

Sanitarian

August, 1980



newsletter

Lakeview is Site

Preparations are busily underway at Lakeview Inn, Morgantown, WV, the site of the West Virginia State Health Conference, September 17-19, 1980. "Behavior and Health" is the theme of this year's affair. The Environmental Health Section promises a wide range of behavioral experiences including law, public relations, WVAS business, legislative update, sewage information, fun and games and more. A copy of the Environmental Health Section of the program is included below.

Lakeview Inn is located just off the Cheat Lake-Fairchance Road Exit of I-48, east of Morgantown, WV. Lodging rates are \$50.00—single, \$55.00—double occupancy.

Morgantown offers nine other motels which are easily accessible to the Conference site. Lodging rates, on the average, range from \$17.00-\$28.00, single occupancy. A Directory of Motel Rates with an attached map is included as a supplement with this Newsletter. One may note that several of the motels are located in close proximity to the Monongalia County Health Department where car pooling and further information can be obtained.

An election of officers will take place at the Annual Business Meeting of the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians on Wednesday, September 17, 1980. Candidates for the positions of President-Elect and Vice President will be chosen. Nominations will be accepted from the floor as well as from the nominating committee. To

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Task Force

Dr. George E. Pickett, State Director of Health, has announced that he is appointing a task force of knowledgeable people, representing both field staff, working staff within divisions, as well as some division directors, to analyze a proposal restructuring Environmental Health Services. The proposal is to separate Environmental Health Services into two components; one dealing with local community sanitation, and the other dealing with environmental health programs which are statewide in nature and involve relationships with other state and federal agencies.

Dr. Pickett is hopeful that we may come to some resolution of our organization issues within the next four to six weeks so that some of the uncertainty which has pervaded Environmental Health Services programs these past few months can be set aside as quickly as possible.



Who will be our next Director?

Honor Roll of Chairmen

The following list has been compiled from the best available source, the minutes of the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians. The minutes for some years were incomplete and did not mention by name who the presiding chairman was.

Annual Business Meeting	Presiding Chairman
November 8, 1937	H. O. Henderson
October 17, 1938	W. P. Gainer
November 8, 1939	Ed Carroll
January 6, 1940	W. P. Gainer??
November 17, 1941	E. B. Carroll for J. D. Spiggle
May 11, 1942	W. F. Waller for G. L. Johnson
1945	????
May 2, 1946	Don Summers
May 17, 1947	C. O. Snider
1948	????
June 2, 1949	Eugene Powell
May 4, 1950	J. R. Williams
1951	????
May 8, 1952	Z. H. Legg
May 7-8, 1953	Harry Wright for C. L. Swecker
May 18-19, 1954	Harry Wright
September 8-9, 1955	James Simmons
June 7-8, 1956	Hayward Phillips
June 6-7, 1957	C. E. Bright
June 5-6, 1958	Howard Pyle
June 12, 1959	Robert Pack
May 12, 1960	A. L. Lively
May 1, 1961	Paul Pashkevich
June 7-8, 1962	Francis Leary
May 2, 1963	Hayward Phillips
May 7, 1964	Joe Curia
May 13, 1965	Joe Curia

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Marshall Co. Proclaims Operation Pride

A joint proclamation signed by the Marshall County Board of Health, the Marshall Co. Commission and the Majors of five municipalities in the county at the Delf Narona Museum and Cultural Center on April 15, 1980, officially kicked off the 11th annual "Operation Pride."

"Operation Pride" invites almost every segment of the population to participate in an all-out effort to clean up and beautify public and private property. Schools, churches, civic groups, business and industry, homeowners and units of government are asked to follow the suggestions and checklists for improvements drawn up by the sponsors of this united effort to promote a more healthy and pleasant environment. These objectives are categorized from the letters in the word "Pride": Pleasant surroundings; Renewed appearance; Improved Community; Desirable development; and Elimination of health and safety hazards.

