

Mosquitoes In Klamath Area Pesky But Not The Disease Carrying Types

By JOE RIGERT

Of all the millions of bugs and insects inhabiting the earth, the common, every-day mosquito is probably the most reviled, detested, hated, etc. . . .

Klamath Falls residents have been attesting to this fact all summer long.

Little opposition could be found to a statement by the Encyclopedia Americana. It says: " . . . they are intolerable pests." The encyclopedia also says that they are cosmopolitan.

Local citizens have other names for them.

No one has ever been able to determine how much blood is lost to the insects over a summer's period, but it probably would solve the problems of the Red Cross for many summers.

And yet the book of knowledge reveals that: " . . . the taste for blood is certainly an acquired one and a relatively unimportant factor in the lives of the majority of mosquitoes." In other words, they don't even need it.

The mosquito menace has not been ignored. The city council members were bitten like everyone else, so they decided a survey was in order.

This was accomplished last week by a man from the state board of health, with the assistance of two U.S. Public Health officials.

They gave a report on what they found to Bob Bonney, head of the city recreation department. He has been one of the more harried men in town. Trying to keep the bug population down around the city's recreation areas has not been a picnic.

Said Bonney of the report: "We knew we had mosquitoes. They told us where they were." The experts found also species in this area, but only two in abundance. These are the Aedes dorsalis and the Culex tarsalis.

Max Braden, county sanitarian who accompanied the health officials on their tour of the area, said these two species are the most troublesome.

"They are the kind that swarm up and try to eat you up, and then carry you off," he quipped.

The experts found five major breeding areas for these two types. They were the log ponds near Pelican City, irrigated pastures near Moore Park, marsh areas around Lake Ewauna, sluggish drainage ditches in the South Suburbs, and seepage along the main canal.

Braden pointed out that a control program would not necessarily have to be expensive, but would take a lot of time.

"It can't be haphazard. It has to be scientific, and you first must know what you have to fight," he said.

It was suggested that the most desirable method of solving the problem would be to get rid of the breeding areas by draining the water or by filling in the trouble spots. A less satisfactory way would be to clean out the vegetation.

Another method of control is to spray the breeding location with insecticide to kill the mosquitoes in the larva stage.

"Fighting the adult mosquito is only a stop-gap procedure," said Braden. "By that time they are widely scattered and hard to deal with."

Spraying for the baby bugs effectively would mean covering an area from three to five miles from the city. That is how far the mosquitoes travel under normal conditions.

The health officials did not find cause for concern over the disease-carrying potentialities of the local mosquitoes. The Culex-type insect carries encephalitis or sleeping sickness. This disease is carried from horses by the mosquito to humans.

However, only two cases were reported of horses in this area last year, and none so far this year. This is due in part to the fact that most local people vaccinate their animals to prevent it.

The Klamath Falls citizenry can be thankful for that, because the disease is almost incurable in humans.

Malaria is another of the diseases carried by mosquitoes. Here it must be transferred from one person to another, with the insect acting as the go between, carrying the live virus. There have been no known cases in this area, but some have been reported in Medford and Roseburg.

But even if danger of disease from the pests here is at a minimum, they still can be decidedly unpleasant.

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Staiger Named To City Post

CHILOQUIN — Guy Staiger has been appointed by the city council to replace James Huff as city recorder. Huff, who was elected to his post a year ago, is leaving this month for Guam, where he will teach in the high school.

Staiger has been a Chiloquin resident for over twenty-five years, and with his wife ran a drug store

until a fire in 1951 destroyed the building. At present, Staiger is also acting justice of the peace while Walter Zimmerman is on a three weeks' vacation in the Mississippi River states.

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United Fund Drive Set

LAKEVIEW — Dates for the 1955 United Fund drive for Lake County will be September 10 to 24, announces John E. McDonald, county chairman.

McDonald, who has volunteered to be drive chairman with the 15 members of the board of directors acting as supervisors of the campaign, has called budget meetings for Monday, August 15 and Wednesday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the circuit court library in the courthouse. At these two meetings agencies which will participate in the UP receipts will present their needs for next year. Agencies will be notified which night to attend.

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Chiloquin To Remodel Hall

CHILOQUIN — The city hall, which houses the police department, jail, fire station, library and city council quarters is being remodeled.

The major change is the enlarging of the jail facilities. The extra space is being made available by moving the fire fighting equipment and fire truck to the city warehouse, purchased last year from Copeland Yards and which adjoins the city hall.

A flag pole has been installed, new walks and steps being made, and the outside of the south end of the building covered with concrete. The windows on the north side are being redesigned for security purposes.

George Hobbs, manual arts instructor at the high school, is doing the jail remodeling, with the assistance of Police Lewis Jones. The Gun-Crete Cement Company of Salem and Portland has the contract for all cement work.

Reds Willing To Swap Atom Secrets

GENEVA (AP) — Russian and American atomic scientists say they have exchanged informal invitations to visit each other's countries.

They said Friday night the invitations were extended at social gatherings during the current Geneva conference on peaceful uses of the atom, but that no definite visits were set.

Prof. A. P. Vinogradov, a member of Soviet Russia's Academy of Sciences and a delegate to the conference here, told reporters: "I have personally received a number of invitations to visit other countries, including one from Dr. Lawrence of California and from a number of others. On our part we have made similar invitations."

STATE FARM INSURES Your Home

PORTLAND (AP) — Municipal and district judges here soon will be wearing formal black robes for their court appearances.

Municipal Judge J. J. Quillin said each jurist will buy his own, at a cost of about \$55 each. Multnomah County circuit judges started wearing robes earlier in the year.

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