

Red Cross Stresses Water Safety Rules

A 6 per cent increase in drownings in 1966, from 6,800 to 7,200 has moved American Red Cross to emphasize anew precautions that will lessen the chances of tragedy in the water.

Red Cross in the Los Angeles area has just completed its annual aquatic workshop for water safety instructors and a series of water safety instructor training courses which were held in the San Fernando Valley, Lynwood, Morningside and central Los

Angeles during the first six months of the year.

Persons trained in these courses including several from the Torrance area, will now go to work for schools, recreation departments, at beaches, and at public and private pools where instruction in swimming and all kinds of water safety will be given.

ROGER PLAISTED, director of Red Cross Safety Serv-

ices for the Los Angeles Chapter, pointed out that 86 per cent of the people who drown do so because they are in the water involuntarily — they have fallen in by accident.

In Southern California where boat owning is continually growing, a serious problem is posed by people who go boating without first learning to swim, Plaisted said.

Even those who do swim should observe a number of

standard precautions, Plaisted said. They are:

- Always swim with a companion—never alone. For long distance swimming, have someone in a boat accompany you.

- Swim in a safe place. The presence of lifeguards usually indicates the area is safe for swimming. Stay away from the area immediately in front of the diving board and do not swim near piers or pilings.

- Before diving, make sure the water is deep enough and there are no hidden objects such as submerged rocks. In pools look for depth markings before entering.

- If you have not been swimming since last summer, take it easy at first. Recognize your limitations and stay within them.

- Wait until at least an hour after eating before swimming and don't swim when overheated or overtired.

- Be sure rescue equipment such as buoys and reaching poles are readily available in all swimming areas.

- Don't depend on a tube or inflated toy to hold you up. They can slip away from you.

PLAISTED ALSO gave suggestions on skin diving: Be in good health. Be a better than average swimmer. Use equipment designed for skin diving, and learn how to use it. Dive with a "buddy" and

know where he is at all times. Know and respect your limitations. Don't take chances. Have floatation gear handy. Know and respect the conditions of the diving area.

The same precautions apply to scuba diving with these additions: Use equipment in good condition and examine it before diving.

HE ALSO gave these tips for water skiers and boatmen: Know how to swim well before trying to water ski: Always wear an appropriate ski belt or life jacket; take instruction from a qualified ski instructor; stay away from all such objects as docks, sea walls, and boats; be

thoughtful of the rights of swimmers, boatmen and fishermen. When landing, run parallel to shore, come in slowly, and release the tow bar a safe distance from shore.

- Do not land in swimming areas. Always test equipment before skiing, checking for loose runners and wing nuts.

- Have one extra person in the boat at all times to watch the skier. Skiing areas are becoming more congested everywhere, and the boat operator must be constantly alert. Turn off engine when a skier is in the water near the boat.

- Know and practice the boating "rules of the road."

Youthful Firemen Honored

Two students from Carson area schools have been honored as outstanding Junior Firemen of 1967 by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Tom Martens, a fifth grader at Carson Streets School, and Susan Trester, a fifth grader at Van Deene Avenue School, were selected from among students at 41 schools participating in the county's Junior Fire Department program.

They were honored at a luncheon sponsored by the department, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and the city of Los Angeles Fire Department. Gold badges were presented to the students by County Fire Chief Keith E. Klinger.

Martens was accompanied by his teacher, Barbara Rebolt, and County Fire Captain Clyde Ewing. Miss Trester was accompanied by Esther Morrison, her teacher.

Tom was named the outstanding member of the county's Junior Fire Department program and was given the badge of chief engineer. Susan was given an assistant chief's badge.

Graduation Slated in Harbor City

The Harbor City Christian School announces its graduation exercises for the week June 19 to 23. Services will be held at the Harbor City Foursquare Church at the corner of 255 and McCoy.

A Baccalaureate service will be conducted June 18 at 11 a.m. by Rev. Marion Piles. The eighth grade class will graduate 18; and the high school will give 12 diplomas.

Speaker at the high school graduation will be Dr. Vincent Bird, international director of Youth and Christian Education of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

Sailing Tips Scheduled At Redondo

Several beginners' sailing classes are scheduled to get under way with the beginning of the summer recreation program of the Redondo Beach Recreation and Parks Department.

Peter Nutting will conduct the lessons in the two-week sessions scheduled to begin June 19, July 3, July 31, Aug. 14 and 28, and Sept. 11.

In addition, special six-week sessions are scheduled for each Saturday beginning June 24, Aug. 5, Sept. 16 and Oct. 28.

A \$15 registration fee will be required. Only applicants who pass a swimming test will be accepted.

Scholarship Established

Friends of the late Frank O. Hunter have contributed to a scholarship fund in his honor at the Calvary Baptist Elementary School.

The money will be used to pay the tuition of deserving children who wish to attend a Christian school but who lack the funds.

Frank O. Hunter was a member of the Sunnyside Baptist Church and then later of the Calvary Baptist Church which sponsors the Christian day school located at 2818 Manhattan Beach Blvd.



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