



Upcoming Events

March 20: The Suffrage Movement — Sonoma County Library event

Spring 2019: Panel Discussion: The Building of Highway 101 through Santa Rosa; 1940/50 Housing Survey

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Santa Rosa's Fearful Summer of '43

by Kelly Carrillo Fernández

Like most years, the summer of 1943 began with gleeful children free of school, riding their bikes to swim in Santa Rosa Creek or play at popular Doyle Park. It would become one of Santa Rosa's longest, hot summers. It would be one marked for quarantines, public spaces devoid of children, and burdened with frightened parents. In all, 101 children in the county would be diagnosed with Polio that summer. Sick children and teenagers would fill the County Hospital such that even the morgue beds were used for the ill.

Illness set in rapidly and transmission was not fully understood. The virus, poliomyelitis, was highly-contagious and caused inflammation of the gray matter of the spinal cord. In the nervous system the inflammation could result in rapid onset of paralysis. Many experienced flu-like symptoms, including headache, sore throat and fever only and recovered within a week. Those were the non-paralytic cases.

Alternatively, paralytic polio was far more serious. Symptoms were much like the non-paralytic cases in the first week of illness. These were less than 1% of all polio cases, but they are the cases most remembered. They were categorized as affecting the spinal cord, the brain stem (bulbar), or both (bulbospinal). If the virus reached the brain the patient would likely lose the ability to breathe and swallow — the most feared of all symptoms. If this degree of paralysis occurred, patients often perished.

Polio outbreaks of decades before brought about the Kenny Method, named for Australian Sister Elizabeth Kenny who developed the Method. It involved use of hot compresses on the affected limbs, followed by passive movement of the limbs to reduce the spasms. Kenny arrived in the US in 1940 to train American doctors. President Franklin Roosevelt, crippled from polio, met with Kenny to discuss the Method and his own warm springs treatments. Her method is said to be the foundation of

modern physical therapy. Just prior to the outbreak of the summer of '43 concerned citizens sought to bring the method to Sonoma County. Ernest L. Finley, Press Democrat publisher, campaigned and sent two County nurses to New York for training.

Then there was the negative pressure ventilator, or iron lung. When the patient lost the ability to breathe, the cumbersome, coffin-like, metal tank provided the respiration.

Philip Drinker invented the modern device in 1929, although evidence of similar devices dates back to 1670. While many patients were confined to the contraption for life, some were able to survive for periods outside the tank by employing "frog breathing." This essentially involved swallowing enough air and re-oxygenating their bodies while in the tank.

Some survivors of bulbospinal polio lived in an iron lung from early childhood for as many as six decades. In one case a paralyzed victim gave birth while in an iron lung. The child, unaffected by the virus his mother contracted during pregnancy, was premature, but healthy. Santa Rosa was fortunate when the Santa Rosa Elks Club orchestrated fundraising to purchase an iron lung for the County Hospital. The contraptions were large and expensive — \$1,500 in 1930, roughly the cost of an average home.

The disease hit epidemic proportions early for our county. The outbreak of '43 was not the first, but it was the worst. The virus's peak in the US occurred in the late 1940s and early 1950s. In 1952 58,000 cases were reported. Of those, 3,200 were fatal and 21,000 resulted in lifelong paralysis of mild to disabling degrees. Many polio cases came and went without the patient knowing they had contracted the virus, and a great many recovered without lasting effect or disability. Comparatively, tuberculosis posed a much greater public ...*Continued page 10*



Above: National billboard campaign, 1942

Below: A young polio patient is treated in an iron lung, circa 1950



HSSR President's Message



For some time now, I have been fascinated with the study of pandemics and epidemics. I'm particularly interested in how devastating their toll has been on our civilization: how one virus can kill millions of people; how one pandemic can bring about the transition from middle ages to modernity; how one pandemic may have helped bring about the end of WWI. I believe you will share my

interest through this edition's coverage on diseases and their impactful stories woven into our history.

The HSSR has great plans for 2019. Soon you will be receiving an invitation to our next panel discussion taking place this spring. The Society is teaming with the Sonoma State University Library staff and an esteemed group of contributors to discuss the building of Highway 101 through Santa Rosa and the 1940/1950 Housing Survey. Stories and findings from their in depth review of the Survey will be fascinating. We are also

preparing for another walking tour of a Santa Rosa Historic Preservation District. Our past walking tours have been well attended, often selling out. I hope you attend an HSSR event in 2019.

The Board and I are excited to welcome two new members to the team. Karen Stone and Robin Hoffman have a great deal to contribute to the organization's success. I invite you to introduce yourself to any of our board members at one of our upcoming events. We are curious to hear from our membership and the particular historical events or periods that interest you.

Finally, I would like to thank our members and community sponsors for their continued support. Without it, we could not hold events or publish our quarterly newsletter. And speaking of newsletter... We invite every member to share their copy with a friend — and invite them to become a contributing member. Memberships can be initiated or renewed on our website, or by mail. Our membership form is included on the back of every edition.

Bill Turner, HSSR President

Newsletter Contributors

Kelly Carrillo Fernández
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Want to Contribute Content for the HSSR Newsletter?

The HSSR seeks Santa Rosa centric memoirs and research based pieces for our newsletter. Contact us at Newsletter@HistoricalSocietySantaRosa.org for more information.

