

# EDITORIALS

## A Lesson Relearned

What is it like to live in a city without a regular newspaper?

The people of Detroit know—after a prolonged strike that shut down all three of its dailies. The merchants of the city learned it particularly well—the hard way. They used all the other media to the limits. Some stores put out handbills of their own to advertise their holiday wares. Yet, although Christmas trade for the country as a whole was well above last year, many Detroit stores did less business. The lack of newspapers was responsible.

Again, the merchants faced the fresh problem of post-holiday sale time. They had bargains and specials to offer as usual—but moving them was another matter without newspaper advertising space.

The community problems that arise from lack of newspapers are certainly not limited to the big cities. The smaller towns are equally dependent upon the weeklies and the dailies that serve them. In the small town, especially, the newspaper is a running record of its history—a thread that constantly touches the lives of all the people who live there. And, despite the newer media, it remains the most effective means of advertising for merchants and others.

Infinitely more important, the newspaper, small or large, is a guardian of our rights and liberties which is always on duty.

## Three Objectives

The Heart Fund, which opens Feb. 1 and continues through Feb. 29 has three worthwhile objectives: Research, education, and community health services will be supported by the fund, as it aims at reducing disability and deaths from the heart and blood vessel diseases.

Of the funds raised, the larger portion remains in the local area, and the remainder goes to advance nationwide research and education.

More than \$13,000,000 from Heart Funds has been channeled into research during the past seven years by the American Heart Assn. and its affiliates. Among the foremost research objectives is discovery of the basic causes of rheumatic fever, high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries which are responsible for most heart diseases.

The professional education program brings the latest research knowledge about the heart and its diseases to practicing physicians and related professional groups through publications of the American Heart Assn., scientific meetings, films and other audio-visual aids. A public education program brings the essential facts about the heart diseases to the layman, helps to eliminate misconceptions and needless fears, and encourages early diagnosis and treatment.

The aim of the community service program is to guard healthy hearts and to better enable heart sufferers to continue as productive members of society. The Heart Assn. is not a direct-aid organization; "it helps people to help themselves."

## The Squirrel Cage

By REID BUNDT

It was the first day in the doctor's office for the new receptionist, according to the accounting passed along to us by Nurse Joan Brady. She had been hired by the head nurse the day before to fill the vacancy and was handed the key to the door and told to open up at 8:30 a.m. The doctor would be in at 9, she was told.

Our new receptionist had just opened the place and was trying out her chair for size when a gentleman walked in, said, "Oh, you must be new here," and took a seat nearby. He was told the doctor would be in about 20 minutes later. "That's all right, I'll wait," the gentleman said. And for the next 20 minutes, they have a pleasant chat. Talked about everything from her thoughts on the new job to Disneyland.

It wasn't until the head nurse came in later that the new girl found she had been talking to the doctor all the time. Apparently she didn't say anything she shouldn't—she's been there for more than a year: now.

The tragic train accident in Los Angeles Sunday has set the fertile mind of Gene DeBra in action. He suggests that mechanical trippers be installed along the track approaching dangerous curves which would automatically apply the brakes on a train in varying degrees according to the train's speed. Hight have something.

