

Health Officer Cites Perils Of Poisoning by Castor Bean

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County Health Officer

One of the most common poisonous plants in Los Angeles County readily accessible to both children and animals is the castor bean. Every year cases of castor bean poisoning in children are reported and fatalities have occurred in both children and domestic animals.

THE PLANT is not difficult to identify. It has large, irregularly shaped leaves and a thick woody pole, each of which contains three individual beans. All parts of the plant, but particularly the beans, are poisonous. Just before the pods dry out they turn red, and small children find them additionally attractive to investigate.

ingestion of only one castor bean has caused fatal poisoning when the bean was thoroughly chewed. If the bean is swallowed whole, which is possible as they are only about half an inch long, poisoning is unlikely because the hard seed coat prevents rapid absorption.

SYMPTOMS of acute poisoning, which generally appear in from one to three days after ingestion of any part of the plant, include nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, thirst, drowsiness, disorientation, and dulness of vision. However, if a number of beans are eaten at any one time, general weakness and collapse may result almost immediately.

The toxic action of the castor bean is due to a substance called ricin which affects the cells of the body, particularly the red cells, causing internal hemorrhages of the gastrointestinal tract and degeneration of the kidneys. The fatality rate is approximately five per cent.

THERE IS NO known antidote for castor bean poisoning. Medical attention, in these cases, should be obtained as quickly as possible. Treatment consists chiefly of washing out the stomach or inducing vomiting and administering a cathartic. Blood transfusions may be necessary.

Douglas To Build New Skyhawk

A contract for more than \$70 million has been awarded Douglas Aircraft Company's 23 Segundo Division for production of A4D-2N Skyhawk aircraft, the Navy announced Monday.

The contract is for the third version of the A4D, the Navy's lightest jet night attack airplane.

Improved weather and navigation capabilities plus pressure fueling and in-flight refueling are advanced features of the A4D-2N.

The new Skyhawk is powered by a single Wright J-65 Sapphire turbo-jet engine. It has the same basic configuration as the A4D-1 and A4D-2, the first two models of the series. Its nearly forty foot length is almost a foot longer than the two previous versions.

NAVY AND MARINE aviation units will use the new aircraft designed to operate from short landing fields.

It is capable of carrying atomic weapons, rockets, guided missiles, machine guns and other weapons. With a speed of more than 650 mph, it can fly coast-to-coast non-stop without refueling in flight.

The A4D-1 was built and the Navy's first planes designed especially as a night attack jet.

The A4D-2N is presently under flight evaluation at Edwards Air Force Base. Delivery of the contract is expected to begin in December, 1955.

ances to control the growth of certain poisonous plants, including both the elder and the castor bean, the problem of poisoning is primarily one of education rather than destruction of the plant. Because of the numerous poisonous plants that are found everywhere plant life can be supported, their wholesale destruction appears impractical or well-nigh impossible.

Since such plants are unlikely to be eliminated, children must be taught to avoid them. When too young to be accountable for it, it is the duty of the adults who care for them to see that poisonous plants, and anything else of a poisonous nature, are well out of reach.

Ticket Sales Started For Christmas Dinner

Ticket sales got under way this week for the Christmas Dinner Banquet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to be held at 8:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the church recreation hall 1080 W. 28th St. corner of Cabrillo.

Mrs. Charlotte Lawler, ticket chairman, announced today that tickets must be purchased before Dec. 1.

The best way to keep good acts in memory is to refresh them with new ones—Marcus Porcius Cato.

YMCA Offers Benefactors Life-Income Contracts

Members of the Torrance YMCA's endowment workshop committee, attended a Southern California YMCA endowment workshop recently at the Hollywood House. More than 100 civic leaders, trust officers, attorneys, and investment brokers studied endowment possibilities for the YMCA.

The major address was presented by William B. Hiltner of Pomona College. Members of the local En-

dowment Committee are Harley E. Rogers, chairman; Albert Isaac, C.A. Newborn, Stanley Remelmeier, Scott Albright, and Joe Wilcox.

Henry Rogers announced that the Torrance YMCA is now authorized to participate in YMCA Life-Income contracts.

BE POINTED OUT that persons who donate real estate or appreciated property stocks to the "Y" under the

plan benefit by the tax savings in addition to receiving \$5 in come for life.
The YMCA, as a tax exempt organization, can do for the individual what he cannot do for himself," Rogers stated.
"It can take appreciated property stocks or real estate and invest it without paying capital gain tax. It can reduce income tax by being an approved charity. It can pay the individual or his survivor an income for life based on the earnings of the YMCA investment program."
The YMCA invited inquiries from any person interested in perpetuating their concern for youth through bequests, memorials, endowments, or life income contracts.

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NAVY AND MARINE aviation units will use the new aircraft designed to operate from short landing fields.

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