

Health Officer Has Many Responsibilities

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building department, and numerous other duties.

One of Triolo's major battles is in the field of communicable diseases. The fight never ends. The doctor realizes that a slackening of preventive efforts for even a year or two could lead to a dangerous outbreak of any one of several diseases.

Although bacteria and virus are Triolo's constant enemies, his greatest enemies are public apathy and lack of information.

"I sometimes get discouraged when those we try to help fight our program," he said. But then, breaking into a smile, the doctor admitted he received a great deal of personal satisfaction in the knowledge a family somewhere in Lane County might be a little better off because of one of the Health Department's services.

CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

"Continuous education in the field of public health is the final answer," Triolo declared.

Lane's health officer never backs away from a fight when he feels he is right. "My office isn't and never will be political football. If politics are ever forced into the administration of my program, someone else can have my job."

He said in past years there have been occasional efforts by "influential persons" to have the "rules temporarily changed" for the convenience of their friends.

For example, Triolo heads the Building Department program. At times he has been forced to deny the use of a tract of land for home building because the soil wasn't suitable for septic tanks.

"I have had men tell me they would lose thousands of dollars if I didn't approve their subdivision plans. But I tell them one lawsuit for typhoid fever because of poor sewage conditions could cost \$100,000."

LONG-RANGE EFFECTS

Triolo said there is a city in New York that still reveals the effects of a typhoid outbreak in the community 30 years ago.

The guiding principle in Triolo's administration of his department seems to be that all decisions must be made for the community welfare. He might have to make a decision that will cost one individual a lot of money, but this same decision may be guarding the health of an entire community.

Triolo just didn't stumble into the public health field. He had a keen desire for public service as far back as his high school days. But the road to qualification as a public health officer isn't easy. It takes additional specialized training and strenuous field work.

After receiving his MD degree from Creighton University in 1933, Triolo later attended John Hopkins University and took a

Inquiry Trip

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leading "hundreds of Costa Ricans who are ready to fight under the authentic anti-Communist banner."

The broadcast declared the Costa Rican government forces had suffered many casualties in a fight early Saturday. Incendiary bombs were used to destroy five personnel and ammunition carriers used by government forces, the radio said.

Landings Feared Along Both Coasts

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Costa Rican government reported here Saturday night that it has received what it called alarming reports of possible landings by invaders on both its Atlantic and Pacific shores.

It asked the American nations to furnish patrol boats, anti-aircraft guns and combat planes to help protect it against new attacks.

The Costa Rican government's fear of possible new landings was relayed by the embassy here. The embassy said it was asking for a new meeting of the representatives of the American states here in an effort to obtain help.

Attacks on Costa Rica so far have come by air or overland from Nicaraguan territory to the north.

The Costa Rican embassy said Saturday it wanted further protection from these sources, as well as safeguards against possible landings by sea.

The embassy asked that the Organization of American States "demonstrate that the Rio de Janeiro treaty is capable of dominating aggression and consolidating American peace."

In the Rio de Janeiro treaty the 21 American nations agreed to come to the aid of any one of their number who was invaded or threatened with attack.

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one-year course to qualify for a certificate in public health. After an additional year of work in 1937 at John Hopkins, he received his MPH, or master in public health.

ANTI-MOSQUITO FIGHT

Following this, Triolo passed a comprehensive examination conducted by the American Board of Preventive Medicine and Public Health. After two more years of field work, he could officially call himself a public health officer.

It was no accident that two years ago Lane County organized a county-wide mosquito abatement program that has developed into one of the most efficient of its kind on the West Coast.

In 1952 Triolo announced there was a real possibility that encephalitis — dread virus infection and first cousin to sleeping sickness—could come to Lane County.

He was so concerned with the problem that he called a public meeting of representatives of Lane's incorporated cities and rural communities to propose the adoption of a county-wide control program.

What followed is a credit to his ability to organize. The County Board of Commissioners agreed that the program made sense and the county budget committee allotted funds to start a program. Triolo hired Milton Buehler, a mosquito control expert, and in a few months literally millions of the winged pests were being sprayed into oblivion.

ANSWER DATES TO 1933

But what really made Triolo sense a potential health danger from mosquitoes in 1952? The answer goes back many years, to 1933.

Then, as an interne in a St. Louis hospital, Triolo witnessed the outbreak of a tragic epidemic

of encephalitis. Hundreds of cases were reported and the death rate was more than 20 per cent. Triolo saw first hand how a disease—under the right conditions—could run wild.

