

SANITARIAN'S NEWSLETTER

Join the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians!

Vol. 95 No. 2

April 1995

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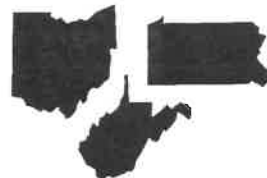
Winter has finally come to a close, and things are starting to bloom out on the Barley Farm. Went to Dallas... don't go... like playing a video driving game, only this time it's real! Couldn't take my guitar, so I packed up some harmonicas in case I ran into a "hot" group... in retrospect, it was a bad idea... have you ever noticed how harps look amazingly like

machine gun clips under an airport X-ray? **THEY DID!!!** Yes, they did want to have a little talk with me... *(for what it is worth, the musicians I heard in Texas are not as good as the ones I have heard in Clay, Pleasants, Gilmer, Randolph or other counties here in good 'ol West Virginia!)*

By the third day, my leg was really hurting, and everyone from West Virginia wanted to go on a tour... no way I would go.. I knew I had things planned until late that evening, so in order to rest up, I declined... My wife was despondent as we weren't doing anything that morning on vacation, so I got a rental car and we headed to Dallas (as in downtown) for our own tour. I hate driving in Parkersburg, but let me tell you, driving in Dallas is like a complex video game and makes Parkersburg look like a kids game. I'll take a cab next time.

Although my leg still bothers me, it is getting better. I must warn everyone that since I can no longer "sky" in basketball, I have been working on a two handed set shot and it's a killer!

Fred ✪



Tri-State

**Sanitarian's
Association**

The February Tri-State Environmental Health Association meeting was hosted by the Marshall County Health Department. Donald Bordenkircher, Chairman, Department of Criminology from West Liberty State College conducted a session for the group regarding investigation procedures including the legal implications of entering property without the owners' consent and collecting evidence.

The afternoon program consisted of an informational course designed to help Sanitarians present a written complaint under the present rules of the West Virginia Magistrate Court System.

This educational session was presented by Mr. William D. Anderson, Magistrate, from Marshall County.

The group watched a video of proper lead-testing procedures. It was made during a workshop conducted by Joe Golebiewski, RS, for the Sanitarians from Hancock & Brooke Counties at an actual lead test site. The video is available for loan.

Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department hosted the March Tri-State Environmental Health Association session. Mr. Jaime Fenske from the newly formed West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection gave an excellent overview (accompanied by slides) of the duties of the Department of Environmental Protection. He emphasized the Ohio River water quality monitoring program, sewage sludge disposal site inspection program, emergency spill investigation program and other valuable programs for which his department is responsible.

Ron Forren was the afternoon speaker. He presented the group with a wrap-up of the 1995 Legislative Session as it pertained to Public Health in West Virginia. He also distributed a State-wide Local Health Department Needs Assessment and stressed that a conservatively estimated 164.4 Sanitarians are needed to adequately complete minimum Local Health Department programs throughout the State. Currently, there are only 120 Sanitarians employed by Local Health Departments.

Additionally, Mr. Forren distributed a draft of a survey form to be completed by all Local Sanitarians as to the roles and responsibilities of the District Environmental Health Service Staffs.

The meeting concluded with Mr. Forren receiving a token of appreciation for his continued support and advice throughout the years.

The April meeting will be hosted by Steubenville, Ohio City Health Department.....Jolene Zuros, RS ✦

**This from THE (WEIRTON) DAILY TIMES
March 20, 1995...**

"Burger cooking advisory given"

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Health officials advised parents to cook hamburger meat thoroughly in the wake of a food poisoning incident involving a 2-year-old girl.

The Westmoreland County girl is being treated at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for illness resulting from the *Escherichia coli* bacteria, also known as *E. coli*.

The child's parents have requested that no further information be released. Allegheny County health officials believe the case is isolated and no general health threat exists.

E. coli, a bacteria that lives in the intestines, usually is associated with eating undercooked meat, particularly hamburger.

A 1993 outbreak of food poisoning in the Pacific Northwest that was linked to the bacteria killed three children and sickened hundreds of other people.

Symptoms include severe diarrhea and abdominal cramps. ✦

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
MASTERS PROGRAMS**

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY is offering **Off-Campus** Master of Science programs in **COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION** beginning in the Fall of 1995. The programs, which are offered **entirely off-campus** will be offered in **WHEELING & CHARLESTON**.

The program emphasizes concepts related to learning motivation, and behavior change; organizational and community assessment; and the planning, implementation, and evaluation of community health education programs.

The primary goal of the health promotion program is to prepare professionals to help people: (1) develop the capability to understand the issues in personal choice health behavior, and (2) enhance their capacity to make choices in their own interest and that of society. The Health Education instructional program is designed to prepare individuals to function in health education leadership roles in community service, teaching, and research.



Two degrees are granted by the Community Health Promotion Program. (1) the Master of Science in Community Health Education and (2) the Master of Science in School Health Education. Community Health Education students may elect the **clinical** option (field practicum) or the **research** (thesis) option.

The mission of health promotion in West Virginia is **optimum health for the state's citizens**. The WVU Community Health Promotion program contributes to the achievement of this goal by preparing leaders who can develop effective health education programs that encourage people to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles. Graduates of the Community Health Promotion program have the skills to work with a diverse population in the communities where people live, the places where they work, and the schools where they learn.

