

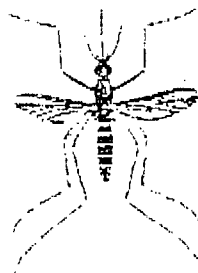
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Division of Agricultural Environmental Services
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DATE 6-12-95

(Cover Sheet Included)

NUMBER OF
PAGES: 5

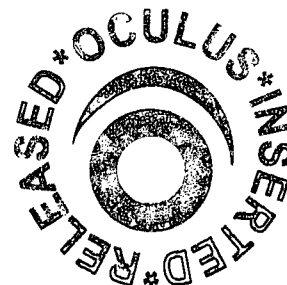
TO: Bill Krumholz

FROM: Ed Fussell

COMMENTS: forwarded at the request of
Bill Parker

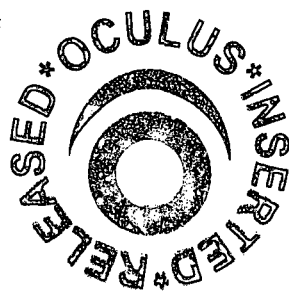
- ☐ ACTION
☐ COORDINATION
☐ INFORMATION

- ☐ PER CONVERSATION
☐ PER REQUEST
☐ COMMENT



24 MAY 1995

1267



Dear Sir: Bob Crawford;

We Read your article in the Avon Park Sun on May 10-1995. On getting rid of Mosquitoes by getting rid of standing water. We have been fighting with the Florida Tire Terminal here in Avon Park, they have a bussines of recycling old tires. They go just about every day and pick up more tires. The tires lay out in the open and when it rains, and then in return water stands in them, and then the mosquitoes breed by the millions. you stated in your article about stored tires is a major breeding ground, the pest is sometimes called "the tire mosquito." We have also been fighting with the City of Avon Park for about seven years. We have been in front of the City Council about this matter so many times. The council promises to do something about these tires, but they don't follow up on anything anymore. They just seem to laugh in your face, after the meeting is over. We have eight grandkids and they can't even go out side for the mosquitoes, and when they do go out side, they come back in with welps all over them. We have had two of the grandkids at the doctor.

George L. Wilkes
346 Tulane Circle
Avon Park, FL 33825
Phone # 813-453-3003

POOR ORIGINAL

for the mosquitoes bites turn in-
to Impetigo. I am sure that they
are allergic to them. We have
called Gainesville and talked to
some man up there about the
mosquitoes and then he called
the Highland County Health Dept.
And they went over to the Tive
Terminal to check it out, and
he said there was not enough
water in the tires to raise the
mosquitoes. I know that wasn't
so because at the times it
was raining just about every
day. We also called Tallahassee
and talked to some one there, and
in return he called Lake Placid.
and he also did nothing about the
mosquito problem. We can not sit
outside for the mosquitoes biting
us. you will have to come and
see these tires to believe what
I am talking about. Here is some
pictures that I taken yesterday.
also here is a clipping from
the Avon Park Sun on July 13, 1994,
on the mosquitoes. So we are
asking you for your help on the
mosquito problem. Please let us
know what can be done. These
mosquitoes are a health problem.

Waiting for your answer

MA. James George L. Wilk

POOR ORIGINAL

The News-Sun

Volume 75/Number 28 25

AVON PARK

Residents want mosquitoes exterminated

By ELYSIA L. RICHARDSON
The News-Sun

AVON PARK — As small as they are, mosquitoes were a major topic of debate at Monday night's council meeting.

Approximately 10 to 15 Avon Park residents who live in the area from Bell Street to Main Street came to address the city council about the mosquito infestation they say is plaguing their neighborhoods, and is causing huge problems for them and their children.

"Children can't even play in their own yard. It's such a disgrace, it's unbelievable," said James Rosenbalm, the first to come before council to address the problem.

"The city can have weeks 10 to 12 feet high and no one says anything about it.

If my yard has weeds, I'm spoken to about it," Rosenbalm said.

George Wilkes, who lives across the street from the Florida Tire Terminal, said he has been before council two or three times about the mosquito situation.

"They have sprayed twice since the problem started. Somebody needs to show that man how to run that truck. I don't want to see him go, but to solve the problem," Wilkes said.

Wilkes' grandson, who will turn two years old this Saturday, has impetigo, an infectious disease of the skin. Impetigo spreads easily from one person to another and from one part of the body to other parts. Open sores contain germs that transfer the infection. The family believes it is the result of the

mosquitoes. The sores are on his legs.

Wilkes wife, Doris, said her daughter is taking the child to a doctor to confirm the disease is from the mosquitoes. Impetigo is curable. Wilkes said that the sores has to be washed with Dial soap and that an antibiotic has to be applied.

