

Health Officer Flays Apathy of Public Toward Salk Polio Shots

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D.
County Health Officer

If someone were to set about proving the truth of the popular philosophy that "people are funny" he could perhaps choose no better subject than that of poliomyelitis and the use of the Salk vaccine.

Before the advent of this immunizing agent, the very word, "polio" struck terror into the hearts of most parents of young children. When the disease actually struck a child the impulse of the parents was to search frantically for the help and counsel of every public health authority and medical person available to them. In many cases where the disease left the child crippled, the lives of parents were permanently shadowed by grief and fear.

IN THE LIGHT of these facts which should be fresh in the memory of every present-day parent, it is difficult to reconcile statistics which indicate that millions of children under five years old are not yet immunized.

Physicians and public health authorities remember only too well the frantic efforts of the populace about 4 or 5 years ago, to beg, borrow, buy, or steal the vaccine for themselves and their children at the very time when the vaccine was in short supply. Considering the fact that although there is now a plentiful supply of vaccine on hand, and that almost 60 per cent of the population is not completely immunized, it is ironic that people now have to be urged to take advantage of polio immunizations.

THE PRINCIPAL reason for this failure as advanced by those who have made surveys concerning public immunization programs is "public apathy."

Although a comparatively high percentage of people in the lower "socio-economic group" are among the non-immunized, there is little reason to believe that their failure to gain protection is purely one of dollars and cents. Community clinics set up for this group whereby immunizations are afforded for one dollar, and afforded free to those who feel they cannot pay anything, have fallen off sharply in attendance during recent months. In other similar programs conducted jointly by this Department and the National Foundation, it has been found necessary to use intensive educational means in an effort to persuade parents to have their children immunized.

THERE IS little doubt that the efficacy of the vaccine has been well established. In Los Angeles County a comparison of the number of polio cases in the 3 year period preceding the availability of the vaccine totaled approximately 3,700 as compared to only 660 cases in the 3 years following. National figures tend to follow the same pattern, and in 1959 show that of all the paralytic

Pupil Puts Finger on Book Error

A Walteria Elementary School seventh grader has received a letter from a textbook editor thanking her for pointing out a mistake in the speller the class was using.

During discussions in Robert Munn's class at the Torrance school, Judie Quandt noticed a mistake in grammar in one of the examples cited.

She wrote a letter to the World Book Co., pointing out that grammatically, the sentence, "The hiker had no water left in his canteen" is not correct. It should have been "The hiker had not any water left in his canteen."

This week, she received a reply from Erma P. Ferrari, editor for the firm, thanking her for pointing out the mistake. The editor noted that it was grammatically incorrect, but was commonly used.

"We agree that the sentence should be changed and are making provision for doing so in the next edition," the letter stated.

A beaming Judie reported that spelling and grammar

cases recorded, 65 per cent occurred in the unvaccinated population and that only 3 1/2 per cent occurred in the group that had received the protection of a series of 4 doses.

This Department recommends that everyone be immunized against poliomyelitis and especially that preschool children be protected without delay. The basic immunization series consists of 2 doses given one month apart and a third dose 7 to 12 months after the second. For infants less than 6 months of age, 3 doses one month apart are recommended with a fourth dose 7 to 12 months after the third.

A BOOSTER dose is recommended for persons under forty years of age who have completed the basic immunization series at least one year previously and especially if several years have elapsed since the completion of the basic series of injections.

It appears that the weapon to defeat the tragic occurrence of paralysis from poliomyelitis is at hand. It remains for many people to start using it.

Scouts to See Dodgers Play On Flag Day

Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Explorers — 35,000 of them — will celebrate Flag Day, June 14, as guests of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Scouts and leaders in uniform will be admitted to the Dodgers-Philadelphia tilt free, at tunnel 22, gate K, in the reserved section.

Pre-game ceremonies at 7:15 p.m. honoring the new, 50-star American flag will be conducted by Scouts of the Los Angeles Area Council.

Highlighting the activities will be a massed display of several thousand flags carried by Scouts. The drum and bugle corps of Troop 379, sponsored by the Koyasin Buddhist Temple, will lead off the festivities.