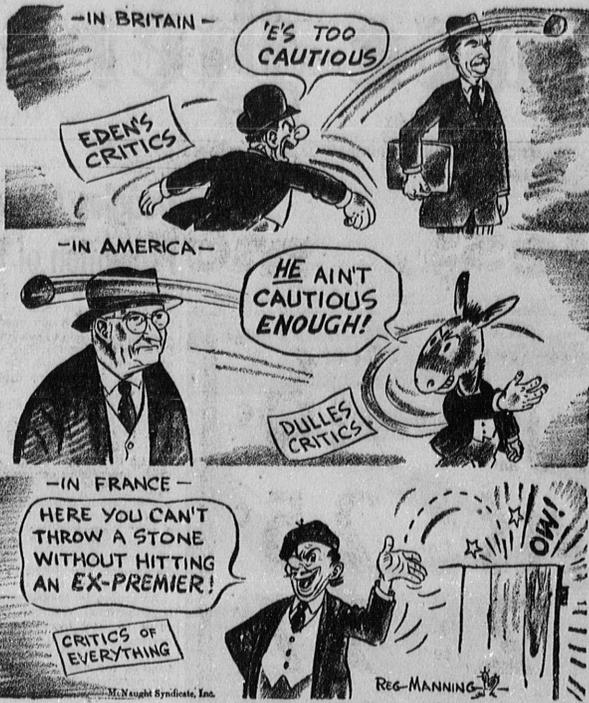
With the announcement today by Councilman Nick Dreale that he would seek re-election to the City Council post he has held since 1948, the local political pot begins to boil. Before the last Easter egg has been found, Torrance residents will have heard sound trucks up and down their normally quiet streets, the telephone poles for miles around will be plastered with political announcements, and the candidates will be on a 24-hour schedule of speaking engagements with homeowner groups, unions, neighborhood gatherings, and at all possible civic functions.

Friends of long standing will part company, and you'll hear things (often whispered from person to person) about the various candidates which you never realized were possible.

All in all, we predict that the city will go right on; subdivisions will continue submitting tract maps, people will complain that their streets need fixing (and they'll find a very attentive ear among the candidates), the Council will continue adopting resolutions asking the Legislature to establish a Superior Court branch here, people will still run their automobiles together at the intersections, and the police will be on the hunt for prowlers just as though the world were not coming to an end if this or that candidate is elected to the City Council.

By the way, this year's Council race is beginning to shape up like a lulu. I have a list of 18 potential candidates and keen political observers on the local scene say my spy system must have broken down—there should be that many more.

## Throwing Stones



## Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

It never fails while you're trying to keep up with your neighbors. Every single time you put your best foot forward you overstep yourself.

Our wives are spending entirely too much time sitting, and they have the figures to prove it.

If I had a son, and I don't, I'd square off in front of him, set my jaw, and advise him thusly: "My boy, don't ever get tied up with one of those gals who is a mathematical genius. Who cares if she can compute the area of a triangle? You want a woman who can pin or fold one!"

I've been asked by the Encyclopedia of Rheumatism to explain the difference among a recession, depression and a panic. A recession is noticeable when you're compelled to tighten your belt. If you have no belt to tighten, that's a depression. And if you have no trousers to hold up, that's a panic.

Not to be outdone, the Saturday Evening Post has commanded me to distinguish the major differences among a neurotic, a psychotic, and a psychiatrist. When a man builds castles in the air, he's a neurotic. The fellow who lives in those castles is a psychotic. And the man who collects rent for the castles is a psychiatrist.

At his very best, man's most noble efforts are feeble. For example, everytime Man thinks he has success within his grasp after building a better mousetrap, Mother Nature goes him one better by introducing a smarter mouse.

Inasmuch as today is approximately only 335 days until Christmas, I'd like to remind you folks that Christmas is the time of the year when you give up your best friends Tom, Dick, and Harry for the warmer friendship of Tom and Jerry.

My Grandfather Newt-Nick recommends that you young flutterbirds ignore those "over 40" signposts. The only way to REALLY know you're getting old, advises my grandpappy, is when it takes you only half as long to get tired and twice as long to rest.

It was during the hottest day of our safari and our guide hadn't uttered a single word in three miles. Gracious! but this man was strangely silent! Suddenly, a fierce tiger came charging at us from out of the underbrush. Calmly, our guide brought his gun to his shoulder, took careful aim and then he spoke: "Barney?" I swallowed my tongue and screamed: "What is it?" Slowly, he replied: "Do you know what I wish I had brought along for this trip?" Frozen stiff, while the tiger charged closer and closer, I gasped:

"What?" and our guide replied: "Bullets for this gun."