Businesses, farmers, clergymen and interested citizens were groups asked to disseminate information and motivate people in Clean-up, Fix-up and Paint-up activities on a community wide basis. A checklist was distributed by the Health Department so that people would know where to begin.

Business establishments, for example, are asked to check such items: Has your building been recently cleaned and painted? How is your floor or floor covering? Clean and in good repair? How about the screens in your doors and windows? Are they effective? How about garbage cans? Are there any piles of trash near your establishment that need removed? Are all your plumbing facilities in good repair? Any drainage problems? And the list goes on.

Program coordinators for the project are Sanitarians Joseph Curia and John Wallace. Mr. Curia pointed out that "Operation Pride" emphasizes a clean community's impact on economic and community development. "A city or county that reflects a strong sense of community pride by its very appearance, stands a better chance of attracting new business, new industry and new residents."

The leaders of Marshall County's "Operation Pride" are hopeful their efforts will motivate counties throughout the Northern Panhandle region to join the program on a regional basis in the order of providing a cleaner more attractive image for the entire area. Mr. Curia hopes the program is "contagious."

A Common Sense Psychology of Inspection

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is reprinted from E.N.D., May/June 1980, pp. 12-13.

by Guy Brupbacher

Louisiana Food and Drug Control Unit
Persons in authority, whether policemen, executives, inspectors or fathers, have a difficult time exercising authority because the nature of man is to resent being told what to do. One in authority must be constantly proving himself in his actions, justifying the trust that he asks for. He must be a leader by example, not by proclamation.

The best advice that can be given to any regulatory agent, enforcement agent or person in authority, is that he always allow the person with whom he is dealing to exercise judgment. Care must always be taken that a man be given the self-image that shows him in control of his own destiny. Overt condemnation of an act without qualification should be avoided at all costs because no one enjoys being told he is wrong even though the criticism is justified. No one likes bullying, assertive behavior. No one likes to be lectured or chided.

Few situations, if any, cannot be expressed as "choice-type" situations in which the violative person has the choice to take a better alternative route.

Use any and all common sense means to provide this person with a feeling of esteem and self-worth. React on a personal level only to praise. Show emotion only if it is to approve. Do not show personal anger or distaste.

On the surface, this may seem that you are deceiving or attempting to control the person, but this is not so. It is only deception if done without sincerity. It is only deception if you "talk down" or condescend. The physical situation is there, the violations are real and you can't propose to change that. What you can change is the method of communication. You can do everything in your power to facilitate a smooth person-to-person interaction. It is right because it is based on real, not feigned respect.

All successful human intercourse is based on mutual respect, a mutual acknowledgment that our fellowman has worth and right to self-esteem. The fastest way to totally alienate our brother, to make him completely hostile to ourselves and to our purpose, is to deny him that respect.

Never scoff at a person's means of retreat. Don't create, by rhetoric or personal innuendoes, a feeling of being trapped or humiliated. Allow a person to retreat with his dignity intact. Your job is to correct wrongs, not step on emotions. You will probably have to face this person again and, remember, the simplest human contact is almost impossible if attempted in an atmosphere of hostility. We are higher on the evolutionary ladder than the ants and honey bees. We are not just lumps of protoplasm sitting there until an outside force causes us to react. We are, at all

times, responsible. We at all times have free will. Let him have *his* free will.

And in the end, because we are dealing with human beings, with personalities that run the extremes from St. Francis of Assisi to Adolf Hitler, we are not always successful. Sometimes we become adversaries. This is all part of the human condition, a time when you just have to say, "It is so. It cannot be otherwise."

When this situation comes we must again use common sense by acting only to the extreme necessary and not one bit more.

But before we use force, before we fall back on a course which is at best unpleasant and a test of strength, let us ask ourselves if we have done everything to facilitate smooth, peaceful interaction. Have we at all times left all channels of communication open? Have we read the signs? Have we allowed our violator to express himself? Do we have wisdom enough to separate what a man says from what a man is?