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Pandemics and Epidemics: Our Community's Place in their History

by Bill Turner

Scientists and medical researchers have for years differed over the exact definition of a pandemic or an epidemic. An epidemic refers to a sudden increase in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected whereas a pandemic refers to an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of people.

Medical historians agree there have been approximately ten pandemics. The most brutal killers are listed (see inset), yet two were significant to our local history: smallpox, a virus, and tuberculosis, a bacteria. Both were stopped by diligent scientific detective work; smallpox was conquered by a vaccination, and tuberculosis by the discovery of antibiotics.

Smallpox killed for centuries until 1980 when the world was finally certified as free of naturally occurring cases due to a vaccine. Vaccinations may have occurred as early as the mid 1700s in Great Britain via infecting the individual with a less deadly form of the disease. This practice was widespread throughout Europe and during our Revolutionary War. General George Washington was aware that 90% of the deaths among the Continental regulars was caused by disease. Smallpox was the most vicious. Most British troops, however, were immune to smallpox due to their vaccination giving them enormous advantage against the susceptible colonists. Recognizing the risks involved, in February 1777 Gen. Washington ordered a mass inoculation of his troops. It was a brilliant and risky move. History revealed the outcome of that risk.

By 1798, Edward Jenner had developed the first smallpox vaccine made from cowpox, a mild form of smallpox, and soon vaccinations were available to the masses.

Sonoma County didn't escape smallpox. According to *Santa Rosa, A 19th Century Town* by Gaye LeBaron, et al, epidemics were common and smallpox struck frequently. There was an epidemic in the northern part of Sonoma County in 1865, causing postponement of court sessions and any celebrations where crowds would gather. In 1837, a corporal from Fort Ross came to the town of Sonoma with a report of smallpox at the fort. He too became ill. History records that over the years the pestilence killed an estimated 70,000 native peoples in the greater North Bay area. Even though the vaccine was available, only white settlers, and a handful of natives received smallpox vaccines during the late 1830s epidemic.

The Vaccine Act of 1813 was passed in February of that year by the US Congress to encourage vaccination against smallpox. This was a great step toward eradication. Unfortunately, it was repealed in May 1822 as a result of an

1821 smallpox outbreak in North Carolina which was traced to an error of vaccinating with smallpox samples rather than the vaccine. As a result of the repeal, authority to regulate vaccines was given to the states. On August 8, 1928, The Press Democrat published an announcement by Dr. Jackson Temple, Health Officer, stating each child attending Santa Rosa schools would

be required to present a certificate of vaccination at registration. Every year thereafter Santa Rosa would host regularly scheduled vaccination clinics in the public schools.

There were, of course, detractors who believed smallpox could be treated and cured without a vaccination. The Sonoma Democrat printed an article claiming there was a "panacea" for the disease. The treatment was developed by the "most scientific school of medicine in the world – that of

Paris." The writer claimed a potion could cure smallpox and scarlet fever using the following ingredients: one grain sulphate of zinc, one grain fox glove (digitalis), half teaspoon of sugar well mixed with two tablespoons of water. Once thoroughly mixed, add four ounces of water. Take a spoonful every hour. Either disease will disappear in 12 hours. Of course such treatments were of no use. The World Health Organization eventually certified the world free of naturally occurring smallpox on May 8, 1980.

Tuberculosis (TB) was a bacteria, not a virus, like smallpox. Until the mid 1940s the treatment for bacterial diseases was the natural body defenses doing it's

job. With no treatment for TB, bleedings and purgings were often prescribed. Most often physicians simply advised patients to rest, exercise outdoors and eat well. Very few recovered and those who did often...

Continued page 10

Some Diseases, Dates, and Death Tolls:

- **HIV/AIDS** - 1981-present: 36 million
- **Influenza** - 1968: 1 million
- **Asian Flu** - 1956-1958: 2 million
- **Spanish Flu** - 1918-1919: 20-50 million
- **Smallpox** - 430 BC – 1979: more than 300 million during the 20th century alone, and nearly all of the native inhabitants of the Americas.
- **Black Death** - 1346-1353: Aka bubonic plague, 75 – 200 million.
- **Cholera** - Seven cholera pandemics beginning in 1816 with outbreaks every ten years continuing to this day. An 1886 American outbreak killed 50,000. Affects 3–5 million people worldwide and causes 28,800–130,000 deaths a year.
- **Typhus** - First impacted Europe in 1489: 16+ million with weakened immune systems.
- **Tuberculosis** - Traced to prehistoric times, highly contagious, and, left untreated can lead to death. Historically called "consumption" due to the victim's weight loss. During the 20th century: 100 million people, and remains one of the most important health problems in developing countries.

THIS TELLS HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN 'FLU' MASK

The Red Cross has issued directions for the home manufacture of influenza masks, which, it declares, are absolutely necessary to safeguard the citizens against the further spread of the epidemic. The directions for making the masks are as follows:

From gauze 36 inches wide, cut 36 inches on the selvage.

Divide into strips 3 inches wide.

Fold each strip into halves, then into thirds, making six thicknesses of the gauze.

Turn in raw edges and stitch all four sides to hold firm. (Selvage need not be turned in. Can be stitched on the sewing machine or by hand.) Mask now measures 7 inches by 6 inches.

Put three pleats on 7 inch ends, lower pleat deeper than the other two to allow room for chin.

Attach a tape 11 inches long to each of the two lower corners. Tape may be one quarter, one-half or five-eighths of an inch wide.

Place a black thread in center of mask to designate the outside.