Everytime my teenage daughter Peesha sets up hue and cry around our home that she's indispensable, I remind by little Peesha that a piece of paper, rolled up into a little ball, can always fill her shoes.

To me, life is very strange. To wit, I've never quite been able to understand why the broken-hearted rejected suitor always sobs that he's going away to forget, yet he always forgets to go away.

Bless you, Alec Templeton, for this thought—that you don't like the end of the day, week, or year. You prefer the unfinished in everything, so that the end is always the beginning, something that sings of tomorrow.

## The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ

Five missionaries lost their lives recently in a futile attempt to bring Christianity to the savage Aca Indians of South America. The story, which appeared in metropolitan papers, may have been obscured by the mass of "Actress Gets Divorce, Claims Husband Beat Her," "Dulles Derends 'Brink of War' Statement," or "Will It Run Again?" headlines. It was the story of a small group of men who felt that they had to bring Christianity to one of the last groups of people untouched by modern civilization. These Indians, the missionaries felt, should be given a chance to accept Christianity before the end of the world.

Some have questioned the wisdom of the convictions of these five men, but no one questioned their bravery. Some have thought it foolish to convert the savage Indian when so many Americans in America do not accept Christianity. But these men gave their last full measure of devotion to that cause.

These five men were not the first men, nor in all probability, will they be the last to give their lives for their religion. Despite the precautions and preparations they made for their effort, the result was unsuccessful and cost them their lives.

There are millions of people today who are so devoted to their beliefs that they would die for them. Many of these

people live in Torrance and Lomita. There are millions of others who would die for no cause, except perhaps personal gain. Some of these people also live in Torrance and Lomita.

It is a sad fact that goodness is not nearly as interesting as wickedness and it is much less unusual. As a result, it is less often recognized by the public as a whole and by newspapers.

From the stories appearing in newspapers, it sometimes appears that this area and the country at large is composed of a large majority of robbers, thieves, murderers, rapists, couples unsuited to each other, and old people of all descriptions. Such is not the case. Nevertheless, it often appears that many more people are being much more wicked than is actually true.

Sin is exciting, while virtue is often dull. People, being what they are, are more interested in a picture of John Jones in an auto accident than John Jones driving his car down the street.

It took a tragic series of events to bring the devoted purpose of these missionaries into the public eye. Scoffers declared that they had no business going into the wilderness to convert wild Indians.

The late Peter Marshall, chaplain of the U. S. Senate, once summed it up very well: "If we don't stand for something, we are liable to fall for anything."

# Health Officer Reviews Polio Progress, Looks into Future

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

Vaccination is recommended as the most effective control measure for the prevention of paralytic poliomyelitis, and there seems to be every assurance that the mass school program now in progress will provide protection from this form of polio in a considerable percentage of the child population within the age groups to which it is offered. It should, of course, be understood that vaccination is never 100 per cent effective, whether it be for smallpox, diphtheria, or any other disease.

The polio vaccine in use this year is as safe as testing and multiple checking under federal supervision can make it. The government now has enough confidence in the vaccine's safety and efficiency to provide more than \$30,000,000 in grants to states to permit its widest possible distribution. Although the present grants expire on Feb. 15, there is some assurance that extension legislation will be voted by Congress.

These grants carry the restriction that the vaccine be administered to individuals from 0 through 19 years of age, and to pregnant women. Pending the production of an efficient vaccine to complete inoculation of this age group, a National Advisory Committee has established priority groups within this range. At present, the priority groups include pregnant women and those children from 0 through 14 years of age.

The criteria behind limiting the administration of the vaccine to those under 20 years of age can be deduced from the number of cases of polio that occurred in Los Angeles County from 1950 through 1954. During that period there was a total of 7468 cases, and 5083 of these were in the age bracket 0-19. This age group represents 68.1 per cent of all cases and forms a natural priority group in the face of a vaccine shortage.

