

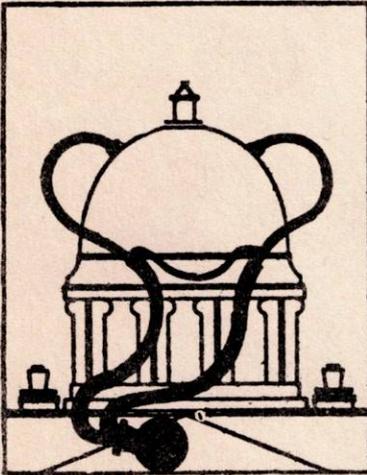
Public Scrutiny

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Part One

HOXSEY TODAY: THE INCREDIBLE STORY CONTINUES

by Peter Barry Chowka
Contributing Editor

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High on a tranquil hilltop overlooking the sprawling city of Tijuana is one of the most remarkable healing facilities in the world — the Bio-Medical Center, home of the legendary Hoxsey approach to treating cancer. Its director, Texas-born Mildred Nelson, R.N., in her thirty-fifth year with Hoxsey, treats a steady stream of patients from near and far — as many as all of Tijuana's other cancer clinics combined.

At first, it seems surprising to find the Bio-Medical Center thriving: Two decades ago the therapy was hounded out of the U.S. and today the work of Hoxsey is scarcely known to the world at large. The only way to learn of it, in fact, is by word-of-mouth recommendation.

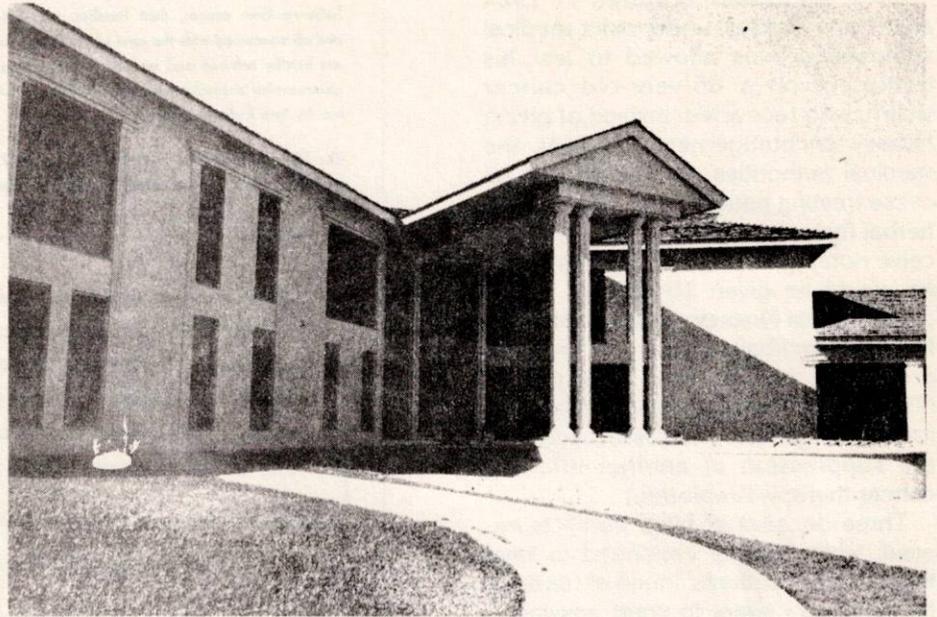
The Hoxsey therapy is disarmingly simple: nontoxic internal and external medicines made from eight or ten different herbs are combined with supportive treatment that includes a special diet and vitamin and mineral supplements. The results? According to Mildred Nelson, **"We're probably running in the neighborhood of 80 percent — that many of our patients go on to get well."**

This amazing estimate is offered matter-of-factly, and independent observation suggests that it may indeed be accurate.

Mildred tells a first time visitor, **"See for yourself — go talk to the patients and ask how they're doing. There's the real story."** In turn, all of the patients one encounters express satisfaction with the Hoxsey treatment, and many say they've been coming back for years for follow-up examinations.

Since 1963 the Bio-Medical Center in Tijuana has been housed in an unpretentious, single-story stucco building on General Ferreira Avenue. Later this year, Mildred, the Center's six medical doctors, and supporting staff will move further up the hill to an imposing, glass-walled, multi-room mansion, with

PHOTO © 1980 BY PETER BARRY CHOWKA



ENTRANCE TO NEW BIO-MEDICAL CENTER IN TIJUANA

terraces and a commanding view to the north.