The Press Democrat, October 23, 1918

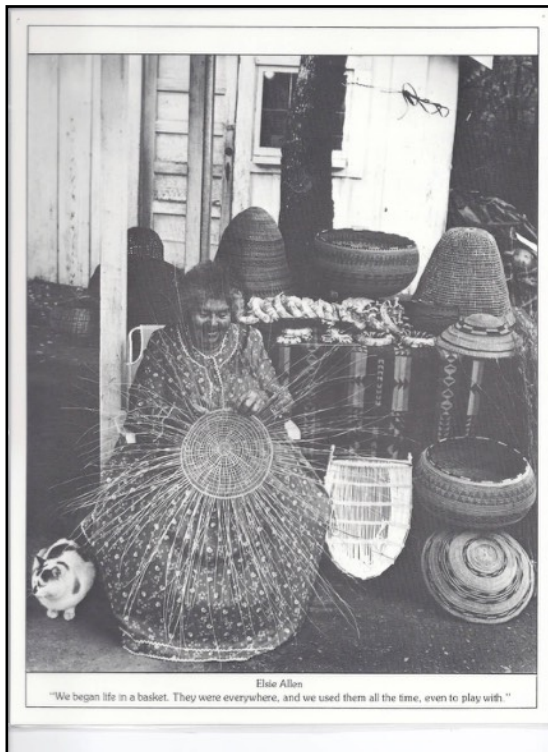
Santa Rosa in the 1990s

by Ann Galantine

- 1990 Pacific Coast Air Museum presents its first air show. *Diehard Two* is filmed at the Sonoma County airport using two hangars.



- 1991 Accordionist Jim Boggio and friends create the annual Accordion Festival in Cotati.
- 1992 Lynn Woolsey, the first former welfare mother, is elected to Congress. The Sonoma County airport is used for four weeks shooting the film, *Stop, or Mom Will Shoot* starring Sylvester Stallone and Estelle Getty.
- 1993 On October 1, Polly Klaas is kidnapped from her Petaluma home. December 4th Richard Allen Davis confesses to the murder and reveals the site of the slain teen's body.



Pomo basket maker Elsie Allen weaving a Pomo basket and surrounded by a variety of the hand-woven baskets, date unknown
Sonoma Heritage Collection

- 1994 Elsie Allen High School, named for famed local Pomo Indian basket weaver opens in Santa Rosa. San Francisco developer Tom Robertson restores the historic art deco/moderne building which was home to Rosenberg's Department Store and reopens, home to Barnes and Noble book store. Santa Rosa Fire Department boasts of its eight stations in Santa Rosa and employment of over 100 people.
- 1995 Sutter Hospital Corporation gets approval to buy Community Hospital on Chanate Road. Month long rains soak the region early and the County is declared a disaster — twice. Santa Rosa Catholic Diocese settles two civil claims of child molestation involving two priests by paying \$1.3 million.
- 1996 Maria Carrillo High School, named for Santa Rosa's founding matriarch, opens in Rincon Valley. Hollywood moves to Santa Rosa for two films: *Phenomenon* bar scene is shot in the Wagon Wheel bar at the corner of Mendocino Avenue and Fountaingrove Parkway, and *Scream* is shot in a Calistoga Road home, the Geary Home on McDonald Avenue, and Bradley Video store. Surprising many, the film does not use Santa Rosa High School in any scenes.
- 1997 The old Santa Rosa Train Depot in Railroad Square, constructed of stone quarried near Annadel State Park by Italian masons, reopens as a visitors' center. Major storms hit the area impacting the Russian River area, again causing evacuations.
- 1998 United Farm Workers sign the first pact in 26 years with Balletto Farms. Local boy Jeff Gordon wins his first NASCAR race at Infineon raceway before a crowd of 110,000.



Charles S. Schulz world famous Peanuts cartoonist and four of his five children play at the family home, circa 1960
Sonoma Heritage Collection

- 1999 Cartoonist Charles Schulz announces plans to retire his "Peanuts" comic strip. Agilent Technologies spins off from Hewlett-Packard and Optical Coating is sold to JDS Uniphase. Casting calls are made at Santa Rosa High School for extras in the movie *Mumford*. Filming takes place in the McDonald Avenue area and the nearby Presbyterian Church.

The World in the 1990s

by Ann Galantine

1990 The Hubble Telescope is placed into orbit by the US Space Shuttle Discovery and becomes operational. The Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party gives up its 45 year monopoly of power and Germany is reunited into one country. Tim Berners-Lee builds all the tools necessary for a working international computer network and the "World Wide Web" (aka www) is introduced.

1991 In January US Congress passes a resolution authorizing the use of force to liberate Kuwait, which begins the Desert Storm/Gulf War. February 27 1 Iraq withdraws its forces from Kuwait and accepts the condition of disarmament. The governor of Arkansas, William Jefferson Clinton, announces his intention to seek the 1992 Democratic nomination for the Presidency of the United States.

1992 Boris Yeltsin, the leader of the renewed nation of Russia announced that Russia will no longer target cities of the US with nuclear weapons. Los Angeles riots, spurred by the acquittal of four LA Police Officers accused of beating black motorist Rodney King results in 60 deaths and \$1 billion dollars in damages. Bill Clinton is elected president with Al Gore as vice president.

1993 A truck bomb explodes in the parking garage under the World Trade Center in New York City, killing 6 and injuring over 1,000. Massive flooding along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers kills 50 people and causes \$15-20 billion in damages. The "Storm of the Century" strikes the Eastern Seaboard with blizzard conditions and severe weather, killing 300 and causing \$6 billion in damage.