Performances by the drill team of Sea Scout Ship 129S, sponsored by Post 752 American Legion, and Indian dancers of Order of the Arrow, national Scout campers honor society, are scheduled.

After the show, activities will center around home plate, where Dodger manager Walter Alton will accept a new American flag to be flown at the Chavez Ravine ballpark.

Flag Day was selected as Scout day with the Dodgers because of the current patriotic flag program being conducted in the Los Angeles Area Council. Scouts are urging everyone to "Be Patriotic . . . Be Prepared. Buy a Flag from a Scout."

Son of RAF Pilot Wins Moose Award

Richard Meggitt, a graduating senior of Torrance's North High School, a new citizen of the United States, and the son of an RAF pilot killed in action during World War II, has been declared the first winner of a scholarship award to be made each year by the Torrance Moose lodge, according to an announcement made by Charles R. Britt, Jr., civil affairs committee chairman of the lodge.

The "notice of award" received by Meggitt in informal ceremonies conducted at the lodge hall Saturday contained these words: "Our judging committee wishes to commend you on your initiative and perseverance in seeking higher education in the face of substantial adversity. It was this quality in your character that was a deciding factor in arriving at a contest winner." Dick and his mother joined officers of the Torrance Moose Lodge at a dinner party prior to the presentation ceremonies.

Second place in the Moose scholarship competition was won by Carol Mathlin of Torrance High School. Miss Mathlin's straight "A" average for four years of high school work was considered exceptional by the contest judges. In addition to a cash award, Meggitt will receive a plaque at a later date. Carol will receive a sec-

Coffee Wraps Up Campaign For GOP Congress Votes

Republican Congressional Candidate Tom Coffee wrapped up his primary campaign this week by proposing a positive program to reduce airport noise and restating the stands he has taken on campaign issues.

Declaring that "airport noise is becoming a problem for all areas of the 17th district," Coffee proposed a special commission appointed by the President and composed of members of the Federal Aviation Agency, the air transportation companies and the airframe manufacturers.

"THIS COMMISSION would

then undertake, with funds given by the airlines, the aircraft manufacturers, and the federal government," he explained, "accelerated research into the problem of quieting down today's modern airliners."

The endorsed Republican candidate said he had discussed the plan with many authorities, all of whom felt it would be a positive step in the right direction.

"TECHNICAL advances are apparently in the field in which we must solve this since the jet age is here to stay and the moving of airports and re-

lated businesses out of this area would not be a satisfactory solution to anyone," he added.

Talking at a meeting of the San Pedro Republican Women's Club at the home of Mrs. Keith Bronell, Coffee then reminded of the stands he has taken on other issues.

"I HAVE been solidly against federal aid to education," he said, "because federal aid means federal control and schools should be directed from the local level. I have proposed specific recommendations for tax relief, have proposed to work for the eliminat-

ing of the 'boon-doggling' in foreign aid without hampering our mutual security interests," he went on.

"If nominated and elected, I have declared that I will work for keeping California jobs in California."

AND FINALLY, I have indicated my opposition to compulsory health education plans for our young people. I feel these plans are inconsistent with the free enterprise system which has made this nation the greatest on earth," he concluded.

Coffee, who resides with his wife and children, in West-

Boy Scout Honored

Jeff Waters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Waters, 1504 W. 219th St., has been named to the "Order of the Arrow", the honor society of the Boy Scouts of America. The honor was presented at Firestone Scout Reservation, which he attended as a member of Explorer Post 315-X. Waters is a student at Narbonne High School.

chester, is an electrical engineer and operates his own business. He seeks the Republican Congressional nomination in the June 7th primary.

550 Students Present Spring Dance Festival

Nearly 550 students took part in a spring dance festival Friday morning at Yukon Elementary School, Torrance, presenting different American dances and many from Europe.

Each room presented a different type of dance. Included were dances from England, Spain, Scotland, Ireland and America. The performances were climaxed by seven girls doing the Charleston and the entire student body dancing off the assembly area in a giant bunny hop.

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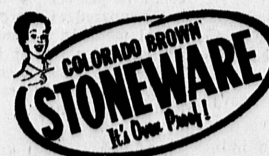
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