

Sanitarian's Newsletter

July 27, 1993

Volume 93, No. 3

West Virginia Association of Sanitarians

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EDITOR'S NOTES - Fred Barley

Whew.... What a summer... right when this newsletter was to come out, I injured my back doing a pool inspection and have been off for three weeks. Making matters worse, I turn the big 4-0 tomorrow, and I am really starting to feel old! This issue will be the most packed one yet to date, as everyone is submitting articles to me, and it really helps getting ideas out to our fellow workers. The next issue will be out sometime in October, so try to have your articles to me by the end of September. I am sure there will be several items to note after the annual conference. Send information to me, Fred Barley, Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, 211 6th Street, Parkersburg, WV, 26101. Fax #: 485-7383

WVAS MID-YEAR MEETING - submitted by Clarence Christian

The WVAS mid-year meeting was a resounding success with fifty-seven (57) sanitarians participating in the FDA sponsored course on "Special Problems in Food Protection."

Participating with us were six Air Force Sanitarians out of Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and two sanitarians from the City of Cincinnati. The program was extremely informative and thought provoking. Kathryn Kennedy, Training Officer FDA, did an outstanding job in organizing and coordinating the program.

The speakers, which included: Bert Bartleson, Washington Department of Health; Denzil Inman, Southwest Regional Food Specialist; D.L. Lancaster, Ann Arbor, MI; Sandra Lancaster, Program Administration Food Protection Services, Little Rock, Arkansas; and Fred Schultz, Retail Food Specialists, Columbus, Ohio; were all exceptional.

The objective of the course was to help us understand what Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) is and how to use it and to give us some new tools for improving the effectiveness of our inspections.

Like it or not, HACCP is the inspection strategy of the future.

From the conversations I had with various participants, it was quite evident that everyone got a lot out of the course and enjoyed it.

We were also very thankful to Mr. Shock and his program directors for the very informative updates on their

programs.

The business meeting went well with some heated debate on the resolution for the Uniform Delivery of Environmental Health Services. The resolution eventually passed after being modified. The modified resolution calls for a committee to be formed to explore the various options available to conducting the Environmental Health Program in the State. This committee will report back to the membership at the annual meeting.

The proposed amendments to the WVAS Constitution and bylaws also passed.

If you missed this course, you missed a golden opportunity to improve your inspection skills and to learn about the inspection strategy for the future. Should you have another chance to attend a HACCP Training Course, I urge you to attend. You will not be sorry.

AN EDITORIAL - submitted by Gail Harris

In the last few months, many grumblings have been heard about the health care reform bill. Environmental Health professionals wait anxiously for news concerning their fate in the new scheme of state health care. I deplore the thought of further fragmentation of Environmental or Public Health Sanitation services offered by the state and county

health departments. Yes, I know that in the day of privatization and fee for services, fragmentation or splitting of services into other agencies is a national theme. But I don't have to agree with it.

Six months ago, I returned to WV from a five year stint as a Registered Sanitarian in Arizona. I worked for Yavapai County as their Supervising Sanitarian for a little over three years.

Yavapai County split their health department in September of 1992. Water and waste delegation was assigned to the county engineering department, and public health sanitation programs stayed with the health department. County sanitarians and aides were then assigned to one or the other department. DEQ (Department Environmental Quality) only had to be acquainted with their specialty. Health department sanitarians still had to be trained in all of the remaining general sanitation areas, including , food, solid waste, sewage, water, epidemiology, vector control, etc.

Both departments required directors and clerical support. The increase in administrative salaries and benefits, was over \$75,000. Not to mention, another office space, vehicles, and travel monies. The county was now sending two employees a day into a district, when one sanitarian used to be able to perform all job duties or work to be accomplished there.

Cooperation between the two departments deteriorated, and each struggled to maintain their own identity. The public, as

well as the other county agencies were shuttled back and forth between the two departments. Who had jurisdiction? Who knows? As the shift occurred, no one knew.