1994 Northridge Earthquake of Los Angeles kills 72, injures 9,000 and causes \$20 billion in damages. Former football player O.J. Simpson is arrested for the murder of his ex-wife Nicole Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. The slow-chase by LAPD of Simpson in his white Bronco on the

Los Angeles freeway at rush hour is aired live. The event sparks change to television news broadcasting style.

1995 The Federal Building in Oklahoma City is bombed killing 168 and wounding 800. It is the worst domestic terrorist incident in US history. O.J. Simpson is acquitted of murder charges after a nine month trial. Attorney Johnnie Cochran's states of the evidence glove, "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit." Space shuttle Atlantis docks with the Russian space station Mir.



The Simpsons
Time.com

1996 Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia kills 19 US Servicemen. President Bill Clinton beats Republican candidate Bob Dole. Summer Olympic Games open in Atlanta, Georgia and are marred by the Centennial Park bombing of Olympic tourists killing one and injuring 111.



Vanity Fair Magazine reprinted the cover photo of John Glenn from Time Magazine's coverage 36 years prior alongside his 1998 return to space travel.
VanityFair.com

1997 The *Simpsons*, a cartoon boasting coarse, lewd and humorous content premieres. It becomes the longest running prime-time cartoon television series in history. The NATO alliance expands into eastern Europe when it extends an invitation to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to join the alliance.

1998 US Department of Justice and twenty states file the anti-trust case, *US v. Microsoft*. On November 5, 1999, a preliminary ruling states that Microsoft had monopoly power. At age 77, John Glenn becomes the oldest astronaut in space, a mission to test the effect of space travel on the aging. Glenn's flight in the Space Shuttle Discovery is 36 years after he became to the first astronaut to orbit Earth. The Monica Lewinsky scandal begins when President Bill Clinton denies his relationship with the 22 year old White House intern in a televised interview. This leads to the impeachment of Clinton later in the year by the US House of Representatives and a new meaning for stained blue dresses.



Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky at the White House, circa 1997
History.com

1999 A violent tornado kills 50 and causes \$1 billion in damage in Oklahoma. Movies released include *The Matrix*, *The Green Mile*, and *American Pie*. Thirteen students and teachers are savagely murdered at Columbine High School in Colorado by fellow teenage students who end the incident with suicide. President Bill Clinton is acquitted by the US Senate.

I Survived Lockjaw

A Memoir about Tetanus in Santa Rosa
by Alma McDaniel Carrillo (1894-1977)

I love to work in the garden. One day in 1952 I drove a metal stake in the ground to hold up a Gladiolus. I walked around this every summer but one day in October of 1952 I fell over it. I fell on my face with a metal stake through my leg about halfway between the ankle and knee. There I lay with the stake in my leg. I managed to turn around far enough to reach the leg, trying all the time to free it. The stake would not come up from the ground so I pulled the leg free, pulling flesh with it. The blood came to spurt and I threw myself about 6 feet where my husband could see me. He made a tourniquet with his handkerchief and then ran to get the old REO truck which was about a quarter of a mile away. When he returned he was out of breath and his heart was pounding so hard he couldn't lift me. I told him to get hold under my arms and I would push with the good leg. That way I was pulled across the orchard to where the truck was parked. My husband pushed and I helped to get up into the truck. Blood had filled my shoes and I was conscious part of the time.

We drove four miles to the nearest hospital. They saw us coming and they pulled me out of the truck and into the operating room. I was in severe shock. A quick operation was performed to close the wound. I stayed in the hospital for two days and was allowed to come home but to stay in bed with the leg elevated. My daughter-in-law dressed alike every day and the doctor dressed it every Sunday.

Finally one day I had a severe pain in my jaw. I thought I would get up to clean my house and forget the pain but it didn't help. Then I told Dr. #1 I thought I had "lockjaw" or Tetanus. He asked me how far I could open my mouth. After showing him he didn't say anything but sent me home again. Phenobarbital was given to me in liquid form. My daughter-in-law said the odor was getting bad from the leg wound. Then a new pain struck me in the throat. It was like a cramp and I wanted to scream. Dr. #1 said to put hot packs on my throat and he saw me one day

when this spasm was attacking. I progressed into stiffness at the back muscles and I couldn't lie down because I would have the choking and spasms.

January 11 the the family called in Dr. #2. He told my husband that I had only two hours to live and they couldn't let me die like that. He took my husband and myself in his little one seater car to the hospital. Right away he called Dr. #3 to the hospital who only asked one question: "What

happens when you take a drink of water?" I put my finger to my nose. That was all he needed to know.

The three doctors, #1, #2 and #3, worked on me most of the night. One the anesthesia, one on the throat and the third on the leg. I had an idea how they must've worked that night to keep me alive — now I don't know. Dr. #2 sat beside me until morning - I was allergic to the snake poison and he gave me a drop at a time — so I was told.

January 12 just as soon as it was daylight my husband came to the hospital. The manager met him with the news that I would have to be moved to the County Hospital because I was going to die and they didn't want me there. I know now they were afraid of a lawsuit. Well I was put in an ambulance along with the trained nurse and the suction pump and taken nine miles to the County Hospital.

There I received wonderful help. I was told by one of the nurses that the Intern had saved my life one night. Of course I was too sick to know what was going on. On January 17 they removed the tube from my throat.

