



## FESTIVITIES PLANNED AS CHRISTMAS NEARS

A variety of Christmas activities has been planned by NIH employees and patients to usher in the holiday season.

The annual employees' Christmas program will be held on December 20 in the CC Auditorium. The program will open at 11:30 a.m. with holiday greetings from Hazel Rea, president of the R & W Association, and will include a short Christmas message from Dr. James A. Shannon, NIH Director. The NIH Chorus will entertain with new and old Christmas carols, and will invite the audience to join in the singing.

Patient Christmas activities began on December 16 with a pageant that featured the NIH Chorus. Other holiday activities planned for patients include a gift-wrapping party, ward caroling by volunteer groups, a program of English hand-bell ringers, and special religious services on December 24 and 25.

A group of employees will be honored at the Christmas awards program in Wilson Hall on December 23. All employees are invited to attend the ceremony, to begin at 1:00 p.m.

Many gaily decorated trees, purchased by the R & W Association, will soon bring a Christmas atmosphere to the CC Lobby, Wilson Hall, Top Cottage, and many of the wards. The nativity scene in front of the CC and recorded Christmas music in the CC Lobby will add to the holiday spirit.

Several groups, including the Commissioned Officers Wives Club and AFGE Lodge 1690, have contributed money for patient Christmas gifts. Thanks are due to NIH Gray Ladies for helping to make the Christmas season a merry one.

## DR. COGHILL HEADS INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF NCI CHEMOTHERAPY

Dr. Robert D. Coghill, formerly director of research at Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, was recently appointed Special Assistant for Industrial Research at the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center, NCI.

In this position, he will be responsible for industrial aspects of the cancer chemotherapy program and will recommend solutions to cooperative research problems involving NCI, industrial firms, and investigators in academic institutions.

Until recently, industrial contributions to the cancer chemotherapy program were limited principally to supplying compounds for anti-tumor screening. Within the past

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## NIH Scientists Hear Trans-Atlantic Panel

The second trans-Atlantic medical meeting in history, held in Philadelphia, London, and Washington on December 4, was linked to NIH by hi-fi telephone circuits.

The hour and a half program on cancer chemotherapy and the leukemias utilized the new trans-Atlantic cable to link discussion panels in Philadelphia and London. Audiences at NIH and at Walter Reed Army Medical Center were able to submit questions by phone to the panel in Philadelphia where the American Medical Association was holding its 11th annual clinical meeting.

Dr. Emil Frei, Head of the Chemotherapy Service of the NCI General Medicine Branch, was one of six American scientists to participate in the program. Dr. Frei's

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In a holiday mood, three NIH secretaries recently built this snowman in front of Bldg. 1 during lunch hour. Left to right: Audrey Hess, Celeste Meininger, and Kathy Stang.

# Pork Found To Be A Source Of Toxoplasmosis

No. 197 in a Series



Bruce Hill, laboratory technician, NIAID, prepares a digest of muscle for inoculation into mice in testing for toxoplasmosis.

Toxoplasmosis is an obscure parasitic disease that is prevalent throughout the world and infects a high percentage of people in the United States. Although its exact mode of transmission in nature is unknown, many species of insects, birds, and animals are found infected and have been considered sources of the human disease.

The disease strikes both children and adults. It is often fatal in the newborn, following congenital transmission from the mother. If not fatal, the parasite usually damages the central nervous system severely enough to leave the victim mentally retarded and blind.

In adults the infection is ordinarily asymptomatic. It may, however, produce such symptoms as fever and swollen lymph nodes. Also, it sometimes causes a severe pneumonitis accompanied by encephalitis and skin rash. Recent studies here have demonstrated that toxoplasmosis as a chronic infection is responsible for considerable blindness due to destruction of the retina.

As a part of a study to track down the source of the disease, Dr. Leon Jacobs and his associates in the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, NIAID, have developed a procedure that has demonstrated that the *Toxoplasma* is present in pork muscle. The tests were made on samples from animals used for human consumption.

*Toxoplasma* was first found in swine in Ohio in 1954. But the presence of parasites in the muscle of the animals, which is the crucial point in relation to transmission to human beings, had never been investigated.

