

PUBLIC SAFETY

Freak Accidents of 1952

► **WHEN HIS** single engine "conked out," a Salt Lake City aviator made an emergency landing on a busy highway. But his plane kept rolling on down the highway. It had landed on a car.

This was listed by National Safety Council Director Paul Jones as one of 1952's freak accidents. In an accident review of the year, published in the current issue of *Public Safety*, Mr. Jones also recounts these freaks:

1. In New York, a six-year-old boy plunged down a stairwell in his family's apartment house. He fell five floors and landed on a German shepherd dog named Prince. Neither boy nor dog were hurt seriously.

2. As it made a left turn, the car of an Indianapolis driver was struck by another car. Knocked into the path of a second vehicle, the car was hit again. The second crash spun the car around, causing it to smash into the car which struck it first.

3. An Air Force captain from Dallas,

Tex., fell out of the door of a C-46 cargo plane as it flew a mile high over Korea. Just as he was about to pull the rip cord of his parachute, the captain was scooped up by the plane as it hit an air pocket. He entered by the same door by which he had so recently left.

4. Near Meridian, Miss., a woman motorist saw something fall from a station wagon ahead of her. She stopped her car, picked it up and tried to catch the station wagon to return the driver's property. Believing that the car behind him wanted to play games, the station wagon driver gave a merry 15-mile chase. But finally the woman motorist was able to return to the couple in the station wagon their two-year-old son. He was not hurt badly from the fall.

5. A crane operator in the Portsmouth, N. H., Navy Yard leaned out of his crane to shout to a workman below. The operator's safety hat fell off, struck the man below and broke his nose.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1952

GENETICS

Albino Inheritance Factor

► **ALBINISM**, AN abnormal lack of color in the skin, eyes and hair, affects from one in 5,000 to one in 25,000 of the population, and is distributed all over the world.

It has long been thought that it was inherited through a single recessive gene, but recent genetic studies have indicated that it is carried by several recessive genes and in addition some dominant genes, Dr. Harold F. Falls of the University of Michigan Medical School reported to the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

Recent research has suggested that albinism is the result of a disorder in the body's chemistry, in which certain substances do not combine properly to form the pigment which gives color to the eyes, skin and hair, Dr. Falls said. Because a number of substances are involved in the process, the degree of pigmentation varies widely from person to person.

The albino eye has a pink, translucent iris and red pupils, Dr. Falls explained. It may move involuntarily from side to side or up and down, and it is usually hypersensitive to light. The vision is defective, and the patient is likely to be near-sighted or unusually far-sighted. These factors may exist in all degrees of severity and in all combinations, he continued. Observation has shown, however, that as a person grows older, there is an accumulation of pigment, and his difficulties become less, including his poor vision.

The use of shields, tinted glasses, colored contact lenses and tattooing of the eyeball have all been tried in efforts to help the al-

bino to see better and to relieve his discomforts. These measures all help, but the most effective help has been obtained through the use of telescopic lenses, specially made lenses that magnify objects at least two or three times.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1952

PEDIATRICS

Choose Toys for Youngsters With Care

► **FOR THE** children on your Christmas gift list, select toys with care. Of course you want to give safe toys.

Avoid those with lead paint, sharp pointed toys for young children, and toys small enough to be swallowed in the case of babies and small children. Avoid, also, toys that break or come apart easily. Toys may be quite simple and yet delight the child.

Complicated gadgets will be looked at but usually not played with. If you watch a small child playing, you may see him taking the lid off a box and replacing it time after time. He is enjoying himself because he is gaining a new accomplishment.

A child learns and develops through his play. One authority on the subject advises giving the child a well balanced diet of toys and play equipment to help him to good all-round development. The four main courses on this balanced toy diet are:

1. Active physical play. Push and pull toys, wheel toys, balls, sports and gym

equipment are typical playthings that aid physical development.

2. Manipulative, constructive, creative play. Blocks, construction toys, drawing and painting equipment, and hobby kits are typical aids to this type of play.

3. Initiative, imaginative, dramatic play. Dolls, housekeeping equipment, train systems and dress-up costumes are typical of the kind of equipment that stimulates imitative and dramatic play.

4. Social play. Games in which several children can take part are essential aids to social development.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1952

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. 62 DECEMBER 13, 1952 No. 24

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., NORH 2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscription rates: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage.

Change of address: Three weeks notice is required. When ordering a change please state exactly how magazine is now addressed. Your new address should include postal zone number if you have one.

Copyright, 1952, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service. Science Service also publishes CHEMISTRY (monthly) and THINGS of Science (monthly).

Printed in U. S. A. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at the special rate of postage provided for by Sec. 34.40, P. L. and R., 1948 Edition, paragraph (d) (act of February 28, 1925; 39 U. S. Code 283), authorized February 28, 1950. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N.Y.C., Pennsylvania 6-5566, and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, STate 2-4822.

SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Karl Lark-Horowitz, Purdue University; Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard University. Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences: Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology; Homer W. Smith, New York University. Nominated by the National Research Council: Ross G. Harrison, Yale University; Alexander Wetmore, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Duane Roller, Hughes Aircraft Co. Nominated by the Journalistic Profession: A. H. Kirchofer, Buffalo Evening News; Neil H. Swanson, Baltimore Sun Papers; O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism. Nominated by the E. W. Scripps Estate: Frank R. Ford, San Francisco News; John T. O'Rourke, Washington Daily News; Charles E. Scripps, E. W. Scripps Trust.

Officers—President: Harlow Shapley; Vice President and chairman of Executive Committee: Alexander Wetmore; Treasurer: O. W. Riegel; Secretary: Watson Davis.

Staff—Director: Watson Davis. Writers: Jane Stafford, A. C. Monahan, Marjorie Van de Water, Martha G. Morrow, Ann Ewing, Wadsworth Likely, Allen Long. Science Clubs of America: Joseph H. Kraus, Margaret E. Patterson. Photography: Fremont Davis. Sales and Advertising: Hallie Jenkins. Production: Priscilla Howe. In London: J. G. Feinberg.