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Public Health
Managing Long Beach Public Health in the 1930s

**HSLB Research Paper (Final Draft)**

Health concerns conducted by the Health Department in July 1930 involved various individuals and groups than any other month in the 1930’s. The robustness of the entire population on average was more evident. In addition, population growth was a decisive factor. Significant advancements in nearly all aspects in the health field were also pivotal in advancements. Long Beach became known as a seaside resort of sorts, as “The Pike” was one of the most famous beachside amusement parks on the West coast from 1902 until the 1960’s. Currently, the Santa Monica Pier is the widely recognized iconic location. The oil industry was booming, followed by stations with the Navy, and eventually the port was developed. The city was once called “Iowa by the sea” since a large amount of people emigrated from there, along with other Midwestern states. Furthermore, huge picnics for every state were a popular annual event lasting until the 1960’s.

Other major events involved the Long Beach earthquake of 1933 where a magnitude 6.3 earthquake caused massive damage to both the city and the metropolitan area. The majority of said damage involved faulty masonry buildings needing reinforcement, especially the schools. A total of 120 people died in this earthquake. In addition, a massive spike in population size ensued, growing from an estimated 55,593 in
the 1920’s to 142,032 in the 1930’s (by about 156%). The appropriate document section in the archives can be located in the 1998.1930 section.

The following contains only the top three aspects of a small proportion of the population: the report of the meat and food inspector S. D. McDannold provided 182 grocery stores inspected, 180 fruit and vegetable stands, and 144 meat markets. Another correspondent, L. D. Mendonsa, provided 228 eating places, 114 grocery stores inspected, and ninety-nine soda fountains. A final worker, L. A. Barnes, provided 125 fruit and vegetable stands, 121 grocery stores inspected, and 110 meat markets. The report of sanitary inspector F. W. Barker provided 528 general inspections, 442 notices issued, and 333 nuisances abated. The report of health officer Dr. G. E. McDonald provided 105 contagious diseases investigated, ninety-seven indigent office calls, and seventy-nine indigent resident calls. The report of quarantine officer F. M. Parker provided 332 miscellaneous visits, 118 rooms fumigated, and thirty quarantines released. The report of housing inspector F. T. Hallmann provided fifty-three hotels and apartment houses inspected, forty-six notices for improvement and alterations, and forty-three complaints investigated. The report of public health nurse C. V. Critchett provided 217 survey calls, as well as eighty-one residence calls, new cases and miscellaneous calls apiece. The report of rat exterminator G. R. Hampton provided 360 traps reset and baited, 197 rats caught, and 174 traps set. The report of milk inspector Dr. P. Herriges provided, 137 milk and cereal samples collected, fifty-three water samples, and sixteen complaints investigated. Lastly, the report of Dr. J. A. Bergan provided eighty-two dairy inspections, eighteen milk plants inspected, and six ice cream plant inspections.
Mortality statistics in the same time period provided a wide range of occurrences, including diseases of nervous system of ten cerebral hemorrhages. The disease of the circulatory system involved thirty-two other diseases of the heart. Vital statistics addressed birth as well as death rates. The monthly birth rate per 1K was seventy-seven (per 141K). The monthly death rate per 1K (residents, non-residents) was ninety (per 141K)

The Annual Report Fiscal Year of July 1, 1929 to June 30, 1930 was significant to this report, as it was the only document to encompass an entire year of data. Dr. G. E. McDonald provided 2,987 contagious diseases investigated, and 1,391 permits to attend school, and 1,313 offices calls and school children. The report of housing inspector F.T. Hallmann provided 650 hotels and apartment houses inspected, 567 complaints investigated, and 514 notices for improvement and alterations. The report of meat and food inspectors C. Kirshner and L. Barnes provided 953 grocery stores inspected, 894 fruit and vegetable stands, and 824 meat markets. L. D. Mendonsa provided 2,490 eating places, 1,645 grocery stores inspected, and 1,031 soda fountains. S. D. McDannold provided 1,382 grocery, 1,165 meat markets, as well as 1260 fruit and vegetable stands. The report of milk inspector Dr. P. Herriges provided 1,734 milk and cream samples collected, 735 water samples, and 206 complaints investigated. The report of veterinarian Dr. J. A. Bergan provided 924 dairy, 829 tuberculin tests (skin test performed on animals to check for tuberculosis), and 200 milk plant inspections. The report of sanitary inspector F. W. Barker provided 4,624 notices issued, 5,946 general, and 3,661 nuisances abated. The report of rat exterminator G. Hampton provided 5,775 traps reset, baited, 2678 traps set, and 1660 rats caught. The report of quarantine officer F. M. Parker
provided 1,356 miscellaneous visits, 928 rooms fumigated and 303 visits to take cultures.

The report of mosquito exterminator L. Gillenwater and J. Brown provided 197
miscellaneous cases, sixty-nine ponds, and sixty-one ditches. Lastly, the report of public
health nurse C. V. Critchett provided 1,148 residence calls and new cases, 226 contact
cases, as well as 169 miscellaneous calls.

Mortality statistics provided reports on complications of twenty-six tuberculosis
respiratory systems, forty-three cancer and other malignant tumors of the stomach and
liver, 148 cerebral hemorrhage, 362 diseases of heart, forty-one bronchopneumonia cases,
twenty-five intestinal obstructions, fifty-five chronic nephritis cases (inflammation of the
kidney), thirty-two premature births, and forty-seven automobile accidents. Vital
statistics addressed birth as well as death rates. The monthly birth rate per 1K was 105.
Stillbirths, not counted in birth, death rates included sixty-three. Also, the monthly death
rate per 1K (residents and non-residents) was seventy-three (per 165K).