

# L. A. County Hard Hit This Year With 13,305 Cases of Measles

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

Los Angeles County is experiencing a "measles year." Some 13,305 cases have been reported thus far as compared to 2846 for the same period last year. Usually considered of little consequence, the disease may nevertheless give rise to dangerous complications.

As a matter of fact, medical research workers at the University of California at Los Angeles Medical School report that measles caused more deaths throughout the country in 1958 than did polio. In that year there were more than 400 deaths from measles, compared with less than 200 from poliomyelitis.

It was discovered that each year, on a nationwide basis, some 1500 additional cases of

the disease are serious enough to produce brain damage, due to the effects of the measles virus on the central nervous system.

ALTHOUGH generally considered a disease of childhood, measles may be contracted at any age. During 1958, some 63 of the 2846 cases reported in Los Angeles County occurred in persons over 20 years of age, the oldest patient being in the eighties.

There are about 3.5 million cases of measles reported annually in the United States. Indeed, the disease is so common, and generally mild, that people take little care to avoid it. At times, parents even expose their children to the infection in order to get it over with, as one attack of the dis-

ease insures lifelong immunity.

In healthy youngsters over 5 years of age, an attack of measles is seldom serious. In sick children or debilitated adults who are immune, or in children under 5, particularly under 3, the disease may give rise to dangerous complications including pneumonia, ear infections, kidney impairment, or encephalitis.

Infants born of mother who have had measles are ordinarily immune to the disease for the first few months of life, since protective substances transmitted before birth afford temporary protection. After this age, however, it is unsafe to assume that anyone who has never had measles will no get

THE FIRST symptoms of

measles usually resemble those of a cold and appear in about 10 days after exposure to the infection. Fever, listlessness, cough, upset stomach, and red and watery eyes sensitive to light are the usual signs. In three to five days after the initial fever, a rash appears on the face and spreads to the rest of the body in a few days. Illness, in uncomplicated cases, generally lasts about three weeks.

A measles vaccine which appears to be effective is in preparation but is not yet commercially available. In certain cases, medical and public health authorities advise the administration of a protective serum called gamma globulin, which either averts the attack or spares the sick person or very young child the hazard of

complications. For this reason it is important to call a physician to treat any illness that produces symptoms common to measles.

A pamphlet on measles will be mailed to anyone who sends a card of request to the Division of Public Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Dept., 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.

**Loan Totals Given**  
Southern California real estate loans totaling \$86,717,773 were disbursed through the eight months ending Aug. 31, by Great Western Savings and Loan Assn., according to President John F. Marten.

People seldom improve when they have no model other than themselves to copy.  
Goldsmith



**TOP SALESMAN . . .** Herbert Minten, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Minten, 2662 Dalemead, demonstrates the kinds of salesmanship he uses in searching out and selling new subscriptions to the HERALD. He won the \$5 cash prize for selling the largest number of new HERALD subscriptions during August. (Herald photo)



**HONORED BY SCHOOLS . . .** D. S. Thayer (left), 4914 Via El Sereno, and E. S. Martin (right), 5001 Paseo del Paven, receive awards from Everett B. Chaffee, associate superintendent of Los Angeles City Schools, for participation in the Shell Chemical Corp. industry-education program in science and mathematics. They were among 22 Shell Corp. men participating in the program directed by the Los Angeles City schools. (Vanguard Photo)

## Gas Co. Moves to Increase Refunds to Area Customers

In a move to increase cash refunds to local gas customers, the Southern California and Southern Counties Gas Cos. today are appealing to the Federal Power Commission for a rehearing on the recently decided El Paso Natural Gas Co. rate case.

Result of the FPC decision last month would have been a refund of about \$4 million to Southland gas users.

"In addition to a bigger refund for our customers—probably still a nominal amount for individual gas users—in the current case," a spokesman for the local gas companies said, "we are seeking protection for them in other pending and future cases."

In the decision being appealed, the Federal Power Commission last month granted El Paso an increase of about \$14.5 million in annual rates to its utility customers in California, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico.

**THIS INCREASE** was substantially below the \$18.8 million annual increase requested by El Paso, which was collected from the various distributing companies from April 1955 through December 1957, subject to refund.

The FCC, in its decision, ordered about \$7 million refunded to the Southland gas utility,

of which about half is estimated to be refundable to half of the over-payment was absorbed by the utilities and never passed on to its customers.

**ADDITIONAL** El Paso increases also subject to review and refund became effective on Jan. 1, 1958 and Aug. 1, 1959. The final decision in these cases may also be affected by the gas companies appeal in the current case, it was pointed out.

"We feel the costs assigned to California by the Federal Power Commission are greater than the amount properly due under the terms of the Natural Gas Act," the spokesman explained, "and the basis for the decision was not the proper one."

"By this move to get a rehearing we are continuing to fight these increases, as we have throughout the long, drawn-out hearings in Washington."

### El Camino Deadline

Tuesday, Sept. 15, has been set as the deadline for new students to register for classes at El Camino College, according to Leo M. Christian, assistant director of student personnel.



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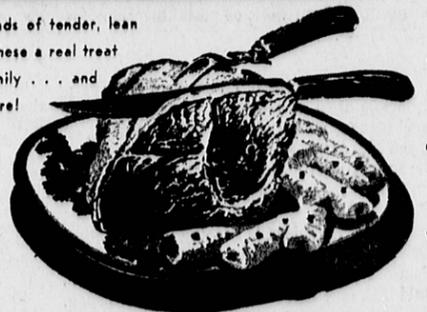
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