

[RADIO STATIC]

[NEWS CLIPS ABOUT QUARANTINE]

MY NAME IS UMA KOCHERLAKOTA AND YOU'RE LISTENING TO IN THE BOOKS, A PODCAST ABOUT STORIES OF MEDICINE IN HISTORY. TODAY WE'LL BE DISCUSSING QUARANTINE.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR CAME TO A CLOSE IN 1919, BUT IN THE 1920'S, THE UNITED STATES FACED A NEW BATTLE - ONE AGAINST SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, KNOWN AS VENEREAL DISEASES.

QUARANTINE WASN'T NEW, AND THAT'S THE POLICY PEOPLE TURNED TO DURING THIS TIME.

MRS. SANDY GARDNER, HISTORY TEACHER AT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL HELPS ME EXPLAIN.

[SO THE IDEA OF ANY KIND OF QUARANTINE OR RESPONSE TO DISEASE ON A SOCIETAL LEVEL IN THE UNITED STATES IS OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING THAT REVOLVES AROUND NATIONAL SECURITY OR THE SECURITY OF LOCAL PEOPLE, SO THE QUESTION IS WHAT KINDS OF DISEASES ARE DETRIMENTAL TO SOCIETY.

AND I WOULD ASSUME THAT WAS PROBABLY TRUE IN THE 1920S WHEN WE THINK ABOUT THE WAY THEY DELT WITH EVEN POVERTY OR CRIME AND WERE STERILIZING PEOPLE THAT TO QUARINTINE SOMEBODY FOR A STD WOULD

HAVE BEEN EASIER THAN IT IS TODAY AND THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IF THE
PERSON WAS FOUND TO HAVE A STD THEY WOULD QUARANTINE THEM]

SOME OF THOSE MEASURES INCLUDED CHAPTER TWO-OH-FIVE, KNOWN AS THE
KANSAS STATE QUARANTINE LAW. FROM 1917 TO 1942 OVER FIVE THOUSAND
WOMEN WERE JAILED IN LANSING, KANSAS AT THE KANSAS STATE INDUSTRIAL
FARM FOR VIOLATING CHAPTER TWO-OH-FIVE.

FIVE THOUSAND WOMEN, AND ZERO MEN.

[IF A WOMEN HAD A VENEREAL DISEASE WITH THE WAY THAT WOMEN WERE
BEING TREATED FOR JUST THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE WAY THAT WOMEN
WERE VIEWED IN GENERAL THAT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN SOME WOMEN
THAT WAS PROMISCUOUS SO UNLIKE A MAN WHO WOULD HAVE IT PROBABLY
WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE OH THIS POOR GENTLEMAN GOT A DISEASE A
WOMAN WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN A DOING SOMETHING WRONG AND IT WOULD
PROBABLY MATCH THE WAY THE GENDER DIFFERENCES WERE SEEN DURING
THE 20S]

THE ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER TWO-OH-FIVE ENCOURAGED THESE IDEAS,
AND THE FARM WAS FILLED WITH WOMEN WHO WERE CONSIDERED
PROMISCUOUS OR MORALLY WEAK. BUT IN REALITY WOMEN ENDED UP THERE
FOR ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT REASONS IN ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT WAYS.

SOME WERE PICKED UP OFF THE STREETS BY POLICE. AND A LOT OF THE TIME, OFFICIALS WOULD TEST WOMEN FOR VENEREAL DISEASES WHEN THEY WERE ARRESTED FOR OTHER REASONS, AND IF THEY TESTED POSITIVE, THEY WOULD BE SHIPPED OFF THE FARM, AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD TO SERVE SENTENCES ANYWHERE FROM 90 DAYS TO THREE YEARS.

OTHERS WERE TURNED IN BY THEIR BOYFRIENDS OR HUSBANDS, WHO WERE OUT FOR REVENGE.

BUT ALMOST 20 PERCENT OF THE WOMEN TURNED THEMSELVES IN. THESE WERE THE POOREST WOMEN, WHO COULDN'T AFFORD TO GET MEDICAL ATTENTION FROM A PRIVATE DOCTOR. THEIR ONLY CHANCE FOR CARE WAS AT THE FARM.

[TO QUARANTINE SOMEBODY FOR A STD WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER THAN IT IS TODAY AND THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IF THE PERSON WAS FOUND TO HAVE A STD THEY WOULD QUARANTINE THEM AND ESPECIALLY MAYBE CERTAIN POPULATIONS OF PEOPLE THAT IT WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE I WOULD ASSUME THAT SOMEBODY WHO IS WEALTHY IS NOT GOING TO BE UNDER THE SAME STIPULATIONS AS SOMEBODY WHO IS NOT WEALTHY IN THE 1920S]

THE NUMBER OF DETAINEES DECREASED STEADILY IN THE 1940S, AND THE FARM WAS SHUT DOWN ALTOGETHER IN THE 1990S, BUT FOR THE FIVE THOUSAND WOMEN WHO WERE DETAINED UNDER CHAPTER 205 LIFE WAS NEVER THE SAME.

CHAPTER 205 WAS JUST ONE EXAMPLE IN A LONG LINE OF QUARANTINE LAWS AND REGULATIONS, DESIGNED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS BUT ENFORCED WITH DISCRIMINATION. SOME OF THESE LAWS AREN'T SO OLD, AND SOME HAVE CONTINUED INTO RECENT YEARS.

[WE HAVE THAT SIMILAR TYPE OF ISSUE THAT WAS GOING ON IN THE 80S WHEN HIV AND AIDS CAME OUT AND IT WAS NOT JUST A FEW PEOPLE BUT YOU KNOW A PORTION OF THE POPULATION THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RESPONDED AND THEY PUT A TRAVEL BAN ACTION ON PEOPLE COMING TO THE US THAT HAD HIV AND AIDS IN ORDER TO ALMOST HAVE TO BLOCK OFF ANY OUTSIDE INFLUENCE COMING IN SO WE COULD JUST DEAL WITH THE PEOPLE WHO HAD IT AS IT WAS AND NOT INTRODUCE ANY OTHER INTO THE POPULATION AND THAT BAN WAS ACTUALLY NOT LIFTED UNTIL OBAMA]

INFORMATION FOR THIS PODCAST WAS PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND THE LANSING HISTORICAL MUSEUM. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CHAPTER 205 AND THE KANSAS INDUSTRIAL FARM IS AT NEWS.KANSAS.EDU.

FOR 91.3 WHJE, THIS HAS BEEN UMA KOCHERLAKOTA. FOR MORE STORIES LIKE THIS, VISIT WHJE.COM, AND SEARCH IN THE BOOKS, A PODCAST ABOUT MEDICAL HISTORY.