And then a few years later as a state health officer in South Dakota, Triolo again saw the consequences of the dread disease. Medical men in the 1930's knew the mosquito carried the damaging virus and that the horse was an easy prey to the disease, but they didn't know whether there were other "hosts" that acted as "reservoirs" for the infection. It was Triolo who assisted in the discovery that host animals played a major part in the spread of the disease.

FIELD STUDIES

Triolo and another doctor conducted field studies in South Dakota in 1938, spending months checking on various animals.

"We finally established that it was the prairie chicken in that region that was harboring the virus of encephalitis," the doctor said.

He explained that a mosquito, after feeding on a horse suffering from encephalitis, would later feed on a prairie chicken which acted as a reservoir. Other mosquitoes which had never been contaminated by the virus would then feed on the infected prairie chicken, and thus the chain would spread. It is now established that there are many animals which act as hosts for the virus, such as chickens, turkeys, and game birds.

PROGRAM IS SIMPLE

Triolo's experience as a St. Louis interne and his field work in South Dakota formed impressions which were largely responsible for his awareness of the potential dangers of encephalitis in Lane County two years ago. Because of the county's abate-

ment program, the mosquito is losing the struggle for survival. Triolo's program is simple: Without mosquitoes there can be no encephalitis.

And this is one of the major functions of his office—preventive medicine. This is why Triolo and other health officers place such strong emphasis on a continuous immunization program. Prevention, they feel, is more efficient than attempting a cure. Such diseases as typhoid fever, smallpox, diphtheria and lockjaw are held in complete check only because the masses receive immunizing shots. Triolo said if the immunization program were halted, progress in the control of communicable disease could be turned back a century.

Triolo, however, will never sand for any relaxation of his vigorous immunization program. He can easily recall the sight of a young boy quivering and shaking in the throes of an attack of lockjaw, or the child choking in agony from diphtheria, or the person dying from typhoid fever.

SEARCH FOR TB

Triolo's program also stresses the search for cases of tuberculosis. "There is only one way to control this disease," he said. "That is to find it and treat it." Triolo said if everyone would obtain a periodic chest x-ray, all TB cases could be found before the infection was too advanced.

There are numerous other important duties Triolo administers, such as control of venereal disease, examination of food handlers, and inspection of newly-installed residential and commercial plumbing facilities.

Triolo's job is made easier because of efficient departmental personnel who have had long experience in the field of public health. Some of the duties of these persons will be discussed in future articles.

City Hall

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by Architect Graham Smith, was constructed to provide for the future addition of a second story. This is one possibility for expansion. Construction of a new library would leave additional space in the present city hall for other departments, and is another possibility.

SECOND STATION

Paris Breedlove, one of the city's councilmen, raised another possibility last Monday night, when he suggested the construction of a more centrally-located fire station as a way to give the city hall more space.

But Saturday, Breedlove said he has since been informed by Fire Chief Harry Krieger that the state rating bureau feels that Springfield's growth warrants the need for a second fire station, which would probably be constructed in the east half of the city.

That would probably mean that space for the present fire station will still be needed in the city hall.

Breedlove said he "wholeheartedly agrees" with Mayor Harms that a survey of the city hall is needed "either for us or for a future council's consideration."

INCREASED USE

He said he felt that any consideration of financing should wait until the survey is completed.

Springfield's library has had a steady increase in use over the past 7 years, reflected by figures which show that circulation of books has increased an average of 4,915 volumes each year since 1947.

Circulation for the fiscal year 1947-48 was 10,833 volumes; for the past fiscal year it was 45,262 volumes.

Register-Guard, Eugene, Ore. Sun., Jan. 16, 1955

Forum on Labor Scheduled Monday

"The Role of Organized Labor in Our Economic System" will be discussed over the University of Oregon's radio forum program Monday at 8:50 p.m. on KOAC. Guest speaker on the program will be Everett Kassalow, associate director of research, CIO, Washington, D.C. Appearing with him will be Wesley C. Ballaine, professor of business administration, as moderator, and W. J. Bobert, associate professor of business administration.

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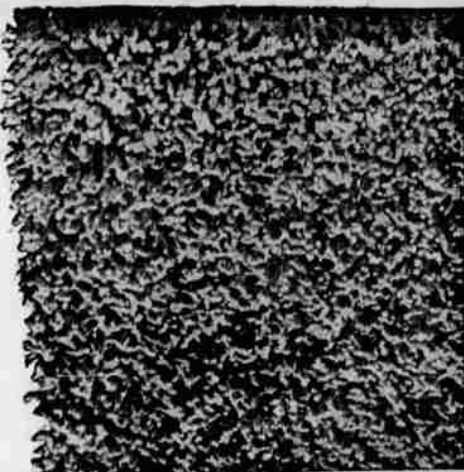
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