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Double Capacity for State Veterans' Home Provided by Building Program

Impetigo Is Topic Of Dr. Swartout

H. O. Swartout, M. D., Dr. P. H. Los Angeles County Health Officer

Impetigo is a very common contagious skin disease that usually affects children but may affect older people too. It can easily go from child to child in kindergartens and primary schools.

Impetigo begins as a reddening of one or more small spots of the skin. Then small blisters form. The fluid in these blisters turns to pus, and the pus-filled blisters dry into loosely attached honey-colored crusts, each with a narrow zone of reddened skin around it. If a crust is forcibly picked off, the skin under it looks raw and oozes a little blood.

The crusts cause considerable itching, but rarely any pain. Impetigo is dangerous only to young infants, but it is a pest because it is so contagious, because it makes its victim look repulsive and because it is so often resistant to treatment.

Impetigo is caused by streptococci or staphylococci or both, but the germs are of very low virulence and work only on, or a slight distance below, the surface of the skin. The crusts protect the germs from the action of medicines unless they are thoroughly removed before the remedies are applied. The germs also abound just beneath the skin surface in the reddened zones surrounding the crusts, so the loosened skin in these areas also needs to be pushed back before any remedy is applied.

(Treatment of Impetigo next week.)

R. P. Baldwin Figured In Jap Landings

Richard P. Baldwin, 20, parachute rigger, second class, 804 West 214th st., Torrance, figured in the first landings of the U. S. Navy planes at two points on the Japanese homeland following the end of hostilities.

The distinction came to the officers and men of Air Group 50 after they had helped to knock out the remnants of the Jap fleet during July and August this year.

It was the USS Cowpens, with the air group still aboard, which had the honor of being the only carrier with the advance group of Naval units moving into Tokyo Bay as an occupational task group following Japan's surrender.

On Aug. 28, planes from the group were launched to make the initial Navy combat plane landings on Japan, at Atsugi Airfield, south of Tokyo. Then, on the morning of Aug. 30, the Cowpens launched six torpedo planes carrying occupational personnel who, escorted by eight fighters, flew into the Japanese base at Yokosuka.

The airmen were on hand to see the Stars and Stripes raised

Plans are being speeded on a postwar building program which will more than double the capacity of the California Veterans' Home at Yountville, Colonel Nelson M. Holderman, commandant, announced today.

Holderman said he had received word from State Finance Director James S. Dean that bids for new construction, authorized by Governor Earl Warren and the State Legislature in the amount of \$1,355,880, would be let in the near future and that work under the contracts should be completed by June 30, 1947. There has been some delay on account of shortage in materials and labor.

Meanwhile, applications from veterans of World War II seeking care at the home—the only state veterans institution in California—are being received in increasing numbers.

The hospital is crowded now, with a waiting list, and domiciliary facilities will be taxed to the utmost within the next few months as approximately 500 regular home members who have been out on secondary war jobs return to the institution.

New construction projects for which appropriations have been made by the legislature and which are at contract stage, include:

New hospital wing with 104 beds, to cost \$234,000.
Convalescent barracks, 200 beds, to cost \$364,000.
New mess hall, \$550,000.

Minor construction and improvements, \$100,000.

One unit of recreation center, \$108,000.

Plans are also complete and funds authorized for the long awaited Rector Canyon dam, sorely needed to provide an adequate water supply for the Veterans' Home and other State installations in Napa Valley. Estimated cost of the dam is \$1,375,000 and construction bids will be called for soon.

The immediate building programs will increase the bed capacity of the home from 1277 to 1681 and the Legislature, probably at the forthcoming special session, will be asked to make additional appropriations for another convalescent barracks and new domiciliary quarters to raise the total capacity to 2181 beds. Further plans call for an eventual increase to 3100 beds.

Already, the home is caring for more than 50 veterans of World War II and the demand from this quarter will multiply rapidly as the nearly one million Californians who served in the latest conflict return to civilian life.

Colonel Holderman pointed out that membership in the home requires a ten-year residence in the state and he said this constitutes an important protection for California service men against the new and transient veteran population which is jamming the hospital and rehabilitation facilities maintained in California by the federal government. "The State Home," declared the commandant, "furnishes the sole guarantee that hospital and domiciliary accommodations will be available to our own California veterans when they are needed."

at Yokosuka to mark the official opening of the first U. S. Naval Air Station on the Jap homeland.

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