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POST-HERALD
Birmingham, Ala.

issue dated

AUG 3 1972

No part in syphilis test—Tuskegee

United Press International

TUSKEGEE — Tuskegee Institute took no part in a controversial government-sponsored syphilis testing program among Macon County blacks after a treatment for the disease was developed, school officials said Wednesday.

They said the predominantly black school was "deeply concerned" over recent news reports about the study that was started in 1932 to determine the long-range affects of the disease.

The program has been criticized recently because it was not halted when a treatment for syphilis was developed. There have been charges that persons in the study were allowed to continue untreated.

School officials said Tuskegee Institute cooperated in the project because it considered it to be an opportunity to help syphilis victims in the area.

A spokesman said school facilities were used but the "design, implementation, and records of this 40-year study have been under the direction, control and supervision of the United States Public Health Service."

In a statement, the school said that since 1946 — when a treatment was developed — there has been no active medical program at Tuskegee Institute's John A. Andrew Hospital in connection with the study. It said that since

1946 any patient diagnosed as having syphilis would have been provided treatment at the hospital. The spokesman said the study has been based at the Macon County Health Department since 1946.

The Macon County Medical Society announced last week that it would call for the termination of the program and would attempt to find the few elderly participants left in the program and give them treatment. One society official termed the project "a good program that turned bad."

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This Clip From
THE LEADER DISPATCH
Boaz, Alabama

AUG 31 1972

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE will be strong offensively, if a quarterback can be found. The Tigers run the triple option, and junior Jay Grimmitt has the inside path to the job. They are coached by Haywood Scissom.

ALABAMA A&M is in the same boat with Tuskegee. The Aggies are looking for a quarterback. Otherwise, the Hornets return 22 lettermen and are expected to depend upon a running game this year.

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This Clip From
GENEVA COUNTY REAPER
Geneva, Alabama

issue dated

AUG 3 1972

Peanut Clinic Today In Dothan

A peanut clinic will be held at the Houston County Farm Center, Dothan, today (August 3rd) beginning at 9:30 a.m. This program is planned to bring peanut producers up to date on the latest recommendations on harvesting and drying peanuts. Late season disease and insect control, peanut irrigation, and other subjects will be discussed. Lunch will be available at the Farm Center. The meeting will end before 3:30 p.m.

This program should be most helpful to all peanut producers, processors, and machinery and equipment dealers.

The program will begin with a discussion on disease and insect control by Dean Bond, Extension Peanut Specialist at Auburn University.

William Mayfield, Extension Agricultural Engineer, will present some recommended harvesting practices. Extension Agricultural Engineer James Donald will discuss on-the-farm peanut drying.

Jim Burnette, Chief Inspector for the Federal-State Inspection Service in Dothan, will talk about how harvesting and curing affect peanut quality and your income.

Reynolds says Charles Ogburn, Extension Agricultural Engineer, will discuss the pros and cons of irrigation in peanuts.

A short talk on peanuts in Alabama will be presented by James Earl Mobley, President of the Alabama Peanut Producers Association, Shorter-ville.

William Matfield will introduce the machinery dealers attending the harvesting and drying clinic.

Syphilis Experiment Successful

After Four Years, Report Shows

WASHINGTON (AP) — After only four years of a 40-year federal syphilis experiment in Alabama, doctors had gained the specific knowledge they initially sought, a report indicates.

But instead of ending the study and treating the participants, the doctors continued the experiment with the knowledge that some of the human subjects would suffer potentially fatal diseases.

The experiment, called the Tuskegee Study, began in 1932 and eventually involved more than 430 syphilitic black men from the Tuskegee, Ala., area who were given no treatment for their disease. Also included in the early years of the study

were 275 syphilitics who did receive treatment and 201 non-syphilitics.

The experiment was run by the U.S. Public Health Service, which still has over-all control. During the course of the experiment, at least 29 men died as a direct result of untreated syphilis.

Dozens of others suffered such potentially fatal side effects as heart and central nervous system deterioration. Others had glandular and vision damage.