In addition to the Off-campus programs that are being offered in the Fall, a variety of Community Health Promotion Classes

will be held this Summer throughout the State. A week-long **Personal Lifestyle Management** class will be held in Morgantown, Charleston, Wheeling, and Parkersburg. **Drug/alcohol Abuse Prevention** and **Philosophy of Health Education** are scheduled to be conducted at Lewis County High School. **Statistics for Health Educators** will be held in Wheeling, and **Grant Writing** is scheduled for Shepherdstown. Many of the Summer classes begin on May 19. **Information about this Masters Degree Program will be available at the MID-YEAR MEETING.**

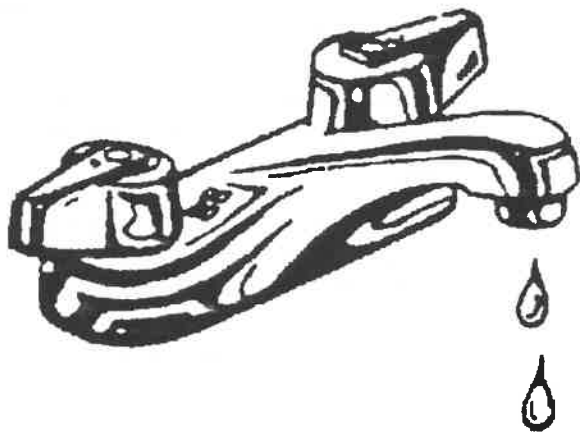
For further information, contact Dr. Kenard McPherson, Box 6116 Coliseum, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506 or phone his office at 293-7510. Jolene Zuros, RS. ✦

**This from the PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 1995**

**"Access to uncontaminated water still
problematic in W.V."**

By Michael Janofsky THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAMPBELLTOWN, W.V.. - For nearly a century, most residents of this tumbledown mountain community have been drawing their drinking water from a common well on a hillside just above the town's 70 houses.



Three years ago, state officials found that the water was contaminated by pollutants and issued an order to boil it before drinking.

Like most other people in Campbelltown, Carroll Barlow says it is high time that she and her neighbors are finally hooked up to the municipal water system in Marlinton, W.V., less than a mile away. But neither the state nor the local governments can afford to pay for the pipes or the pumps to carry the water up the valley.

"I hope I live long enough to get safe water in this house," said Barlow, 55, who says she has to clean her sinks and toilet twice a day to deal with rust-colored stains that the well water leaves behind.

State officials say no medical problems can be traced to the water, but Barlow is not taking chances. She uses the well water only for washing and buys drinking water in 69-cent gallon jugs at the Foodland store in Marlinton.

From small communities like Campbelltown to isolated hollows with no names, access to reliable supplies of clean drinking water has long been a problem in West Virginia. The state's rugged geography, coupled with the endemic poverty of rural Appalachia, has strictly limited the ability of local and state government to extend water lines everywhere. Neither the state nor the federal government is required to connect isolated residents to existing water systems and, given the nation's tight-budget environment, money to build water or sewage systems to spur economic development in rural areas is likely to become increasingly scarce.

"We just can't do everything," said W.D. Smith, a director of the Appalachian Regional Commission, a federal agency that helps promote economic development.

Smith said that with so many communities seeking financing for new systems, only those that can demonstrate an unusually urgent need or immediate economic benefit would succeed.

"We've got a Third World situation here," he said. "I've seen human suffering, old people, people coming to me in tears. But I always have to ask them, 'What's so unusual about your situation?' It's not enough anymore just to say they don't have any water."

A recent study by the Agriculture Department concluded that more than a million people living in rural sections around the country, including large parts of the Mississippi Delta and areas along the Mexican border, did not have clean drinking water piped into their homes.

But experts say no other state has so large a percentage of its population unserved by municipal systems as West Virginia. By the state's estimate, almost a quarter of its 1.8 million people have no access to municipal water, and 40 percent are not served by public sewerage.

West Virginians who do not get municipal water rely mostly on wells; in places, a single well serves an entire community. Water drawn from these wells must in some cases be boiled or chemically treated to remove impurities that seep into underground water reservoirs from abandoned coal mines.

People who live near active mines are especially vulnerable to pollution.

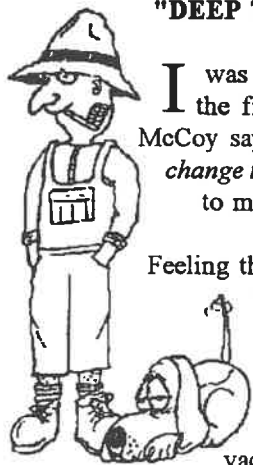
Despite Sen. Robert C. Byrd's legendary ability to funnel federal money home for West Virginia's highway system and other programs, state agencies have only recently focused on water and sewerage needs to bolster economic development. Last year, voters approved a \$300 million bond issue for water and sewerage projects.

State officials say water problems exist in all 55 of West Virginia's counties but most acutely in the rugged eastern half of the state.

In Marlinton, the latest problem is that officials do not have the \$3 million needed to carry water from the town's water plant to the new hospital, which was built on a hill to keep it high above the flood-prone banks of the Greenbrier River.

For now, the hospital, scheduled to open this summer, will draw its water from the well that serves the local school, across the street.