In 1991, the State of Arizona's DEQ audited Yavapai county health department's sewage program. Six deficiencies were found. In September of 1992, the DEQ audit team reviewed the county again, and found thirteen deficiencies.

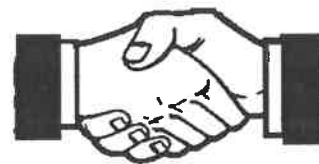
I did not understand the split then nor now. I saw reduced efficiency, staff with less training than previously and a very confused public. The only people who benefited were the new director and clerks who were hired. As one who has experienced a split of delegated services, I hope we can prevent that from happening here.

For decades, the WV State Health Department and the county offices, have provided local and immediate assistance to the state's population. WV Sanitarians are trained as generalists in a unique training school offered by the WV State Health Department. Many sanitarians continue their training and education, often on their own time, to become specialists in one environmental field or several. I believe that WV Sanitarians could work in any state they chose.

What does the future hold? Will we soon be like the State of Maine, whose inspectors do part of their yearly inspections on the phone? Or, the City of Edmonington, Canada, which inspects restaurants on a complaint basis? Will we even have a job in WV? Will we

split like Florida, and work for the Department of Agriculture? Will PUBLIC HEALTH, still be the primary consideration of your new agency?

As sanitarians or other agencies move toward education based inspection programs (rather than enforcement), will the public really be SAFE? If we look at the recent E. Coli food borne outbreak in the northwest, I have my doubts. How about you?



I would like to thank everyone that sent me the gift from Cedar Lakes. *Ray Oxier*

Congratulations

submitted by Ron Forren
Recent sanitarians who successfully passed the PES exam: William Nichols, Warren Elmer, Brad Cochran, Michelle Cochran, and Lloyd White.

Sanitarians who recently completed the training course in Charleston were: Richard Barnett, Darrell Smith, Sue Gadille, Penny Mangold, Dan Parker, and Gary Burton.

KING OF CLEAN -
submitted by Karol Wallingford
Here at Kanawha-Charleston, there is a belief that Flem O'Dell never gets dirty. We figure he must just hover above the ground. Rumor has it that you can follow his footsteps

and come out filthy but Flem is still spotless. Well, back near the end of March, Flem found a new way to stay clean. We had received a complaint about a catering truck that was frequenting a construction site in Charleston. Flem was heading that way so I asked him to check it out. When Flem arrived at the site, he was told the truck would be arriving soon. What Flem didn't realize until he was in the middle of it, was that the site was covered with red clay mud about knee deep. He did have boots with him, but they were in the back of his truck and of no use at this point. How would Flem get to the catering truck without getting covered in red clay? Have two of the construction workers carry him, of course! Surely, anyone else would have come out of there covered with mud, but Flem lived up to his reputation.

ORDNANCE WORKS CLEANUP - *submitted by Jeff Fowler* Fifty years ago, taking care of the environment wasn't considered as important as keeping the world safe for democracy. As a result, the Army Corps of Engineers has the task of cleaning up the remnants of a rural WV TNT plant that helped to win WWII.

Production of TNT began on September 30, 1943, and continued until August 15, 1945. At the peak of employment approximately 3,500 workers were operating the plant which produced TNT 24 hours a day on a 8,300-acre tract along the Ohio River six miles north of Pt. Pleasant, WV.

Today, it's the site of a toxic cleanup project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers'

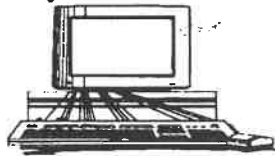
Huntington District is the lead organization in the cleanup effort but is working closely with the Corps' Omaha and Nashville Districts, the State of West Virginia, and the Soil Conservation Service. While the site is not funded as a Superfund site, it ranks No. 150 on the National Priorities List.