"Morbidity (physical degeneration) in male Negroes with untreated syphilis far exceeds that in a comparable presumably nonsyphilitic group," PHS doctors said in a 1936 report on the Tuskegee Study, the first report on the then-four-year-old experiment.

The same report said the study was undertaken to determine the effectiveness of available syphilis treatment which then consisted of injections of inorganic mercury and arsenic. The doctors said they wanted to find out if the syphilitics given treatment fared better than those not receiving it.

But the same 1936 report that posed that question also answered it.

"Among 68 individuals who were adequately treated during the first two years of their infection, not a single one returned with any of the manifestations of late syphilis," the report said.

"The fact that none of these patients returned up to the 15th year of observation with a late syphilitic manifestation indicates that effective treatment has definite preventive value against the crippling manifestations of late syphilis."

The reason doctors were able to observe men in their 15th year of syphilis although the Tuskegee Study was only four years old was because the experiment subjects had suffered from the disease for varying lengths of time—some apparently for as long as 11 years—when the Tuskegee study

degeneration was effective against syphilis, they found also that men who received only partial or inadequate treatment also were helped.

"Nine years after the onset of the syphilitic infection, the inadequately treated cases had next PHS report, in 1946, says 6.9 per cent cardiovascular involvement and 13.8 per cent central nervous system involvement as contrasted with 41.9 per cent and 29 per cent respectively among the untreated syphilitic Negro males," the report said.

"Cardiovascular and central nervous system involvements were from two to three times

as common in the untreated syphilis group as in a comparable group receiving even inadequate treatment," it said.

There is no mention of the effectiveness of treatment in subsequent reports. In fact the next PHS report, in 1946, says the purpose of the Tuskegee Study was "to describe and evaluate specific changes brought about by the disease in the infected individual."

Doctors Say Penicillin More Risk Than Cure

BY RICHARD LITTLE

Two doctors having conversations with the controversial "Green Study" said The News this week that in their professional opinion treating the 299 men with latent syphilis with penicillin involved in the study "may have been more of a risk than a cure."

One of the two, Dr. Edward Lammons, newly appointed Macon County health officer, also said that press reports surrounding the story "are seriously affecting" a general disease program by the county, "which if in no way connected with the Tuskegee Study."

Lammons Reacts

Lammons also stated that in the late '40s, when penicillin first became widely available, he doubted that he "would have given it to them [the subjects of the study]."

"And," he added, "I would not give it to them in the '50s, '60s or now."

"Now, you might find some doctors that would give it now," said Lammons, "but considering the nature of the disease, if I were faced with the decision in the '40s whether or not to give the penicillin, I would not have."

Part of the reasoning behind the decision not to give penicillin back then must have been because it was a new drug; they have had years of allergic reactions; they did not know what effect it would have on the lesions (changes in organs caused by the disease) already present in the vital organs, plus the fact that the disease tends to burn itself out in patients.

Dr. William Brown, head of the Venereal Disease Unit,

Georgia Division of Physical Health comparable to the Alabama State Department of Public Health, agreed with Lammons.

Brown Agrees

"By the time the question was raised on whether or not to use penicillin the decision was probably made because there were no data available applying to late (latent) syphilis patients. And all the patients involved had late syphilis, not early syphilis."

"In all probability, the decision was based on the fact that the short and long term effects of the drug were not known. Even in the '40s, the conclusions were somewhat the same. The treatment of late syphilis doesn't render a cure. It may help, but the risk of drugs at that age by 1952, the youngest study subject was 45; might outweigh the benefits."

"If penicillin was available when the study began in 1932, and was well evaluated, I'm sure it would have been administered to the subjects."

'Study No Secret'

"And," Brown added, "the study was no secret. There have been at least 15 papers written in medical journals through the years and the study was discussed in medical meetings openly."

Brown was identified by one report as one of the doctors involved in the last Health Department decision on the study in 1949, when the Montgomery Advertiser reported,

health officials agreed to continue the study.

The Macon County Health Department also released a statement about the study to The News this week. The written statement was compiled by Lammons, W. H. Park, County Health Department administrator, and Shreve Hamer Laurie, who was connected with the study from 1932 to 1963.

