

# PERIL LURKS IN THE TRACKS OF HOUSE FLY

**DANGER OF DISEASE LURKS IN FLIES — ARTICLE PREPARED FOR THE TIMES BY THE MARSHFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH.**

One of the greatest achievements of modern sanitary measures is the practical eradication of yellow fever in Cuba and the southern states; this splendid work has been accomplished, not by attacking the disease, but by destroying the agency of distribution, viz., the mosquito. The fight against bubonic plague is not directed so much against the disease as it is against the principal distributor, the cunning rat.

The great principle involved in controlling the spread of any infectious or contagious disease is the destruction of the means of its transmission. The attention of health authorities at the present time is centered on the common house fly; and the circumstances and the evidence show that it is directly responsible for the transmission of many forms of infectious poisons which heretofore have remained more or less of a mystery. If one will take the trouble to accompany a house fly for a short time his doubt will be soon removed as to the fly's natural predilection in frequenting places of an unsavory nature. The house fly is born amidst filth and revels in it during his life time. When things begin to rot and evolve a strong odor, there you will find the fly in all his glory, loading his feet and bill with putrid and poisonous substances and depositing them upon other objects. Actual observations have proven that the feet of flies are covered with many kinds of poisonous germs which become attached to any object upon which they may light. Under favorable conditions these poisonous germs multiply rapidly and gain in virulence and become a source of danger and disease. Observe a host of flies hovering over decomposing vegetable or animal matter, sewage, excrement, sputum, foul wounds on animals, putrid material and other unwholesome substances and then follow them into a house wiping their feet on food stuffs and dishes and you will have the explanation for many intestinal inflammations that it is the misfortune of mankind to contract. Little children are more exposed to the danger of flies than older people because they are not so mindful of the flies presence; a child will permit flies to light on his hands and face and deposit any germs which may be upon their feet and from there gain access to his mouth. A case is on record in which a patient having pulmonary tuberculosis lived next door to a child; the patient was careless about the destruction of his spittle and permitted flies to gain access to it, whereupon their feet and bills became covered with the germs of the disease. One of the flies was observed to go directly from the spittle to the child and light on the corner of his mouth where it remained for a short time. A microscopic examination was made of the secretions of the corner of the child's mouth immediately thereafter and sixteen germs of tuberculosis were found which had been left there by the fly. The common house fly is constantly doing this kind of nefarious work and contributing to the spread and dissemination of dangerous germs.

The majority of cases of bowel trouble in young children is the result of house flies contaminating their food and bodies with disease producing bacteria brought probably from some remote place, or may be, a near by source filth. More soldiers in the army have been killed by flies than bullets. The unsanitary conditions that inevitably prevail in the camp quarters of an army afford abundant opportunities for flies to infect their food and personal articles and as a consequence dysentery and diarrhoeas are the greatest enemies of the brave soldier.

We cannot kill all the disease producing bacteria but we can to a great extent stop and control the operations of their traffic managers, the medium which carries them from one place and person to another, and thereby lessen the possibilities of disease.

In a cool climate like Coos Bay, flies breed very slowly and unless special conditions are afforded, their number never become very great as compared with warm places. The most important step in limiting the number of flies is attention to their breeding ground, viz., manure piles,

open privies, dead animal and vegetable matter, slop pails, refuse matter from the kitchen, chicken yards, cow barns, livery stables, swill barrels and similar sources of filth. All of the above list and many others afford a breeding ground for bacterial growth of a dangerous character and the proper disposal of them effect a double purpose. The careless habit that many people have of throwing scraps from the table and the kitchen into the back yard for the dog or chickens is a practice that is to be condemned. Domestic animals should be fed in clean receptacles and what they do not use should be put in the fire and not left lying around to afford a breeding place for flies and be left to putrify and furnish poisonous germs to be carried back in the house by the flies and thus infect members of the household. Little children and sometimes adults pay the penalty of such practice by sacrificing their life to infection contracted in this manner. Many persons will carefully scrutinize a piece of meat from the butcher shop to see if it is wholesome but are unmindful of about five hundred flies packing putrid material into the house all day long from an old bone that has been lying close to the kitchen door for several days.

The popular idea which is prevalent about the danger of eating green fruits and uncooked vegetables during the summer is due to the fact that frequently these articles of diet are contaminated by flies and other agencies. These eatables should invariably be peeled or washed in clean water before they are eaten. Keep the flies out of your house; allow them nothing to feed on; do not furnish them a breeding ground; keep your premises free from decomposing vegetable and animal matter and you will have less sickness and better health.

### OBITUARY.

(Mrs. W. F. Piper.)

