

AWAITS OPENING BELL . . . Former world flyweight boxing champion Fidel LaBarba strikes a familiar pose to show his anxiety about the opening round of the first United Way Campaign in Los Angeles. LaBarba, the organization's commerce and industry chairman for the Harbor Area, retired in 1927. He presently lives in Manhattan Beach with his wife and two children.

West Coast Due For Virus Attack When Cold Hits

By K. H. SUTHERLAND, M.D., County Health Officer

An epidemic of influenza A2 (Asian virus strain) swept over most areas of the United States during the 1962-63 winter season, but it skipped California with the exception of a few institutional outbreaks and a small localized community epidemic in Merced County.

Since this type of influenza occurs in 2 to 3-year cycles, no nationwide outbreak of a similar nature is anticipated this coming winter. However, according to a report that was released by the U.S. Public Health Service a short time ago, the West Coast is an exception and is considered more vulnerable.

Spared the flu epidemic in 1962-63, there is a good chance that California may experience an outbreak of the disease with the onset of colder weather. If the usual Asian flu pattern holds, one is probably due. The last epidemic of the disease that occurred locally was in 1960-61.

CERTAIN individuals in whom influenza viral infection is likely to be the most severe and accompanied by the most serious complications belong to what is known as high-risk groups, and vaccination of these groups is strongly recommended well in advance of the flu season.

In fact, health officials are of the opinion that immunization should be started as soon as practicable after Sept. 1 and completed by Dec. 15, for the likelihood of a flu epidemic increases sharply after this date.

HIGH-RISK groups, as outlined by the Public Health Service, includes those patients with rheumatic heart disease; all persons with other chronic cardiovascular disorders such as arteriosclerotic heart disease and hypertension; suffers from chronic bronchopulmonary disease including tuberculosis, emphysema and asthma; individuals with diabetes or Addison's disease; pregnant women; and persons over 45 and especially those over 60.

A high degree of protection against influenza in previously unvaccinated persons requires two injections of flu vaccine administered two months apart, though two weeks after the first shot is given enough protection is afforded to lessen the severity of an attack should one occur. Infants over three months and preschool age children should have three doses.

THE SECOND dose is given one to two weeks after the first and the third four to six weeks after the second. The amount given depends on the age of the child.

A polyvalent vaccine, which incorporates at least the A2 and B strains of influenza virus, is generally used. An epidemic of influenza B, which usually occurs in not less than 4 to 6-year cycles, is not expected this season as the last one occurred in this country in 1961-62.

Still, it is well to be prepared against it, particularly as influenza B cases have recently been reported in Taiwan. Flu is always unpredictable and

sometimes spreads with formidable rapidity.

THOSE PERSONS who have been vaccinated against the disease within the past few years require only one booster shot. One booster is also sufficient for previously vaccinated children.

Immunity following an attack of the disease is afforded only against those particular virus strains that caused the illness. If a different virus strain is involved — and there is quite a variety of them, the immunization afforded by an attack may be nil.

Influenza vaccine should not be administered to those persons who are allergic to eggs. But if eggs can be eaten in the diet without the development of hypersensitivity symptoms, the vaccine may be used without incurring unpleasant reactions.

IMMUNIZATION is also recommended for those persons engaged in medical and health services or in other occupations that provide essential and vital community services. In large institutions and in those industries where absenteeism may present a problem, widespread vaccination is also desirable.

Predicted flu epidemics may or may not occur, but it is just as well to be prepared for them. The vaccine is not likely to be of much help if its administration is delayed until large numbers of flu cases are occurring throughout the community.

A pamphlet giving additional information on influenza will be mailed to anyone who sends a card of request to the Division of Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.

Realty Co. Moves Into New Office

Zaccaglin Realty Co., one of the oldest and largest firms in the Hawthorne area, has occupied new offices at the Airport-Imperial Building, 999 N. Sepulveda Blvd.

The move to the new quarters was made in order to give the rapidly expanding firm room to grow. The offices are located in the seventh floor suite.

Dick Freidland, manager of the company, said the entire sales staff will be transferred on Sept. 3. Also to move are the firm's consulting staff members.

The firm was established in 1947, and has grown from a staff of three to its present size. Victor Zaccaglin is president of the firm.

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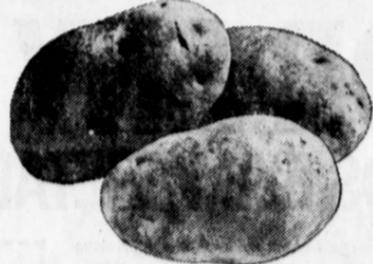
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