As regulatory agents, we can't be overly sensitive to the spoken word, veiled threats, innuendoes, even personal comments. "Talk," it is said, "is cheap." As professionals, or more generally, as human beings, interaction that degenerates to an exercise in one-upmanship is sterile, non-productive and totally frustrating . . .

Assertiveness is no substitute for steadfastness. Arrogance is not the same as confidence. Retaliation is not bravery, nor is quiet in the face of attack a sign of cowardice.

We must at all times care. We must at all times think. We must at all times believe that man's capacity for harmony and common sense has no bounds because it is based on the greatest human attribute of all . . . LOVE.

Regs. Passed

The Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee passed three sets of Health Department Regulations at its May Session: Food Service Sanitation Regulations establishing the minimum requirements governing the construction and operation of food service establishments; Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Regulations which include provisions for updating the standards and regulating the inspection of dairy farms and milk plants, provisions for some new chemical and bacteriological standards for the examination of milk and milk products, and provisions regarding interstate movement and distribution and sale of Grade "A" milk and milk products; Swimming Pool and Bathing Beach Regulations which update the 1975 regulations by incorporating recent technological advances and by providing flexibility in ensuring the proper operation of swimming pools and which, for the first time, are accompanied by "Design Standards" that will provide for uniform construction and renovation of public swimming pool facilities.

Restaurant Study

by Eleanor Bentz, MSPH

The Cabell-Huntington Health Department inspects over 300 food service establishments including school lunch programs, small bars, day care centers, as well as the larger better known restaurants. The local newspaper, The Herald Dispatch, periodically reports the results of these inspections as a public service. Prior to the first quarter of 1980, only "bad" scores, those of more than 20 demerits, appeared in the paper. Most of the restaurant operators were very sensitive to this type of negative publicity which served as a persuasive but informal enforcement tool for the Health Department.

According to some psychological theories of behavior change, punishment and negative reinforcement are not as effective in changing behavior as is positive reinforcement or reward. (B. F. Skinner is such a theorist). The Food Sanitarians felt it might provide a more positive incentive to restaurant operators to maintain good sanitation if the "good" scores also appeared in the newspaper. At the beginning of the first quarter of 1980, the newspaper agreed to publish all of the restaurant inspection reports.

This study was initiated to try to test objectively whether the new policy was having the predicted and desirable effect of reducing demerit scores for restaurants. In August, 1980, new food sanitation regulations will be in effect and the inspection forms, as well as the manner of scoring, will be changed. Therefore, it was decided to compare the restaurant scores from the first two quarters of 1980 with those from the last two quarters of 1979, before the new policy would be incorporated.

Data was collected for 74 restaurants. Small neighborhood restaurants and bars whose food preparation was limited to the serving of beer to a group of local patrons, and institutions with captive clientele, were excluded from the study. Food services in these categories, it was felt, would probably not be as receptive to publicity as restaurants which cater to the general public. Data was incomplete for two quarters in a few cases. These cases were also not included in the study.

Where several inspections were conducted in a quarter, an average demerit score was calculated. To determine whether any difference in demerit scores might be due to chance, a one-tailed difference of means test (t-test) for correlated observations was used. If the difference shown proved to be significantly significant—that is, not due to chance—the hypothesis that the newspaper reporting may be having the desired effect, would be supported. However, it must also be kept in mind that there may be other unknown factors operating, for which we have no way of determining or controlling. It is assumed that these factors may be random and operating in a rather constant fashion over the four quarters. If this is true, it may be assumed that the variable in the study, change in newspaper reporting, is responsible for the change in restaurant inspection scores.

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Cedar Lakes Update

Business was the course of the day, May 13, 1980, at Cedar Lakes, the site of the Sanitarians' Mid-Year Conference. Flanked by fifty Sanitarians who registered for the event, President J. R. Woodford directed the following issues and orders of business be attended to:

(1) Constitution redrafted. The following are major changes in the Constitution and By-Laws:

—Members are to be notified at least 30 days prior to any election of officers.

—Secretary/Treasurer henceforth is an appointed position; he/she will serve at the will and pleasure of the Executive Council, as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

—An elective position, Vice President, was created. Therefore, the elected officers are President, President-Elect, and Vice-President.