WELLNESS - *submitted by Fred Barley*

Did you know that lifestyle contributes 51% towards factors contributing to death? Human biology contributes 20%, environment 19%, and health care contributes 10%

Statistically, if there are 100 people in your company or department, one uses cocaine, 50 feel they're under moderate stress, 10 are heavy drinkers, 30 smoke, 60 sit all day to do their work, 27 have cardio-vascular disease, 24 have high blood pressure, 5 have diagnosed diabetes, 5 have undiagnosed diabetes, 50 or more have high blood cholesterol, 20 are overweight by 20% or more, 60 don't wear their safety belts regularly, and 7 use marijuana.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RELATED EBBS'S - *submitted by Francis Holton*

Waste Water Information Exchange (WTIE)
800-544-1936 N81

Drinking Water Information Exchange (DWIE)
800-932-7459 N81

FDA General EBBS
800-222-0185 E71

Hazardous Material Info Exch
800-874-2884 N81

Lab. Performance Info Exch System (LPIES)
800-522-6388 N81

Florida Recycling Market Service 800-348-1239 N81

DRIPSS (EPA Drinking Water)
800-229-3737 N81

Georgia Environmental Health BBS 404-894-6648 N81

The Georgia EH BBS will require prior registration with Ken Dickson, the system operator (sysop). His voice number is 404-894-6650.

There is still twenty counties that have not returned the EBBS survey form back to Ron. Please do so, as any grants we might try to obtain, would want background information gathered. If anyone needs a form, contact Ron Forren or myself.

MERCER-RALEIGH COUNTY NEWS - *submitted by Stan Walls*
Sam Thurmer transferred from Mercer to McDowell county. Rick Adkins was hired in Mercer county. Lee O'Hara transferred from Hampshire county to Mercer. Mercer and Raleigh County Health Department have applied and received tentative approval for grants to carry out Tobacco

Coalition Activities. Mercer and Raleigh County HD is moving into the community process as part of APEX activities.



WV HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES -

submitted by Karol Wallingford

Radon: Beattie DeBord; They are currently in the third year of school testing and have completed 50 counties. 11,700 classrooms have been tested with 3900 (34%) having levels exceeding the 4.0 pci/l limit. They have also tested 165 childcare centers with 27 of those having radon levels above 4.0 pci/l.

Infectious Waste: Joe Wyatt; The legislature has not yet passed any rules for this program. The current rule will expire July 23, 1993. The department has published a Small Quantity Generator's Guide which includes a model plan for disposal which may be used by small quantity generators for compliance.

Drinking Water: Don Kuntz; Testing for total coliform has gone to presence/absence. 1992 surface water treatment rule addresses filtration requirements related to giardiasis and similar organisms, disinfection, testing and contact time. The phase II rule identifies 83 chemical contaminants such as heavy metals, inorganics, nitrates, herbicides, pesticides, VOC's, etc. Also sets action levels for lead at 0.015 mg/l and copper at 1.3 mg/l. The disinfection by-products rule addresses potentially toxic

compounds in drinking water. Currently being worked on is the radionuclide rule which will address contaminants such as U-226, U-228, radon and alpha and beta particles. The well head protection program is currently dealing with water well drillers but may be picking up monitoring well drillers and possibly oil and gas well drillers. There is a waiver program in effect for small public water systems which would waive the required yearly testing on the 83 contaminants. Waivers could be granted for individual contaminants or families of contaminants and would be determined through vulnerability studies and monitoring histories.

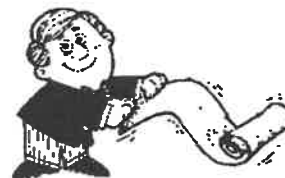
Asbestos: William Pinnell; The current licensure law 64CSR63 (Chapter 16, article 32) addresses 6 categories of personnel who must be licensed. Workers, supervisors, inspectors, developers of management plans, designers of abatement projects and contractors. An amendment to this law is currently awaiting the governor's signature. This amendment would add to the licensure list labs, air sample collectors, and employees of retail floor covering businesses who could be involved in removing old floor coverings or installing new floor coverings in residences only.

Lead Program: William Pinnell; Childhood lead poisoning- screening through EPSDT. Lead abatement licensing with EPA using HUD guidelines. In the future the hope is to mandate lead evaluations prior to real estate transactions.

