

Scout Billy Fields Wins God and Country Award

Boy Scout Billy Fields of Redondo Beach was presented with the coveted God and Country award Feb. 24 by the South Bay Church of God. At the patriotic ceremony, Troop 874, of which Billy is a member, presented the colors.

Billy achieved this honor in less than six months through

weekly consultations with the youth minister, active participation in the program of the church; regular attendance; daily Bible reading; memorizing many difficult scripture verses; reading books on the teachings of the church; and further fulfilling other re-

quirements presented by the church and scout law. It is not an easy achievement, usually taking from six to eight months to earn, and the church is indeed proud of Billy for his efforts.

Last week, the youth minister, Don Krieger, began to work with scouts Larry Boggs

and Don Honeycutt, to help them earn their God and Country award. Previously the church presented the award to two other boys, James Stillwell and Eagle Scout Dennis Ford.

It is understood that of all the Eagle Scouts in the United States less than 100 have acquired this medal.

YWCA to Offer Course To Expectant Mothers

A class designed to prepare expectant mothers for childbirth will begin at the YWCA March 13, at 7:30 p.m.

The eight-session class with Mrs. Janet Anderson, a registered physical therapist, as instructor, is designed to prepare

mothers-to-be emotionally and physically for childbirth.

Class participants must be at least three months pregnant and have the approval of their physician to attend the class.

Additional information may be obtained at FA 0-2255.

Research Team Seeks Heart, Lung Relation

The startling rise in chronic respiratory disease and the resulting heart failures has spurred a University of South-

ern California professor of medicine into research dealing with the intricate relationships of heart and lung diseases.

"Over the past 10 years there has been a marked increase in chronic respiratory disease. One of these diseases, emphysema, has increased as a cause of death in California by over 400 per cent in the past decade," Dr. Oscar J. Balchum of South Pasadena, associate professor of medicine at USC, explained.

THIS PROBLEM in itself is extremely serious, but with it goes an increase in the number of cases of cor pulmonale, or right heart failure. Many people with lung disease develop heart disease as a consequence of their respiratory problem.

"This often occurs as right heart failure because the degeneration of the lungs and their blood vessels puts an added burden on the heart. As the blood vessels in the lungs resist the flow of blood, blood pressure increases, and the heart fails," Dr. Balchum pointed out.

Working with a \$3,500 grant from the Los Angeles County Heart Assn., Dr. Balchum and his associates are pushing their research in chronic respiratory disease into the co-related area of heart disease.

FOR EXAMPLE, in one project they are studying a number of chemical changes that occur in respiratory failure which may show a relationship to heart disease.

In acute respiratory failure the lungs are not ventilated properly. The oxygen content falls below normal, and the carbon dioxide content rises. The muscles of the body are faced with a lack of sufficient oxygen, plus an over supply of carbon dioxide. They then produce an over abundance of certain acids.

"In addition to the acids released by the muscles, carbon dioxide accumulates in excess, and additional acids are released from body fat. What we need to know is how these acids influence the ability of the heart to do its major job, that is, pump blood," Dr. Balchum continued.

THE EFFICIENCY of the heart and the severity of right heart failure may be greatly affected by the concentration of acids released into the body system due to the original chronic, and suddenly acute, pulmonary illness.

In their research area on the 11th floor of the Los Angeles County General Hospital, Dr. Balchum, Dr. Ralph Jung also of South Pasadena, and their assistants are vitally involved in the problems of accurately measuring a large number of components whose relationships to one another are not as yet fully understood.

STUDYING patients in the chest medicine unit at County Hospital the research team will measure acidity of each patient's arterial blood. They will measure the free fatty acids, muscle acids, sodium, potassium, nitrogen, and a number of other elements found in the blood of their pulmonary patients, as well as the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels.

"We may have to develop new and more sensitive methods of measurement, but we hope to find additional reasons for the relationship between lung disease and heart failure. Of course, hopefully, we can then prevent heart failure, or at least lessen its severity," Dr. Balchum concluded.

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