—Article III, Section 2, of the By-Laws was amended to read "dues shall be recommended to the Council and ratified by a 2/3 majority vote of the members at a general session."

—Article VI, Section IV, of the By-Laws, pertaining to the calling of closed meetings, was stricken out.

—Sections 3 and 4 of Article II, referring to loss of membership for "improper conduct," and appeal for reinstatement, were stricken from the By-Laws.

—Article VII, Section I, of the Constitution was amended to read "this Constitution shall be ratified by 2/3 majority of the voting members."

(2) Members were urged to submit candidates to the Awards Committee for recognition of individuals contributing to the advancement of Environmental Health. An awards presentation will be

held at the Sanitarian's Luncheon at the State Health Conference in September.

(3) Jim Sheets, RS, Wood County, gave a report of the newly created Legislative Committee. Dr. George Pickett created the committee with members representing the various sections of the health department in the "wake" of recently defeated Environmental Health legislation. All health related bills will be channeled through the committee. This is designed to eliminate confusion and ignorance of departmental supported legislation and facilitate rallying for a bill if it's support is desirable to the health department's position.

(4) An interpretative report was given on the Sanitarian Survey. It was emphasized that although the explanations were highly subjective, the survey nonetheless identified training needs and areas where improvement could be achieved through some restructuring of modus operandi. Woodford stated he thought that answers to several questions could best be answered on an individual basis: Review the history of the local unit and try to understand why sanitarians prefer to be state, regional or county employees.

(5) An update was given on the "36 Items," the list of issues originally drawn up by the Health Officers Association in relation to state/local problems concerning Sanitarians in WV. Major improvements in the plight of Sanitarians were noted: the acceptance of a Sanitarian's Compensation Plan by Civil Service has improved the way for professional development and salary advancement; a state/local liason group has been formed to promote improved communications on all levels; additional reorganization in the state health department, that is, the search for a new Director, will not be without Sanitarian input. In summary, many of the issues have either been eliminated, alleviated or are in process of review; they have not been forgotten.

(6) Phyllis Isaac, representing the State Health Department Personnel Office in policy making, attempted to answer questions in relation to implementation of the Sanitarian Compensation Plan. To alleviate confusion surrounding the hiring of new employees, a directive will be sent to all health departments from the Personnel Office.

Editorial Comment Food for Thought

The Mid-Year Meeting at Cedar Lakes was not "all work and no play." It was also a time of philosophical pondering on interpersonal communications, individual and group behavior patterns, and, alas, Volleyball.

Conferences often tend to be characterized by very ritualistic behavior. Everyone appears to go through the motions of participation, conspicuously minding their "p's" and "q's." From a social interaction point of reference, these experiences are quite unstimulating.

Attempts are made to free the conference from this type of bondage through the introduction of cocktail parties and feasts; however, these activities in and of themselves have become such an institution that they often have the adverse effect. The underlying consequence is this: Participants never relax long enough to infiltrate the barriers to communication that are cloaked over them—whatever they may be—preconceived notions of prescriptions and proscriptions of behavior.

So, who would suspect that an innocent volleyball game could achieve what "all the kings horses and all the kings men" have been attempting to achieve (with little success) these past years (pull the Health Department together again)?

Granted, a volleyball game has no real substance; it is merely a concept, shared by a group of individuals. However, it illustrates the simplicity with which goals can be achieved or lost through a united effort or lack of one. Furthermore, it demonstrates that the human element underscores the very nature of the game—whether it's volleyball or life—and it cannot be neglected.

The volleyball game, or games, I should say, served to rekindle a necessary ingredient of survival of our Sanitarian Species; namely, *commaraderie*.

It's a great day when "old geezers" (affectionately rekindled) and "spring chickens" can laugh, fight, grunt, yell, sweat and pull together toward a common cause. Perhaps this experience of *commaraderie* can be extended toward "real" life goals, such as those which directly affect the survival of local health units . . .