"We're struggling to find the funding," said Douglas Dunbrack, the Marlinton mayor, who doubts that the well water supply will be adequate for the hospital, intended to serve some 9,000 people in eastern West Virginia. "We need a big-time grant, but there's just no money available." submitted by Jolene Zuros, RS 🍌



"DEEP THOUGHTS"

submitted by Sam E. Tarian

I was on vacation, and was reminded of the first Star Trek movie, where Dr. McCoy says, "*Engineers are always trying to change things.*" This profound thought came to me in the airport.

Feeling the need to void my system of some unnecessary waste, I found a sports page deposited in a uninhabited seat and I proceeded to the site of depository. I ventured into one of their rest vestibules, and found a vacant cubicle.

When I am back home, I always do a "courtesy flush" when in a public restroom and proceeded to do so after reading another article about the baseball strike, but couldn't find a flush handle anywhere.... kinna hard to do anywho when you can't see behind you. Much to my chagrin, I was still not able to flush until I stood up and turned around (it was an auto thingie with some sort of type sensor do-flitchie do-hickie).

I think they should install an override manual courtesy flush level for those who desire not to shuffle back and forth with their pants to their knees to get the desired flush. Knowing engineers, they would come up with some sort of an olfactory flush sensor do-flitchie, which would probably make the water closet run full time for some people!

I was in a horizontal position reading a book with my cat the other day, and we decided to take a power nap. The phone rang and woke me up. Princess just yawned and moved to another part of the couch. Thinking it might be Ed McMahon, I rushed to the phone, and answered.... "Hello..." "Is George there?" "No," I replied.... "you must have the wrong number.." Somewhat confused by being interrupted in my power nap, and not thinking clearly, I just stood there, waiting for a response..... the other person then said..."Well, if I have the wrong number, why did you answer...?" <click>

Hmmmmmm..... Princess is now sound asleep curled up and I am standing in my underwear wondering what went wrong... No ten million dollars today, but after thinking about it, I see the guy's point. In today's political correctness, I should have said, "No, you have the wrong person."

You know, a major chain of discount stores puts a sign up that says, "If three or more people are in line we will open new lines.." Not a bad idea, but last Christmas, I noticed they took the signs down. Think about it... It seems logical to me to open up new lines when you are busy... when they are not busy, they put up the signs... Hmmmmmm.....

Speaking of lines, if bank personnel are so good at counting, why do they always have eight windows available but only two tellers working????

I hate buying clothes for women. Have you ever noticed that their underwear costs more the less cloth you get? I understand electronics pretty well, and can grasp the idea that it costs more to buy small electronic devices because it takes more time to make micro stuff. Does micro women's underwear take micro stitches or something I don't know about? Women's sizes are funny too. A different one for their underwear, jeans, slacks, coats and their dresses. I've never bought women's hosiery, but wouldn't doubt it if it comes in a different size too. Even if I luck out and buy the right size it's always out of style or the wrong color or fabric. Call it "Sammie's Law."

Shoes, forget it. Don't try. Realize you'll never get the right size, style, fit or color. In fact, don't go with 'em. It's a long day of sitting around and wondering why the shoes on sale are not the ones they want to try on! Diamonds... well, you can't mess up buying women diamonds; unless, of course, you are like me and bought white gold and were supposed to get the gold, gold. *Sammie* 🍌

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF REGISTRATION NEWS
submitted by Ron Forren, R.S.

The Board has revisited its policy for continuing education hours that was developed when the current registration law became effective on July 1, 1992. The Board wanted to make sure that the policy was complete and adequate in determining what types of continuing education would or would not be acceptable to the Board. It has been a philosophy of the Board that any continuing education that promotes or enhances one's ability to perform their job as a sanitarian is acceptable. This may include a class on computer skills, a college science course or a workshop on improving one's verbal and written communication skills. The point is that there are many sources of continuing education in addition to the opportunities provided by the In-Service Training Meeting and the training sponsored by the Sanitarian's Association. The Board determined that the original policy on continuing education is still relevant and is working very well.

Please keep in mind that the Board of Registration will only approve five hours of teaching that is conducted by a sanitarian. Also, remember that it is no longer necessary to submit the half sheets to the Board to obtain continuing education credit as long as your name is on the official sign-in sheet that has been submitted for a meeting or training course.

Should you have any questions regarding your continuing education hours, contact SANDY DEARIEN, KANAWHA-CHARLESTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT, AT 348-8050. ✪

TOLL FREE NUMBER CORRECTION
submitted by Karol Wallingford, R.S.

In the previous newsletter the list of toll free numbers included 1-800-922-1255 as the number for the Office of Environmental Health Services (OEHS). This number does ring into OEHS, however this is the Radon Hotline and should be used for that purpose. There is a general toll free number for OEHS that may be used for any purpose.

That number is:
1-800-ENV-HELTH.
368-43584
You must dial all letters even though it seems there too many. ✪



BILL HARVEY TO TEACH SELF-DEFENSE
submitted by Karol Wallingford, R.S.

Once again Bill Harvey has been asked to teach self-defense at the clerical section meeting on May 2, 1995, at Cedar Lakes. Bill is scheduled to instruct the clerks from 1:00 - 4:30 P.M. which, unfortunately, coincides with the Association's business meeting. We'll have to keep Bill informed about the Association's activities and hope he survives his 3 hours in a room full of women! ✪



**KANAWHA-CHARLESTON HD PASSES
CLEAN INDOOR AIR REGULATION**
submitted by Charles Saber, R.S.

On March 23, 1995, the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health passed a Clean Indoor Air Regulation. The Regulation will take effect on May 22, 1995.

