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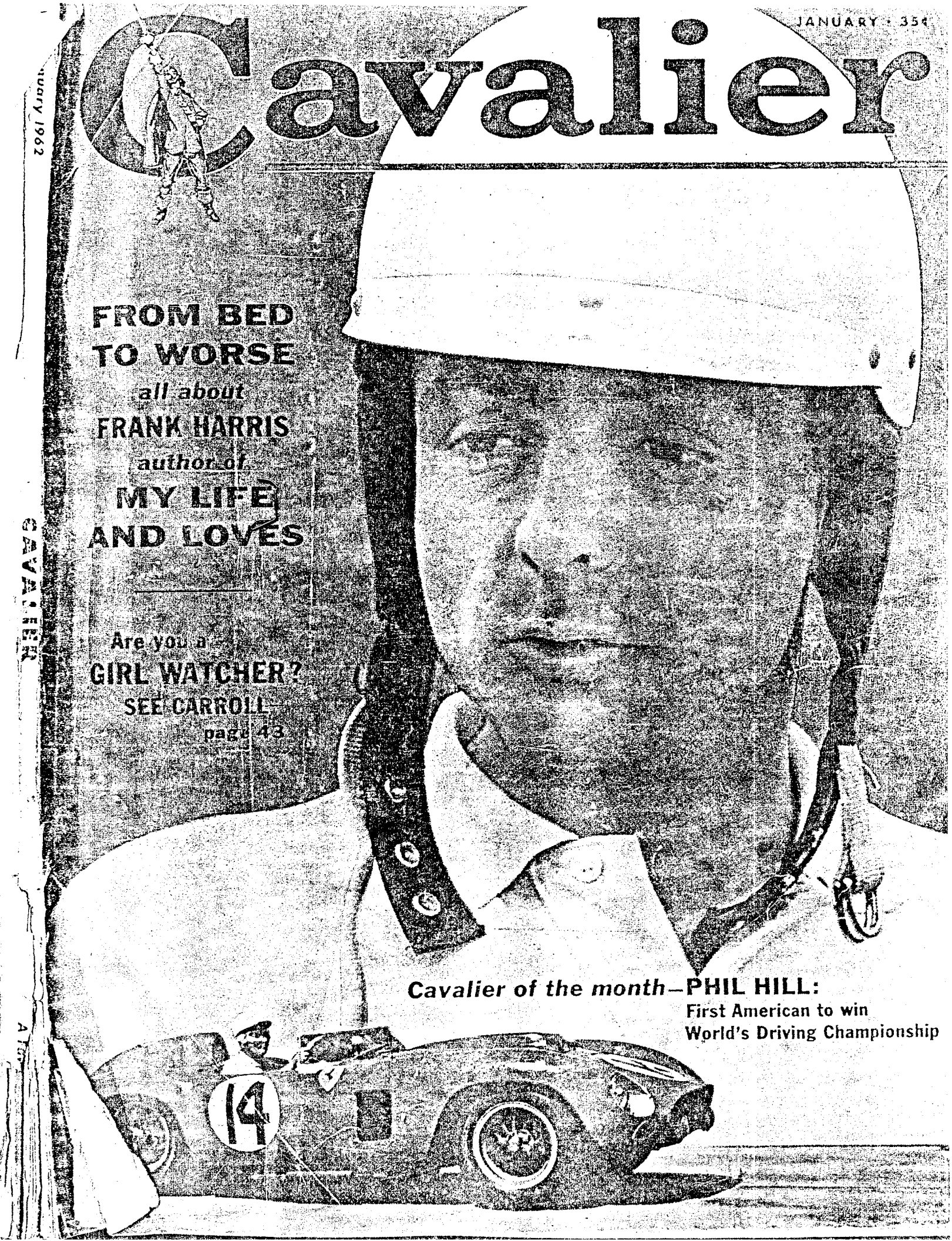
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JANUARY · 35¢

Cavalier



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all about
FRANK HARRIS
author of
MY LIFE AND LOVES

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GIRL WATCHER?
SEE CARROLL
page 43

Cavalier of the month—**PHIL HILL:**
First American to win
World's Driving Championship

January 1962 CAVALIER

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ON THE JOB CANCER: THE KILLER THEY WON'T TRACK DOWN



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Cancer Probers Stilled

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—The public doesn't know it, but the battle over food additives and cancer-suspected chemicals has been so cutthroat that four doctors and scientists lost their jobs when they took firm stands against certain companies and institutions interested in the continued use of these additives and chemicals.