February 9 I was moved to Auntie Hazel and Uncle Gene's. It was really too soon because I began having spasms in the muscles in my back. Dr. #2 was called and some medicine prescribed. The next morning my daughter-in-law came in to get me and have me to my sons and daughter-in-law's place in the country. Dr. #2 stopped by every morning after his trip to the hospital.

On February 24 I came home.



Tetanus is a disease of the nervous system. It is not passed or transmitted, but is a bacterial infection typically originating in a wound. It is more common in minor wounds as more severe wounds are likely to receive proper medical care.

Early symptoms are lockjaw, stiffness, and difficulty swallowing. Progressed symptoms include severe muscle spasms, seizures, and severe nervous system disorders. Spasms can continue for 3-4 weeks and recovery can last months. Between 10-20% of cases result in death. Deaths are more common among the elderly and non-immunized victims. Surviving a tetanus infection does not provide immunity to the bacterial infection.

The first inactive tetanus toxoid was discovered and produced in 1924.

Sonoma County Dances with the Spanish Lady

by Mace Gjerman, Mike Hearty and Ann Hearty

On October 27, 1918, Waldron H. and Alice Gardiner wed in Santa Rosa. Less than a month later, their hopes of a happily married life came to an end when the groom returned to court and requested an annulment. Saying he was, "...out of his head and didn't know what he was doing." He claimed he was temporarily insane due to a severe fever. One headline read, "Married in Haste and Now Repents." The cause of this fever and insanity? At the time it, was often referred to as "Dancing with the Spanish Lady" or, as is said today, he suffered from the Spanish Influenza. From October, 1918 until April, 1919, Sonoma County suffered through an outbreak of worst pandemic in the it's history. Never before, or since, did residents live with the level of fear, loss of life, or extreme measures imposed by officials as the Winter of the Spanish Influenza.



Above: McNear office staff, Petaluma, November 18, 1918
Below: Vernon Silvershield wearing mask, Santa Rosa, 1918
Sonoma Heritage Collection

In January, 1918 Dr. Loring Minor of Haskell County, Kansas began witnessing an influenza outbreak so severe that he took it upon himself to produce a report for the US Public Health Service. Influenza was not yet a reportable disease. His report was the world's first known notice of what would become the deadliest pandemic in history. Within weeks, several men, who were assuredly exposed to the influenza in Haskell County, reported to Camp Funston, joining thousands of soldiers training for combat in World War I.

Within days of their arrival in March 1918, the first known soldier was reported to be suffering from influenza. In just two weeks, sickened soldiers filled all 1,100 beds in the Camp hospital and thousands more are left sick in their barracks. Soon, 24 of 36 large training camps in the US reported tens of thousands of men stricken by influenza, likely brought by men transferred from Camp Funston after their recovery. Notably, only 38 of the stricken solders die, similar to the few reported deaths in Haskell County. Soon, the sickness was reported in the civilian population and moved steadily east in conjunction with the movements of the troops preparing to depart for the battlefields of Europe.

Fortunately, the West Coast and Sonoma County are "spared" this highly-contagious, but mostly non-lethal epidemic. The influenza virus mutated rapidly, driven by the fact that chickens, swine, and humans can all share variants of the same strain as it moved between the species. The virus that American soldiers brought to Europe is not the virus that would return. Between 1918 and 1920, 20 to 40 million people from every continent (excluding Antarctica) died. At 5% of the world's population, the number is probably under representative — the virus left many victims with severe lung damage that would ultimately kill them months or years later. For over a year, obituaries worldwide shared the observation that the deceased had never fully recovered from the illness.

The Spanish Influenza is now widely believed to have been Type A H1N1 or Swine Flu. It was first reported near Sonoma County on October 9, 1918, with Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo issuing its first official warning advising precautions against the contagion. Within days, a dozen or more men working on Highway 101 and living in a construction camp on Cotati Boulevard near Wilfred Station, are reported "down." Soon children at the Salvation Army's Golden Gate Industrial

Farm and Orphanage at Lytton fall sick at a rate of 75 per day until 175 of the 250 were ill. One of the children, ten year old Helen Groul, became the first death in the County attributed to the influenza on October 16. It followed a soon-to-emerge pattern of sparing the young and weak, while cutting down strong, young adults; almost all of the orphans recover and survive.

Within a week, 150 are reported ill in Santa Rosa and obituaries cite sudden illness and pneumonia. Burgess Titus in his Santa Rosa memoir, "I Remember When," wrote "We would watch a wagon or a truck go slowly down Fourth Street and, although we could not see the bodies under the black cloth cover, we knew there were seven or eight people under it we had known or known something about. It was said they were being taken to the brewery ice house to be put in cold

storage...It would always seem like the big, strong people would be the first to fall to the scourge and many of them had come home from the war in Europe, only to be cut down by the flu bug."

Frances Grimm remembered her mother's experience. "When she went up on the porch, there were three bodies waiting to be picked up."

Officials and citizens reacted to the emergency, ordering schools and the Cline and Rose theaters closed. Virtually all public interactions were officially banned including club and lodge meetings, dances, and even church services. To the frustration (or delight) of many, taverns were spared from the mandatory shuttering. By November, masks were compulsory in virtually all public places by a Department of Health ordinance. The first infraction carried a five dollar fine (over 80

dollars today). Police were soon ordered to arrest those without masks when fines were not effective.

