

Health Officer Warns Campers Against Hazards

By Roy O. Gilbert, M.D.
Los Angeles County Health Officer

Camping at this time of the year makes an ideal vacation for many families. It gets them out-of-doors and away from the noise and bustle of cities and the workaday routine. Such a trip provides, or should provide, a pleasant atmosphere in which individuals may relax and, in a manner of speaking, recharge the human batteries. Still, enjoyable as camping can be, it is not without certain hazards.

Anyone who goes into wild areas, whether camping or hunting, should definitely be alert to the dangers of bubonic plague. Plague caused the death of a resident of Ventura County just about two years ago, and a Boy Scout from Walnut Creek contracted the disease within the past month while on a camping trip in the remote areas of Yosemite National Park. Although recovering, he is still hospitalized.

THE PLAGUE. INFESTED flea that transmits this disease is usually found on small rodents, including porcupines, gophers, rabbits, rats, mice and squirrels, particularly the latter. In turn, the fleas may also infest larger animals such as the deer and bear, or even domestic rodents in urban areas. All campers should take quick leave of areas where sick or dead animals are found and also refrain from handling them.

In wild animals the disease is called sylvatic plague; in human cases it is called bubonic plague, taking its name from the pustular swellings of the lymph glands (buboes) that occur on the body. The disease in man not uncommonly ends in pneumonia and when it does it is called pneumonic plague. In this form, it can be passed from person to person and is often fatal.

ALTHOUGH plague is not the dreaded disease it once was, it is still a potential danger. Altogether, there have been two human cases in California since 1947. However, sylvatic plague has been found in 36 of the 54 counties of the state, including Los Angeles County.

As a precaution against the plague, do not handle any small animals, use insect repellents around the campsite, and shake out sleeping bags and clothing regularly.

FIRE is also among the major dangers that may beset a camper, particularly in a drought year such as this one. In areas where fires are considered a hazard, certain sections have been set aside by the Forester and Fire Warden where fires may be lit. To exercise independent judgment in this matter is to run the danger of setting fire to thousands of acres of timber, killing off the wildlife and endangering human life. Such an incident happened locally just two years ago. Rules concerning smoking should also be observed.

A first aid snake bite kit is a must in the list of necessities for campers. Should anyone be bitten, however, it is important to get medical aid as quickly as possible. Snake bite kits usually contain but one vial of antivenom serum whereas several are generally needed to overcome the effects of the venom. The cut and suction first aid method in snake bite is something every camper who goes into snake-infested areas should know.

TICKS are not much of a problem in Los Angeles County, although recently the pajaroello tick has caused some apprehension. This tick, which has been found around low-growing shrubs in the foothill areas of Los Angeles County, is a slow mover and it is only when a person rests or sleeps in the tick's habitat that it has time to fasten itself on him for the purpose of getting a meal.

There is no specific antidote for the bite of this tick and first aid treatment usually consists of removing as much saliva as possible from the wound by employing suction, using either the mouth or a suction apparatus. The appli-

MEDICAL OUTPUT (NEW YORK) — The United Nations says there are 595 medical schools in 85 countries in the world and they produce between 50,000 and 60,000 graduated doctors of medicine in one normal year.

Civic Group Plans Dance

Plans are under way by the Southwest Park Civic Assn. to hold the organizations annual dance at the "Walteria Club" Sept. 19. Swimming and dancing will be featured from 6 p.m. to midnight, and proceeds will go towards improvement of La Romeria Park.

The organization recently boosted the park improvement fund with the profits of a Fourth of July Bar-B-Q. Chairman of the event was Bob Mason, assisted by Marion Highlander and Pat Hogue.

Announcement was made at a recent meeting of the group that bus service will be provided through the Southwest

Park area in the near future. Residents of streets not yet scheduled to receive lighting this fall were reminded by Eve Bisou to circulate street petitions.

ALUMNI PLAN PICNIC

The Miami (Ohio) Alumni Association of Southern California will hold a picnic at Malibu La Costa Beach Club, 21440 Pacific Coast Highway, Friday, July 24, at 3 p.m. Details can be had from Jim Hansen, Oldfield 6-0934.

AGE FACTOR
Average age of passenger automobiles in the U.S. is about 14 years.

Strip Road Improvements Provided in L.A. Budget

An appropriation of \$25,000 has been provided in the 1959-60 Los Angeles City budget as a part payment of the proposed improvement of Denker St. and Torrance Blvd. in the strip area, it was announced today by Councilman John S. Gibson.

Also in the works is full improvement of the south side of Plaza Del Amo from Denker St. to Harvard Blvd.

ADDITIONAL width between Harvard Blvd. and Western Ave. and construction of curbs

and gutters and paving of the shoulder on the east side of Western Ave. from 218th St. to Sepulveda Blvd. will be sought in next year's budget, Gibson said.

BOTH Torrance Blvd. and Denker St. are included in the project now known as the 206th and Harvard Blvd. improvement district.

The current \$25,000 has been added to \$14,600 previously appropriated for this job.

Right-of-way acquisition across the railroad tracks at

the intersection of Torrance Blvd. and Denker St. resulted in this crossing being made a separate project, according to Gibson.

Funds for plans on this job also were provided.

COUNCILMAN Gibson said the \$336,600 allotted to his district in the current budget would boost to more than \$1 million, a total available for construction during the fiscal year.

Previous years appropriations, plus partially financed projects of several years past, make up the difference, he explained.

The councilman stated that

funds were allotted on the basis of need. It so happened that each section of the district shared equally in the distribution of funds, he added.

In addition to the Shoestring Strip work, major street and storm drain projects are scheduled in Harbor City, Wilmington and San Pedro.

Outlay of public funds on these major projects, plus assessment act jobs now pending, should push the 15th district construction mark for the fifth consecutive year, well past the \$2 million mark.

MOOSE COUNT
There are an estimated 14,500 moose in the U.S.

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TENDER CUBE STEAK 98¢ lb.	CENTER CUT BONE-IN ROUND STEAK 77¢ lb.
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SUMMER ISLE HALF SLICE PINEAPPLE 4 No. 2 Tins \$1.00	WELCHADE GRAPE DRINK 3 Qt. Tins \$1.00
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JANE ANDERSON WITH SOUR CREAM COLE SLAW Pint Ctn. 29¢	JANE ANDERSON'S GRADE 'A' WISCONSIN SWISS CHEESE 6-oz. Pkg. 29¢
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