Since animal species differ in their ability to harbor parasites in muscle, it was necessary to devise a technique that would allow the sampling of large pieces of tissue. Small pieces of tissue may frequently be reported negative because of uneven distribution of the parasites.

Dr. Jacobs and Miss Marjorie Melton tested 50 pork samples for the parasite by digesting the ground meat for two hours in a solution of hydrochloric acid, salt, water, and pepsin. The material was then filtered, centrifuged, washed in saline, and suspended in a physiological saline solution. Groups of 10 or more mice were injected with the suspension from each of 50 samples.

The majority of the mice in 8 of 50 groups died of toxoplasmosis in 7 to 14 days. The mice of the remaining groups were tested serologically by the dye test, and four additional positive groups were found.

Dr. Jacobs emphasizes that this does not solve all the problems regarding the transmission of human toxoplasmosis. High antibody levels have been found among vege-

## NEWS BRIEFS

A special travel fund has been established by NINDB to aid younger ophthalmologists and scientists engaged in ophthalmological teaching or research to attend the 18th International Ophthalmology Congress. The Congress will be held in Brussels, Belgium, September 8-12, 1958. Applications for fund aid should be mailed to Dr. Gordon Seger, Chief, Extramural Program, NINDB, by March 1, 1958.

In the Office of the Surgeon General, the functions of Health Emergency Planning and Civilian Health Requirements have been combined in a new unit, the Emergency Plans and Requirements Staff. Dr. Roy E. Butler is chief.

Nominations for the William A. Jump Memorial Foundation Award for 1958 are now open. The annual award will be presented in the spring of 1958 to a Federal employee in the field of public administration who has contributed in a commendable way to the public service. Eligible employees must be under 36 years of age. Nominations should be submitted to the Board on Employee Awards before January 10, 1958.

The National Science Foundation has issued a 64-page report entitled "Basic Research, A National Resource." The report outlines the NSF's guidelines for promotion of basic research: to establish conditions favorable to the growth of basic research and to achieve a greater flow of funds, both Federal and private. The New York Times of October 28 carries a summary of the report, which can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, GPO, for 45 cents.

tarians and non-pork eaters. Also, people of Tahiti have the highest prevalence of *Toxoplasma* antibodies in the world, and they cook their pork until it is well done. Thus there must be other ways the disease is transmitted.

The procedure that was developed in order to carry out this research will allow extensive epidemiological studies on toxoplasmosis not previously possible.

## NIH Spotlight



Paul Blank

Every member of the medical profession will recall patients whose difficulties might have been more easily resolved if the circumstances of their daily lives could have been studied and understood. In the Laboratory of Clinical Sciences, NIMH, this service is offered by a psychiatric social worker--Paul Blank.

Working closely with patients and their families, Paul attempts to evaluate strengths and weaknesses that affect social and psychological functioning. Once these are recognized, he is able to carry out a treatment plan.

Paul also participates in research projects by contributing specific information or background material essential to psychiatric studies. He works with psychiatrists and social psychologists in a variety of collaborative studies, most recently in the fields of schizophrenia and aging.

In the two years Paul has been at NIH he has achieved an enviable reputation as both actor and director of Hamster productions. His near-professional ability and easy sense of humor have won the sincere admiration of all who work with him. Several years ago Paul's interest in the theater led to courses in play direction in a New York group headed by Lee Strasburg, and he has since

worked in a variety of little theater groups.

There are notable parallels, he suggests, between feelings and behavior in day to day situations and those expressed in a play. A sensitivity to individual differences and a recognition of common needs are basic viewpoints of those who work in the area of human behavior--in life or art.

A native New Yorker, Paul began college at the City College of New York. He spent several years in the army during World War II.

After graduation from the University of Washington with majors in anthropology and philosophy, Paul did graduate work at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration. There he met his wife, Marion, who taught at the University.

Before coming to NIH Paul did clinical work for several years at Camarillo State Hospital, Camarillo, Calif., and was on the staff of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine--Western Psychiatric Institute. In 1955 he welcomed the opportunity to join the NIH staff as a regular officer in the Commissioned Corps.

Paul and his wife now have a daughter, Karen, who is almost three. Family activities include musical interests, participation in various community groups, and attending the theater.