Smoking shall be prohibited in all enclosed public places within Kanawha County, including, but not limited to, the following places: Grocery stores; elevators; restrooms; all means of public transit; retail stores; waiting areas and lobbies in all business and non-profit entities. Restaurants may designate an area up to fifty (50%) of the seating capacity as a smoking area.

Other public places that will be affected are patient rooms, waiting rooms and other public areas in health facilities, including, but not limited to, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, physical therapy facilities, doctors' and dentists' offices.

Enclosed shopping malls, with the majority vote by the businesses, can agree to designate smoking areas within the common areas. These designated areas shall contain not more than fifty percent (50%) of the seating within the common area and thirty percent (30%) of the seating in the food court.

The Regulation does include the enclosed places of employment. It is the responsibility of employers to provide smoke-free areas for non-smoking employees.

Where smoking is not to be regulated is in these areas: Bars; private residences, except when used as a child care or health care facility; designated hotel and motel rooms rented to guests; retail tobacco stores; private functions (not open to the general public); and a private, enclosed office work places occupied by one person. ✪

MASON COUNTY TO CHARGE FEES

submitted by Jeff Fowler, R.S.

The Mason County Health Department has started charging fees for all Environmental Health permits and services. I would like to say a special thanks to Ron Forren, Twila Carr, and Keith Lyons for all their help. ✎



NEWS FROM THE STATE OFFICE

submitted by Karol Wallingford, R.S.

WELCOME, NEW SANITARIANS

Since our last newsletter we have four new sanitarians in the state. All four started in March and two spent their first day on the job in training class. The newly hired sanitarians are: Magda Knott - Mid Ohio Valley Health Department; Brian Bogden - Monongalia County Health Department; Robert Livingston - Grant County Health Department; and Robyn Rogers - Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. Don't forget to welcome our newest sanitarians and offer them assistance when you get the chance to meet them. ✎

ANOTHER REGISTERED SANTARIAN

Add another name to the ever increasing list of professional sanitarians able to use the title RS. Congratulations to Charlene Parsley of Cabell-Huntington Health Department for her recent success at the PES. I know Charlene worked hard in preparing for the exam, so Stan, I hope you have duly rewarded her!! And Charlene, what's the secret? I know there are others out there who would like to know. ✎

ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING CENTER SCHEDULE

The following is the schedule of courses offered at the Environmental Training Center at Cedar Lakes for the remainder of this year.

- May 1-5
Wastewater Lab
- 15-19
Class II Wastewater
- 22-26
Class II Water
- 31-June 2
Process Control I
- July 10-14
Class III Wastewater
- 17-20
Class III Water
- Aug. 14-16
Water Lab Procedures
- 21-24
Microbiology
- Sept. 6-7
DMR Workshop
- 11-15
Class I Wastewater
- 18-22
Wastewater Lab
- 25-29
Class I Water
- Oct. 2-6
40 Hr. HAZMAT
- 10
HAZMAT Refresher
- 11-Nov 1
Process Control II
- 23-27
Class II Water
- Nov. 13-17
Class II Wastewater

For more information regarding these courses or other courses offered at ETC, please contact ETC at 304-372-7878. ✎

TRAINING CENTER NEWS

Well, the 1995 session of the Eight-Week Sanitarian Training Course is underway in Charleston. There are eight trainees enrolled full-time and one sanitarian, new to West Virginia, who is auditing the course part-time. We had a great two weeks getting started. During this time Dr. Wallace came to speak to the trainees about Public Health; Mr. Schock spoke regarding Environmental Health; and Ron Forren spoke about the roles of a sanitarian. We've also experienced a few problems with the weather, just a minor snow storm (6-10 inches); and the Boys High School Basketball Tournament, motel rooms are pretty scarce in Charleston once the games get started. All things considered, the class is going well and we have another great group of trainees! ✦

MONONGALIA COUNTY NEWS

submitted by Art Adams, R.S.

The highlight of a Sanitarian's career has to be when the local radio talk show host asks you to appear to dispel rumors that a local restaurant is serving cat and possum (not Opossum). Don't laugh, it could happen to you. Talk about apprehension. Well, being a dutiful public servant, and caring about how our food program was being maligned, I agreed. The talk show host wanted a response to a story made by a caller the day before who stated that she was served a plate of food that was "moving" and that our office had allegedly confirmed that it was possum and cat, crawling with maggots. Needless to say, that was not true. Staff members had identified a single grain weevil larvae by comparing it to a picture in an entomology book and had shown the person the picture and the larvae with a magnifying glass. How it became cat and possum with crawling maggots really has our staff puzzled. The experience of working the talk show was like replacing targets on an archery range while archers continue to shoot. Thankfully, I was able to interject positive information about our programs between jabs from callers. Although, the situation came out okay, I was extremely hesitant about going on a live talk show, and will be just as skeptical the next time. Please don't call me for advice.

Monongalia County is looking forward to the return of Todd Powrozik and Brian Bogden from the Sanitarian's Training Course. They have both said how much they are enjoying the classes. Little do they know what awaits them. Please offer your condolences next time you see them.