"We are not trying to justify or condemn the study," said Lammons. "What we are trying to do is make it clear to the people of the county that the T D program we are undertaking now is in no way connected with the study, and that the subjects of the study still alive today, are not dangerous. All the cases, even the ones not treated, are not communicable now."

Health Department Statement

The information in the statement was gathered from Mrs. Laurie and a documentary copy of an article concerning the disease in a November, 1955, edition of the "Journal of Chronic Diseases."

The County Health Department statement reads in part: "According to Mrs. Laurie, in 1932 when the program started the cure for syphilis was often as fatal as the disease. It consisted of a mixture of arsenic and mercury that was injected into muscle tissues. All women and children and all males with infectious syphilis were given the existing treatment which resulted in the death of two patients, who have become aware of these reactions and did not submit to the arsenical treatment for syphilis. Because of the individuals' negative reaction to the word syphilis the

term had blood came into use.

"It was agreed that the fact in the Tuskegee Study would be kept under observation by the local health officer and syphilis health nurse; that they would be evaluated at regular intervals to check on their physical status, and that they would not be given the specific arsenical treatment for syphilis."

Never Denied Penicillin

"... when penicillin became available the original group of men with positive cases were between the ages of 35 and 45. Mrs. Laurie further stated that the men were alerted and told they did not receive penicillin. In fact, many patients in the study did receive penicillin from private sources. The study did not say that the men to be administered the use of the drug, but on the other hand they were encouraged to use the drug either... at no time did the study show that... men had syphilitic spores... injected into their bodies as a part of the study."

Tuskegee Institute and the John A. Andrew Hospital also received a written statement noting that the program was located in the midland line, as at the hospital, but that by the time penicillin became available the study "was fully in progress" at Macon County Health Department. From 1945 to the present there has been no direct medical contact with the 299 subjects.

The Health Department research study... A local civil rights attorney, Fred Gray, said he is preparing "a substantial number" of the subjects of the study and the widows of the deceased subjects in order to investigate whether their rights had been violated.

Macon County's Only Newspaper



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TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1972

PHONE 721-2579

Syphilis Victims 'Thanked'

Associated Press

For black men who survived the first 25 years of a federal syphilis experiment in Alabama, the reward was a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Public Health Service.

It read in part: "In grateful recognition of 25 years of active participation in the Tuskegee medical research study."

It was dated 1958 and signed by Leroy E. Burney, then U.S. Surgeon General, and now president of the New York foundation which, for 40 years, has underwritten the cost of burying victims of the Tuskegee Study.

Dr. Burney said in an interview that he did not recall the certificates and did not know who decided to distribute them.

"I might not even have signed them," he said. "Somebody else might have signed my name. I just don't recall anything about them."

Burney was Surgeon General in the Eisenhower administration from 1956 to 1961. In 1971, he became president of the Milbank Memorial Fund after serving on the foundation's technical board and board of directors for several years.

For the past 40 years, the Milbank Fund has been associated with the PHS Alabama syphilis experiment, known as the Tuskegee Study.

The study began in 1932 in Macon County, Alabama. Over the years, at least 430 syphilitic black men were never given treatment for their disease so that PHS doctors could determine through eventual autopsy what damage untreated syphilis does to the human body.

At least 28 of the men who participated died as a direct result of untreated syphilis.

Dr. Burney joined the Public Health Service in 1932, the year the Tuskegee Study got under way, and worked in the venereal disease branch of PHS for the next nine years.

He learned of the study a few years after joining PHS, Burney said, and added that he couldn't find fault with it in its early years.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Sunday, October 15, 1972

"In 1935 or 1936 I became aware of what was going on in Tuskegee," he said. "Recognizing that there was a high degree of serology (indication of syphilis infection) among Southern blacks and recognizing the hazardous nature of the treatment available at the time, it probably was a well conceived study."

The early syphilis treatment, consisting of doses of bismuth, mercury and arsenic, was prolonged and could cause some side effects.

Controversy over the study centers on the fact that after World War II, when penicillin was available as a safe, effective syphilis cure, Tuskegee Study participants still were not given treatment.

"I don't know what happened there," Burney said. "After 1941 I wasn't involved in venereal disease work anymore."

