

Spanish flu

Cont'd from Page 20

department of the Army to appeal to draft boards (for) immediate assistance in securing nurses for the various camps in Texas," the Herald announced. "Nurses, graduates and nongraduates, are badly needed at the camps, particularly Fort Bliss, Fort Sam Houston, University of Texas Camp Mabry and College Station."

A request to doctors was sent out by El Paso Mayor Charles Davis and city health officer H.S. White for them to please report "all new cases of influenza and pneumonia to the city hall" every morning, particularly since some physicians had been reporting more influenza instances in the past couple of days.

"(Register F.C. Mayhew at the health office) was inclined to the belief that the height of the epidemic had passed, unless it be in the southside, where it has attacked a larger number of Mexicans in the past two days," the Herald reported.

Local surgeon J.W. Tappan also noted the difference.

"The influenza epidemic, I think, has reached its apex among the American population of the city and the situation looks a little improved today. Of course we are getting the deaths now, but there are not so many new cases," Tappan said. "The physicians working in the Mexican sections have a different story to tell, however. The malady is just reaching the Mexican population, and the situation is not as encouraging among them as in the American sections."

Several hundred were infected or being treated in Juárez that day, the paper added, but only one death was announced.

The news from Washington D.C. also gave warning to area residents, with reports that the "epidemic has subsided somewhat in the eastern states, but continues to spread in the middle and far west."

The State Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Carlsbad also warned the public to help stop the spread of influenza, judging from a persuasive circular received by El Paso doctor C.C. Mickle from the sanatorium.

"Don't be a slacker," the circular warned. "Don't mind the other fellow's laugh or sneer. Do you desire to protect others? Use sputum cups. Would you deliberately give a human being poison? You answer no, most emphatically. Then use sputum cups."

There was also common sense sent from Mickle: "Cover your mouth with a paper napkin or muslin cloth, and burn this napkin or cloth," he said, advising people to use the same method when sneezing."

News was coming from further away in Minneapolis that a new serum had been perfected that had so far prevented the development of a single case of pneumonia, following Spanish influenza. Mickle said using iodine and creosote in treating influenza marked success in more than 100 recent cases. Other remedies given from various sources ranged from eucalyptus tablets to getting a "hypodermic injection of a sterile solution."

Despite precautions and possible treatments, area residents continued to face the daily reality of more flu-related deaths.

The reported deaths ranged from a mother and her infant child who both succumbed to pneumonia during one weekend, 20 deaths throughout the South Side and 15 more deaths in El Paso's "North Side."



School of Mines' 1918 Student Army Corps

Camp Cody in Deming was less affected. Officials expected "few fatalities" from the epidemic due to "very careful medical safeguards and rigid quarantine," then reported the death of one soldier and two civilian employees.

The death report at Fort Bliss, however, wasn't so positive.

"Eleven deaths of soldiers from pneumonia, following influenza, were reported at the Ft. Bliss base hospital Sunday night and early Sunday morning," one report revealed. "The previous 24 hours report was six dead soldiers."

Quarantine at School of Mines

The University of Texas at El Paso was called the State School of Mines and Metallurgy (its original name when founded in 1914) in the fall of 1918.

"When the influenza outbreak hit, it was an interesting time for the university as they as just started the Student Army Training Corps," said UTEP lecturer P.J. Vierra, a historian of higher education in Texas. When the fall 1918 semester began, more than 100 male students had been inducted for Army training. Few showed any flu symptoms, but the entire group had to be quarantined.

"Although there are comparatively few members of the School of Mines students' army corps suffering from influenza, the camp will go into quarantine this evening, following the same rules as the other local army camps," the school's first dean, Steven Howard Worrell, told the El Paso Herald Oct 16, 1918.

During the quarantine, the university made sure the soldiers remained active, and professor H.D. Pallister reported Oct. 21 that the members of the army corps took advantage of the opportunity to form a school football team.

"A large number of the student soldiers are out for daily practice, and the outlook is that the school will have a team that will be hard to beat," Pallister said.

The quarantine was lifted by mid-November, shortly after the armistice was signed. On Nov. 29 the U.S. Secretary of War announced that the training corps in many institutions would be demobilized, including the School of Mines. Students would be "mustered out" in December.

"No sooner than the students arrived, they were quarantined," Vierra said. "By the time they got out of quarantine, the war was over."

One Solution to Life's Problems: The Vajrasattva Purifying Meditation Practice

FREE INTRODUCTORY CLASS

Saturday Nov. 10 3:30-5:30 pm
Memorial Park Public Library
3200 Copper (Community Room)

Saturday Dec. 1 2-4 pm

Doris Van Doren Public Library,
551 Redd Road (Family Room)

Both classes will offer same content.

Purify obstacles, obscurations, and negativities we all create out of selfishness and deluded ignorance.

This practice, common to all four lineages of Tibetan Buddhism, is open to everyone, regardless of faith or other practice.

Instructor: Eternity Wauls

Eclectic Spiritual Practitioner

INFORMATION: 915-490-6440

One of USA's Top 100
Independent Pizzerias
— Pizza Today

Ardovino's
PIZZA

Fine Beers & Wines

KERN PLACE

206 Cincinnati • 532-9483

WEST SIDE

865 N. Resler • 760-6000

EAST SIDE

1879 N. Zaragosa • 856-9111

NORTHEAST

11100 Sean Haggerty (at US 54)
821-7000

UPPER VALLEY

145 W. Sunset (at Doniphan)

11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mon.-Thur.

11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fri.-Sat.

11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday

www.ardovinospizza.com

"... definitely has the best pizza in town."

— Texas Monthly

FINE PIZZA &
FINE DINING

Plastic * Tools * Earwires * Hemite * Opal * Sugelite * Lapis * Coral * Amber * Pearls * Findings * Beadpins * Metal

Western Traders

"Huge Selection of the finest beads from around the world"

1300 El Paseo Rd. Ste B-3
Las Cruces, New Mexico
(575) 527-1470
www.westerntraders.com

* Amethyst * Turquoise * Carnelian * Glass * Ceramic * Bone *



Southwest Eye Institute

EXPERIENCE THE SOUTHWEST EYE INSTITUTE DIFFERENCE IN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL EYE CARE.

Young, intelligent, up to date doctors, knowledgeable staff, consummate professionals! If you have eye issues this is the organization to visit.

— POSTED ON GOOGLE REVIEWS

I recommend everything about his place: service, results, location!!

My only regret is not doing it sooner, it changes your life!

— POSTED ON FACEBOOK @SouthwestEye

Cataract Surgery - VIP LASIK - Comprehensive Eye Exams

WEST: 150 S. Resler (near Whole Foods®)

EAST: 1400 Common Drive (behind Golden Corral®)

eyesVIP.com

(915) 267-2020

HABLAMOS
ESPAÑOL
ojosVIP.com

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS. CALL TODAY!