The Monongalia County Health Department has established a goal for incorporating Total Quality Management (TQM) throughout its operations. As committee chair, I have made excellent contacts which you may want to use. Rein Valdov, Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, initially provided training for our Department and then was helpful in steering me toward other good resources. One of those resources is JoAnn Johnson, with the WVDHHR Inspire/TQM Process. She has proven to be a wealth of knowl-

edge and has been very helpful in providing resources. A favorite example is, "Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it! Autograph your work with excellence!!!"

(Editor's note: Art, I have eaten "possum" and can take it or leave it, but if you get any big cats up in Morgantown, such as Panthers or Nittany Lions, let me know, and I'll be the first in line!) ✦

NEWS FROM SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

submitted by Barbara Wolman

Is no news good news? Sanitarians in surrounding counties once again say they have no news to report. With warmer weather arriving I am sure there is an increase in activity in all the Environmental Health offices, with that accompanying feeling of "being swamped." Perhaps Fred can tell us where that phrase originated.



Stan Walls, R.S., and the Mercer County Board of Health members had an interesting public hearing March 30th on the proposed CLEAN INDOOR AIR REGULATION. Over 150 people attended with about 50 speaking during the 2 hour hearing. The majority speaking were against the REGULATION - most often citing personal freedom. Some residents who work at a nearby plant in Virginia feel the REGULATION would result in loss of jobs at their plant - which is involved in the production of cigarette filters. It was a long, difficult evening. The Board members have not yet voted on the REGULATION.

The CLEAN INDOOR AIR REGULATION became effective March 24th in Raleigh County. We have only received a few complaints about non-compliance thus far. Over 500 letters were sent out to food service and retail food establishments advising them of passage of the REGULATION, and inviting them to one

of four sessions conducted by the sanitarians to explain the REGULATION and how it would apply to those establishments.

The Public Health staff of RCHD have been involved this week in celebrating Public Health Awareness Week. The Environmental Health staff sponsored Kids Day on Monday - inviting child care centers to bring children in to participate in activities related to safety and health. Representatives of the Fire Department, National Park Service, Youth Museum, and the DARE program assisted us with the program.

On Tuesday we "Launched Preventive Health" with a keynote speech by Jon McBride, former NASA astronaut. William Wallace, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health and various representatives of city, county and state government also spoke on public health issues and helped us in recognizing some of our citizens for their help promoting public health.

Other activities planned for the remainder of the week included exercise - with line dancing demonstrations, door prizes and Senior Day with free blood pressure and glucose screening. We are tooting our own horn in order to make our community more aware of who we are and what we do. ✨

WVAS PUBIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION REPORT submitted by Fred Barley, R.S.

We have, as a committee, met several goals set forth in our first meeting. The new 800 telephone list was published in the last WVAS Newsletter issue; PES study materials are being collected for use; a free materials list is being developed; information on gaining a Master's degree is published in this issue; the WVAS Newsletter is being published on time and with a great deal of input from all committee members (thanks to Art, Lisa, Barbara, Jolene and Karol); an updated EBBS telephone listing is published in this newsletter; a calling tree has been developed for WVAS use; a computer database was developed from the state Board of Registration's database (thanks to Sandy Dearien) so we can print labels for all sanitarians in the state; a video library is being developed. ✨

News from the Eastern Panhandle submitted by Lisa Dunn, R.S.

RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY - The rabies virus is back in Jefferson County. From January 1st of this year to now we have already had 4 positive rabies cases. This includes 3 raccoons and 1 skunk. Two dogs have had to be destroyed and at least 10 people are on the post-exposure shot regimen.



One incident which was particularly traumatic for the family has gotten a lot of media attention. The following are excerpts from an article in the local newspaper. The article was titled "Family Pet In Lock-up After Rabid Raccoon's Attack" and it shows a picture of the dog in a cage not even big enough for it to hardly turn around in.

"Fergie, the house pet of the Carlos Niederhauser family in Kerneysville, was bitten on the nose by a rabid raccoon on Sunday, March 12th, at the family home.

Fortunately, the diminutive Welsh Corgi had received its rabies vaccination. Without the vaccine, the dog would have been destroyed.

The biting incident in the Niederhauser home occurred late in the evening as the family was preparing for bed. Fergie was on the back porch when the family heard a terrible howling noise. "I could tell the dog was hurt," said Mr. Niederhauser. "It sounded like someone opened the gates of hell for a moment."

Rushing to the scene, 13-year old Matthew flung open the back door to find his dog rolling about with a large raccoon. "I couldn't tell what was going on or what," he recalled. The dog flew through the door into the house, running over Matthew's feet. The large raccoon gave chase and also ran over Matthew's feet.

The pair of animals ran past family members, veering into the front hall where Carlos opened the front door in the hope that the raccoon would exit. Matthew scooped up the bleeding Fergie into his arms and raced upstairs to escape the raccoon. "I looked down the hall and all I could see was a big, hairy raccoon, Carlos and Dorothy running in circles," recalled houseguest Anna Tayler. "I thought they had all gone nuts!"

Rather than exit, the rabid raccoon instead lunged at Dorothy McGhee, who leaped on a chair and somehow managed to ascend the nearby staircase.

The raccoon then retreated into the television room where Niederhauser managed to trap the animal. After doing so, he called 911 for assistance.