"It broke me flat to buy it," Mildred concedes. "But I'm proud of it, especially for the patients. It'll make them feel good."

The imminent move up the hillside is symbolic, as well. "We'll look down on the U.S. from up there," Mildred chuckles. Indeed, with its new setting the Bio-Medical Center will finally come into its own as one of the most physically impressive locations for healing in the Western world.

An Idea In Time

The present smooth-sailing of Hoxsey is out of character with its long history, which has been marked by intense controversy.

The origins of the current therapy go back to 1840 when John Hoxsey, a veterinarian who raised horses, discovered that one of his prize stallions had developed a cancerous limb. The horse, put out to pasture, healed itself by instinctively selecting and eating certain flowers, berries, stalks, and roots that grew wild in the fields. John Hoxsey

gathered these herbs, experimented with combinations of them, and began to successfully treat other cancerous animals. He passed the formulae on to his descendants and, in time, they used the preparations to treat cancer in humans.

In 1919, at the age of eighteen, Harry Hoxsey, John Hoxsey's great-grandson, became involved in the work. **Eventually he founded the Hoxsey Cancer Clinic in Dallas, Texas; at one time, Mildred contends, it was the largest, privately-owned clinic in the world, with 80 employees.** "On a Monday morning," she recalls, "we'd sign up more patients than could be seen through Thursday — 35 new patients a day. That's a lot when you put 'em through the works."

Spurred by word-of-mouth reports from patients who had been helped, and by the dynamism of Harry Hoxsey's personality, the reputation of the Dallas clinic, where only herbal preparations were used, was spread nationwide. **But by that time a large and powerful orthodox cancer Establishment, pushing profitable, conventional therapies**

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HOXSEY TODAY

(surgery, radiation), was becoming firmly entrenched. Alternative approaches, especially inexpensive ones, were derided as quackery. In particular, the Hoxsey treatment, cheap and simple compared to orthodoxy's complex interventions, became a favored target of the Food and Drug Administration and other organized medical groups.

Initial skirmishes occurred in 1924 after Harry Hoxsey, under strict medical supervision, was allowed to test his treatment on a 66-year-old cancer victim, who recovered. Instead of giving Hoxsey encouragement, however, the medical authorities demanded that he cease treating patients and turn over his herbal formulae, for which he would receive nothing until after ten years, when he would be given 10 percent of net profits. When Hoxsey declined the offer, he was blackballed from the medical profession and isolated as a pariah. (This cynical pattern is the same one the forces of organized medicine followed in the suppression of another effective cancer therapy, Krebiozen.)

Three decades of bitter conflicts ensued, while Hoxsey continued to treat thousands of patients. Much of his time, however, was spent in court answering charges.

According to Mildred, "Harry fought them [the medical Establishment] longer and harder than anyone. The struggle over laetrile has been nothing compared to the battle over Hoxsey during the 1950s."



Mildred Nelson applies external Hoxsey Medicine to a cancer patient

PHOTO © 1980 BY PETER BARRY CHOWKA

Public Beware!

WARNING AGAINST THE HOXSEY CANCER TREATMENT

Sufferers from cancer, their families, physicians, and all concerned with the care of cancer patients are hereby advised and warned that the Hoxsey treatment for internal cancer has been found worthless by two Federal courts.

The Hoxsey treatment costs \$400, plus \$60 in additional fees—expenditures which will yield

nothing of value in the care of cancer. It consists essentially of simple drugs which are worthless for treating cancer.

The Food and Drug Administration conducted a thorough investigation of the Hoxsey treatment and the cases which were claimed to be cured. Not a single verified cure of internal cancer by this treatment has been found.

Those afflicted with cancer are warned not to be misled by the false promise that the Hoxsey cancer treatment will cure or alleviate their condition. Cancer can be cured only through surgery or radiation. Death from cancer is inevitable when cancer patients fail to obtain proper medical treatment because of the lure of a painless cure "without the use of surgery, x-ray, or radium" as claimed by Hoxsey.

Anyone planning to try this treatment should get the facts about it.

For further information write to:
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Food and Drug Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Public warnings from the FDA against the Hoxsey Therapy appeared in 50,000 US post offices and other public buildings.