This is part of the real background of the cranberry dispute. It's been brewing for a long time, and only came to a head when the Food and Drug Administration was given power by a recent act of Congress to crack down on farmers, cosmetic companies, food and chemical companies immediately, without protracted hearings in the courts.

The cancer firings of doctors was spelled out in testimony before the House Interstate Commerce Committee when it tightened the Food and Drug Act last year. The doctors who got fired were: Dr. William E. Smith, dropped from New York University when he persisted in warning of cancer hazards in industry; Dr. William C. Hueper, dropped by du Pont when he published a paper showing that beta-naphthylamine (used for dyes) produced cancer in dogs; Dr. Arthur Vorwald, dropped as director of the Saranac Laboratory when he reported that lung cancer could be induced by a chemical dust of industrial importance; Dr. Robert Collier Page, who was eased out as medical director of Standard Oil of New Jersey when he campaigned for major study of carcinogens inducing properties of chemi

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told me that they had fired their
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of these was Dr. W. C. Hueper
in charge of the environmenta
Cancer Institute. He wrote:

"My activities in fieldwork
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by Theodore Irwin

When we saw the report on cancer in industry by the widely read Washington columnist, Drew Pearson, we asked Theodore Irwin to investigate for the readers of CAVALIER. Here are the facts our reporter uncovered

● In a report following the 1959 temporary federal ban on sale of certain cranberries, Drew Pearson, the widely syndicated Washington columnist, made these damning revelations:

"The public doesn't know it, but the battle over food additives and cancer-suspected chemicals has been so cutthroat that four doctors and scientists lost their jobs when they took firm stands against certain companies and institutions interested in the continued use of these additives and chemicals.

"This is part of the real background of the cranberry dispute. It's been brewing for a long time, and only came to a head when the Food and Drug Administration was given power by a recent act of Congress to crack down on farmers, cosmetic companies, food and chemical companies immediately, without protracted hearings in the courts.

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Please turn page

Continued from preceding page

"Dr. William E. Smith, dropped from New York University when he persisted in warning of cancer hazards in industry; Dr. William C. Hueper, dropped by du Pont when he published a paper showing that beta-naphthylamine (used for dyes) produced cancer in dogs; Dr. Arthur Vorwald, dropped as director of the Saranac Laboratory, when he reported that lung cancer could be induced by a chemical dust of industrial importance; Dr. Robert Collier Page, who was eased out as medical director of Standard Oil of New Jersey, when he campaigned for a major study of cancer-inducing properties of chemicals . . ."

While the cancer-scare hullabaloo over cranberries, poultry, black jellybeans and other consumer items has stirred up the public to the menace of chemical additives, the further threat—risk of contracting cancer on industrial jobs—has thus far seemed to be hushed up. As shocking are the charges that doctors and scientists trying to safeguard lives are being blackjacked.

And the danger of on-the-job cancer isn't an imaginary one. Of some 68,000,000 workers in the United States, 17,000,000 will become cancer victims because of their jobs, according to the American Cancer Society. Unless a miracle occurs, 11,000,000 of these will eventually die of cancer.

Is it true, as Pearson implied, that powerful companies are blackballing doctors who dare to delve into the causes of cancer among workers?

Are government agencies sabotaging research in occupational cancer?

Does a conspiracy of silence exist in certain industries to prevent disclosure of on-the-job cancer?

Are dedicated scientists, in university labs and elsewhere, being forced to stop investigating such dangers?

To answer these vital questions, CAVALIER assigned me to dig up all the facts available. Although Pearson has been known at times to be an alarmist, his accusations deserved checking and amplification. This is my unbiased, no-holds-barred report.

My first visit was to Dr. William E. Smith at his home in Englewood, N.J. Tall, intense, youthful looking and indefatigable, Bill Smith had spent 17 years in cancer research and played a big role in pushing through the Food and Drug Law amendment on food additives two years ago that led to the cranberry episode. Was he actually fired by New York University for his warnings on cancer hazards?

"I was sandbagged," he told me bluntly. "And I want to tell the truth because I believe it's an important matter of public health."

As a specialist in experimental pathology, Dr. Smith explained, he was for seven years an associate professor of industrial medicine at N.Y.U. His work was primarily with some of the largest chemical companies in the country, testing chemicals on animals to see if cancer developed. The idea was to see if workers or consumers were being placed in jeopardy.

"On a scientific mission to Belgium," he said, "I gathered evidence showing that workers exposed to asbestos dust were more apt to get lung cancer than other men. When I returned to this country, I presented this incriminating information to my chief, Dr. A. J. Lanza, then director of N.Y.U.'s Institute of Industrial Medicine. I hoped to go ahead with animal experiments on asbestos dust."