Restaurant . . .

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The t-value was computed to be 1.85. A number this large would occur by chance less than 5% of the time. Therefore, change in restaurant scores is probably not due to chance.

The results of this study indicate that a local newspaper can be a useful ally in the field of public health, particularly in restaurant sanitation.

Letters to the Editor:

By Les Kyle

Back in 1947, my wife and I stopped in Bluefield about quitting time on a Friday evening at Dolph Lively's office just to say hello. We were on our way back to Charleston from a trip down into Virginia.

I had only met Lively that spring, had never met his wife, nor had he met my wife. He insisted we go to his home for dinner and spend the night, and he wouldn't take no for an answer.

We got to his home and found she was pregnant with their first child, and expected no company, of course.

But under these circumstances, we enjoyed a fine dinner, and Emma was most gracious.

After we ate, Dolph said we had a job to do—unstop a basement sewer, so we proceeded.

We had the necessary tools, dirt, smell and all extending from the basement up the stairs and through the living room.

With all this, Emma took it very well, but if I had been his wife, I may have taken other action.

We consider Dolph and Emma two of our closest friends, and they have raised three

fine children.

Dolph has always been a tireless, dedicated worker for the State Health Department, a thorough Sanitarian, and one who treated everyone equally.

He expected as much from all Sanitarians.

Editor's note: Mr. A. L. Lively, Special Projects Director, is retiring from the State Health Department August 31, 1980. He will be residing at his home until mid-August, after which he will be moving to Raleigh, North Carolina.

Honor Roll . . .

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May 12, 1966	Perry Merritt
May 10, 1967	Paul Sawyers
May 1, 1968	C. W. Burton
May 7, 1969	B. J. Baker, Jr.
May 13, 1970	Earl Burgess
May 5, 1971	J. B. Baker
May 3, 1972	Robert Pack
June 6, 1973	Richard H. Clelland
June 5, 1974	W. P. Patton, Jr.
June 4, 1975	Alex Jenkins for Vincent Santucci (resigned)
June 2, 1976	Alex Jenkins
September 7, 1977	J. E. Peter
September 6-7, 1978	James Sheets
September 12-13, 1979	Robert Parkins

Staph Strikes Mission

The West Virginia Training School (The Mission), located at Point Pleasant, WV, was the scene of a foodborne staphylococcus intoxication outbreak on May 20, 1980. A total of seventeen persons who attended the junior-senior banquet were stricken with varying degrees of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain within four hours after ingesting the meal. Ten of the victims were admitted into area hospitals for diagnosis and treatment. One victim remained hospitalized for three days after it was suspected that a portion of his esophagus was torn as a result of violent vomiting. Potato salad was identified as the vehicle of intoxication from lab reports of samples taken, and from the high attack rate associated with persons who had ingested potato salad.

Mason County Health Department was without the aid of a local Sanitarian at the time of the outbreak. A thorough investigation was conducted by members of the State Staff, with Phil Jones, RS, writing the report.

The toxin was produced in the potato salad by high counts of staphylococcus aureus (300,000,000) per gram of salad). The staph bacteria most probably gained entry to the potato salad through handling of the ingredients by the foodhandlers. Coagulase positive staphylococcus organisms were isolated in the hand swabs of foodhandlers who participated in the preparation of the potato salad. During the course of the investigation, it was learned that the potato salad was left at room temperature (unrefrigerated) for a period of six and one-half hours, and stored in a refrigerator above 45 degrees Fahrenheit for an additional seventeen hours. This factor promoted the growth of the staph organisms in numbers great enough to produce a quantity of toxin capable of affecting the majority of unsuspecting individuals who consumed the potato salad. (79%).

Confirmation of the transmission chain from foodhandler to food to victim is pending results of phage typing of the staphylococcus isolates at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia.

Obtaining Search Warrants

by Roger Perry

Most investigations of nuisance complaints in private houses or on private property are completed without incident. You tell the homeowner that a complaint has been filed against him, and ask to examine the area to see if the complaint is justified. In the majority of cases, the homeowner permits the investigation even if the condition exists. What do you do if he won't let you check, and tells you to get off of his land?