The County Health Department's program of vaccination is now being conducted in approximately 675 schools by 25 teams of physicians, nurses, and volunteers. In this Department's definition, the child population in the lower elementary grades is proportionally so large that in conducting the school mass immunization program the offer of vaccine must be confined to those enrolled in the kindergarten, first and fourth grades. The present second and third grades were taken care of, for the most part, in the school immunization program of last spring and this year.

Due to the shortage of vaccine, children were living in the County last year but whose parents did not take advantage of the offer at that time cannot receive the vaccination in the present school immunization program. A large exception is not offered those who are in the fourth grade series in the fall because sufficient time has not elapsed to meet the requirements of the accepted vaccination schedule.

As of this date, the State Department of Public Health has allocated 338,000 units of the vaccine to the Los Angeles County Health Department. This provides an ample supply to complete the school program and in addition there are 100,000 units of vaccine in the County Health Department's stock. The number of doses left with will thereafter be administered to eligible persons through the Department's Maternal and Child Health and Health Officer clinics. In all events, with the exception of pregnant women, the eligible age bracket in Los Angeles County is 0-14 years and will remain so until further notice.

It is possible for parents to obtain the immunizing doses through the services of private physicians. However, here too the local priorities of age and pregnancy are adhered to, for a shortage also exists in commercially available vaccine. When there is sufficient vaccine on hand, private physicians will also be asked to draw from the Department's supply of government-supplied vaccine, by prescription, provided that any charge made will not include the cost of the vaccine.

In the spring of 1955, the initial mass program in Los Angeles County and elsewhere in the nation, ran into a snag when several children developed polio following the inoculations, and these youngsters, in some instances, appeared to pass the disease on to family and community con-

tacts. The situation nationally was described later as a near epidemiological disaster by Dr. Alexander D. Langmuir, of the United States Public Health Service.

Fortunately these difficulties, and the natural fear resulting from them, have had very little effect on the intention of parents to protect their children from polio if at all possible. As a matter of fact, the percentage of eligible children who will ultimately participate in this year's school program is estimated at 60 per cent for the County Health Department area, which is a drop of only 10 per cent from last spring when enthusiasm for the Salk vaccine was at its peak.

As a result of the confusion surrounding the Salk vaccine program last year, a distorted picture has been impressed on the minds of many individuals concerning the nature of the disease, what the immunization against polio is designed to do, and what it has thus far achieved.

Poliomyelitis is one of the communicable diseases caused by a virus, and there are three general types, any one of which may result in paralytic polio. It is an ancient illness which is known to have been recognized as a disease entity by the Egyptians. It often begins with a mild sickness which can easily be confused with the symptoms of a summer cold. These symptoms can be sniffles, a little fever, sore throat, a stiff neck, headache, upset stomach, or sore muscles. Many people, it has been pointed out time and again, have mild attacks of polio without being at all aware of the nature of their illness.

The essential danger from the disease occurs when the virus invades the patient's nervous system and produces paralytic symptoms. It is this complication which results in paralysis, the prevention of which was the aim of the original research.

The fundamental process is similar to that of other immunizations such as exist for smallpox, diphtheria, and several other diseases, for the vaccine does its job by the production of antibodies in the person's bloodstream.

If successful, the protective antibodies begin to appear in the person's bloodstream within a week or 10 days after the first inoculation and continue to build up slowly for a week or two thereafter. Full protection is not achieved until the first two doses and a booster dose have been received. How long this "full" protection lasts is not known with any certainty, although experts estimate the time to be about two and a half years. At present there is no simple and generally available test to tell whether a person is immune to the disease following vaccination or illness, and it is likely that booster doses will be recommended periodically as a routine procedure.

It should be especially noted that the Salk vaccine was only expected to prevent the paralysis that may accompany polio, but it was not claimed that it would eliminate the occurrence of the disease, and so, theoretically, would not affect the number of cases per year. However, there is mounting evidence reported from some areas that at least some of the vaccine does reduce the incidence of polio cases.

