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Files

November 26, 1958

G. R. Fenner, Veterinary Officer, LVB

TRIP TO THE WALCH RANCH

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SYMBOL: TEV:GRF/fh

During the last week of October a call was received at the Public Health Service Office, Camp Mercury, from their monitor in the Caliente area. Mrs. Walch in that area had requested that I visit their ranch to observe a young Bovine animal which had peculiar white marks on its back. This information was passed on to me by the Rad Safe office and I tentatively arranged to meet with Mrs. Walch on 25 November 1958.

I left the Well 3 area on the Nevada Test Site at 0600 hours 25 November 1958. I arrived at the Walch ranch at 1000 hours that day. Mrs. Walch was at home. We visited for approximately an hour and a half concerning the radiation effects on livestock. Mrs. Walch was highly interested in the discussion and seemed willing to accept the ideas and information presented by myself. She told me the animal involved had gotten out of the crowd and was now back on the range. She said her husband was out rounding up cattle now and she hoped in the near future this animal would be back in the corral. She told me she had another calf in the corral which was sick and asked me if I would examine this animal for her.

I went to the corral and saw an approximately fourth month old dairy type calf. This animal was standing in a corner of the corral and was not eating or drinking. The head and particularly the submaxillary region was greatly enlarged and swollen. On closer examination the conjunctiva presented a reddened and injected appearance. All mucous membranes were inflamed. The rectal temperature was 105 degrees. Mrs. Walch stated this animal had been ill for several days. On percussion and on use of the stethoscope the lungs denoted some embarrassment and possible pneumonia. Dewlaps had been cut on the neck of this animal and this area was greatly swollen. This dewlap had abscessed and was necrotic. The dewlap was removed by surgery and the animal was given 300,000 units of penicillin. I left two additional doses of penicillin with Mrs. Walch, together with a syringe and a hypodermic needle with directions that the penicillin should be given for two more days. Mrs. Walch was told that this animal did not stand a good chance of survival. She expressed great appreciation at my effort and on being left with the penicillin and syringe.

I left the ranch at 1200 hours and arrived in Las Vegas at 1630 hours.