

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

City of New Orleans—Department of Health  
 New Orleans, Louisiana 70126  
 Division of Mosquito Control  
 George T. Carmichael, Administrative Director  
 6601 Lakeshore Drive, On the Airport 947-1188  
 August 3, 1967

Dr. Donald L. Collins, Editor  
 MOSQUITO NEWS  
 Room 976, State Education Bldg.  
 Albany, New York 12224

I am writing you concerning some recent publicity which hit every newspaper in the country, with the unfortunate accident which resulted in the death of Actress Jayne Mansfield. The publicity erroneously stated facts which would incriminate the mosquito control vehicle which was in the area as directly causing the accident. I have been contacted by many members of the American Mosquito Control Association, including our President, Dr. Pratt, and it is felt that possibly a statement in MOSQUITO NEWS clarifying the situation would be in order.

I am enclosing a copy of an article from the local newspaper [reprinted below] in which the driver of the truck which was hit by the Mansfield car stated that visibility was good on the highway and that our fogging truck was not fogging on the highway, as stated in the articles published throughout the country.

Many members of the American Mosquito Control Association have been concerned also about an accompanying article that fogging operations had been discontinued in the City of New Orleans. This, too, is erroneous. The mosquito fogging truck was abiding by standard operating procedures and was not operating on a public highway, and the driver of the truck had not allowed any fog to drift onto the highway. The fogging operations in the City of New Orleans have been continued uninterrupted and continue to play an important part in our mosquito control program.

Any way that you would like to handle this material will be satisfactory to me.

Very truly yours,  
 GEORGE T. CARMICHAEL  
 Administrative Director

Following is the article mentioned in Mr. Carmichael's letter from the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, Monday, July 10, 1967.

"REACTION AND RETRACTION: A 'News of the Week in Review' item a week ago about the shattering automobile crash that killed actress Jayne Mansfield and two male companions incorrectly put the onus on a fogging truck in the vicinity that assertedly obscured the roadway. The item was based on early reports of the tragedy which proved to be erroneous.

"George Carmichael, director of the health department's division of mosquito control, gave this version, which was corroborated at a hearing on the cause of the accident: Richard H. Rambo, driver of the trailer-truck which was struck from the rear by the Mansfield car, said that he slowed from about 50 to 35 mph when he observed the flashing light of the fogging truck approaching the Chef highway from an access road. Moments later the following Mansfield car hit the rear of the trailer-truck. Rambo was quoted that visibility was good on the highway, and Carmichael said the division's truck was not fogging at the time."