Memorandum for the Record

OCT 2 1958

Garland R. Farmer, DVM, Major, V.C., U.S.A.

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VISIT TO RANCH

On 22 September 1958, I received a radio message from the Public Health Off-Site Rad-Safe office. This message requested that I be available for travel to Tonopah, Nevada, on Wednesday, 24 September 1958. Mr. a rancher in that area, had contacted Mr. George Clark, the Monitor in that area, and stated that he should like to discuss the illness of two dogs, one of which was valued at $750.00, and the increased incidence of pink eye in his cattle herd. It was indicated that they felt radiation from the Nevada Test Site was responsible for these conditions.

I arrived in Tonopah at 1000 hours, 24 September 1958, and met with Mr. Rusche and Mr. Clark, who were the Off-Site Monitors for this area, and with Mr. Al Clebsch, from the USGS. We drove to the Ranch, arriving there at approximately 1300 hours. The had gone and had left a note that they would be back in the evening. There were approximately 12 to 15 dogs of various breeds in the ranchstead area. These dogs appeared to be in poor nutritional health, showing evidence of tape worm infection and some possible skin affliction. One aged, brown, hound dog type showed evidence of mammary tumor. I did not feel justified in doing a complete physical examination on all these dogs, since only two were involved and there was no way to establish which two were involved. However, before leaving, a fecal sample from a dog was taken to enable flotation tests to be accomplished for internal parasitic infestations.

We then drove to the Baxter Ranch where the were working, to visit with the We were met by and Mr. did most of the talking at first. He stated that, although he was not blaming the bomb tests, pink eye in their cattle had increased approximately

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twenty-five per cent this year. He stated that he had been giving evaporated milk injections to the animals, and this seemed to help them. It was explained to that this evaporated milk elicited a foreign protein reaction which might be of considerable value in certain bacterial infections; however, in virus infections such as pink eye, this treatment was of doubtful value.

then stated that two dogs on the ranch had developed cancer, and he felt perhaps this had been brought on by radiation. Effects of radiation on the biological system were discussed with and in terms which it was hoped they could appreciate. This included the effects of large doses of radiation to produce radiation sickness as well as damage from fallout commonly referred to as beta burns. They seemed satisfied with our discussion, were willing to accept information given and indicated that perhaps they had a horse suffering from beta burns.

It was explained to them that dogs develop cancer quite often, especially mammary tumors. Surgery could be accomplished, but in an aged dog, is of doubtful value. At this time, reluctantly brought up the subject of child who was ill with diabetes. He stated the girl, 5 or 6 years of age, became ill after one of the test series; was taken to Reno, and then to San Francisco, where diabetes was diagnosed. They felt perhaps radiation played a roll in this illness because they had read lots of articles about radiation. They stated that when bombs were detonated at the Nevada Test Site in the 1951 and the 1953 periods, clouds would settle directly on their ranch and the fallout would drift down onto the children, causing blisters to appear on the skin of the hands and head. It was stated to them that this possibility remotely existed; however, an explanation or determination of this fact was rather impossible, as far as present available information is concerned.

I told that I would do a fecal examination on his dogs, that if internal parasites were found, some worm medicine would be sent to him, along with directions on how to use it. I also told them that I would like to return to visit with them and examine their dogs in 10 days to 2 weeks. They seemed pleased with this suggestion and indicated this would be very satisfactory with them, that they would like to have me return.

We left the ranch at approximately 1730 hours and I left for Camp Mercu

CC: Director, Nevada Operations Division, ALO
Mr. Placak, USPHS, Mercury

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