

Christmas Seals 1907-1962 Seals Trace Dramatic Battle



These 56 bits of paper represent a history unlike any in the field of public health. There is a story of 9 million lives saved and a reason for hope where none existed before their use.

Many of them mark milestones in an extraordinary battle with death.

How many of these 56 U.S. Christmas Seals do you remember? Their history ties the hope and good will of the Christmas season with the hope of a nation to conquer and end a dread disease—tuberculosis.

Many elders can still remember the excitement that swept people following the appearance of that first Seal in 1907. With that Seal came news that TB was not a hopeless disease; a group of volunteers had organized to fight TB, the first group to get together to fight a specific disease.

And they were going into the fight with, at long last, some new knowledge about the disease that was the number one killer in the U.S.

That knowledge was acquired through a personal experience by Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau. He had developed tuberculosis and gone to the Adirondack Mountains to die in surroundings he loved. But he kept a careful check on himself and discovered that on days he rested he felt much better. Was rest the cure? He proved to himself, and later to others, that with complete rest the body can heal itself. Rest is still the basic treatment today.

Dr. Trudeau set up the first successful tuberculosis hospital in the United States. But all efforts to raise funds to keep TB hospitals open failed. How could he and a few dedicated people spread their knowledge of TB and fight the disease that touched almost every family in the country?

A bright little Seal printed in red saying "Merry Christmas" proved to be the answer. Denmark had started the Christmas Seal idea in 1904 and Miss Emily Bissell, a social worker in Delaware heard about it. She drew the design for the first Christmas Seal herself and had 3,000 sheets printed on credit.

A hospital needed \$300 to keep its doors open, and the Seals were to sell for a penny apiece. Those first Seals are now worth many dollars to collectors, but that original penny contribution per Seal has remained unchanged for fifty-six years.

The 1944 Seal appeared showing a postman bearing a letter. The Christmas Seal news of that year was an important medical breakthrough. Salman A. Waksman, scientist, discovered a "good microbe," one that was destined to be of great value in fighting the tubercle bacillus germ. He called it streptomycin. It was the first drug to prove of value in tuberculosis treatment.

Along with the 1952 Seal, appropriately picturing a candle lit in the darkness, came the discovery of isoniazid, a synthetic chemical compound found to be equal to streptomycin in tu-

berculosis treatment. Today isoniazid is a major weapon in cutting some treatment periods in half.

A child sang glad tidings from the 1953 Christmas Seal. And there was good

news indeed. That was the first full year's use of the new drugs, and statistics showed the annual TB death rate had dropped a spectacular 12 per cent.

The 1962 Seals pictured

at lower right will be reproduced eight billion times and contributions to this year's campaign will help to maintain the year-round programs of research, safeguarding lives, and constant

vigilance against the disease that enters bodies so silently. An effective vaccine against TB is still missing. It could be that this milestone will be marked by the 1962 Christmas Seal.

Adoption Field Probed

A 12-point program aimed at curbing "profitteering" in the field of private adoptions will be presented the 1963 State Legislature by the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said the County will sponsor the proposed legislation to combat recurrence of "baby selling and buying" cases brought to light in recent investigations.

The County Bureau of Adoptions Advisory Commission, headed by Mrs. Lorene Debs, conducted the investigations and was sharply critical of high fees charged by some "third parties" in adoption procedures.

The first four proposals deal with the serious problem of unlicensed persons placing youngsters for adoption, and would clarify existing laws on this subject, Hahn said.

He pointed out that the placement of children for profit endangers the interest of the child, the parent and the adopting family.

Also included is a proposal to require the attorney and the petitioner in any adoption case to report to the Court all fees in connection with an adoption. The fees would be subject to approval by the Court.

Another suggested change in present law would make a violation of these provisions dealing with unlicensed persons a felony.

An attorney would be prohibited from representing

both the natural parent and the petitioner. If a natural parent hasn't sufficient funds, she may be represented by a public defender or a court-appointed attorney, Hahn noted.

Other provisions would

change the fee schedule charged by County adoption agencies and eliminate information from the new birth certificate which could make it possible to trace the natural parents of an adopted child.

Other members of the Committee are Mrs. Borgny Baird of Long Beach, Mrs. Robert (Jane Russell) Waterfield of Sherman Oaks, Mr. Sam S. Schwartz of Huntington Park, and Mr. Maury Foladare of Hollywood.