After hearing evidence from both sides, a court in Texas once upheld the validity of the Hoxsey approach. The verdict was overturned on appeal, however, and by the late 1950s Harry Hoxsey was pressured out of business. Mildred recalls, "We had 17 clinics across the U.S. On the same morning, the Food and Drug walked into every single one with cease and desist orders. How in the world do you fight in 17 states at one time? There just isn't that kind of money."

It's important to note that the Hoxsey medicines have never been legally outlawed. Rather, using a variety of methods, individual states and the federal government harrassed Harry Hoxsey and the M.D.s associated with him. A favored tactic involved charging Harry with practicing medicine without a license.

In 1963, exhausted and weakened by a heart condition, Harry Hoxsey encouraged Mildred Nelson to move the therapy center to Tijuana, beyond the reach of the U.S. medical authorities. Marilyn Merrill, an expert on the leading Mexican health clinics, explains, "The Mexican government takes a very different approach to alternative therapies than we do in the States. As long as they're satisfied that what's going on at the clinics isn't harmful to the patients, they generally take a hands-off policy."

Can This Be Quackery?

Mildred Nelson was first introduced to the Hoxsey approach in a suitably ironic way. In 1946 her own mother began to undergo Hoxsey therapy for cancer, and

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Mildred — a conventionally-trained registered nurse — believed it was quackery. "So I went down to Dallas," she remembers, "thinking I would talk mother out of it. When I walked in and Harry found out I was a nurse, he said, 'There are the patient records, the nurses and doctors are in there working, the patients are sitting out there. Go through whatever you want, talk to anyone, ask questions.' I nearly fell over!" (Mildred's mother went on to be treated by Hoxsey and is alive and well, today.)

Later in 1946, still somewhat skeptical, Mildred went to work for Hoxsey. After about a year, she recalls, especially when she began to see patients return with their cancers improved, she became convinced of the value of Hoxsey. She has been associated with it ever since.

The unique openness that impressed Mildred characterizes the Bio-Medical Center today. During my first visit to the Center I was amazed at the informality and easy access to the doctors, staff, and medical records. The patients, too, seemed unusually willing to share their experiences.

One patient I met, an 81-year-old man from Santa Monica, California said he had returned to Bio-Medical several times, satisfied that his metastasized prostate tumor that had been diagnosed in the U.S. several years earlier was under control. On this visit, back for a periodic check-up, he said with a smile, "The doctors don't have to tell me the results, because I feel it myself — I feel good."

Another patient, a middle-aged woman from Las Vegas, said she had been diagnosed with terminal melanoma two years before; after the original surgery at home had failed to halt the disease she refused amputation, and instead came to Bio-Medical after hearing about it from a friend. When I met her, she seemed well, in fact jubilant — her tests were good.

I spoke with a 69-year-old man from Utah as Mildred soothingly dressed his tumor of the left ear. His doctors back home, he told me, asked him a year ago to think about having an operation. "I'm still thinking about it," he joked, "but I'm here instead.

"It's amazing," he continued, "the

sense of comradeship and friendship built up in a place like this. One person's trouble is everybody's trouble. There's an entirely different attitude here — you see smiles on the patients' faces when you come in in the morning. Your attitude starts to pick up and that's nine-tenths of the battle. Back home, there's despair. But after you've been here a short time you have a sense of hope.

"It isn't all easy. There's times of pain. But then you see the results — that's the thing."

Several patients told me, "I'd be dead if it weren't for Hoxsie."

"Our patients are the greatest," Mildred says. "They're free-thinking people from all walks of life. Nobody leads them around. They've studied this and made their own decisions."