## R & W NOTES

New officers of the R & W Association were elected at the well-attended annual meeting December 4. They are Hazel Rea, president (re-elected); Robert Grant, 1st vice president; Dr. John Scigliano, 2d vice president; Cecilia Kennedy, secretary; John Finn, treasurer; and Alberta Jarvis, corresponding secretary (re-elected).

The annual report for the past year was presented by Hazel Rea, 1957 president. A revision of Association bylaws was read, and accepted by the membership.

Membership cards for 1958 and revised discount books will be available by January 1. Watch for more information on joining R & W, still only \$1 for many benefits.

Winners of the golf tournament received trophies at the annual meeting. Tied for first place in flight A were Clair Lacey and Bob Blackwell. Winners in other divisions were Louis Bender, John J. Murphy, and Emma Shelton.

Christmas candy, cards, and gifts are now on sale at discount prices to R & W members at the Film Service Desk in the CC lobby. Pecans and playing cards, as well as photographic supplies, are available at low prices.

## NIH GRAY LADIES ASSIST SANTA CLAUS



Santa Claus made an early visit to the CC this year, so NIH Gray Ladies could help him wrap gifts for the young patients. Gray Ladies (left to right) Mrs. Robert Gutterman, Mrs. Norman Piron, and Mrs. Philip Howse are shown aiding Santa (Edward W. Coolidge, DRS), who will return for children's Christmas parties.

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## NCI SECRETARY CITED FOR SUGGESTION



At a recent awards ceremony are (left to right) Jean Royer, Harry Hall, Phil Webb, Robert Learmouth, award-winner Martha N. Rees, Dr. Charles G. Zubrod, NCI Director J. R. Heller, Rachel Breimyer, Doris Holley, Edna May Leyes, and Retha Jordan.

Martha N. Rees, secretary, NCI, has been awarded \$200 for devising an improved recording and filing system for medical records in NCI.

The award was presented by Dr. J. R. Heller, NCI Director, at a ceremony December 2. In congratulating Mrs. Rees, Dr. Charles G. Zubrod, NCI Clinical Director, said that "largely due to Mrs. Rees's efforts, the Cancer Institute is the first in NIH's history to be completely current on medical records."

The system initiated by Mrs. Rees includes a cross-reference file that indicates the degree of completion and location of medical charts issued to a physician or service. Current data essential to physicians can be obtained quickly and easily.

### COGHILL Contd.

year these contributions have greatly increased.

Recognizing the importance of industrial participation, Congress has appropriated \$6.4 million dollars for expanded use of industrial facilities. Contracts can now be negotiated to cover applied programs, and related research and development projects.

Negotiation of ten contracts, including six with the pharmaceutical industry, was recently recommended by NCI's Contract Review Board. These agreements will total approximately \$2,500,000 of chemotherapy contract funds.

### PANEL Contd.

contribution was entitled "Experimental Design in Cancer Chemotherapy" and included an evaluation of potential anticancer drugs.

Arrangements for a line to NIH were made by Dr. Murray C. Brown, Chief, Clinical and Professional Education Branch. Sponsors of the conference were the American Medical Association and the Royal Society of Medicine in cooperation with Smith, Kline, and French laboratories.

## NEW TRAFFIC RULES NOW IN EFFECT HERE

The following changes in NIH traffic regulations and conditions have recently been put into effect.

A traffic light has been installed at the intersection of Old Georgetown Road and South Drive. Incoming traffic is permitted to turn right on a red light after stopping. South Drive between Old Georgetown Road and the new parking lot is now one-way eastbound from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., and one-way westbound from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

The traffic light at Old Georgetown Road and Center Drive now operates from 8:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

The northern portion of North Drive has been made one-way eastbound from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Stone House Road has been widened to permit two lanes of traffic to move with greater safety. The road is still narrow, however, and drivers are urged to use caution.

Three lanes of traffic on Wisconsin Avenue adjacent to NIH have been opened recently. Three more lanes now under construction are expected to open soon.

### New Snack Bar Opens

A new snack bar, sponsored by the Maryland Workshop for the Blind, has opened in Bldg. T-19. The shop is located to the right of the main entrance and will sell sandwiches, soups, pastries, candy, and cigarettes.

## SNOWSTORM PREVIEWS CHRISTMAS SEASON



NIH employees hurry through icy winds to their snowbound cars during the recent storm.