Protection may exist after one dose of vaccine, although vaccination never provides a guaranteed 100 per cent prevention. California figures indicate that a single dose serves to reduce the incidence of paralytic polio by 60 per cent as compared with no doses, and 85 per cent in the case of children who received the second dose. This protection may not exist in the occasional individual, however, even after two doses of vaccine plus a booster dose. Further, it is entirely possible for a child to develop paralytic polio after vaccination with a safe vaccine. This can occur prior to the vaccination or before the vaccine has time to produce protective antibodies.

This all adds up to a warning to parents not to be misled into a false sense of security. In Los Angeles County, there is continuing need for close observation of children during the school year from May through November when polio is generally most prevalent. It must be remembered that for all practical purposes the vaccine has no effect on the actual prevention of polio, only on the paralytic phase of the disease, and that the milder non-paralytic infection which may occur can progress to the more serious phase if the disease is emphasized too strongly or care is neglected. It is not

that this may happen in rare instances, even in a child who has completed the series of two doses plus a booster.

According to State Health Department figures the overall rate of paralytic polio since June 5, 1955, has been 3.1 per 100,000 in non-vaccinated groups as compared with 11.6 per 100,000 in non-vaccinated children. This means that unvaccinated children are four times more likely to be stricken with paralytic polio. But in a summary of preliminary reports of special studies that have been submitted from 11 states and New York City the attack rates for paralytic cases have ranged from two to more than five times greater in the unvaccinated than in the vaccinated groups.

Nothing much can be predicted as to the course of polio during the coming season, either on a local or national level. In Los Angeles County the trend never becomes evident until June. In the past it has been possible to make a rough guess that an epidemic would occur after several mild years, although there is actually no good pattern from which to draw conclusions.

But no prediction can be made from the 1955 polio data for the County. In the age groups in which the inoculations were given, faulty vaccine is accused of causing an actual increase in the number of cases early in the season, and some cases in other age brackets were thought to be the result of contact with these cases. This year there will be a great many persons who will receive two or three doses of polio vaccine and the circumstances surrounding polio incidence in these highly immunized age groups will tend to become more stable, particularly if the vaccine prevents the disease as well as the symptoms of the disease. Therefore, interpretation of the results will be more significant than at present.

The present program of the County Health Department, as is true of other health departments and physicians in private practice, is controlled by two factors: the continuing shortage of vaccine (which may end in matter of months) and the standards for distribution recommended by the National Committee on Poliomyelitis Vaccine and a comparable State committee. These committees are composed of medical society members, public health officials, PTA representatives, and others directly concerned with the equitable distribution of any vaccine available. Although their decisions are not mandatory, the voluntary adherence to the policies which they outline has been quite strict. They will continue to function as long as the shortage of vaccine necessitates the setting of priorities and other regulations.

Everything considered, 1955 and 1956 will be recorded as the years when control of polio began. And, until the development of a new vaccine using a live virus and providing much longer immunity becomes an actuality, the best possible safeguard against the disease is in the form of Salk vaccine in present use. It offers the best protection against paralytic polio available at this time.

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## THE MAIL BOX

The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for clarity. The writers' names will be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.

### Enjoyed Herald Tour

Editor, Torrance Herald:  
We appreciated the opportunity to go through your newspaper plant. The Torrance Herald. It was very interesting and by doing so, we were able to get an answer to many questions. I personally enjoyed it very much and hope to return again.  
BARBARA ROBERTS  
North High School  
Representative

### Reader Sounds Off

Editor, Torrance Herald:  
In response to your invitation in "Sound Off":  
You give excellent coverage on women's activities, social, and civic events.  
Particularly enjoyable are the human interest stories by Mildred Hunt.  
No name, please.  
(NAME WITHHELD)