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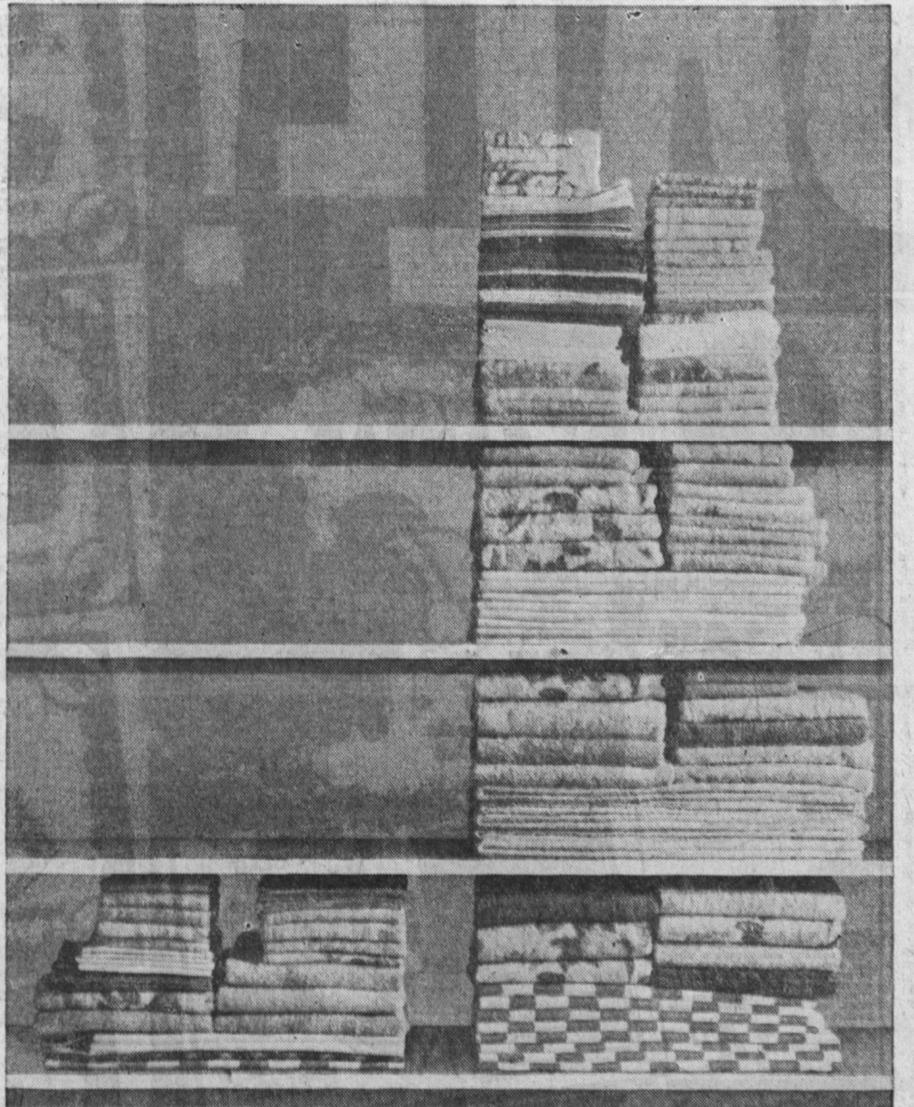
Richard D. Cramolini, 2510 W. 181st St., Torrance, has been appointed assistant cashier, head office personnel department, Security First National Bank announced.

Assigned to the department's management development division, he will be a field trainer working with management trainees.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, he was graduated from Los Angeles High School and attended Santa Monica City College. He attended the American Institute of Banking and is active in the Security Spokenmen, one of the bank's speaking clubs.

Cramolini is married and has two children. His wife, Dixie, is president of the Torrance Welcome Wagon Club.

POWER PLANT
The nickel-iron storage battery, which is still used extensively today, was invented in 1901 by Thomas A. Edison.



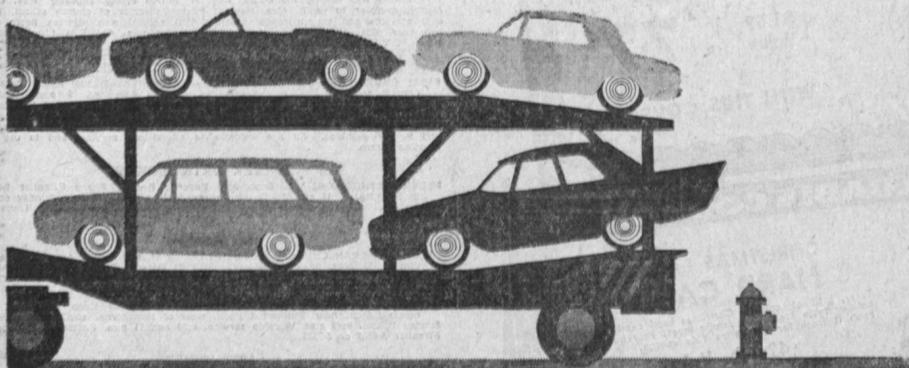
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