Niederhauser then contacted his neighbor, John Jeffreys, a recent retiree with the West Virginia State Police. Jeffreys, using a .22 caliber rifle, fired two rounds into the raccoon as it lurked in the fireplace in the TV room.

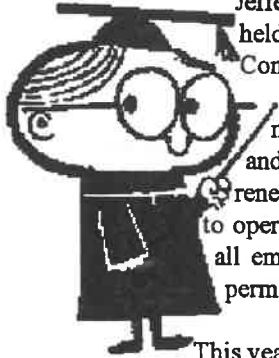
The head of the deceased raccoon was shipped to Charleston by the Health Department, where it tested 'positive' for rabies.

Both McGhee and Matthew Niederhauser handled their pet canine extensively during and after the incident and, because of

exposure to infective saliva and blood of the sick raccoon, are now undergoing a series of inoculations of rabies immune globulin serum at the Jefferson Memorial Hospital. ✪

FOOD SERVICE EDUCATION DOES WORK - Sanitarians get frustrated sometimes because it seems like all we do is preach and preach and preach but it never sinks in. How many times have you gone in to a food service establishment or grocery store and as the people in the deli see you coming down the aisle, there is suddenly a scurrying of cleaning going on and everyone is looking for a cap to put on?

Well, I'm here to tell you that education does work. The Jefferson County Health Department held its 2nd Annual Retail Food Workers Conference on March 14th and 15th. Attendance of this class is a requirement to get a good workers permit and in order for the grocery stores to renew their annual permit to operate, each store must prove that all employees have current food workers permits.



This year's conference was about safety. We had the Assistant State Fire Marshall give a talk on fire safety in the retail food store setting. I gave a presentation on food safety. This was my yearly "basics" talk about temperatures, sanitation, etc. I used overheads with my talk to keep them interested and even gave a quiz which we answered as a group requiring audience participation.

One part of my presentation was to go over the old wash-rinse-sanitize bit. I told the people in the audience that they should know this so well that they should be able to say it in their sleep. I got a lot of laughs and a few comments that I couldn't hear (and probably wasn't suppose to hear.) At the end of my talk I felt good but kept things in perspective. These people weren't here on a voluntary basis. They had to come. Did any of this sink in?

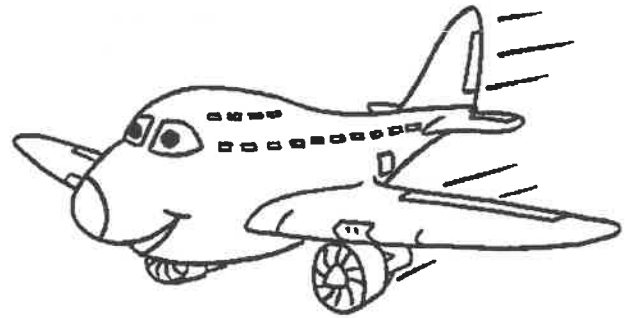
The answer is YES! The following few weeks I was making my usual quarterly inspections. Every single store I went to had their 3-vat sink filled and ready to go. On top of that, they were set up correctly. Then, if my day was not complete enough, one manager said to me that his employee said to him the next day (jokingly of course), "You know, last night I woke up and I was having a dream that I was cleaning and I washed, rinsed, and then sanitized." We both started laughing because I knew in their own way they were poking fun at my presentation but I didn't care. They remembered it.

From now on my motto is going to be "Teach-Don't Preach" ✪

AIR NATIONAL GUARD PLANE CRASH

submitted by Rob Campbell, R.S.

In October of '92 in Morgan County there was a terrible tragic crash of an Air National Guard plane. All the crew were killed. The house of one Morgan Co. resident was destroyed.



I was called in to evaluate the soil for septic permit purposes. Soil had been removed in some areas, up to 6 feet deep, hauled away to some huge oven and baked to remove contaminants such as fuel, fire fighting foam, and hydraulic fluid. On an earlier visit, the Air Guard, the owner and I had discussed the contractor's plan to backfill with bare shale and a 6 inch topsoil cover. At that time I pointed out that a septic system couldn't be installed in fill, mentioned the mystery rule that fill could consolidate into regular dirt in maybe 5 to 7 years and assured every one that bare shale wouldn't qualify during the coming millennium. Maybe select fill could be compacted in lifts to speed up the consolidation process. But maybe there was sufficient soil below the excavation and only a backhoe could tell.

Now I was back, backhoe on site, to see what had happened. We dug in an undisturbed area and found insufficient soil depth to bedrock. I was getting vibes that this was really an exercise in assessing financial damage to the lot. But this area wouldn't have gotten a permit, crash or no crash. Now what?

The installer suggested trying the other side of the lot at a lower elevation near an old well. I didn't hold much hope and the well was a problem but we tried it. Deep back channery silt loam instead of the yellow silt clay of the first hole. Is this Morgan County or what? It was on a slightly different facing slope, what you look for when you're looking for a different dirt. There was room for a system but I said I wouldn't issue a permit until the old well was properly abandoned (city water was available.) The owner said he wouldn't abandon the well and it's great water. I said fine, no permit but the soil (an undisturbed area) qualifies.

