

parasitism with reference to location was there in all ponds with all containers.

These data indicate that water volume is not itself a major factor in determining the incidence of parasitism of mosquitoes by *R. nielsenii*. They also indicate that preparasitic *R. nielsenii* are negatively geotactic and thigmotactic in behavior. These responses greatly enhance the chances that this parasite will contact a suitable host since most mosquito species exhibit the same responses. Indeed, the greater susceptibility of anopheline mosquitoes to parasitism compared with culicine mosquitoes (unpublished data) may be partly the result of the behavior of anopheline larvae: they suspend themselves horizontally at the surface of the water where they would be more apt to be contacted by randomly swimming preparasitics. The swimming behavior of preparasitic *R. nielsenii* also improves the potential of this parasite for mosquito control (see Petersen, 1973, for discussion of other factors). The

nematode can now be applied to many mosquito breeding areas with the assurance that dilution or large open surfaces of water will not greatly reduce its effectiveness.

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OBITUARY

Boyd M. Lafferty

Boyd M. Lafferty, Executive Secretary of the Cape May County Mosquito Extermination Commission, Cape May, New Jersey died June 26, 1973. Boyd experienced complications following heart surgery. He was just 2 weeks from his 56th birthday. For 25 years he guided a greatly expanded mosquito control program in his county which is highly dependent on resort and recreational activity for its economic base. Boyd Lafferty met successfully and with great directness a multitude of mosquito problems associated with economic development in a county having an unusually high ratio of tidal wetlands to its total area. He was active in the affairs of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association and the AMCA, and he will be long remembered by those who worked with him.—D. M. JOBBINS
