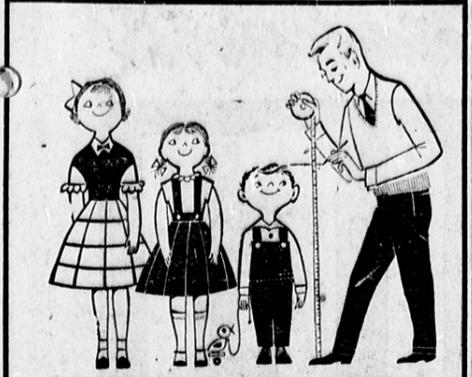


Decatur County Fete

The annual picnic of the Decatur County Iowa Assn. will be held June 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in MacArthur Park, Los Angeles.

Coffee will be provided and guests are requested to bring a basket lunch.



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Lois Wright Appears In Long Beach Play

Lois Wright, 17, of 456 E. 220th St., will be seen in "Scenes at Eight," presented by the School of the Magnolia Theater, 2400 Magnolia, Long Beach, at 8 p.m., May 26 and 27.

Lois, a student of the School of the Magnolia Theater, portrayed the exotic Scherazade in the school's production of "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp."

YOUR LEGISLATOR AT WORK!



By VINCENT THOMAS
68th Assembly District

Legislation relating to practice of the healing arts is one of the most complex and dynamic-laden area in which your legislators are called upon to perform. Most of us are laymen so far as health matters go, but it is still our responsibility to make sure that the interests of all the general public—men, women, and children—are fully protected when it comes to health care.

Number one health enemy, and apparently the one hardest to beat scientifically, is cancer. More fearful to most people than the plague was to our ancestors, it is no respecter of sex, age, or economic condition. The public knows so little about it, except that it can be both painful and deadly, that those who fear their bodies have been invaded by it frequently seek blindly for any treatment which promises relief.

As a result, the field of cancer diagnosis and treatment has been invaded by a flock of "human vultures," intent upon fattening themselves upon human misery and death. These charlatans claim their medicines, methods, skills or machines will effectively treat or cure cancer, and so fasten themselves on their gullible victims.

To put a stop to this deplorable racket, a bill was introduced in our 1957 session to establish a Cancer Council in our state department of public health, to give this council power to investigate all claimed cancer remedies, and also to issue "cease and desist" orders against any persons whose claims for their cancer remedies are disproved, and to have such orders backed up by our courts. The principles of the bill were supported by both the California Medical Assn. and the California Osteopathic Assn., as well as by several health organizations.

The bill passed the Assembly, but was held in the Senate. The hearings on the measure conducted by the Senate committee on public health pointed up the contradictory facts that on the one hand, enactment of the bill would not touch at all certain types of fraudulent and dangerous practices, while on the other, it might interfere seriously with promising research into the true causes and best treatment of cancer.

As a result, the bill was referred to the Senate interim committee on public health for further study and preparation of a report for the 1959 session. The resolution directing the study did not limit it to cancer, but instead opened the analysis to "all facts concerned with fraudulent, dangerous, unscientific and deceptive practices in the field of treatment of disease."

The committee held hearings in both the south and north, and has issued a progress report on the basis of evidence so far received. Additional hearings will be held as needed. To simplify its purpose, the committee used the term "medical quackery" to apply to all forms of diagnosis or treatment of disease which are worthless or of no proven value. It defines a medical quack as one who defrauds the public by misrepresenting the curative virtues of his treatment for disease, builds false hopes in his "patients," and frequently deprives them of the opportunity to get really helpful treatment.

On the basis of its preliminary study, the committee came to the conclusion that "medical quackery in general, and cancer quackery in particular" exist today in California to a degree substantially detrimental to the citizens, and are even on the increase. "The committee will not be diverted from finding an adequate weapon to effectively eliminate the charlatan who traffics in human life and health for personal gain."

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