

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER  
(Tick Fever or Black Fever)

As the spring season approaches, the number of inquiries concerning the problems and prevention of Rocky Mountain spotted fever are increasing from day to day, Dr. C. E. Irwin, principal medical officer, revealed.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is endemic in at least 39 of the 48 states of the United States. In the West most of the cases occur during the spring and early summer with the greatest number in April and May which is the season of prevalence for the Rocky Mountain wood tick, according to Dr. R. R. Parker, director of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, U. S. Public Health Service, Hamilton, Mont.

The Rocky Mountain wood tick (*dermacentor andersoni*) is generally considered to be the tick carrying the infection which it can transmit to man. Probably from one to five percent of the ticks may be infected, the percentage varying with different districts. The causative agent may either be transmitted from one generation of ticks to another or the tick may become infected through various wild rodents or smaller wild animals such as squirrels, rabbits, prairie dogs, woodchucks, badgers, etc.

The dog tick and possibly other related species may also infect man.

The tick which has become infected either from some animal carrying the disease or through transmission from the female parent may transfer the disease to man.

The greatest number of cases occurring in man will be found in those groups which are engaged in some outdoor occupation, principally agriculture. Persons in range country where sheep are handled are in the greatest danger of infection. Forest workers, picnickers and campers may also be exposed to the wood tick.

Controlling measures include first, avoid areas known to be infested with the wood tick; second, control and elimination of animal hosts upon which the ticks may feed.

Those individuals who must work in areas infested by ticks should provide themselves with clothing which will make it difficult for the ticks to gain access to the body. For example, high boots or leggings or puttees and socks that are worn over the trouser leg are all of real value.

The Journal of American Medical Association recently carried an article on ticks which read in part:

"The ticks, which usually transfer from vegetation to the clothing at a height of less than 18 inches from the ground, will then crawl up the outside surface of the clothing, and most of them can be seen and removed. Those that reach the back of the neck, as many do if not discovered, even if entrance through the clothing has been made at some lower point, will usually be felt when they touch the skin or hairs on the neck. It is good practice when in dangerous country to pass the hand over the back of the neck occasionally to feel the ticks.

"Ticks are far more likely to secure a hold on rough clothing than on clothing of smooth texture. On the other hand, the progress of the tick is impeded by the nap of rough cloth, but fewer ticks secure a hold if the cloth is smooth."

Women working or walking through infested areas should wear the clothes similar to the ones just described for men.

Men who have been working in fields should remove their clothing as soon as they get home from work and carefully examine the same using caution that no ticks may escape and attack themselves to other members of the household. All ticks which are discovered should, of course, be destroyed.

Those families possessing dogs should look these animals over carefully at every opportunity and particularly in the dogs' ears and if ticks are found, they should be removed by the aid of pliers and destroyed and the wound where the tick was attached should be touched by some antiseptic such as tincture of iodine, tincture of mercuric iodine, or similar preparation.

If a tick is found attached to the back of your neck, remove it immediately because danger of tick bite infection increases with the length of time the tick is attached to the body through its mouth parts. Usually removal of the ticks can be accomplished satisfactorily by gently pulling it off the skin with the fingers. Mouth parts are not usually left in the wound. Some ticks have a longer hypostome or mouth part than others; however, infection by leaving the mouth part in the tissues is not as serious as leaving the tick attached for a long period of time.

If instruments are available, the tick may be lifted off the skin and gently pulled up so that a tent is made of the skin surrounding the site of attachment and the instrument may be slipped under the mouth parts and raised up and removed by raising up the instrument. As soon as the tick has been removed, the wound may be painted by tincture of iodine or touched with silver nitrate pencil.

No substance has been recommended to use upon the clothing to prevent the attachment of the ticks to the same.

The corps area surgeon has recommended such a procedure for the prevention of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in preference to the use of vaccine for the Military Police of the 331st Attachment.

The health department wishes the cooperation of all the people of the center in this type of prevention in the procedure mentioned above because of the fact that only a limited quantity of vaccine can be obtained from the laboratory at Hamilton, Montana, possibly only enough for attempted immunization of a few hundred people. We should, of course, give preference for the use of this vaccine to those field workers who will be exposed the most to the infected ticks, Dr. Irwin said.

Transfer of Warehouse and Property Control Section Announced

To conform with instructions issued by the Washington WRA office, the warehouse and property control section was transferred from the transportation and supply division to the administrative services department, announced Guy Robertson, project director. The transfer became effective March 16.

Harvey P. Chandler, head of the warehouse and project control section, will assume all functions and responsibilities of the newly-transferred section with Howard E. Lewis in charge of project warehouses and Roland Washburn in charge of property control.

Two Residents Back From Farm Inspection Tour

A recent issue of The Sentinel Supplement carried an item on Yoshio Sasao and Ben Tsuchiya who returned to Heart Mountain from an inspection tour of the Hardin, Mont., farm area as representatives of the Holly Sugar Corporation. Sasao and Tsuchiya wish to make it clear that they were not representing the corporation but were investigating the prospects in an effort to report to residents their unbiased findings in that area.

Hospital Seeks Replacements for Nurses' Aides

With many nurses' aides leaving the hospital to get relocated, Chief Nurse Anna S. Van Kirk today issued another plea for replacements.

In asking for 12 women, Nurse Van Kirk declared that valuable training and experience can be gained as a nurses' aide while rendering humanitarian service to the community. Older women may also apply, she added.

Interested persons are urged to contact Nurse Van Kirk at the hospital before April 1 between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Plan Service Flag for Heart Mountain Boys in Army

Plans for a service flag bearing a star for each Heart Mountain boy in the armed forces including the recent volunteers and a roster bearing each name to be hung in the administration building were announced by Douglas M. Todd, assistant project director.

The cooperation of parents and relatives in securing names and addresses of these service men who are sons, brothers or husbands of Heart Mountain residents is asked. Residents are to fill out the blank below and send it to the USO headquarters, 23-25-N immediately:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of service man)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Heart Mountain address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Rank)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Where stationed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Branch of Service)