Sonoma County residents responded to the many in need of help. Hotels and restaurants provided hot food; farmers and dairies delivered chickens, milk, potatoes, and soup meat to the Red Cross for emergency meals. The Red Cross reached out in the newspapers to healthy housewives, asking "Can you cook a custard or make a glass of egg nog?" The papers also reported that many citizens responded to assist neighbors and strangers. The elite Saturday Afternoon Club, still located on Tenth Street today, became a critical care hospital, tending 53 patients, "some of them the worst cases near Santa Rosa," according to the Press Democrat.

... Continued page 10



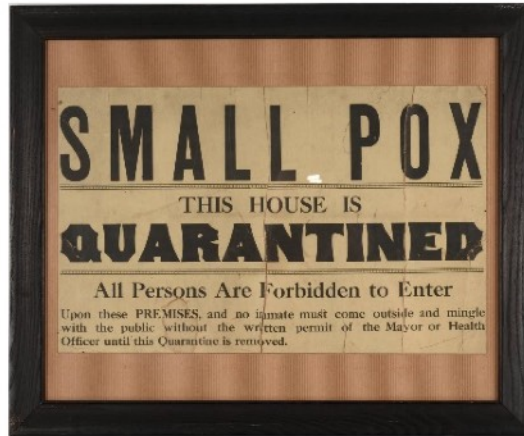
The Tupper Family is Afflicted by Small Pox

by Denise Hill

It was February 1877 and George Tupper had just opened the city's newest hostelry, the Occidental Hotel, at B and Fourth Streets in downtown Santa Rosa. As the proprietor of this impressive establishment, it should have been a time of celebration, but instead the family was mourning the death of their two children who had been afflicted with smallpox. So instead of celebrating, the family was quarantined at home. Likely a small flag hung outside – the typical alert that the occupants may be contagious.

Prior to the development of a vaccine, smallpox was one of the most feared diseases on the planet – it was extremely contagious, and had killed and disfigured millions since ancient times. During the 1770s, smallpox killed at least 30% of the West Coast Native Americans. Symptoms included high fever, body aches and a distinctive progressive skin rash turned into painful blisters. Now you're probably thinking, how tragic. If there had only been a vaccine available, Mr. Tupper's children may have survived. Surely there wasn't a vaccine in the 1870s. Surprisingly though, there was.

The first smallpox vaccine was developed (from cow pox lesions)



Above: Small Pox quarantine notice, circa 1870s
Below: Left: George Tupper, *Hill Family Collection*.
Right: The Tupper family plot at the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery today.



in England in the late 18th century, and by 1800 it was introduced to the United States. However, at the time it wasn't mandatory; the government was not comfortable requiring citizens to be vaccinated for diseases. Yet, it remains unclear why the Tupper family had not been vaccinated. Mr. Tupper was a prominent citizen who eventually became a city council member, so lack of access or cost were unlikely. Luckily, their third child afflicted with the disease survived and after a five-week

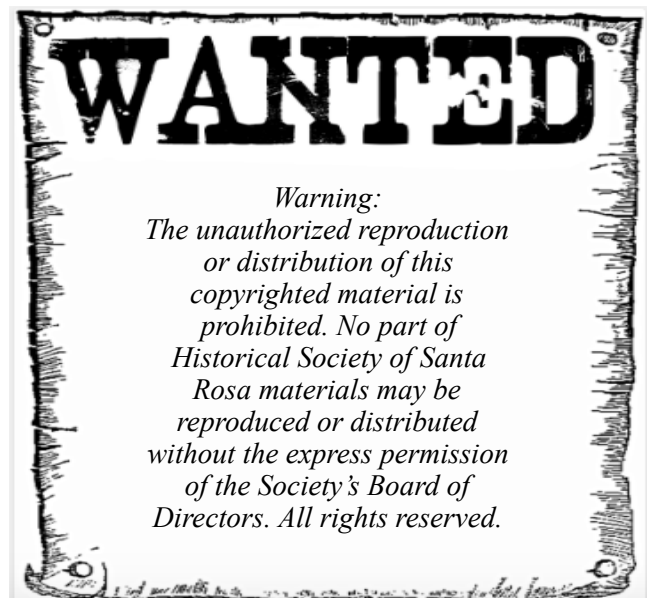
quarantine, Mr. Tupper returned to running his new hotel.

The last major smallpox epidemic in the United States occurred in Boston Massachusetts between 1901-1903. During this three-year period, 1596 cases of the disease occurred throughout the city. Of those cases, nearly 300 people died. Routine vaccination of the American public against smallpox stopped in 1972 after the disease was deemed eradicated in the United States. Bertie Tupper (age 4) and Henry Tupper (age 1) are buried in the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery.



The Occidental Hotel in downtown Santa Rosa, operated by George Tupper, was on B and Fourth Streets.

Source: Thompson Atlas, 1877



Santa Rosa's General Hospital

by Denise Hill

The General Hospital on Santa Rosa's A Street opened in 1922 in response to a growing population and the recent Spanish Influenza outbreak. Described as a bungalow-type hospital it had 75 rooms, 50 beds for patients, four surgical, three X-ray, and two delivery rooms. It was thoroughly equipped with all the modern conveniences for the time including adjustable beds of the "type used in some of the largest and most important eastern hospitals".

Many of the nursing staff had graduated from Lane Hospital and Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco. The institution was open to all physicians in the county. It was quickly used by more than a dozen in Santa Rosa and as far away as Sebastopol for serious cases. The maternity wing was added at the special request of local physicians who previously delivered babies at the mother's home.