But Dr. Lanza was firmly against it. "I'd advise you to keep out of this problem," he cautioned the researcher.

At the time, Dr. Smith learned, Lanza had been hired as consultant for asbestos interests.

Shortly after, when Dr. Smith ignored the warning and continued his investigations, Lanza informed him that his appointment as associate professor would not be renewed. Dr. Smith was dumped. Since then, it has been verified that cancer is an occupational disease among asbestos workers in the United States.

Checking the hearings on the Food and Drug Law amendment, I found that Dr. Smith testified to all this before the Congressional committee. When Dr. Lanza was asked to give his side of the story, he denied the implications. "Dr. Smith's non-reappointment," he insisted, "was based on the judgment that his training and competence made him unsuitable for continued responsibility."

Bill Smith struck back, citing his record. A graduate of Johns Hopkins, he had held important posts at such eminent institutions as Harvard Medical School, the Massachusetts General Hospital, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research. He has had more than 40 papers on cancer published in scientific journals.

"I consider myself expendable," Dr. Smith told me. "But I see one cancer scientist after another pushed out of his work and perhaps out of his career. One lobbyist for big industries even remarked to me, 'Cancer researchers are a lot of trouble-makers.'

"What happened to me I've seen experienced by other investigators who became too inquisitive about carcinogens [cancer-producing agents] in a company's products or manufacturing processes. Government, university and industrial research in this field has been obstructed, while apologists for carcinogens are in great demand at $50,000 a year. You have to play ball with some large corporations if you want to hold your job—at the expense of employees and the public."

Today, Bill Smith has a job as professor of health education at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey. From another well-known scientist, I heard that Dr. Smith has been "blackballed in industry."

My next trip was to Bethesda, Md., where I pinned down Dr. William C. Hueper, one of the world's leading authorities on cancer. He is now chief of the environmental cancer section in the National Institutes of Health.

A graying, ruddy, medium-sized man with a German accent, the 66-year-old, pioneering scientist has long been known in the research world as a fiery rebel. Highly

[illegible] for his integrity, he [illegible] to alert people [illegible] cancer caused by industrial products. Taking me [illegible] another office for privacy, he spoke freely.

"I'm too old now to be afraid of being fired," he said.

What happened at du Pont? Was Drew Pearson right in saying Dr. Hueper had been fired for stepping out of line?

From testimony at Congressional hearings I had learned that Dr. Hueper had been assistant medical director of the du Pont Company when he published a report on his experiments with beta-naphthylamine. This is the dangerous chemical dye which has caused bladder cancer in hundreds of workmen who handled it when used in coloring margarine and butter. The fact that it was responsible for tumors in men was established by Dr. Hueper's tests on lab dogs. This is how he explained the du Pont fracas to me:

"I was asked by a du Pont official *not* to study histologically [examine tissue structure] the testicles of experimental animals exposed to poisonous chemicals. Why? I was told it was because du Pont was not interested in the testes of its workers! My reply was that if I would have to do non-scientific investigations, du Pont would have to look for another pathologist. A few weeks later, I was informed I could be dispensed with."

Confirmation of the reason for Dr. Hueper's firing has come from Dr. E. S. Ross, chief medical director of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. "I recall," relates Dr. Ross, "that the medical director of the du Pont Company told me that Dr. Hueper had been discharged shortly after showing that beta-naphthylamine induced cancer."

What about government obstruction and snafus on cancer research projects? At the National Cancer Institute of the U.S. Public Health Service, a program had been set up for study of lung cancer risks for men in the chromate industry. Cooperation of industrial management was necessary. But lobbyists for a group of chemical industries had objected to field studies under the program. In the words of Dr. Hueper:

"My activities in field work on environmental cancer were discontinued when I was asked to stop such activities and have no further contacts with industry or state health departments in matters of occupational and environmental cancer. This was brought about by a complaint, as I was officially told, about my activities in regard to studying conditions bringing about lung cancer among workers in the chromate industry made to my superiors in Washington in behalf of the American chromate industry by Dr. A. J. Lanza, as its medical representative. Dr. Lanza apparently acted in the role of a lobbyist.

"Due to these lobbying activities of Dr. Lanza, not only my field studies have come to an end, but there was for some time serious interference even with my experimental work in the field of occupational cancer.

"It is my belief that, through the intervention of Dr. Lanza, not only the interest of American industries with cancer hazards to workers but of the American people at large, and of the American medical profession, was seriously damaged."

