to remove it.

case, the ultimate solution to the lies in scraping off old paints from d woodwork or covering over danger- with a protective material such as wall new coat of paint might reduce the te hazard but in time the old paint will rt to flake and peel.

ildhood lead poisoning problem can nated through screening programs to ildren who might be in danger and the removal of old leaded paints in s. Making such steps effective depends part on the cooperation of concerned

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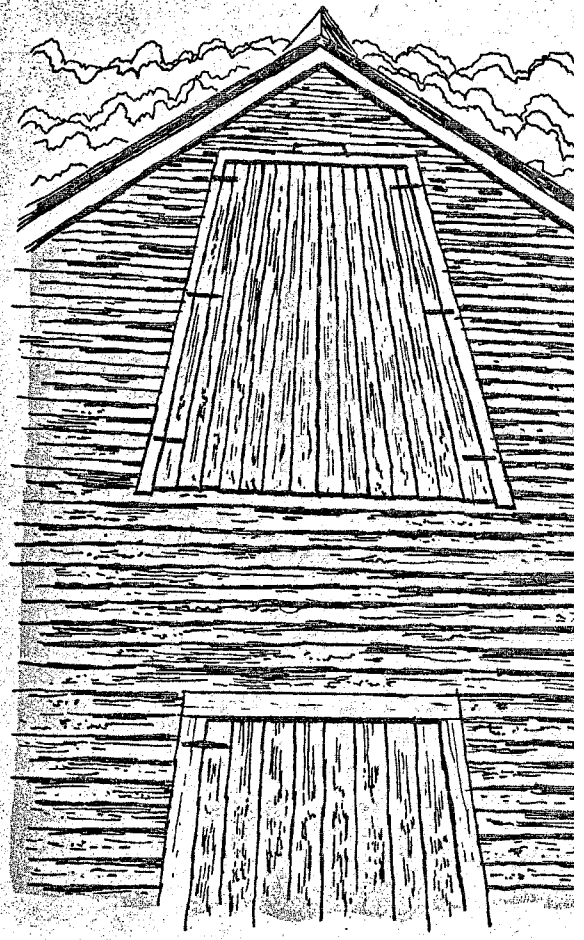
Printed in U.S.A. 6/80/5M

OLD PAINTS and RURAL LEAD POISONING

A Problem You Can Help To Solve



Childhood lead poisoning is a problem usually associated with rundown areas in big cities where old leaded paints can peel and flake from walls and be eaten by young children.

While it is true that large cities are the major source of the problem, lead poisoning can also threaten young children in small towns and rural areas.

That's why it is important that parents in smaller cities and farm areas be aware of, and participate in, lead screening programs aimed at detecting and correcting the problem.

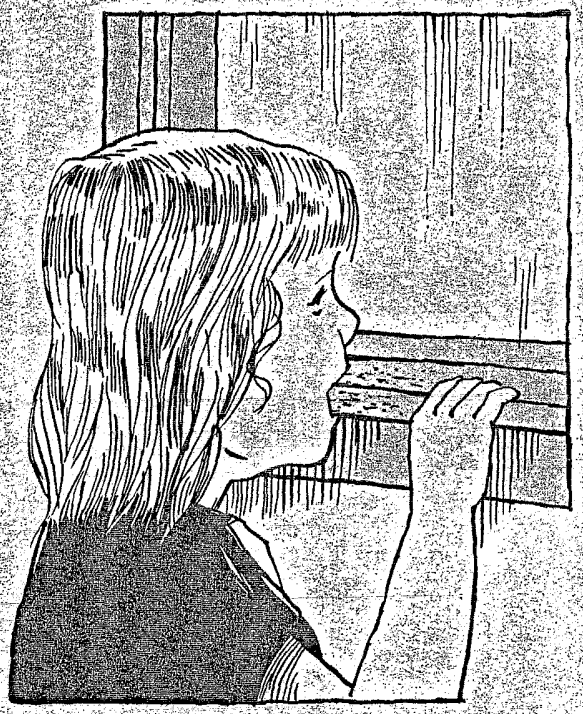
Details of your local screening program are available from the health group conducting this effort in your community.

Facts Can Help

There are a number of facts about lead poisoning and screening programs you should know in order to insure that your child is protected from the illness.

At the heart of the problem are old leaded paints of a type no longer sold for household use. These paints were applied to the interior and exterior of homes and other buildings in years past. If buildings in small towns or on farms were constructed before 1950 there is a good chance that they were coated with lead paints at one time or another.

Even if the old paint has been covered a number of times by paints containing little or no lead, the entire film still can crack, peel off, and become available to young children who will often taste anything that gets into their hands.

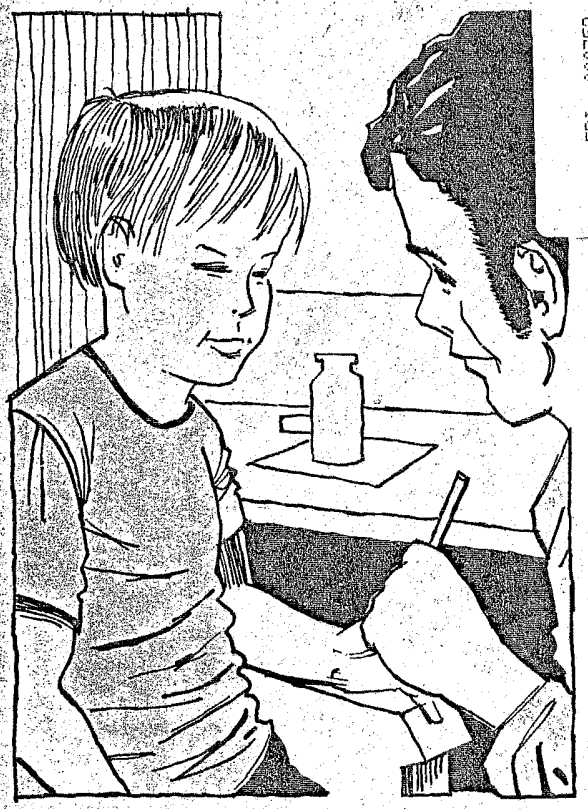


Danger in Paint Chips

Some children develop the habit of persistently eating nonfood items. This habit is called pica by medical authorities and it can pose a real danger to children who are exposed to peeling paint chips.

An excess of lead in the system can lead to severe illness, permanent brain damage and even death if not discovered in time and treated. In its early stages, lead poisoning often mimics other diseases such as flus with vague symptoms, including upset stomach, headache, fatigue, etc. Thus, unless specific tests for lead poisoning are conducted the condition could slip by undetected until it becomes serious.

That is why lead screening programs are important. They provide early detection of the problem and signal a need to take corrective measures in the home.



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Testing is Simple

Through the years hundreds of thousands of children have been tested in screening programs. Testing is a simple matter. A technician scrubs the child's finger to remove any lead particles which might affect the test, then quickly pricks the finger to produce a tiny sample of blood. The procedure seldom upsets a child for more than a few minutes.

Blood samples are sent to a laboratory where a chemist determines the amount of lead in the blood. All blood will show some lead content because a small amount of lead occurs naturally in the food we eat and liquids we drink. It is only when the lead in the blood rises beyond normal levels that there is cause for concern.