General Hospital was owned and operated by Henry Shanor

Santa Rosa residents William Herbert and W.L. Proctor were the architect and construction contractor for the new facility. During its first decade of operation, it was the largest general medical facility in Sonoma County. It was hailed as the first "modern" facility for paying patients (the County Hospital had been in existence since the mid-1800s but was for indigents only). Paying patients no longer had to make do with doctor's office surgeries and babies born at home.

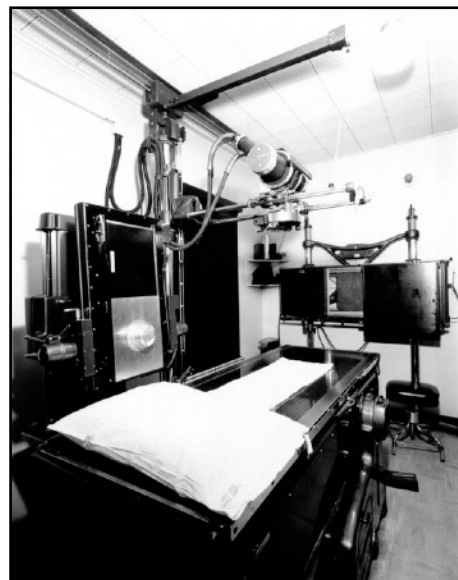
In 1950, the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital was completed. Although Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital had been



intended as a replacement for the General Hospital, the older hospital remained in use for another 34 years as an alternative hospital. It closed as a hospital in 1984. The building is currently under consideration for demolition as part of the Caritas Homes Project.

Images of Santa Rosa's General Hospital:

Gutermute, who had built the nearby Burke Sanitarium. In 1916, Mr. Gutermute had formed the General Hospital Association of Santa Rosa to raise money to open a hospital. The hospital was first established at a home on Fourth Street in 1917. When the owner of the house returned and needed to reside in it again, the first bungalow-style unit of the current hospital was built at its present location on A Street.



Top left: General Hospital entrance, 1941
 Top right: General Hospital entrance, 1952
 Middle left: Patient rooms, 1962
 Middle right: Emergency room, 1962
 Bottom left: Telephone operators, 1962
 Bottom right: X-ray room, 1962
All images sourced from Sonoma Heritage Collection

Summer of '43... continued from page 1

health threat. In 1950, tuberculosis claimed 34,000 American lives. The flu epidemic of 1957 had taken 62,000. The 3,200 American polio deaths in '52 was comparatively unremarkable.

Regardless, Santa Rosa and Sonoma County residents lived in fear the summers of '43 and '44. It was called infantile paralysis early on and was "The Plague" of their generation. The onset occurred in June. The first victim, ten year old Lionel Bourdens, was hospitalized on June 22. The follow day seven children between the ages of two and seven were rushed to the hospital with paralytic symptoms. The first death was ten year old Verve Pyke. He succumbed after four long days of treatment at County. Quarantine was the community response. All the children on Verve's street were isolated until the exposure period passed.

Most victims were children and teenagers. The hospital's beds were filled and the halls cluttered with concerned friends on their summer break. The spread of the disease was not yet well understood, but the halls of the hospital with an infectious disease break-out was surely not the best choice location. Nurses had to send the well home, and care for ill.

New cases surfaced faster than one could imagine. Within 10 days of the first hospitalization three to five new victims were admitted each day. Fear bred panic. Flu-like symptoms were abound. Some were released quickly with a negative test results, others experienced respiratory problems, suffered life-long crippling and disfigurement. Many received treatment via the Kenny Method. Others were rotated through the iron lung.

Outside the hospital it was quiet. Children were kept in, at home. Expecting mothers feared for their unborn children. The County health officer urged extra sanitation precautions. The slow moving or stagnant creeks and streams in the heat of the summer were blamed for harboring the virus. Santa Rosa Creek

was closed to waders and swimmers, Matanzas creek closing followed. Doyle Park closed to the public as a precaution to reduce contagion. The water supply held in Lake Ralphine was released to "flush out" Santa Rosa Creek. The usual summer public gatherings were canceled, as were children's' movies. The Santa Rosa public library did not allow children to stay and read — they scurried home with their books. They were discouraged, if not banned from going to church. A long hot summer literally paralyzed with fear.

The country was in the middle of World War II. Public health sanitation precautions seemed to make little difference. It didn't seem to affect the onset of new cases. Later, research would reveal that in living poor sanitation standards aided habitants due to extended exposure to small amounts of the virus. The low levels of exposure through unsanitary conditions like open sewers resulted in early immunity. For everyone else, summer had become "polio season."

A massive trial for polio vaccine in the US began in 1954 with Dr. Jonas Salk. In April 1954 a Vaccine Advisory Committee approved a field test of Salk's vaccine. The trial began the very next day with thousands of schoolchildren. Over 1.3 million children eventually participated. A year later the results indicated it was 80-90% effective against paralytic polio. The government licensed the vaccine the same day the trial results were released. Less than a month later the US Surgeon General suspended the polio vaccination program for a safety investigation. It concluded that 11 people died and hundreds were paralyzed from the vaccine. Though never proven, it is likely that production methods not following Salk's instructions failed to completely kill the polio virus in the vaccine. Polio has been eliminated from the US with no new cases originating in the US since 1979. Fewer than 10 cases a year are recorded each year since the 1970s.