In reply to these charges, the then surgeon general, Lewis E. Burney, maintained that the U.S. Public Health Service continued its field studies involving suspected carcinogens after a "reorganization" under another director.

[illegible] tains [illegible] science of lung cancer hazards.

"A high medical official of the Atomic Energy Commission," he said, "declared such an undertaking was nonsense and tried to block it. But he was unsuccessful."

Later, Dr. Hueper was invited by the Colorado State Medical Society to address its annual meeting in Denver on cancer hazards in Colorado. He included in his prepared text a description of excessive lung cancer incidence among radioactive ore miners in Europe.

"I was asked to omit these references as being 'not in the public interest,'" Dr. Hueper recalled. "The delivery of my paper was made dependent on complying with this demand. Since I refused to be made a scientific liar by omission, I cancelled my talk as being censored. I have been told that someone in AEC asked then that I be dismissed."

When I interviewed him, Dr. Hueper told me, his occupational cancer work is "the smallest field of investigation" and he can't even hire assistants. I asked why. He smiled bitterly. "Political pressure by industry," he said.

"As soon as I retire," he went on, "in four years, when I am 70, my environmental cancer section will be closed up entirely. Evidently it's felt that my work can be carried on better by distributing it among other units—by men who have never contributed anything so far to occupational cancer.

"I have protested against this in a 40-page memorandum to Secretary Flemming [Arthur S. Flemming, then the federal secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare] because I feel it is an injustice to the American people. I have told the sad story of environmental cancer in a 15-page survey which I sent to Dr. John R. Heller, head of the National Cancer Institute. What I would like to see is a large environmental cancer center, perhaps as part of the new Bureau of Environmental Health which the surgeon general recently proposed to Congress. Environmental cancer needs special experience and should be one of the major fields of investigation, if we are to protect the American people against cancer-producing agents."

His persistent efforts seemed to be making federal officials jittery. Not so long ago, Dr. Hueper was asked by a government man, "When are you moving?" The safety director of the United Mine Workers Union remarked to Dr. Hueper, "Anyone in your position must be prepared to change jobs frequently." But the stubborn scientist is standing pat.

For speaking out, Dr. Hueper says he has been further punished: His promotion to a higher grade has been rescinded and he remains merely a section chief.

Far more important than the personal penalties is industry's continuation of cancer hazards. That brought us to the blanket of silence spread over the hidden cancer story.

"Too many industrial doctors," he said, "can't freely report on the occurrences of cancer among workers under their care."

"Just how common is this?" I asked.

"It's quite prevalent. We know there are occupational cancers in other countries and we have the world's largest industrial setup. Yet, there have been scarcely any reports on such cases here. Industry has consistently refused publication of statistics. [*Continued on page* 85]

Chapman, far from through, sent out flurries of appeals from his conviction on a whole catalogue of technicalities. But the State Court of Errors and Appeals, giving Gerald the brush, volunteered the comment that it had seldom in its experience seen a murder charge so clearly and conclusively proved.

While Gerald was sitting it out, thinking up a last-minute move, his old pal, Dutch, became an involuntary civic improvement in Muskegon, Michigan, when a detective, spotting him on the street, got into a gun duel with him. When they picked Dutch up he was dead in several places.

Connecticut paid Gerald Chapman the compliment of installing a new hanging machine—a contraption that jerked a man upward instead of dropping him through a trap—just in time for his involuntary departure. But Chapman was still not through.

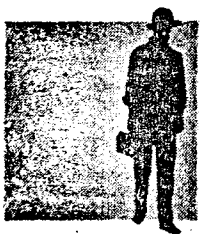
Sweating it out in the death house, he master-minded an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, charging that his constitutional rights had been violated when he had been removed from Atlanta, prior to the completion of his sentence there, to stand trial in Connecticut. And damned if the highest court in the land didn't consider the argument. Finally, though, it said, "No."

Gerald was set to go at midnight on April 5, 1926, when he was in the 39th year of his life—a little over five years after he had first begun to have fun with the blondes in Gramercy Park. On the morning of that April day, he somehow wangled an unprecedented appearance before the six-man Connecticut Board of Pardons.

"Gentlemen," said Gerald, looking searchingly into each face, moistening his lips, choosing his words with ease, his voice lumpy with emotion, "you have a choice. You have the choice of setting me free from a crime I never committed—or you have the choice of knowing, to your dying days, that you refused to save the life of an innocent man."

Gerald now launched into the story of his misspent life and the psychological reasons behind it, always stressing the fact that he had never taken a human life. And then, at the end of more than an hour, he stood dramatically before the six stern-faced men, arms limp at his sides, a faint smile on his thin, purplish lips. "My life, then, gentlemen," Gerald concluded, "I now leave in your hands."