Bottle Water Program: Ron

Forren; Currently 93 bottlers under permit, representing 123 products, 21 applications are still out.

Tattoo Parlors: Ron Forren; The legislature passed a bill requiring the regulation of tattoo parlors by the health department. The bill takes effect 90 days from the passage date, April 9, 1993. Rules were written directly into the bill, therefore the only thing left to do is design an inspection form.



CARPETS RAISE HEALTH CONCERNS -
submitted by Clarence Christian
Complaints of health problems linked to carpets have come from houses, schools and offices where they have been installed, from the factories where they were made and even from workers at the Environmental Protection Agency's Washington headquarters. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, burning noses and throats, body tremors, double vision, respiratory infections, to sinus and ear infections. Between 1987 and 1990 there were more than 500 such complaints to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission.

In 1987 and 1988, the EPA installed 27,000 yards of new carpet during renovations at its Waterside Mall Office in Washington. Soon, 880 of 5,000 workers at the complex complained of illness.

In 1989, the agency ripped the

carpet out and issued an internal policy that the agency would not buy any more carpet that contained one suspect chemical, 4-phenylcyclohexene, or 4-PC. But nearly five years after banning 4-PC from its own offices, the EPA is still saying that no direct tie has been proven between human health and 4-PC or any other chemical in carpet. DAVID GRAM, AP, REGISTER-HERALD, 06/06/93



VIDEO

TELECONFERENCE -

submitted by Francis Holton

A satellite video teleconference will take place on September 2, 1993, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. EDT on Lessons Learned from recent foodborne disease outbreaks, and what's next. USDA and FDA experts will update state and local officials on the findings of recent foodborne disease outbreaks, review the actions the federal government is taking in response to the outbreaks (including discussion of the Pathogen Reduction Program, new HACCP initiatives, and the new FOOD CODE), and discuss how federal government and state and local officials can better work together to help prevent future foodborne outbreaks. Following each of the three panels participants at local sites can call in questions to the presenters. There is no charge to receive satellite transmission, which can be found at coordinates:

GALAXY 7TR. 16, AUDIO 6.2 AND 6.8, TEST BARS AND TONE 12:30 - 1:00 P.M. EDT.

MONONGALIA COUNTY NEWS -

submitted by John Hathaway
Monongalia County Health Department's Environmental Health Division has been busy this spring applying for grants to help protect the public and enhance operations. An EPA grant was awarded to the Division as one of eight recipients nationwide each receiving \$100,000 to be used to install innovative technology wastewater systems. The grant additionally provided \$10,000 toward training and education about the new technologies. Cliff Livengood has been placed in charge of the project to establish training and will be working closely with the Small Flows Clearinghouse personnel to ensure that the best technologies are used.

Nada Beneke applied for a \$5,000 Cross Connection Control Program grant with the EPA. This grant wasn't funded because the grant reviewers felt that cross connections are not an important public health concern. Nada is in the process of reapplying and will hopefully be successful this time.

Our Division joined forces with PATCH (Planned Approach to Community Health) to secure a \$33,467 grant to implement an Injury Prevention Program. This grant will be used to address fire safety, head injuries and playground safety issues. It will establish ongoing coalitions to deal with injury prevention concerns. Although grants are not easily secured, they may be extremely beneficial for meeting your objectives.

PARASITES IN DRINKING WATER -

submitted by Gary Hamilton

Are Milwaukee type parasites floating in my drinking water? Maybe. A recent survey of drinking water supplies in 14 states indicated that one in four were tainted with *Cryptosporidium parvum*. Nearly 2000 people suffered bouts of severe diarrhea and one died from the tiny intestinal parasites last spring due to Milwaukee's contaminated water system. The parasite is carried by mammals, particularly young livestock. Runoff can carry the *Cryptosporidium* "eggs," or cysts into surface waters which may be used for drinking purposes. The cysts are difficult to detect and can withstand large doses of chlorine. Filtering the water is effective, but not perfect. Inadequate filtration and operational errors at the filtration plant have resulted in several outbreaks. Additionally, eight percent of Americans drink unfiltered water from surface sources. It is estimated that 1,000 cysts are needed to breach the immune system of a healthy adult. Health, July/August, 1993, p.14