Pandemics and Epidemics... continued from page 3

experienced severe recurrences that destroyed hope for a normal, active life. A six year period of Sonoma County Certificates of Death reveal over 300 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The Press Democrat reported in 1939 on the opening of a new tubercular hospital which was hailed as being "the most up to date sanitarium of its type in Northern California." Thirty-four women patients were moved from the old hospital into the newly completed wards. An additional 18 men and 23 children were moved in the following day. The new sanitarium was built through the efforts of the County Federation of Women's Clubs which had been advocating the building of the sanitarium for nearly 20 years. Their goal was to make sure the tubercular patients were adequately cared for under county supervision. The Federation was given the honor to name the new facility Oak Knoll Sanitarium. They specifically requested that there be no mention of the word "tuberculosis" in the name.

The discovery of antibiotics changed the treatment for patients with bacterial diseases. Alexander Fleming, a Scottish microbiologist, physician and pharmacologist, is credited with

discovering penicillin in 1928, although Ernest Duchesne, a French medical student, was the first to document the connection between penicillin molds and healing in 1897. In 1927, Albert Calmette and Camille Gueerin developed the vaccine which represented the only preventative care against tuberculosis. By the time Penicillin was being mass produced it provided a vital role in treating the infected wounds of men involved in the D-Day invasion and saving lives that earlier would have been lost. The tuberculosis bacteria, however, quickly developed a resistance to Penicillin. Fortunately, during this same time period another antibiotic, streptomycin, was developed. This antibiotic has proven to be an effective treatment for the tuberculosis bacteria when used in a combination with other drugs.

Sonoma County was not excluded from the epidemics and pandemics. The battle against bacteria and viruses continues to be fought by science and technology all over the world today due to the ever-changing molecular makeup of these microscopic organisms. One also wonders how our lives would be changed if antibiotics and preventative vaccinations could have been discovered a hundred years earlier – or more.

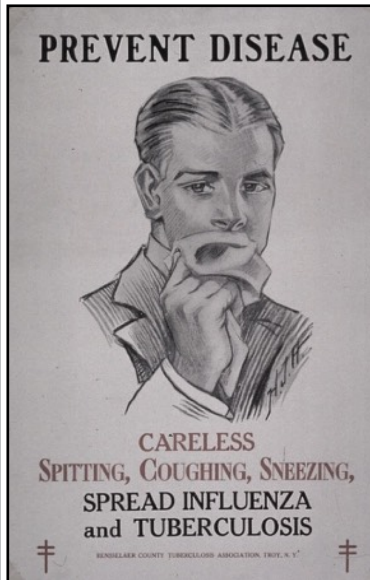
Spanish Lady... continued from page 7

The brand new Santa Rosa Junior College opened in the Fall of 1918. Within a month, it was forced to close for five weeks due to the influenza. By late November, health efforts seem to have been effective, as the number of new cases began drop. Mask ordinances and restrictions on public meetings were lifted; schools and theaters are reopened. By late December, flu cases are reported to be a "light form." But late December though mid-January, virtually all restrictions wind

up reinstated. Finally, in April, 1919, the epidemic seemed to be at an end when only three new cases were reported in three days.

The Spanish Influenza pandemic proved the deadliest event in County history, easily killing more than the 1906 Earthquake. We will never know how many Sonoma County residents died during the Winter of the Spanish Influenza, however estimates suggest as much as 4 percent of the County population perished.

Historical Disease Information



What's It Called?

Modern Disease and Medical Condition Names and the Old Disease names:

- Diphtheria – Croup, Putrid fever, Ship fever
- Flu - Grippe/grip, Influenza
- Heart Disease - Dropsy
- Scarlet Fever - Scarlatina
- Smallpox - Variola
- Tuberculosis - Consumption, King's evil, Lung sickness, Pott's disease, Scrofula, White swelling
- Typhoid - Bilious fever, Enteric fever, Swamp sickness
- Whooping cough - Chin cough, Tussis convulsiva



Shown this page:

- Top left: Disease prevention poster, 1918
- Top center: Modern disease names and medical conditions along with historical disease names, Source: <http://www.disease.pricklytree.co.uk/>
- Top right: Home remedies listed in the Sonoma Democrat, January 20, 1859
- Middle left: Disease prevention poster from the WPA art program, circa 1940s
- Center: Santa Rosans line up for polio vaccinations outside Summit Savings on Fourth and Hinton Streets, 1962
- Bottom left: title from a Press Democrat article, February 8, 1921 and advertisement, Press Democrat March 6, 1903
- Bottom right: Advertisement, Press Democrat, April 5, 1903

PUTRID SORE THROAT.—We frequently hear of cases of putrid sore throat in our valley, most of the sufferers being children. For the benefit of the community, therefore, we make known the following recipe furnished to the *Mountain Democrat* by H. A. Cagwin, of Placerville, who has cured several members of his own family by the use of this simple remedy:

One teacupful of honey, one tablespoonful of gunpowder, a piece of burnt alum as large as a hickory nut pulverized, and the whole mixed together. A teaspoonful taken occasionally, will most effectually cure the prevailing sore throat, canker rash, scarlet fever, or whatever the medical fraternity choose to call it. It is a simple and effectual remedy, and should be generally known; and although simple in the ingredients, is all powerful to check and cure this most dangerous disease, so fatal to many children in this neighborhood and throughout the State.

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