

NAPOLIS NEWS

Malaria Once A Hoosier Dread

By WAYNE GUTHRIE

Any history buff researching Indiana's past is bound to discover that certain eras derived their colorful name from conditions that prevailed rather than or as well as events that transpired.

For instance there was a time in pioneer days when the malady or pestilence that was dreaded as much as or more than any other by the settlers was malaria or ague which was pronounced colloquially almost without exception as "ager"—hard G and long A. That gave rise to the familiar quip of many years ago:

"When you shiver and shake; then sweat and ache—that's ager."

That pestilence threw a deathly fear into almost every community, especially those that happened to be in lowland areas or along streams. And for good reason, too.

History records that at least two promising Hoosier towns, practically speaking, were swept from the map by it. Little or no trace whatever remains of those two hamlets which lay along the east fork of White River. They were Palestine, first seat of Lawrence County, and Hindostan Falls, once Martin County's seat.

In fact, because of that plague Lawrence County folks received permission to abandon that seat and build a new one. They did and, in order that there be no reminder of the sad fate of the first seat, they chose a new name—Bedford, located on higher and healthier ground.

Those two were not the only spots to feel the force of that malady. At one time Jeffersonville, Rising Sun, Vevay and Vincennes, each along an important stream, were threatened but escaped.

For many years that pestilence was forgotten until during World War II when many men in military services were treated for it.

However, in the pioneer days people in many areas considered themselves downright lucky if every member of the family did not suffer from "chills and fever" at the same

time. Thereafter such attacks were repeated every second day or, in some instances, every third day for weeks or months during the late summer or early autumn, each with such regularity that many folks of that area could foretell the precise hour to complete one's morning work and be seated to await that first chill, known colloquially as an "ager (hard G) fit."

A typical attack began with yawning and stretching and lasted six to 12 hours. The chilliness increased gradually until the entire body shivered, the teeth chattered, the fingers often became a pallid white and the finger nails blue.

Then followed a sort of dry fever with the skin burning hot and flushed. Subsequently the victim was covered with perspiration, ending in complete exhaustion and weakness. On the following day the victim felt pretty good although repeated attacks undermined one's health.

What happened to check its ravages? In the 1600s cinchona tree bark, also known as Peruvian or Jesuit's bark, was brought to Europe from Peru to combat fevers. However, it remained for two Frenchmen to make pure quinine from it in 1820 and it was not long before there was a turn for the good.

Malaria is spread from person to person entirely by the bites of the females of a certain common species of mos-

Evansville To Get 24-Hour 'Weather'

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A continuous weather information radio station went into operation today at Evansville, the National Weather Service reported.

The government-operated station will serve a 40-mile radius of Evansville.

A special FM radio receiver is needed to pick up the frequency of 162.55 megahertz. Most commercial FM receivers go no higher than 108 megahertz.

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