

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

## Legion disease found in Texas

United Press International  
WACO — Health officials Tuesday confirmed recently treating one case of Legionnaires' disease but declined to elaborate except to say the victim recovered and there was no threat of an epidemic.

Dr. Robert Slade, director of the Waco-McLennan County Health Department, said the victim was 22 years old but would not release his name or hometown, or length of hospitalization.

## Prime farm land aided

United Press International  
COLUMBUS — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Douglas M. Costle Tuesday announced formation of a new policy designed to stop the conversion of prime farm land to other uses.

In a speech before the National Association of States Departments of Agriculture, Costle said since 1967 more than 30 million acres of prime farm land has been converted to other uses, including urban development, reservoirs and other urban oriented programs.

"If they are taken out of production to be used as the sites for new homes or shopping centers, or other kinds of development, farmers will be forced to turn to more marginal lands," said Costle.

"The result will be more use of energy and fertilizers, and more runoff. In other words, more pollution," Costle said.

Slade said the man was first hospitalized with what was thought to be common pneumonia about a month ago. Tests later indicated it actually was Legionnaires' disease, a form of bacterial pneumonia.

The man recovered and was released from the hospital before tests for the Legionnaires' disease were completed.

"There have been sporadic cases of Legionnaires' disease diagnosed in Texas ever since we've known how to diagnose the disease," Slade said. "All cases in Texas have been sporadic and no case has ever been traced to another case."

He said there was little chance for an epidemic.

"It is not exotic," he said. "It may have been around for a long time before we knew how to diagnose it as Legionnaires' disease."

Slade said symptoms of the disease were similar to forms of bacterial pneumonia, including high fever, cough and general weakness. He added the bacterial tests normally take a month to complete.

In the past several days, New York officials have confirmed at least six cases of the disease and suspect the number may be as high as 118. Two deaths have been confirmed.

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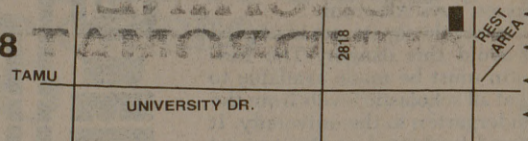
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