But it didn't work. At a few minutes past midnight that night, the brainiest criminal of modern times, wearing a conclusive rope around his neck, was jerked to his doom. •



ON THE JOB CANCER

Continued from page 55

on occupational cancer."

Then he ticked off the areas of silence:

Until recently, millions of pounds of chemicals were used in dye industries. A pinch of the stuff has been proved to cause bladder cancer. Except for one brief report a few years ago, medical literature in the U.S. has no information on the occurrence and number of such cancers and the type of workers involved. Yet, Dr. Hueper contends, occupational bladder cancer among several hundred dye workers is on record in the files of chemical companies. "The medical director of one company," he added, "went out of his way to block presentation of such evidence before an international cancer congress by threatening me with prosecution for divulging company secrets. Later, he refused to let me enter any of his company's plants."

Although skin cancer has often appeared among paraffin pressers in U.S. oil refineries, no reports (except from Esso) have been issued for the past 30 years.

U.S. industry is silent on bladder cancer among rubber workers who use rubber anti-oxidents. One company knew of 38 cases of bladder tumors during the manufacture of the chemical, but did not publish the findings. Appearance of cancers in similar plants in England have been demonstrated.

We have no data from asbestos textile companies on lung cancer and asbestosis, a lung disease associated with cancer.

Among nickel refinery workers, a gag apparently has been placed on reports of cancers of the sinuses, nasal cavities and lung, although such cases have been found in Canada, Norway and England.

Coal tar cancers of the skin have been hushed up. Companies Dr. Hueper visited denied they had cases, but changed their minds when faced with state health department records.

Industry neglects to report skin or lung cancers developed by non-ferrous smelter workers and miners working with arsenic-containing oils.

I wanted to know why companies should want to suppress this vital information. Dr. Hueper pointed to a recent statement by Dr. Phillipe Shubik of the University of Chicago Medical School, who attributed the coverup to "fear of compensation and insurance claims that would arise."

As a further check on the Hueper-Smith accusations of cancer research sabotage, I called on the public-minded American Cancer Society. At its New York headquarters, I found this corroboration in the society's official publication:

"Some industries which have instituted studies of the problem (of environmental cancer) are not publishing data on the



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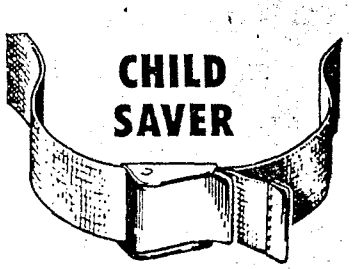
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GORDON FAWCETT,
Business Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1961.

[SEAL] LILLIAN M. KLEIN
(My commission expires April 1, 1963)

symptomology and epidemiology of cancers within their industries. Through such secretiveness, the medical profession is deprived of the benefit of factual evidence which is essential for an intelligent approach to a preventive control of cancer by medical and technological procedures.

"In fact, some companies have taken active steps to *prevent* the publication of incriminating evidence obtained by investigators in their several fields. A few industrial concerns and certain industrial consultants have even gone to the length of endeavoring to undermine the professional standards of workers in the field of occupational cancer."

There still remained two other scientists mentioned by Drew Pearson. Dr. Arthur Vorwald had been dropped as director of the Saranac (N.Y.) Laboratory when he described his discovery that cancer of the lungs could stem from a chemical dust. Checking, I discovered that Dr. Vorwald is now with the Department of Industrial Medicine at Wayne University.

Finally, Dr. Robert Collier Page was medical director of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey when he started to study cancer-causing chemicals. Today, Dr. Page, no longer medical director, has the title of "consultant" with the company. Dr. Page labels the statement that Standard Oil was opposed to his cancer research as "entirely untrue." Then he adds, "I am presently enjoying my capacity as a consultant to Jersey Standard."

What does all this muzzling of cancer investigators and the hushing up of cancer cases mean to you? How important are all these shenanigans in your life?

Primarily it may indicate that you're not as protected as you should be against the threats of cancer on your job. More than 400 chemicals have been pinpointed as causing cancer and any of them may affect you at your work or at home.

Occupational cancer hits males primarily, since more men than women come in contact with industrial carcinogens. There's hardly a single industry which, at some point, doesn't have one or more carcinogens potentially dangerous to people handling them, unless the right precautions are taken. They may be dusts, gases, vapors, oils, tars, simple metals or complex chemical compounds.

