



GROUP CITED . . . Charles Deck (left) presents achievement award on behalf of Torrance Property Owners Assn. to Frank Burk during Walteria Roundup Days last weekend. Burk, chairman of the Walteria event, thanked Deck's group for its citation.

## Food Poisoning Cases Decrease, But Still Matter of Grave Concern

K. H. SUTHERLAND, M. D.  
County Health Officer

Botulism is the most critical form of food poisoning and is fatal in about two-thirds of the cases that occur. Though there was a 53.7 per cent decrease in the number of cases of the disorder reported in California during the 20-year period from 1940 to 1960, botulism is still a matter of concern to health officials.

This toxic form of food poisoning is caused by the poison produced by the spores of the botulinus bacillus. These organisms are found in the soil nearly everywhere and are often consumed without harm on fresh foods that are eaten by both animals and man. It is only when the bacilli are deprived of air, usually when a can or jar of botulinus-contaminated food, that the spores of the organisms germinate and produce the lethal toxin.

MOST CASES of botulism can be traced to the ingestion of underprocessed or improperly processed home-canned foods, particularly those which are nonacid such as fish, poultry, meats, olives, figs, mushrooms, and certain vegetables including green beans, spinach, peas, corn, beets, and carrots. Acid foods, including tomatoes, most fruits, pickles and the like, do not usually provide a favorable growth media for the botulinus bacilli. In cases

## Good Time Charleys Sought Here

Would-be cowboys and cowgirls, guitarists, harmonica players, and happy people for a swinging party are among those listed on the callboard for Chapel Theater's new production, "Green Grow the Lilies."

Director Harry Lovejoy issued the call this week for the performers to fill out the cast now rehearsing in the group's new quarters behind the Smith Brothers Fish Shanty in Walteria.

Major roles have been filled by Eunice Hargrove, who will play the part Laurie; Joseph Partridge, who takes the part of Curly; and Lovejoy, who has been cast as Jeeter.

Others in the cast include Michel Colgan and Doris Ward. James Brittain will stage the sets and direct.

Tryouts for the party crowd will be held at 1 p.m. today.

## Parks Start Fall Hours

The Torrance Recreation Dept. will begin its fall program at several city parks on Monday.

Parks that will be opened Monday through Saturdays are El Retiro, McMaster, La Rona, Paradise and Walteria. Parks, Los Arboles (opens Sept. 30), El Nido, and Torrance Parks will be staffed on Saturdays only, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., beginning Sept. 23.

where the acid content of these foods is lowered by mold growth, however, they may also become unsafe to eat.

Once taken into the body, the toxin absorbed from the digestive tract and acts on the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) within about 18 hours, though it may act sooner and has taken nearly a week in some cases. The length of time required for symptoms of illness to appear — and the severity of the illness as well for that matter — depends to a great extent on the amount of toxins consumed in relation to body weight.

A PECULIAR feeling of weariness is often the first symptom of this type of food poisoning. Other characteristic signs include headache, double vision, muscular weariness, and difficulty in swallowing followed by difficulty in speech and in breathing.

Acute digestive disturbances and vomiting occasionally precede the symptoms involving the central nervous system, and constipation is usually present throughout the illness. In fatal cases, cardiac or respiratory failure generally occurs within 3 to 7 days.

Needless to say, prompt medical attention is imperative in all cases of botulism. Botulinus antitoxin has been developed, but it must be given very early indeed to be of much help, preferably before the appearance of symptoms. It is particularly useful when administered to those persons who may have consumed botulinus-contaminated food but who have not yet become ill.

THE POISON liberated by the botulinus spores may be destroyed by heat and so all home-canned nonacid foods, particularly when not processed in a tested pressure cooker according to instructions, should always be boiled vigorously for at least 10 or 10 minutes before tasting. During the boiling process the food should be thoroughly stirred and mixed so that the heat will destroy both toxin and spores.

Home-canned food should be suspected of contamination with the botulinus organisms if it has a softened appearance, if gas bubbles are present, or, as sometimes happens, if a rancid odor is evident. Such food should not be eaten or even tasted and should be flushed down the toilet.

All solid matter which cannot be disposed of in this way should be burned or buried so that animals cannot dig it up. Moreover, the container should be boiled for one-half hour in a strong soap of lye solution even when it is to be discarded.

The last case of botulism reported in Los Angeles County occurred in 1959, but, nevertheless, the disease will remain a constant threat as long as improperly processed home-canned nonacid foods are eaten.

A pamphlet on botulism will be mailed to anyone who sends a card of request to the Division of Public Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Dept., 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12, Calif.

## Supervisors Order Study Of Juvenile Hall Facilities

A comprehensive, realistic review of existing and proposed juvenile detention and treatment facilities has been ordered by the Board of Supervisors, on motion of Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, for the purpose of taking steps to end forever the continuing problem of the overcrowding of Juvenile Hall.

Supervisor Hahn pointed out that the \$15,400,000 bond issue for juvenile detention facilities approved by the voters in 1956 had been planned to solve the problem for the next 10 to 15 years, but that the continuing population growth has been greater than anticipated and it may be necessary to begin planning now for additional juvenile detention facilities.

IN 1954 Supervisor Hahn spearheaded a bond issue of \$1,900,000 for construction of a branch juvenile hall at Rancho Los Amigos to relieve the overcrowding in the main juvenile hall and to make it possible to take children out of the county jail, where they had been confined with hardened criminals.

The branch juvenile hall was crowded to capacity almost as soon as it opened.

At the present time about \$5 million of the 1956 bond issue funds remain. However, this

money is committed to specific projects including three boys forestry camps, expansion of Los Padrinos juvenile hall at Rancho Los Amigos, and a branch juvenile hall in the San Fernando Valley. It is anticipated that all of these projects will be completed or under construction by July 1, 1962, and all of the 1956 bond issue funds expended.

SO FAR, eight boys forestry camps with a capacity of 776, a 100-bed school for girls, and major alterations and improvements to McLaren Hall to provide for 148 non-delinquent children, have been completed out of the 1956 bond funds.

In addition, land is being acquired for three more boys camps and for the San Fernando branch juvenile hall.

"In spite of everything that has been done so far, juvenile facilities are still overcrowded. We must make a new appraisal of the whole program of providing for juveniles and take whatever action is needed to provide adequate facilities," Supervisor Hahn declared.

He emphasized that the problem has been caused by the fact that the rate of juvenile delinquency has been increasing faster than the population growth and there appears to be no slowing down in either the

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## YWCA Offers Weekly Exercises For Wives

Slim and trim exercises will be offered weekly, beginning Tuesday, to wives at the YWCA building, 2320 W. Carson St. A coffee and social hour will follow the session. Further information may be obtained by telephoning FRontier 1-2815 or FRontier 5-0065.

population increase or the rate of increase in delinquency.

"In 1956 we were planning 10 years ahead. This was at the time considered to be far-sighted planning, but unfortunately it wasn't enough. It is now time to begin planning for the next 10 years," Supervisor Hahn stated.

## Jewish Services Stated Tuesday

Temple Menorah of Redondo Beach will conduct two Yom Kippur services on Tuesday evening to accommodate the large attendance.

Services will be held at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. with a Kol Nidre observance at each.

Rabbi Henri E. Front, spiritual leader of the congregation, together with Cantor Harry Newman and the Temple Menorah Choir will officiate.

There will be a break-the-fast at the conclusion of services on Wednesday.

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