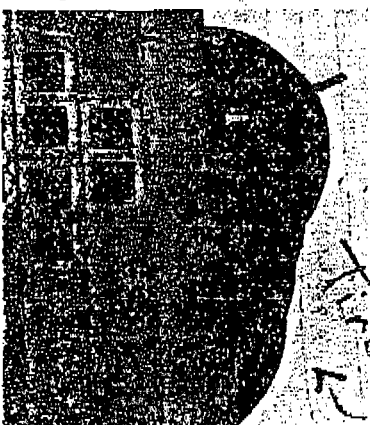
"We've been fighting this (mosquito problem) a long time," she said. She estimates the problem has existed for seven years.

"The city promises, but they don't follow up on anything anymore," Wilkes said.

The Wilkes also have a 13-year-old grandson who is allergic to the mosquitoes.

Doris Wilkes said the mosquitoes are

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BREEDING GROUND: Residents say tires stored at Florida Tire Terminal act as breeding grounds for mosquitos.

PESTS

Continued from page 1A

throughout her home. They enter through the back door when it is opened. They have to spray to fight the insects from coming in, but they manage to get in anyway.

"We have to buy spray all of the time, and that can run up some money. I spray my plants but it doesn't do a bit of good," she said.

The mosquitoes are also attacking the Wilkes' pair of bulldogs, which are expensive, she said.

"It's pitiful. We have to dip the dogs every other day to keep the mosquitoes off, because there are sores on the dogs," she said.

Doris Wilkes said that last year she consulted an environmental agency in Gainesville about the problem. She called the health department here and was told there were not enough weeds around to raise mosquitoes.

"We can't seem to get anybody to help," she said.

With some determination in her voice, Doris said that her next step may be to get a lawyer.

"Let's see what that does. I hope we have strong backing this time. I'm going to put a stop to it, one way or another," she said.

Rosenbalm called weeds that stand 10-12 feet high, "a health hazard." He explained because the weeds are thick, snakes, and other rabid animals inhabit them.

"A rabid animal can come out and bite and scratch them (children). I don't understand why you people allow these things to go on in your city," Rosenbalm told council.

In his address, Rosenbalm mentioned a city ordinance, 170-4, adopted in 1979 that says weeds are supposed to be only so high.

"Anything over 12 feet is called an obnoxious high weed," he said.

Rosenbalm said, "Some of the big violators of (the ordinance) is the railroad and the city of Avon Park."

The Florida Tire Terminal was also said to be in violation of the ordinance, and named as one of the major breeding sources. The tires sit out in the rain, collecting water, contributing to the mosquito problem according to Rosenbalm's address.

Doris Wilkes agrees that the tires are a contributing factor.

Robert Reisig, general manager of the Florida Tire Terminal was unavailable for comment.

Mayor Gordon Marshall questioned why the residents did not direct their complaints to City Manager Virginia Henderson.

"If addressed to the city manager we can take care of these problems," Marshall said.

Marshall asked Rosenbalm to give the addresses of the problem areas to Henderson. Rosenbalm proceeded to give Henderson a letter of complaint from Avon Park residents and the ordinance he mentioned.

One of the papers handed to Henderson was a letter addressed to her, but sent to him, Rosenbalm said.

Councilman David Flowers asked what can be done about the breeding sources. City Manager Virginia Henderson said that she would have to consult City Attorney Mike Disler to see what alternatives are available. She also said that there is a machine that sprays the insects, but Rosenbalm said the machine is out of service.

Disler said that he and Henderson had received calls complaining about the another aspect of the

mosquito issue: the spraying. He said one resident complained that her allergies are irritated by the spraying.

"We have to keep spraying," Wilkes said.

Councilman Gordon Smith acknowledged that tires, pots, pans and ditches, are "perfect breeding grounds" for mosquitoes. But, he believes spraying can also be "a two-edged sword." He said spraying is not going to solve the problem.

"It's like taking aspirin for cancer for the symptoms, but not addressing the problems," he said.

Smith suggested that the first step in solving the problem would be to stop the mosquitoes from breeding. The second step, he said, is to stop them from being in the air.

Smith asked if it is possible for the city to seek an injunction against the railroads for contributing to the problem, or if other legal actions can be taken.

Disler said he would recommend the council address the Code Enforcement Board about the problem.

"The state has put more teeth into the Code Enforcement Board," he said.

Marshall said he did not want the residents to leave feeling they had not been heard. The issue will be put on the agenda of the July 25 council meeting. Marshall asked residents to return to council chambers to see what measures can be or will be taken about the problem.

Rosenbalm said he plans to write to the city, the Highlands County School Board, the Highlands County Health Department, the city's code enforcement officer and the railroad about the problem.