

Arizona Outbreak Shows Polio Is Still Dangerous

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

Ten years ago this month, in April, 1955, an effective vaccine to prevent poliomyelitis was announced and public use of it began.

In the intervening decade, the war on polio has been waged with a singleness of purpose almost unique in the control of disease. The medical profession, public health agencies, pharmaceutical companies, scores of civic organizations and individuals joined in a coordinated effort to eradicate this disease.

In looking at figures from years prior to the introduction of polio vaccine, when as many as 3,000 cases of the disease were reported in Los Angeles county in a single year in comparison with only one case reported here in 1964, it may indeed appear that polio has become a relic of the past.

BUT HAS polio been conquered? Is it no longer a serious threat? Is this disease—like the wicked old witch in the children's song—really dead?

In four small communities, clustered in two Arizona counties, there has been a polio outbreak this winter—not even "polio season"—in which six children have been stricken. All of these children were very young, none older than three years. Two who died were infants under five months of age.

There is nothing so different about the children of Arizona which makes an outbreak of polio any more likely there than in Southern California. The Arizona children were not immunized, but so are some 40 per cent of children under the age of one year in greater Los Angeles, according to a recent study of immunization levels.

THE DISTRIBUTION of the polio virus in the community is such that everyone may anticipate being exposed to it sooner or later. Before 1955, the season of high polio incidence began in April and extended through September. Reliable protection against the disease is that given us by science—polio immunization. Safe, inexpensive, available, painless polio immunization.

So long as polio exists anywhere, it remains a potential danger everywhere, for so long as people travel, diseases will travel also. The answer for us at present lies in control. The disease can be controlled so easily there is no excuse for permitting a polio outbreak to occur.

Control of disease is not a sometime thing, or a one-time thing. It is part of one's way of life. By accepting the idea that good health is of prime value for living and working effectively, then adopting personal measures to protect one's health follows naturally.

BATHING WITH soap, refrigeration of food, keeping the house free from vermin, eating balanced diets are all health protections that most Americans not only accept but demand as a way of life. The attention to nutrition which has all but ended rickets and scurvy among our children has resulted from scientific information which mothers have built into the living patterns of their families.

So it is with many diseases and conditions, and so it must be in the case of polio. Immunization should be started early preferably when the infant is at the age of two months. Any older child who has not been adequately protected should be immunized against polio without further delay.

IMMUNIZATIONS which are given as a series or shots or drops, as is that for polio, must be followed through to completion of the series. If the basic series calls for three doses then one or two are not adequate for protection.

So long as individuals and families make sure that all receive this important protection at the medically recommended intervals, the disease will be controlled and everyone, from baby to grandma, will remain safe from polio.

Classrooms At Fleming To Be Open

Students at Fleming Junior High School will hold their semi-annual open house tonight from 7 to 9 o'clock.

Theme for this year's event is "Communication, the Key to Understanding." Parents and friends of the school are invited to participate in the open house program.

Special exhibits will be set up throughout the school, according to Warren Juhnke, principal. Parents will be able to visit with teachers, see classrooms, and examine the displays.

Art and science student work will be displayed in Crusader Hall. Agriculture student work will be set up in room 153. Individual classroom exhibits have been planned.

Refreshments will be served by the PTA in Crusader Hall following the close of the classroom visitation period.

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Goodwill Will Open Store Here

Grand opening of a new Goodwill Store at 22725 S. Western Ave. will be observed Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 29 through May 1. Mrs. Maude Henderson, former assistant manager of the Gardena Goodwill Store, will be the manager of the new Torrance store.

Mrs. Nadine Ferraro, who is new to the Goodwill organization, has been named assistant manager.

The first 100 ladies to visit the store Thursday will be given orchids. Ballpoint pens will be given to the first 100 purchasers each day. There will be free balloons for the children. A total of \$120 in gift certificates will be given away at 2 and 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Merchandise for sale in Goodwill Stores has been reconditioned, refurbished, or renewed by handicapped employees of the Goodwill Industries. The welfare of the employees is the only reason for the stores and all income is used to pay wages and other necessary expenses.

Youth Debates At West Point

Doug Forester of 135 Calle Mayor, Redondo Beach, and Michael Jones of Gardena, are representing the University of Redlands in the 19th annual National Debate Tournament in progress at the United States Military Academy, West Point, today through Saturday. Doug is a junior and participated in the tournament last year.

The tournament is composed of 40 college teams, winners of regional contests in which more than 600 schools were competitors for invitations to West Point.

make certain how to... Cousin Harriet gets custody of the cat



A minor point? Maybe.

But, if Cousin Harriet loves your cat as much as you think she does, then wouldn't it be a shame for her... and the cat... if someone else in the family claimed it?

And what about the Persian rug, the only existing photo of Grandfather While A Boy, and... oh yes, don't forget the spinet, and... well, come to think about it, you own a lot of things that you want certain heirs to have.

Did you list them in your will?

Call your attorney soon! He'll write your wishes in a manner that eliminates family court squabbles over your intent. Best yet, he knows how to avoid unnecessary estate taxes.

Of course, we hope that when you take this step, you will have him name First Western Bank as your executor and trustee. We understand cats, and Persian rugs, and tax savings... and all the things that are important to you.

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