We tried one more hole, lower yet, in a filled area because the owner decided maybe he wanted two permits. We found hard shale early; I explained about the 10,000 square foot reserve areas needed for the second permit; and we quit when the

owner said quit. I sent the standard denial letter (due to well location) with the caveat about if it were properly abandoned.

This is the first time I've approved a 6 foot hole and the owner wasn't happy. It feels weird. He's living in his new house on his adjacent lot. I know he lost much in the crash. I understand he's received much compensation. The lot in question, two plus acres, seems best suited for one house. I now understand I'm supposed to write a letter saying that due to the crash the lot is no good. I'm not having any part of that. But it feels real weird. ✨

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS submitted by Francis Holton, R.S.

The number of toll free environment related electronic bulletin board systems has dropped somewhat. There are currently only four systems that I am aware exists. These are:

FDA PRIME connect	800-532-3204	N,8,1
FDA General	800-222-0185	E,7,1
WTIE (waste water)	800-544-1936	N,8,1
DWIE (drinking water)	800-932-7459	N,8,1

A new version of PRIME connection is being worked on at this time and plans call for it to be online to the general users shortly. At the present time, two members of WVAS are involved in testing the new system. They are Twila Carr, R.S., and myself. I have been involved in the testing process since last December. This system is available to all sanitarians but preregistration is required. Another BBS system that is not listed above is the CDC PC WONDER system. Any sanitarian can access this system but preregistration is required. This system allows you to access the files of CDC via modem from your home or office. This allows you to do a search for about any topic that CDC collects statistics about.

For more information, about registration on any of the systems contact FRANCIS HOLTON, R.S., LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 824-3330. ✨

THE SANITARIAN'S ALPHABET submitted by Klaus Stridium

A is for arthropods, we find their numbers in great wealth
We know that they can pose, a potential threat to our health

B is for Bacillus Cereus, sometimes in rice it does grow
If it's in large enough quantities, to the bathroom you'll go

C is for Cedar Lakes, where we gather in May of each year
We look forward to that, even if now we must buy our own beer

D is for disciplinaries, it seem that I've had tons
I was inspecting a bakery, and was attacked by some cross buns

E is for education, that's part of our job
To make a certified food handler out of that nose-picking slob

F is for fairs and festivals, they're quite numerous in the summer
To have a large outbreak at one, would really be a bummer!

G is for giardia, transmitted by a beaver
No wonder that C.T.C., R.S., is always with a fever

H is for housing, is it unsafe and unsightly abode?
Then check out Article 7, Chapter 1, Section 3 of the Code

I is for illness, that we try to prevent
In our battle to beat it, we must never relent

J is for jackasses, I've encountered a few
I feel confident in saying, the same holds true for you

K is for kitchens, they don't all look the same
Some are outstanding, while others quite lame

L is for lifeguards, female and cool
A beautiful one might necessitate, a weekly inspection of the pool

M is for milk samples, that come 8 times a year
4:00 a.m. catching a milk truck, is a pain in the rear

N is for neighbors, frequently they disagree
And we get called in, to referee

O is for the opposition, that we often do meet
Whether we're trying to get them to repair their septic,
or refrigerate their meat

P is for perc. tests, that's four holes, not two
A five minute rate in clay soil? I'm sorry, I believe that untrue!

Q is for quarantines, for offending cats and dogs
Too bad we can't use the same procedure, for folks who live like hogs

R is for restaurants, that we inspect every day
Whether we're giving McDonald's a break,
or getting Burger King to do it our way

S is for sanitarians, a miscellaneous bunch
Our clients might contend, that we're all out to lunch

T is for toilet rooms, with self-closing doors
Adequate ventilation, clean ceilings and floors

U is for Undulant Fever, which can be transmitted through cheese
Due to the Sanitarian's diligence, it's an uncommon disease

V is for vector, it could be a rat or a roach
We'll certainly get a call, if somebody's property they encroach

W is for water, without it your house isn't worth a nickel
Would I test it for you please? Sure, just mix in some "Dickel"

X is for Xenopsylla Cheopis, the Oriental rat flea
So you could catch the plague, from a rodent named Chin Lee

Y is for yellow fever, sometimes transmitted by a monkey
You might call in sick with it, next time you're felling quite funky

Z is for Zymosis, an infectious or contagious disease
But the sanitarian is on the job, so your mind can rest at ease

WATER SUPPLY HISTORY submitted by Fred Barley, R.S.

Early peoples had no need of engineering works to supply their water. Hunters and nomads camped near natural sources of fresh water, and populations were so sparse that pollution of the water supply was not a serious problem. After community life developed and agricultural villages became urban centers, the problem of supplying water became important for inhabitants of a city, as well as for irrigation of the farms surrounding the city.

Irrigation works were known in prehistoric times, and before 2000 BC the rulers of Babylonia and Egypt constructed systems of dams and canals to impound the flood waters of the Euphrates and Nile rivers, controlling floods and providing irrigation water throughout the dry season. Such irrigation canals also supplied water for domestic purposes.

The first people to consider the sanitation of their water supply were the ancient Romans, who constructed a vast system of aqueducts to bring the clean waters of the Appennine Mountains into the city and built settling basins and filters along these mains to ensure the clarity of the water. The construction of such extensive water-supply systems declined when the Roman Empire disintegrated, and for several centuries local springs and wells formed the main source of domestic and industrial water.