You have about *one chance in four* of developing some form of cancer during your lifetime. Most men in industry are not at all aware that their job may eventually give them the disease. Many workers with tars and oils, for example, ignore warty growths. They use a sharp knife or razor blade to pare the lesions themselves, though a surgical biopsy may reveal skin cancer. Taking one industry alone, among men in their 40s in some U.S. chromate plants there are 325 times as many lung cancer cases as in men of the same age in the general population!

The fact that a man's job may be responsible for his cancer was first revealed almost 200 years ago when skin cancers were found to be common in chimney sweeps. This was traced to tar that rubbed into their skin as they climbed through chimneys. The same kind of cancers can be produced in the lab by rubbing coal tar into the skin of animals.

From coal tar, a long line of carcinogens have been isolated. Some are so powerful that a tiny crystal is enough to induce cancer.

Chimney sweeps are gone, but many a man has gotten skin cancer from handling coal tar or its derivatives in present-day occupations at gas works, where tar is made; at coke ovens and tar distilleries; in jobs involving pitch or creosote, paving roads, making briquettes, water-proofing timber, fish nets or electric cables.

For centuries, a peculiar lung disease has been rampant in miners of southern Germany. This has been recognized as lung cancer. The mines contain radioactive gas.

During the last 30 years, a creeping horror has pursued women employed in a watch factory in the little town of Ampere, New Jersey. Back in the '20s, girls were hired to paint watch dials with a luminous paint. The paint contained a radium compound. To point up a brush, the girls would twirl the tip between their lips. Each time, they absorbed a tiny amount of radium, and it settled in their bones. As the years have gone by, one by one these girls have developed cancer of the bones. Amputation, disfigurement or death was the result.

Today, radioactive materials are widely used in industry as "tracers."

In Germany, Switzerland, England and finally in the U.S., men who worked with synthetic azo dyes came down with bladder cancer. In some operations, 100 per cent of the workers were afflicted. Even if a man worked only six months in a dye plant, the cancer could appear 10 or 15 years later.

In Detroit, recently, two metal workers quietly received a big out-of-court settlement from their company because they developed skin cancer from contact with cutting oils. These oils, still used to cool high-speed cutting machinery, are sprayed on a worker's hands and face, as well as inhaled. At one major auto plant, workers are threatening to strike unless safer cutting oil is provided. In some cases, outbreaks of the disease have been called "spontaneous cancer," though they were suspected as being due to the oils.

Several months ago, an Ohio state health officer, in a study utilizing death certificates and Social Security records, was able to uncover a high death rate of bladder cancer among workers in a chemical company exposed to benzadine and beta-naphthylamine. Although these chemicals were conceded by company officials to be cancer hazards, and nine living plant employees were awarded compensation, the poisons are still used.

These are only a few instances of what has happened—and is happening—in plants throughout the nation. How vulnerable are you?

Occupational cancer can occur a year

after exposure or many years later. It depends on the intensity of the exposure, the potency of the chemical or physical agent and how susceptible you are. It's possible for a cancer to show up years after you've left a job where you had contact with a carcinogen.

Specifically, a number of jobs today tend to expose workers to such risks. For instance, several studies by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company indicate that higher than average death rates from lung cancer appear among coppersmiths and tinsmiths, painters and varnishers, roofers and slaters. Other studies point to the following occupations as harboring cancer-causing elements:

Asbestos workers.
Stokers of coke ovens.
Men who breathe in chromium-containing compounds.
Hot-metal workers.
Men who make or handle arsenical pesticides used in sprays or dusts.
Refinery workers having contact with nickel dust and nickel carbonyl vapors.
Men exposed to excessive fumes of gasoline, oil or varnish.
Producers and handlers of certain aromatic amines (compounds derived from ammonia) whose derivatives are used in making rubber and dyes.
Workers who produce tar paper and asphalt shingles.
Men engaged in mining and smelting of copper, zinc and silver ores who are exposed to arsenicals.
Workers exposed to certain petroleum mists and fogs, or vapors from isopropyl oil.

The 400 different substances pegged as carcinogens generally attack specific organs of the body, such as the following:

Skin Cancer, which comprises three out of four cases of the occupational disease: The culprits include arsenic, asphalt, creosote, crude paraffin oil, pitch, X-rays and ultraviolet rays. In the oil industry, high boiling fractions of petroleum and petroleum products, shale oil, coal tar and related compounds are established inciters of skin cancer.