PHILIPPI DISTRICT

NEWS - *submitted by Mark Whittaker*

An in-service training meeting was held in Kingwood on June 4, 1993. Speakers at the meeting were Paul Ashburn of Ashco-A-Corporation and Dr. Allen Ducatman of WVU Health Services. Mr. Ashburn spoke of recirculating sand filters, Clearstream home aeration units, newly certified by NSF Jet 353-5 home aeration units, as well as many

other issues relating to sewage disposal. Dr. Ducatman spoke of health issues related to primarily pediatric patients. These issues were lead poisoning, asthma, radon, asbestos, sick building syndrome, and electro magnetic fields. The next in-service is set for September 10 in Randolph County. A tatoost will present a program relating to the tattoo parlor side of the new regulations.

Four new sanitarians have been hired in the Philippi District. Darrell Smith, Terry Miller and Richard Barnette all of Monongalia County, and Penny Mangold of Upshur County. Lloyd White of Marion County has a son named Pat that finished third in the State wrestling tournament this year, wrestling in the 112 pound class for North Marion High School. Pat will attend WVU this fall.

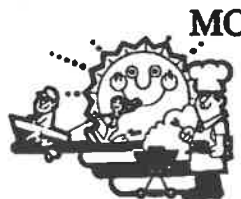
An all-sanitarian household was established in April of this year with the uniting in marriage of Brad Cochran and Michelle Richards. Congratulations!



WVAS AWARDS -
submitted by
Gary Hamilton
With the rapid approach of the annual State Health Conference

in Canaan Valley, I want to remind everyone that it is time to submit nominations for awards by our Association. Oftimes, we forget to give that pat on the back to our fellow worker or to those who have assisted us by giving them public recognition. I think that the honoring of deserving individuals represents important

and positive action by the Association and that such action fosters pride in our profession. Please take the time to consider those among us who may deserve recognition and submit one or more nominations for review by the Awards Committee (Randy DeHaven, Anita Ray, Ron Forren and myself). We need the forms by August 6, 1993, if at all possible, to allow time to review and order appropriate awards. Help make this a great year for acknowledging those who have contributed so much.



MOVHD NEWS -
submitted by
Fred Barley
Sanitarians are busy with

fairs and festivals. So far this spring they have worked the WV Bass Festival, numerous Fourth of July Celebrations, the Glass Festival, numerous fire department ice cream socials, Belmont Carnival, a circus, and the Interstate Fair & Exposition. Still to come this summer will be at least twenty more festivals! Steve Bayer and I will be pickin' and grinin' at the Belleville Homecoming Festival this September, but don't look for us to quit our day jobs. We had our annual staff meeting/picnic this July at North Bend State Park. Although several people were unable to attend, we still had over 140 employees and guests in attendance. We would like to extend our sympathy to Roger Amos, as his son Patrick recently lost his life in a car accident.

NEHA 57TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE - submitted by
Clarence Christian
It was my pleasure to attend the

National Environmental Health Association's 57th Annual Education Conference in Orlando, FL, June 26-30, 1993.

The conference was excellent with such outstanding speakers as C.Y. Allen, Professor University of Wisconsin; Barry L. Johnson, Ph.D., Assistant Surgeon General; Kym Murphy; corporate Vice President of Environmental Policy; Walt Disney World and Chris J Wiant, President of NEHA just to name a few. The program covered the entire gamut of environmental health programs including air pollution laws, hazardous and toxic substances, injury prevention, occupational health and institutional environmental health, water issues, food protection, on site wastewater management, environmental health management, solid waste and recycling, and international environmental health.