A Question of Balance

Hoxsey therapy shares much in common with other nontoxic, holistic or metabolic, approaches to degenerative illness. As Harry Hoxsey writes in his 1956 book, *You Don't Have to Die*, "We consider cancer a systemic disease. . . . It occurs only in the presence of a profound physiological change in the constituents of body fluids and a consequent chemical imbalance in the organism." Mildred adds, "It's very simple: Hoxsey normalizes and balances the chemistry within the body. When you get everything normalized, the ab-

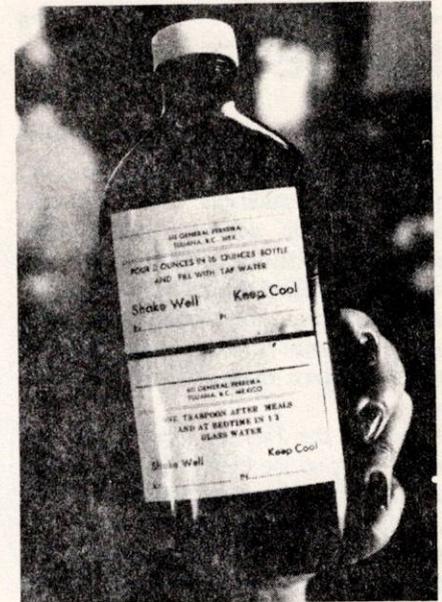


PHOTO © 1980 BY PETER BARRY CHOWKA

HOXSEY INTERNAL MEDICINE

normal cells — which are the tumor cells — cease to grow. And very slowly, the tumor is absorbed and excreted and it's gone."

If there is a weakness in this theory, it is its seeming vagueness. But Mildred, like Harry Hoxsey before her, is a clinical practitioner, an empiricist, a healer, and not a research scientist — very simply she is too busy treating patients to try to define why Hoxsey works.

The Hoxsey oral medicines, intended to eliminate toxins from the body and balance the metabolism, include

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CANCER PATIENTS

Motel 8

(At San Ysidro border crossing to Mexico. From Rt. 5 South, take "Via de San Ysidro" exit — on right-hand side of freeway. From 805 South, take "Avenida Comiones North.")

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potassium iodide, red clover, licorice, burdock root, stillingia root, barberis root, poke root, cascara, prickly ash bark, and buckthorn bark. The powder and paste, applied topically, contain escharotic agents, long used in the treatment of external cancers before the advent of modern radiation and chemotherapy.

Although the Hoxsey ingredients are known, the precise method of preparing and combining them remains guarded. According to Mildred, this is meant to insure quality control and because orthodox medicine in the past has tried to steal the therapy. Bio-Medical, then, according to Mildred, is currently the only place offering "true Hoxsey."

When asked why some patients survive and others succumb, Mildred observes that the individual patient himself often makes the difference — "If they take their medicine, stay on the diet, and do the things they're supposed to do. And mental attitude goes a long way.

"When we lose one, I get depressed. But you keep on; you just don't make it with all of them."

The Price Is Right

Its apparent success aside, perhaps the most amazing feature of Hoxsey which distinguishes the approach from all others involves the economics of the treatment. Basically, there is a one-time fee — \$1,000 — that is the same for all patients. This guarantees a person treatment for life, including return visits and a lifetime supply of the medicine and vitamin supplements — the only

additional charges may be for outside lab work.

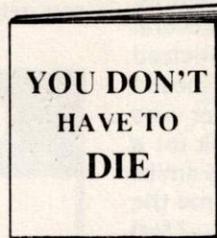
"Those who don't have the money, Mildred says, "come in and say that, and they pay what they can monthly or later on at once. The door's always open."

In any case, money, or lack of it, doesn't prevent a person from receiving needed treatment. Patients are not even asked about money until after they have undergone diagnosis and initial therapy. Patients I spoke with confirmed this practice. One told me, "I know people Mildred's treated for free because they couldn't afford it." He added, "Mildred drives an old pick-up truck, she lives in a house trailer, and a lot of the doctors here walk to work. I'm very well pleased with the financial aspects."

"The theory behind the one-shot fee," Mildred notes, "is that patients keep coming back — their only expense is travel — so they can be followed up for five years or more. It prevents them from going off the program.

"Nobody ever gets a bill from here," Mildred continued. "I never sent a bill in my life. Patients know what they owe. If you owe a bill and cannot pay it, you'd be embarrassed to get it. Not sending bills saves me a lot of work, money, time, and postage. Our collection is probably better than everyone else's. Patients pay more when they don't get a bill."

Next month: Part Two of HOXSEY TODAY will examine the therapy in more detail — what new patients can expect to undergo and Mildred's recent work with Philippine Dr. Vilasor, who uses Hoxsey in combination with an immunological vaccine. Mildred will also share her ideas on laetrile, medical self-care, and the business of modern medicine. She will reminisce about some famous patients and we'll take a look at the promising future of Hoxsey.



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