Burney said he also could not determine why the Milbank Fund had decided to underwrite the study, paying for the autopsies and burial of Tuskegee Study participants.

"I've looked through all of our records—all that we still have—and there's nothing there to show why we were asked to do this or why PHS didn't do it themselves," he said.

The early costs of underwriting the experiment ran around \$500 a year, and this year's grant from the foundation was \$1,200.

Burney said the money was sent to the Tuskegee Institute, a nearly all-black school outside Tuskegee, Ala., which paid the autopsy and burial bills.

There will be no more autopsy bills, however. Burney said he was notified several weeks ago that the autopsy portion of the Tuskegee Study has been ended. A spokesman for the PHS said the pathologist who had been conducting the autopsies decided he wanted nothing further to do with the experiment and he will not be replaced.

Syphilis Decision Left to Macon, Records Show

By M. P. WEISSKOPF
Advertiser Staff Writer

Health, asked more than three years ago by federal officials. The Alabama Board of Health, Board of Health for the federal project, said it is the only possible health official in Alabama who could assist in the project. The federal officials, who are the only ones in the state who have had the necessary training for the project, are the only ones in the state who have had the necessary training for the project.

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ATLA Const - 7/30/
Syphilis 72.

From Study Are Hunted

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (UPI)—Doctors in this small eastern Alabama town have started a search for elderly blacks who participated in a government sponsored syphilis experiment that started in 1932.

Dr. Henry Foster, president of the Macon County Medical Society, said Friday his group hopes to find as many of the participants as possible and give them treatment for the disease if it still was needed.

It was revealed this week that the program by the U. S. Public Health Service was never halted even when a cure for syphilis became available.

There have been charges that some 400 of the 600 original blacks that started the program were allowed to continue untreated. The program was designed to determine the long range effects of the disease.

Foster said the government agency would be asked to terminate the program.

A black state legislator charged that some of the participants did not know why they were being tested.

Rep. Fred Gray of Tuskegee, a civil rights attorney, said he had been retained to represent "several" of the participants. He declined to name his clients or say how many he represented, but said there was a possibility he would sue the Public Health Service to get damages for his clients.

Syphilis treatment denied Tuskegee men in U. S. study

BY JEAN HELLER

WASHINGTON

For 40 years the U. S. Public Health Service has conducted a study in which human nea pigs, denied proper medical treatment, have died of syphilis and its side effects.

The study was conducted to determine from autopsies if the disease does to the human body.

PHS officials responsible for conducting the experiment have since retired. Current

PHS officials, who say they have serious doubts about the morality of the study, also say it's too late to treat syphilis in any of the study's surviving participants.

But PHS doctors say they are rendering whatever other medical services they now can give to the survivors while the study of the disease's effects continues.

The experiment, called the Tuskegee Study, began in 1932 with about 600 black men, mostly poor and uneducated, from Tuskegee, Ala., an area

which had the highest syphilis rate in the nation at the time.

One-third of the group was free of syphilis; two-thirds showed evidence of the disease. In the syphilitic group, half were given the best treatment known at the time, but the other half, about 200 men, received no treatment at all for syphilis, PHS officials say.

As incentives to enter the program, the men were promised free transportation to and from hospitals, free hot
Turn to Page 6, Column 6

19 Republicans voted for the measure; 19 Democrats and 29 Republicans opposed it.

Left with nothing for the moment, Sen. J. W. Fulbright, D-Ark., saw the voting as a gesture.

"The impact was that the Senate voted for it," Fulbright told newsmen. "Do you think anybody thought it (the cutoff) would get by the House, or the White House? For whatever it is worth, the Senate has expressed its view."

Fulbright, Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield and several others voted for the cutoff, but against the bill. One of these, Sen. Marlow Cook, R-Ky., said, "I've traditionally been an opponent of foreign aid. I don't believe in spending that kind of money."

