

June 24, 2002

Notes regarding Newsfilm V-73-69 (VC Weed Killer)

This film got good media release....all three networks as I recall.

The attached news article appeared in the local paper (Wichita Eagle) in January of 1980. Remembering this film, I called Mr. Lapka, and told him I had a print. I explained how the film clearly shows the careless mixing and application of the material, with no regard to protective measures or clothing. Obviously no one seemed to think this chemical was toxic enough to worry about the possible dangers to health. I told Lapka and his attorney that I had this film, and if they felt it might be useful in their case, they were welcome to it. Nothing came of the matter, since eventually the Government, and the Department of Veterans Affairs admitted that Agent Orange was carcinogenic, and began paying claims and treating the related illnesses as service connected disabilities. I believe Mr. Lapka is now deceased.

Interesting enough, I was diagnosed with cancer of the prostate, in July 1995, one of a number of diseases now proven to be related to exposure to Agent Orange.

MAS