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Polio, Rabies Show Decrease In Torrance, County This Year

By TOM RISCHE

Two of the most feared diseases have shown a decrease both in this area and in the county as a whole, according to figures released by the County Health Department.

The number of persons contracting paralytic polio and the number of rabid dogs—always a threat to humans—have decreased somewhat this year. Officials are cautiously optimistic that these figures reflect the effects of mass polio and rabies immunizations during the past year.

Torrance residents stricken by polio this year numbered only nine, compared with 18 at this time last year. County-wide, the figures are 443 against 510 last year.

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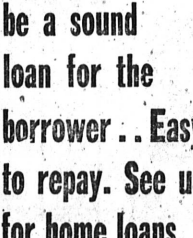
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During the past year, a majority of grade school children in this area have received polio shots and many older children and adults have gotten the vaccine from their physicians. Dr. Benjamin A. Kogan, district health officer, urged all residents to get the shots, which are about 80 per cent effective, he said.

Three rabid animals found in Gardena last week upped the Torrance health district's number of rabid dogs for the year to nine, still considerably below the 26 reported at this time last year.

Dog Bites Eight

As a result of the Gardena outbreak, 14 persons are getting the painful Pasteur treatments to prevent human rabies, which is always fatal. One of these include a four-year-old Torrance girl whose face was badly bitten by a rabid dog which died Saturday. The bites, however, were not reported until last Saturday, eight days after the incident. This dog also bit eight other people.

Torrance and many other South Bay cities passed compulsory rabies inoculation ordinances last year, but Gardena's went into effect only recently. Health officials believe that this may have had considerable effect upon the low number of cases reported this year.

Figures Lower

County-wide, the figures are 88 this year compared with 106 at the same time last year.

Dr. Kogan urged all residents who receive dog bites to report them immediately, even if the dog looks harmless. Many other communicable diseases are down this year, and the total number reported this year is only 13,809, against 32,796 at this time in 1955.

The two common childhood diseases—measles and mumps—which claimed many victims last year are down considerably this year.

Diseases Down

Measles, which claimed some 17,135 victims in the county in 1955, has bespotted only 2002 people so far, a reduction of about 88 per cent. Mumps has

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Carson Tract Given Okay By Planners

A 51-home subdivision located northwest of 223rd and Avalon Blvd. received a green light from the Regional Planning Commission at its meeting Tuesday.

The subdivision is proposed by the R. A. Watt Construction Co., Los Angeles, on a 10-acre tract.

In other action, the Planners recommended for denial the request of Wilhelmina Ermenc, 2262 Torrance Blvd., for a change of zone on property on the southwest corner of Carson and Main Sts. She had requested a change of zone from light agriculture to restricted commercial.

The request of Henry C. Soto, Los Angeles, for a change of zone on 95 acres between Palos Verdes Dr. E and Crest Rd., west of Miraleste Dr. was recommended for approval. He had sought a change from a minimum of 20,000 square feet to 12,000.

A public hearing must be held before the Board of Supervisors before the change becomes effective, however.

Hennypenny Press to Print Poetry Chapbook by Larsen

A Torrance resident and former Torrance resident are asking themselves whether they want to be poets, publishers, or editors. Combining their talents, they are a little of all three.

Jim Singer, 4171 W. 172nd St., and Carl Larsen, graduate of Torrance High School now living in Hermosa Beach, are combining their talents to be a little bit of all three. Both are graduates of El Camino.

Singer will turn publisher, aside from his usual post-editor role, to publish a chapbook of Larsen's poetry, entitled "Notes From the Machine Shop," with the release date set for Sunday. This book will be the first of a series under Singer's trademark of Hennypenny Press.

Limited Printing "Notes From a Machine Shop" will be sold by direct mail only, and will have a limited printing of 200 numbered copies. The book will

sell for \$1 and may be obtained by sending to Hennypenny Press, P.O. Box 1357, Alondra, Calif.

Busily engaged in the little magazine field, Singer is editor of a magazine entitled "Emergent," while Larsen edits "... existaria." "Emergent" will appear for the first time in January, while "... existaria" is entering its third issue.

"When Carl and I had several pieces of work published in the little magazines, we decided to try our hand at it, and the results are two new magazines on the West Coast," explains Singer.

Chapbook Printed

Continuing, Singer adds, "After all the primary work on the magazines was completed, I decided to try a chapbook of Carl's poetry. A chapbook is a small, periodical, its name is delivered from the old custom of the chapmen, or hawkers and salesmen of ancient times, who carried books with them containing ballads and tales, for sale. These became known as chapbooks, and this idea is still in use today."

Larsen and Singer have received mail for their little magazines from almost every state in the Union, with many submissions of poetry and stories from Canada, England, and Australia. They have also received many books of poetry from other poets in the United States and foreign countries, one of these books is a series of Greek translations by Phivos Delphis, printed on paper that is over 100 years old.

THIS Graduate

Larsen, who lives at 328 Palm Dr., Hermosa Beach, completed El Camino in 1955, having graduated from Torrance High School. His wife, Claudia, is also a graduate of El Camino, and graduated from Mira Costa High School in 1954. The Larsens have a 2-month-old daughter, Kathryn.

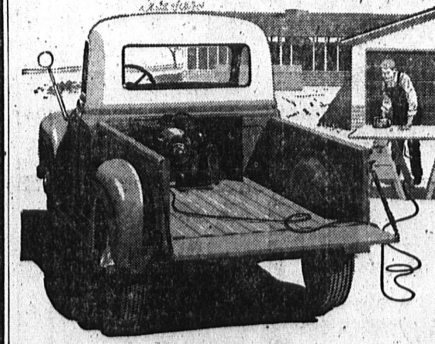
While at Torrance, Carl won the Rosemary DeCamp playwriting award, and Best Character Actor award for 1953. He also won awards from the Voice of Democracy, Scholastic magazine, the National Forensic League, and the American Legion. In 1953 he received a scholarship from the National Supply Co. in Torrance, annually given to the outstanding graduating senior.

Carl now writes a newspaper humor column and sports stories.

Lives in Torrance

Singer lives at 4171 W. 172nd St., Torrance. He graduated from El Camino in June, 1956, and his wife, Virginia, graduated in January, 1955. Jim is presently completing his education at Long Beach State College. Both the Singers are from Gardena High School.

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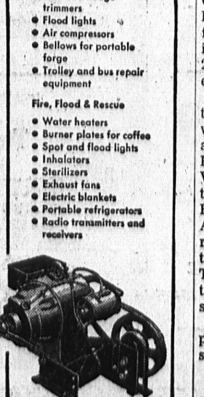
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