

THE GETTY CURSE



HIS billions couldn't buy happiness: John Paul Getty.

A twisted nightmare of drug abuse, mental illness, disease, alcoholism & suicide!

By R. NEALE LIND/Weekly World News

Anyone who believes money can buy happiness should read up on tragic multibillionaire Jean Paul Getty — whose family legacy is a twisted nightmare of drug abuse, mental illness, disease, alcoholism, suicide and a thousand other forms of pain and horror!

Biographer John Pearson, in his book *Painfully Rich*, relates the series of calamities visited on the family that has come to be called "The Getty Curse." And it would be hard to find a more apt word.

Consider this partial list of their troubles:

\$ GETTY HIMSELF became the richest man in America. But he was a miserable penny-pinching tyrant whose heart was pure ice.

Unable to form a true relationship with anyone, married five times, he died of cancer at 83, bitterly hated by all who knew him.

\$ SON GEORGE committed suicide with sleeping pills and booze.

\$ SON TIMMY contracted terminal cancer at the age of 12. Getty Sr. was divorced from the boy's mother at the time. Just before he died, little Timmy wrote his dad a heartrending letter

begging, "I want your love Daddy, and I want to see you." He also made countless phone calls — none were returned. Getty Sr. couldn't be bothered. Timmy died without ever seeing his father again.

\$ SON, J. PAUL JR. was a money-worshipping heroin addict. His first wife went insane, his second died of a drug overdose.

\$ GRANDDAUGHTER AILEEN lived in the fast lane — drugs, wild parties and men. She now has AIDS.

\$ GRANDSON J. PAUL III (J. Paul Jr.'s son) was kidnapped at 16. Incredibly, the Gettys — Sr. and Jr. — tried to haggle with the abductors, even after the boy's ear was cut off and mailed with their \$17 million demand.

That amount would have been nothing to men of the Gettys' wealth, but they still hedged and bargained. After his release, J. Paul III embarked on a life of booze and dope.

One night he went into a drug-induced coma. When he came out of it he was a

blind quadriplegic. He never recovered.

These sad stories are but the tip of the iceberg. For the detailed version, don't miss the book, published by St. Martins.