

Higher SS Checks Due Next Year

The Social Security Amendments of 1958 will provide increased monthly payments to about 52,000 people in the Long Beach area, beginning with the checks which are due early in February 1959, according to J. G. Bretherton, social security district manager in Long Beach. The amount of the increase will be about 7 percent, although the increase in some checks will be slightly more than 7 percent and it will be slightly less than 7 percent in some others. The over-all monthly increase for the area will be approximately a quarter of a million dollars.

People who are already getting social security payments do not need to apply for the increase. It will be automatically added to the checks for January, which will be mailed out early in February.

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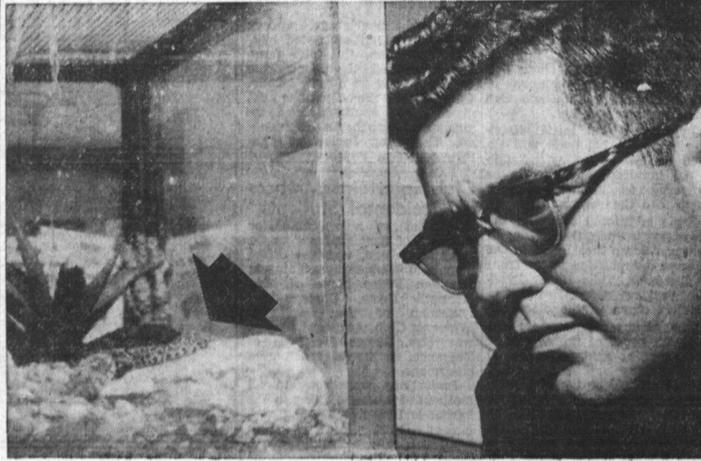
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DEADLY SNAKE—Bob Corrao, South Bay Humane Society officer, looks at a Pacific rattlesnake, which strongly resembles ordinary gopher snake, but is venomous. At least four baby reptiles have been caught or killed in Torrance during past week.

Press Photo

Aquarium Society To Hear Speaker

Harbor Aquarium Society will meet at 7:30 tonight in the recreation hall at McMasters Park, 174 and Yukon. President Deane Wood of Redondo will open the meeting.

There will be a mystery speaker and presentation of a movie. Reports will be made on plans for awarding a filled 15 gallon aquarium at the October meeting.

The swordtail has been chosen as the show fish of the month. All interested fish fanciers are welcome at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Warn of Rattler Danger

South Bay Humane Society officers were alert for further reports of rattlesnakes this week, after four of them were found and killed in widely separated places in Torrance.

One baby rattler was found entering the play area at Howard Wood School on 25th st., while three others were killed near 190 St. and Sturgis ave.

Bringing rattlesnakes into the city or keeping one is against the law, warned Jack Sheehan, a humane officer.

He said he believes the snakes found in Torrance were brought in by residents who had intended to keep them as pets, but the reptiles escaped.

Boy Bitten

Last week a Rolling Hills boy was twice bitten by a rattler when he fell while leaving the school bus at his home. The boy, Robert Self, 10, was taken to Riviera Hospital.

Sheehan said that residents who discover rattlers should call the Humane Society rather than try to kill the snakes themselves.

"If the head is not properly disposed off, the venom is still pretty dangerous," he warned. Also, he pointed out that the Pacific rattler found around here closely resembles the harmless gopher snake which actually helps humanity by killing rodents.

Not as Pets

He warned of the dangers of keeping rattlesnakes as pets. "You can't make a pet of them. They'll strike at anything, particularly the babies. They feel the warmth and vibration and strike."

He said that the area at 190th st. and Sturgis is a particularly good breeding ground because there are rocks, brush and sandy soil which the snakes prefer as a habitat.

The snakes killed in Torrance so far were about six inches long, but a full-grown rattlesnake can grow to six feet in length.

Complete Plans For Reception Of Powers Here

Final arrangements for a non-partisan testimonial dinner to be held Sept. 30 in honor of Lieutenant Governor Harold L. Powers are now being made, reported Mrs. Auten F. Bush, general chairman.

The dinner will begin at 7 p.m. in the Plush Horse Restaurant, Redondo Beach, and will be preceded with a reception for Lt. Governor Powers at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person, including tax and tip.

Reservations from a number of dignitaries of the Greater South Bay area have been received, reported Mrs. Bush and James M. Hall, Torrance chairman of the dinner.

They also announced that a few tickets are still available and may be obtained at the following ticket centers from: Paul Loranger, 1640 Cabrillo ave., William MacFaden, 115 S. Pacific ave., Redondo Beach; Leland Cave, 1200 Highland ave., Manhattan Beach; Mrs. Bush, 1509 Monterey blvd., Hermosa Beach; and Peggy Johnson, 332 E. Grand ave., El Segundo.

What Pet are you wanting? Check the offers in Torrance Press Classified today, and perhaps find just what you're after.

Lane Picking Tough Chore for Average Driver

Selecting the proper traffic lane is a skill of multilane and freeway driving that many motorists are finding difficult to master, according to Commissioner B. R. Caldwell of the California Highway Patrol.

"The main thing," Caldwell said, "is to avoid impeding the normal flow of traffic. On a divided road with two traffic lanes on each side, the law requires you to drive in the right-hand lane except when overtaking and passing another car or when preparing to make a left turn. By keeping to the right, you will not be guilty of holding up a long line of cars in the passing lane."

The Commissioner noted, however, that the technique differs somewhat on freeways having more than two lanes of traffic on each side, although the object still is to "avoid impeding the normal flow of traffic."

"Drive in the traffic lane where the other cars are traveling at about the same speed as you are," Caldwell suggested. "If several vehicles pass you on the right, you are probably driving too slowly for this lane and should move to the lane on your right."

VA in Hunt for Foster Homes

Veterans Administration's nationwide foster home program to provide a normal home life for recovering mental patients has more than doubled during the past two years, the agency said today.

The total of 1,249 VA mental hospital patients living with their "adopted" families in private homes near the hospitals during 1957 is a 24 per cent increase over the number in 1956 and a 56 per cent increase over the number for 1955, VA said.

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