I came away from the meeting with a renewed interest and enthusiasm for my job. I was impressed by the motivational presentation given by Professor C.Y. Allen, "we are living our lives in a pivotal point in society." The space and scope of change is at an accelerated rate. This condition or crisis provides equal opportunity and danger. In order to take advantage of the opportunity, we need to provide leadership at every level of society. We must act, direct, and affirm that what we are engaged in a concern that matters.

Change hurts - that is why it takes courage. We should be dissatisfied with things the way they are and try to make a difference.

This talk was especially relevant when applied to our food sanitation program. We are at a pivotal point in this program and must make a change in the way we do things. According to John Marcello, with the Education Foundation of the National Restaurant Association, "An increasing competitive economic environment and shrinking regulatory budgets will present major challenges to meeting the food safety expectations of the public." I agree with Tom Chestnut, R.S., Director Quality Assurance, Red Lobster, General Mills Restaurants, when he says, "We need to provide a modified hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP) approach that makes the system compatible and practical with operational procedures, but does not compromise food safety. Utilizing HACCP in food service operations is a critical factor if we are to elevate food safety standard." He goes on to say, "If we look at HACCP items, that is what will be important to the operator; if we're looking at floors, walls and ceilings, that is what will be important to the operator."

It is time that we provide leadership, act, direct, and affirm this new approach to food safety sanitation.

RATS PLAGUE CITIES - *submitted by Gary Hamilton*

Evidence is mounting that rats may be responsible for thousands of cases of kidney disease in American cities. Rats in many cities harbor viruses, called hantaviruses, that have been known to cause hemorrhaging accompanied by kidney disease, most notable in Asia. In a study of more than

8,000 people in Baltimore, researchers found that individuals with the most common type of kidney failure - called hypertensive end-stage kidney disease - are five times more likely to harbor antibodies to the hantavirus than are people with healthy kidneys. Antibodies indicate exposure to the virus, which can occur through inhalation of dust particles contaminated by rat urine, feces, or saliva. It is estimated that about \$100 million of the \$3 billion a year spent in Medicaid payments on dialysis and kidney transplants is attributable to the hantavirus. Rodent control would more than pay for itself. (*Note: the recent deaths in the Southwest have been attributed to the hantavirus*) HEALTH, JULY/AUGUST, 1993, p.16

WVPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - *submitted by Joy Gower*

The Sixty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Public Health Association will be held September 21-24, 1993, at Canaan Valley State Park. This year's theme, "Public Health - Responding to Change", is something that we all have been involved with the past couple of years. A copy of the final schedule will be presented in the upcoming News and Views. Environment Health Section's programs include: "Dealing with Difficult People", "Electronic Inspection System", "Unicode, E-Coli Outbreak and Prime Connection", "An artist's perspective on tattooing", and "Indoor air problems". The clerical section will again coordinate a joint reception, with a country and western theme. Note that to reduce costs, finger foods only will be served. This is not to be

considered a meal. The annual Sanitarian's Dance will be held after the reception, and will feature J & J Sound Productions. The General Sessions will have programs dealing with Bureau Updates, "Dealing with Change", and the annual Legislative Forum. Senator John D. Rockefeller, III, may attend this session.

RESA'S WEIGAND RECEIVES HONOR - *submitted by Fred Barley*

RESA 5 Environmental Training Center Coordinator Richard G. Weigand was honored at the 10th annual EPA National Training Conference in Chicago. Weigand was recognized for his contributions to the training of wastewater operators in West Virginia. THE PARKERSBURG NEWS, JULY 1993

SANTARIAN CRUCIAL - *submitted by Gail Harris*

County Commissioners are being asked to consider a proposal to terminate their decade-old agreement with the regional health department and turn over these functions to the local hospital. Although the hospital will not fully explain its proposal until next week, the initial discussions indicated that the county could be left without a sanitarian. True, the county commission would save the \$6,000 that it now provides the health department each year. But that won't be near enough to hire a sanitarian and pay for needed supplies that go along with this position. Who would be left to inspect restaurants, school and hospital cafeterias? Who would inspect water and sewer systems? We hope somebody would. THE ROANE COUNTY REPORTER EDITORIAL; JULY 22, 1993

