

Surgeon Reports On Polio Probe

Billings Girl, 12, Ill With Disease

Investigation of the polio epidemic here revealed no evidence that milk or drinking water were responsible, Lieutenant Colonel A. G. Gilliam said Tuesday. He expressed the opinion that the epidemic passed its peak September 29, but that "there may be a few cases occurring for several weeks."

Meanwhile, a 12-year-old girl residing in the 400 block on Burlington avenue was reported to be stricken with the disease, according to Dr. A. E. Stripp, city health officer. She has been ill for a week and is being treated in her home, he said.

The case brings to 24 the number which have occurred in Billings and to 47 the total for the entire county.

Colonel Gilliam said that his investigation revealed that the majority of the polio illnesses became evident in the week ending September 29, and that infection took place two weeks previously. The last few cases reported were those of persons who probably became infected about October 1 to 14, he said.

Colonel Gilliam, who left Billings Tuesday night after spending 10 days here, said that the city's method of sewage disposal has no connection with the outbreak of the epidemic. However, a sewage disposal plant should be constructed as open sewer ditches are disease carriers, he said.

The colonel, who is a senior surgeon from the bureau of state services, Washington, D. C., advocated during a conference Tuesday with Mayor H. E. Biddinger that a city-county health district which would embrace counties adjoining Yellowstone county be established. A reason given by Gilliam for the proposed district is "the close connection of local health problems with those of neighboring areas."

Gilliam commended the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and its affiliated chapters for aid contributed toward the care of polio victims and said that a "good percentage" of the patients will completely recover.

Polio Update

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