In the case of *Camara vs. Municipal Court of San Francisco*, the United States Supreme Court said that a health inspection is enough like a criminal search to require a search warrant if voluntary admittance is refused. This is particularly true since discovery of a violation may result in criminal prosecution if not corrected.

If the homeowner persists in his refusal to allow the inspection, you will be faced with the necessity of getting a search warrant to find any evidence of the unlawful conditions. In showing the judge or magistrate that you have "probable cause" to justify issuance of a search warrant, you will not be held to the strict standards of a warrant for a criminal search; however, you must have certain information to take to the prosecuting attorney. You should have the name and address of the homeowner, a description of the premises, the specific violation you suspect (example: dead horse behind house in violation of 16-9-3). If your suspicions are based on a complaint, you should say something about the reliability of the complainer, if possible. In addition, your unsuccessful attempt to gain voluntary entry as well as other administrative action should be described. Finally, if you suspect the existence of contraband which might need to be seized, it should be specifically listed. (Contaminated food, flooded merchandise, etc.)

Lakeview . . .

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ensure an active voting privilege, Sanitarians who have not renewed their 1980 membership dues are urged to do so now.

Another important item of business grown out of the Cedar Lakes Conference is the issue of a dues increase. The Constitution mandates a thirty day notice be given for any proposal of a dues change. This publication will serve as an official notice of such proposal.

No State Health Conference would be complete without the Annual WVAS Dinner. This year's festivities will take place at Chestnut Ridge Camp, just over the mountain from Lakeview Inn. The event will be strictly informal; everyone is encouraged to wear their "play clothes" and to bring along their musical instruments. Members and their families and guests are cordially invited to attend.

Tid Bits

—A long overdue WELCOME to Allan Neiderberger, S. I. T., to West Virginia. Allan administers the general environmental health program in Calhoun County and works with the food program in Roane County. He hails from the state of Maryland, Prince Georges County Health Department. Allan is also recently married —Congratulations on both moves!

—One Sanitarian for the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department is currently working one day per week as an environmental health consultant to the Juvenile Justice Committee, West Virginia State Supreme Court. He and four attorneys are charged with inspecting county jails and juvenile detention centers throughout the state. Inspections are unannounced. If there are any questions, or for further information, write or call Mike Kelly, Esquire, Juvenile Justice Committee, West Virginia Supreme Court, 348-3649.

—Two new Sanitarians are undergoing initiation at Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. Good luck, Wynn Davis and Greg Cantley. Charles Saber is seeking yet another recruit. Anyone interested?

—Condolences are extended to the Bill Dean Family. Bill, who recently passed away, was a past Sanitarian in Berkeley County.

—Monongalia County Health Department cordially welcomes Ms. Christine Moe to its staff. Christine will be working in the capacity of a Public Health Educator; she anticipates becoming a Sanitarian in the future. She has a B.S. in Biology and has a sincere interest in continuing research in alternate sewage systems, a project that her father, the late Dr. Moe, was actively involved in.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION PROGRAM*Wednesday, September 17, 1980*1:45 p.m. Annual Business Meeting,
WVASJ. R. Woodford
presiding

Election of Officers

2:30 p.m.

Legislative Committee Report
—James Sheets, RS

3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

7:00 p.m.

WVAS Annual Dinner
Chestnut Ridge Camp*Thursday, September 18, 1980*12:00 noon WVAS Luncheon
Awards Presentation

1:15 p.m.

"Dealing With Conflict
Creatively" Dell Yoder,
WVU Extension Service

4:00 p.m.

Environmental Health Update
G. O. Fortney, Acting
Director

4:00 p.m.

Adjourn
Friday, September 19, 1980

1:00 p.m.

Paul Saunders Presiding
"The Law As It Affects The
Sanitarian" Roger Perry, RS

2:00 p.m.

Sewage Treatment Systems
Gary Epling