

Known Photographer Will Attend Underwater Film

Italy's great Victor De Santis, one of the world's leading underwater photographers and skindivers, will attend the 5th Annual Underwater Film Festival, Jan. 6-7, at Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

De Santis will fly in a few days before the festival from Rome, where he heads his own moving picture-TV film production company.

Sportsman, inventor, writer, scientist and photographer, De Santis is one of the pioneers in undersea exploration, with an impressive list of "firsts" in "below the surface" achievements.

In 1954, for example, he was the first passenger aboard Professor Picard's bathyscaphe, the "Trieste." He was the first to take a movie camera beyond the 1000 meter mark under the sea; the first to use optical corrective devices and artificial light for underwater shots, and the first to take a radio microphone 2000 meters under ground at the

Nuova Lima gold mines in Brazil.

He was also the first man to take gorgeous Gina Lollobrigida below the surface of the sea for special shots.

An ardent spearfisherman, De Santis invented the hydraulic gun, "Hydra," as well as the first underwater goggles and he was the first to make experiments in underwater photography back in 1935. De Santis developed and manufactured the first professional underwater camera.

De Santis has produced and filmed scores of underwater moving picture and television documentaries, many of them prize-winners.

He and four other outstanding underwater photographers will be honored at the Underwater Film Festival's special screenings of their finest pictures. Winners of the festival's gold medal awards in the still and 16 mm moving picture classifications will also be shown.

Board Congratulated by California Taxpayer's Group

Appreciation and congratulations were expressed to the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, for their announced determination to prevent an increase in the county tax rate in 1962, by Hugh Brown of California Taxpayers' Association today. "We know the Board is aware of the growing concern of business leaders that the tax burden has become a deterrent to economic growth of the community," Brown said.

In commending the Board for its courage in ordering an austerity program in the face of strict conservatism in setting salaries, Cal-Tax has repeatedly affirmed its acceptance of the "prevailing wage" principal provided that the decisions made are based on rock-bottom conservative interpretation of the indications of the salary survey and other pertinent considerations including turn-over rates and ease of hiring.

HOLDING RATE

Brown pointed out, however, that holding the tax

rate will still provide the county with a considerably larger amount of tax income because of growth in the community and other factors. In 1961 the tax rate was cut slightly, but the amount raised on secured property increased \$14.3 million or 7 per cent. The coming year will also provide a substantial increase in taxable property and the total budget will no doubt increase.

The hold-the-tax-rate policy will, however, place a practical limit on the expenditure program and will force denial of demands which compete for funds. There will be many other demands for more funds—for law enforcement, for recreation, for buildings, for welfare and charities, and others.

The taxpayers are grateful to the Board for its adoption of the hold-the-tax-rate policy which will be an important influence in restraining the forces which would increase the tax take from the community.

Roessler Named as '61 CJA Hot Rod Champion

"Tiger" Jim Roessler, San Bernardino, today was named the 1961 CJA hot rod champion, by Mel Allen, CJA president from Long Beach.

It was a repeat triumph for the 6 foot, 4 inch pilot, who also held the crown in 1960. He drove for Jay Blake, also of San Bernardino.

The hot rods raced at both Western Speedway in Gardena; and the National Orange Show Stadium in San Bernardino during the 1961 season.

Roessler, who won 16 main events in 1961, will make his first start of the new year on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 7, at Gardena's Western Speedway, 139th St. at So. Western Ave., in a Corvette V-8 powered car.

The opening race of 1962 will be for the new CJA division, super-modified. It will be the first southland showing for the new type cars which feature lighter frames, quick-change rear ends and unlimited size en-

gines of any type including: Corvette V-8's, T-Birds, Cadillac's, Chrysler's, Buick's, Pontiac's, Dodge's, Lincoln's, Oldsmobile's and Mercury's.

All the top drivers who piloted hot rods last year will see action in the new division, plus many more from San Diego, Bakersfield, Santa Barbara and Fresno areas.

Roessler will receive his share of the more than \$5000 in point money and his championship trophy at the annual CJA banquet to be held on Saturday night, Feb. 17, at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim.

CARRY A SPARE

A survey has revealed that less than 10 percent of the 1,750,000 boat trailers on America's roads last summer carried a spare, according to a nationally known tire company. A flat tire on a trailer can be just as much trouble as a flat tire on a car—and is more likely to happen on unimproved roads where boat trailers often travel.

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