Bladder Cancer, which covers about 15 per cent of occupational tumors: Aromatic amines (beta-naphthylamine and benzidine) used in making synthetic dyes are absorbed into the body, probably by inhalation. The exposure of only a few micrograms of beta-naphthylamine a day continued for several months may be enough to produce bladder cancer in some men. Hundreds of these cases were found in United States dye plants. Recently, bladder cancer has emerged as a hazard for men making automobile tires, apparently as result of a chemical used to treat the rubber.

Lung Cancer: Fumes from anthracene oil, asbestos, chromates, nickel carbonyl and coal tar; radioactive substances.

Leukemia, the malignant disease of blood-forming tissues such as the spleen, lymph nodes and bone marrow: Benzene, X-rays, radium.

Cancer of sinuses and nose (nasopharynx): Nickel carbonyl, isopropyl oil, radioactive dusts and gases. In the manufacture of products from propylene gas there seems to be a large number of such cancer cases.

Bone Cancer: Radium and radioactive products.

Just how do these deadly agents produce cancer? They act in different ways. Some carcinogens, like tar and mineral oils, cause the disease directly. Others, like the azo dyes, act indirectly, probably evoking metabolic disturbances in certain organs such as the liver which in turn result in cancers being produced within the body.

For example, among men working in nickel refining, nose and lung cancers are traced to nickel carbonyl, a gas at ordinary temperatures. On contact with water, nickel carbonyl decomposes to finely divided nickel and carbon monoxide. Hence it is presumed that in the moist body cavities (sinuses, lungs) into which it is breathed, the tissues are actually exposed to finely divided nickel.

In its early stage, it's hard to spot this cancer because so many men suffer from chronic sinusitis. By the time the cancer is discovered, it often has invaded the bone. Then, chances of survival are poor. In one study of cancer in a nickel-refining plant, 90 out of 93 cases ended in death.

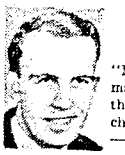
Surprisingly, the same sort of nasal sinus cancers have turned up in men working on a wholly different job, making isopropyl oil.

Not long ago, during Dr. Smith's visit to a shale-oil plant which processes gasoline, paraffin, diesel oil and other products, he examined employees working in the paraffin process. Several had dull red, brownish or purple splotches on their forearms. One man, who had had two cancers removed from his arm, showed four "horns" on his hands and a suspiciously firm mound on the skin at his wrist. Many red, conical "paraffin warts" were on his legs and arms. Evidently, if the skin trouble among these workers was allowed to become chronic, cancer broke out.

To industrial leaders, the whole problem of cancer-causing hazards on the job is a big headache. Obviously, no one would want to expose people carelessly to chemicals they honestly thought would induce cancer. The problem is that management's thinking is often about 100 years behind the times. It took a long while for people to realize that a few bacteria can enter the body, multiply and produce disease. Today, we're in the same position in regard to the more subtle, delayed-action carcinogens. Many persons are not only apathetic about it but reluctant to believe chemical molecules can enter the body, stimulate a body cell to multiply and—as that cell and its descendants go on multiplying—eventually produce a mass of cells that we call cancer. But that is what happens.

Very few industries have made studies of carcinogens in their manufacturing processes and published the results.

In one California plant, a serious lung disease was known to exist for 20 years. No effective dust-control measures were adopted until the International Chemical



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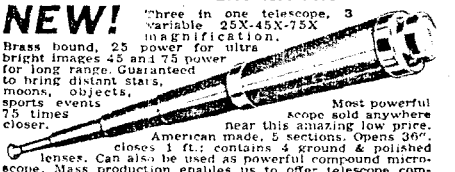
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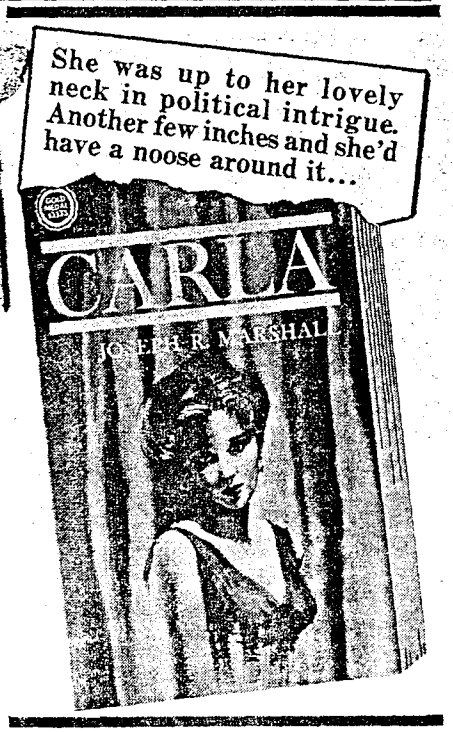
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Workers Union called a strike to obtain safe working conditions—to protect their lives.