All that was earthly of one of the world's true gentlewomen, was laid to rest in the cemetery at Marshfield Saturday, August 15, 1908, when the remains of Mrs. W. F. Piper of North Coos River were carried to their last resting place. One whom we can ill do without has been taken from us, one whose absence leaves a void which this world can not fill. It is hard to realize that the bright smile, the cheerful, encouraging words are for this world no longer that one so unselfish and so lovable has gone on before. Rarely, indeed, are the last honors paid to one whose death is so sincerely mourned, whose life has been so truly an uplifting influence on those with whom she came in contact. It may be truly said that to know her was to know and to love her.

Jessie Junetta McCollough was born June 19, 1874, in Benton county, Oregon. She died August 12, 1908, at North Bend, Ore. Her childhood and girlhood were passed at Yakima Bay and in the Willamette valley.

She was married May 1, 1901, to W. F. Piper, and since that time has resided in their beautiful home on Coos River, where she leaves many friends to mourn her death. She is survived by Mr. Piper, by her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. McCollough, and four sisters. CONTRIBUTED.

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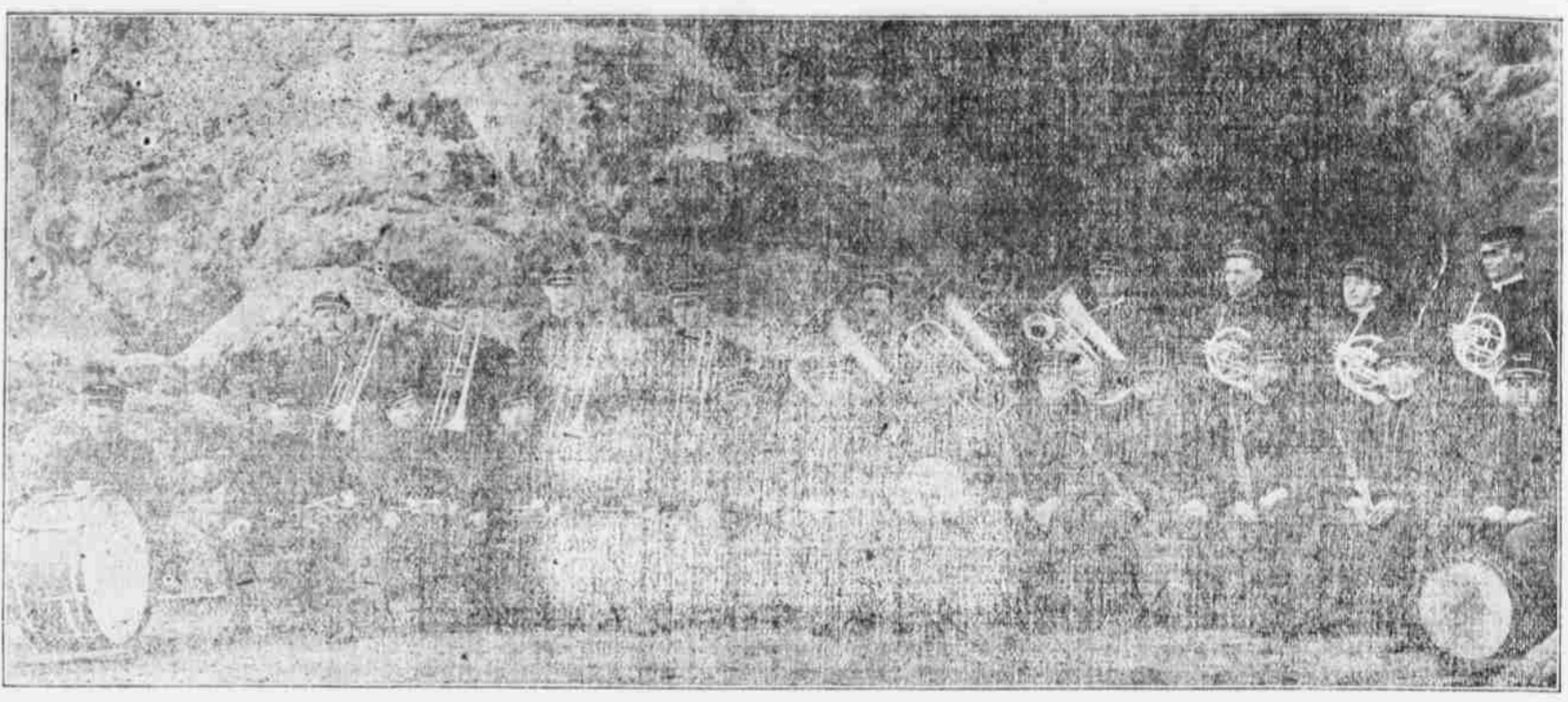
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