Turn to Page 6, Column 2

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Birmingham News
July 26, 1972

Paper Radio

M20-1
GENERAL

Big Man's Story of How the Gov't Gave Him Syphilis

LEW IRWIN

Back in 1932, when Charles Pollard was just twenty-six years old, the United States Public Health Service induced him to become a human guinea pig. The Public Health Service had launched a research project, the Tuskegee study, to determine the effects of untreated syphilis on the human body. Six hundred poor blacks in Tuskegee, Alabama were recruited for the project. Four hundred of these were to be deliberately infected with the disease and two hundred of these were never to be told that they had been infected. The final two hundred would not be infected and would serve as the "control group." Charles Pollard was one of the group that was infected and never told.

The way he told it to a reporter for the *New York Times*, he had heard that they were giving free physical examinations at a nearby school, "so I went on over and they told me I had bad blood. And that's what they've been telling me ever since. They come around from time to time and check me over, and they say, 'Charlie, you've got bad blood.'"

J. W. Williams was an interne at a Tuskegee clinic in 1932 when he was assigned to the Tuskegee Study. Williams would never find out what his true role in the study was until last week, when he read an article in a local newspaper about it which bit into his memory.

"Then I went over to the library and picked up a number of references," he told me in a telephone conversation. "Of course, ordinarily you don't mention the name of an interne in medical references, but I happened to know I was one of the men working on it. At the time, I didn't know the name of the thing, I only learned the name of it last week, the Tuskegee Study. I just thought I was

Williams and two other internes were assigned to recruit the participants in the study. He would simply attend church gatherings and try

to convince people to come to the clinic "for blood tests." He was also able to offer them, for their cooperation, free transportation to and from the clinic, free treatment for diseases other than syphilis, free burial after autopsies were performed, and \$100 for their survivors.

But Charles Pollard told a reporter the other day: "I never got into that much." He apparently never knew that he had been infected with syphilis by the U.S. government forty years ago until the reporter brought him the news.

Pollard appears healthy today because, apparently, the disease lies dormant or mysteriously disappears in about one-third of the people who contract it. But ordinarily, if left untreated, it can cause bone and dental deformations, deafness, blindness, heart disease and deterioration of the central nervous system. And it can result in death. As of 1963 seven of the 400 black people who had been infected in the Tuskegee Study had died as a direct result of syphilis. It is not known how many others have died since or how many have died of causes that might have been related to the syphilis infection. There are 74 survivors.

The government study was launched ten years before penicillin was found to be a cure for syphilis and fifteen years before it was generally used for treatment of the disease. Even so, the drug has always been denied the men who participated in the project. Penicillin treatment today, however, would be of no use, but doctors in the U.S. Public Health

Service say that they are rendering whatever medical services they can to the survivors of the research project. That project, incidentally, is still continuing. As each human guinea pig dies, an autopsy is duly performed and the results recorded.

Dr. J. D. Millar of Atlanta, who is now in charge of what remains of the study, says today: "The study began when attitudes were much different on treatment and experimentation. At this point in time, with our current knowledge of treatment and the disease — and the revolutionary change in approach to human experimentation — I don't believe the program would be undertaken."

Dr. John R. Haller, a former health service doctor who instituted the experiment, still defends it.

"There was nothing in the experiment that was unethical or unscientific," he says.

But Dr. Donald Printz of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta says the Tuskegee Study was "almost like genocide." And he adds: "A literal death sentence was cast on some of those people."

As for Dr. J. W. Williams, he doesn't like to discuss his role in the study much. He would reply to many

of my questions by saying he didn't care to discuss them over the telephone. Time and again he would assert: "I wasn't concerned with the morality of the thing, I was an interne, I was doing my job."

Our conversation ended like this: IRWIN: Do you believe that the job you performed as an interne is a proper job for an interne to perform?

WILLIAMS: I have no thoughts on that at all. If I did, I wouldn't be telling them to you over the telephone. Now let's get this through with. I'll give you two more minutes to ask me some questions, and then I'm leaving.

IRWIN: All right, could you tell me what you told the people who were involved in this test to get them to participate in it?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I told them a lot of things, but I'm not going to tell you anything more over the telephone. I think I told you that, don't you understand English?

IRWIN: What is your reluctance, sir?

WILLIAMS: Never mind, never mind. Goodbye.
(Click.)

(Low Irwin can be heard daily on KDAY radio news.)