The behind-the-times attitude of industrial management is illustrated by the experience of a state health official who recently visited a small asphalt plant which had a known carcinogen hazard.

"You ought to improve your ventilating system and set up other safeguards for your workers," the official urged the owner of the plant.

"That's nonsense," was the reply. "I've been working with asphalt for twenty-two years and no one is going to tell me it's dangerous."

Later, the official reported that he could clearly see half a dozen wart-like growths on the owner's face and hands. The warts were the kind that are often pre-cancerous. And growing just above the owner's cheek bone was an actual cancer the size of a dime!

These tumors had developed so slowly and insidiously that the man had paid no attention to them.

How can your job be made safer, if you're in one of the vulnerable industries? Fortunately, the outlook for reducing cancer in industry is more hopeful than it is for the general public, because exposure to specific carcinogens *can* be controlled. These are some of the important ways of preventing occupational cancer:

1. Substitute, where possible, a safe substance or process for a harmful one.

2. Introduce a production system to prevent escape of noxious dusts, fumes, vapors and gases into the air. Good exhaust ventilation is essential wherever such hazards exist. Sometimes a dry method of releasing dust can be changed to a wet technique that creates no dust.

3. If carcinogens can't be eliminated, the time and degree of exposure to them should be reduced as much as possible.

4. Protective clothing, goggles, gloves and respirators should be used by workers in jeopardy. It's wise to have separate lockers for work and street clothes. Preferably, work clothes should be changed daily. Another good safeguard is to shower at the end of the day.

5. Workers should be carefully instructed to avoid unnecessary contact with the carcinogens they handle.

6. Periodic medical examinations of workers must be made to detect early signs of cancer.

7. All industrial plants using cancer-inducing materials should be licensed by the state or federal government and regular inspections made of plant control methods.

It's good to know that a number of big companies are alive to the perils and have taken steps to shield their workers. Monsanto Chemical Company stopped making a new chemical after it was proved to cause bladder cancers in dogs. Union Carbide and Carbon Company made technical changes to cut out hazards leading to cancer in the sinuses of men working on production of isopropyl alcohol. The Mutual Chemical Company built new plants to reduce dangers to chromate workers. Several asbestos manufacturers have improved their processes to cut down dust and decrease the chances of their men contracting asbestosis, a lung disease associated with cancer.

One oil company tested hundreds of petroleum derivatives on thousands of mice. The experiment disclosed which derivatives would cause cancer and which did not. With the information supplied by the mice, the company swung into action to protect men from products which showed a cancer risk.

Pipes carrying carcinogenic products were painted a distinctive color. Refineries were rebuilt to concentrate the dangerous lines in one area. Men working there were instructed in the risk. Protective clothing and washing facilities were provided, and foremen saw to it that the men used these facilities. Through further tests on mice, products distributed to consumers were carefully checked for safety.

This program is unique in the annals of industrial medicine. Most of the material tested came from new processes. No one knew whether or not they would bring about cancer in humans. The mice provided information to head off occupational cancer *before it happened!*

Such foresight is rare. Many companies are doing little or nothing about the hidden menace. Why should industry drag its feet? The answer is that protective measures can be expensive.

New carcinogens are being discovered from time to time, especially in radioactive materials. Important industries using cancer-inducing agents are expanding—dye plants and processors of various forms of hydrocarbons, metals and solvents. Procedures involving new types of exposure are constantly being developed.

Thus occupational cancer has become one of the ominous end-products of the technological world in which we work.

If cancer arose suddenly after exposure to one or another chemical, it would be easy to spot the relationship. But it comes on very, very slowly. Ten or 20 years can go by between the first exposure and the eventual appearance of cancer. Meantime, a man may have handled hundreds of different chemicals, changed his job within his industry or gone on to another industry.

Tracking down chemical causes of cancer is a tough job, but, with the booming expansion of chemical industries, it is a job that must be done. It will need the close teamwork of management, labor, government and cancer researchers.

When I discussed this with Bill Smith, he was confident it can be done.

"Tars, oils, metals and many other substances that can cause cancer are necessary and important in industry," he said. "Learning to handle them safely is not really different from learning to handle acids, explosives or other dangerous, but necessary, chemicals."

Scientists like Dr. Smith and Dr. Hueper, even though they are attacked as "trouble makers," must be permitted to explore the mysteries of carcinogens without hindrance and to reveal their findings. Only then can you be safe on your job from the ravages of cancer. •