

**IN SKATE SHOW . . .** These four young skaters will be among the 18 skaters performing in the second annual Skating Party at the Rollerdrome here tomorrow night beginning at 7:30. Standing (left to right) are Dolores Korn, Robert Maddock and Carol Gibson, while J. C. Collins is donning his skates. Sponsored by the Torrance Dance and Figure Club, the show proceeds will go to pay the way for skaters to attend regional competitions.

## Accidental Poisoning Ranks High As Cause of Death Among Kiddies

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D., L.A. County Health Officer  
 Unknowingly, many parents are selling their children short. While doing everything possible to protect them against the common diseases of childhood they nevertheless unwittingly expose them to a cause of death that is of deep concern to physicians, namely, chemical poisoning.

Poisoning is not the chief cause of accidental death among children. Death by motor vehicles, falls, impact injuries, and burns rank ahead of it, but all of these are more or less difficult for the parent to control by anticipatory measures. Accidental poisoning, however, is one field of danger that can be practically eliminated if parents will only take a few simple precautions.

**Young Children Hit**  
 A recent study in Boston showed that of all accidental poisoning cases, 84 per cent occurred in children one to four years old. It is in this period that the youngster is eagerly exploring the world of sight, feeling, and taste, but still lacks sufficient experience to possess caution.

It is true that modern educational concepts encourage

parents to permit children the full play of their exploratory inclinations. The idea is a good one if the environment for exploration is first made safe, and, it is certainly the responsibility of adults to make it so.

It may surprise some parents to know that each of the following common household items was reported as the cause of death at least once in a recent study of 454 fatal accidental poisonings among children: aspirin, barbiturates, cosmetics (including perfumes), benzene, bleaches, kerosene, insecticides, rodenticides, and mouse seeds. This list is by no means exhaustive.

**Kept in Easy Reach**  
 Unfortunately in most households many items, or others of a like nature, are kept under the kitchen sink, in open cabinets, on low shelves, or in places of equal accessibility to children. Nearly all toddlers, and even many youngsters who can only crawl, will be able to hold themselves up long enough to reach for objects on low tables, stands, or dressers.

Aspirin, that valuable compound which is found in nearly all home medicine cabinets as well as in the purses of most

women, is a chief offender as a cause of poisoning among children. As a matter of fact, parents should be cautious in the administration of aspirins to children, since the young seem especially susceptible to salicylate intoxication. For instance, one infant died after being dosed by his mother with 20 tablets of aspirin during a 48 hour period.

The colored, candy flavored aspirins made especially for the toddler trade are regarded by many physicians as being too dangerous to have around the house. A youngster might decide to explore elsewhere after ingesting an ordinary aspirin or two, but he may be encouraged to complete the job of involuntary suicide if the aspirins are flavored to his liking.

And, it is reported, the removal of a substance from its original container often multiplies its potential danger. Cleaning fluid put in a pop bottle, lye left in a spoon after use, rodenicide placed in an empty tea carton, a household bleach forgotten in a water glass have each caused the deaths of children in the past.

**Disease Lessened**  
 The great advances made in

preventive medicine have nearly eliminated the epidemic diseases that were once the scourge of childhood, but the magic of the doctor has no power over accidents such as these. It may well be that a reduction in the accident toll among preschool children will prove to be far more difficult to achieve than was the control of the diseases which formerly struck them down.

Parents can at least take a first step in accident prevention among children by eliminating the possibility of poisoning that lurks in so many common household items. A check list of the most common home safety hazards may be obtained without cost by addressing a request to the Division of Public Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, 12.

### Mattress Burns

A mattress and springs were damaged by fire Thursday at the Gordon Noble home, 22009 Linda Dr., Torrance firemen reported. The blaze apparently started from a cigaret dropped in the bed, they said.

## Polio Shot Program Will Resume Again

A new supply of polio vaccine for public inoculations has been made available at Los Angeles County Health centers, including the Torrance office, according to department officials.

The local office completed its school inoculation program Friday, bringing the total number of shots given since the program began to more than 60,000. This total includes Torrance, Redondo, Manhattan, Hermosa, Gardena, Lawndale, Palms Verdes Estates.

Officials urged polio inoculation for everyone, especially those under 40. Supplies are available from most private physicians, but the health department inoculations were halted some time ago, due to a shortage of the vaccine. The inoculations are being resumed immediately, officials indicated.

**CORK USE**  
 Only about five per cent of the total cork supply available in the U. S. is made into bottle stoppers.



**DANCE INVITATIONS . . .** Bids for the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. dance at the Elks Hall in Gardena are being completed by club officers. Left to right are Mrs. Philip Clark, secretary; Mrs. Harry Warren, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Cloyd Kirkpatrick, ways and means chairman. Dancing will start at 9 p.m. at the hall, 1735 Market St.

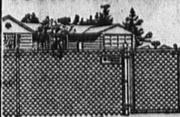
The Department of Education of the U. S. was established by an act of Congress on March 1, 1887.

### Ray Choate New Head Of Planning Council

Ray Choate, head of the San Pedro branch of the Los Angeles Public Defender's office, was named president of the Harbor Area Welfare Planning Council at a meeting held last week.

Other new officers of the Community Chest-sponsored organization are Mrs. A. C. Akerson, first vice president; Ben McDonald, second vice president, and Mrs. Eleanor Kennedy, secretary. It was announced that Reese Swain has been appointed new secretary of the council. Swain is former administrative assistant of the Community Welfare Council, San Jose.

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