The invention of the force pump in England in the middle of the 16th century greatly extended the possibilities of development of water-supply systems. In London, in 1562, the first pumping waterworks was completed; it pumped river water to a reservoir about 37 m (about 120 ft) above the level of the Thames River and from the reservoir the water was distributed by gravity, through lead pipes, to buildings in the vicinity. The first municipal pumping station in the U.S. was erected about 1760 to supply water to the town of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. It consisted of a 13-cm (5-in) wooden pump that raised the water about 21 m (about 70 ft) through pipes made of bored hemlock logs.

By 1800 some 16 U.S. cities had water-supply systems, and since that time almost every city and town in the country has been provided with municipal waterworks, most of them publicly owned and operated. In addition to the municipal systems, many state and federal developments provide water for irrigation, industrial, or domestic uses as a by-product of navigation control, hydroelectric-power generation, and flood control.

Rapid growth of industry, increased population, and rising per-capita demand created a national water shortage in the U.S. in the 1950s. An official committee was established in 1954 by the provisions of the Water Facilities Act to recommend legislation for better control of existing supplies and the

development of new sources. The reuse of water by industry, which consumes a large percentage of the nation's total supply, is encouraged by the government. "WATER SUPPLY AND WATERWORKS," MICROSOFT (R) ENCARTA. COPYRIGHT (C) 1994 MICROSOFT CORPORATION. COPYRIGHT (C) 1994 FUNK & WAGNALL'S CORPORATION. ✦

SEWAGE DISPOSAL HISTORY submitted by Fred Barley, R.S.

Methods of waste disposal date from ancient times, and sanitary sewers have been found in the ruins of the prehistoric cities of Crete and the ancient Assyrian cities. Storm-water sewers built by the Romans are still in service today. Although the primary function of these was drainage, the Roman practice of dumping refuse in the streets caused significant quantities of organic matter to be carried along with the rainwater runoff. Toward the end of the Middle Ages, below-ground privy vaults and, later, cesspools were developed.



When these containers became full, sanitation workers removed the deposit at the owner's expense. The wastes were used as fertilizer at nearby farms or were dumped into watercourses or onto vacant land.

A few centuries later, there was renewed construction of storm sewers, mostly in the form of open channels or street gutters. At first, disposing of any waste in these sewers was forbidden, but by the 19th century it was recognized that community health could be improved by discharging human waste into the storm sewers for rapid removal. Development of municipal water-supply systems and household plumbing brought about flush toilets and the beginning of modern sewer systems.

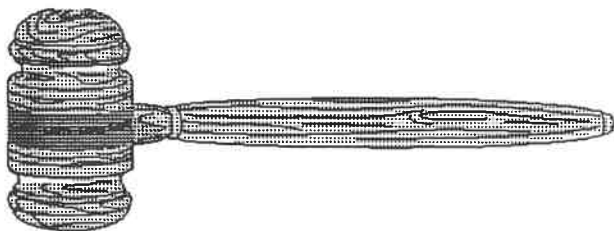
Despite reservations that sanitary sewer systems wasted resources, posed health hazards, and were expensive, many cities built them; by 1910 there were about 25,000 miles of sewer lines in the United States.

At the beginning of the 20th century, a few cities and industries began to recognize that the discharge of sewage directly into the streams caused health problems, and this led to the construction of sewage-treatment facilities. At about the same time, the septic tank was introduced as a means of treating domestic sewage from individual households both in suburban and rural areas. Because of the abundance of diluting water and the presence of sizable social and economic problems during the first half of the 20th century, few municipalities and industries provided wastewater treatment.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the U.S. government encouraged the prevention of pollution by providing funds for the construction of municipal waste-treatment plants, water-pollution research, and technical training and assistance. New processes were developed to treat sewage, analyze wastewater, and evaluate the effects of pollution on the environment. In spite of these efforts, however, expanding population and industrial and economic growth caused the pollution and health difficulties to increase.

In response to the need to make a coordinated effort to protect the environment, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was signed into law on January 1, 1970. In December of that year, a new independent body, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created to bring under one roof all of the pollution-control programs related to air, water, and solid wastes. In 1972 the Water Pollution Control Act Amendments expanded the role of the federal government in water pollution control and significantly increased federal funding for construction of waste-treatment works.

Congress has also created regulatory mechanisms and established uniform effluent standards. "SEWAGE DISPOSAL," MICROSOFT (R) ENCARTA. COPYRIGHT (C) 1994 MICROSOFT CORPORATION. COPYRIGHT (C) 1994 FUNK & WAGNALL'S CORPORATION. ✎



FROM THE GAVEL

Submitted by Gary L Hamilton, R.S.

Wow! The last few months have been especially busy. On February 6th, I had my first experience of being in the State Capitol during an actual session. About a week prior to the 6th, I received a call inviting the Sanitarian's Association to set up a display and disseminate information about environmental health functions for a Public Health Awareness Day. Of course, I agreed without consideration of the work needed to develop an attractive table top display that would not be shamed by the ten other "professional" displays. Good fortune smiled upon our Association. B.J. Baker, R.S., heard of my plight and agreed to supply some informational handouts that he had developed in Marshall County, Gary Epling, R.S., agreed to share time in staffing the display, and after an appeal to the Office of Environmental Health Services, an angel (I didn't say meek and mild) by the name of Karol Wallingford, R.S., came to my assistance by taking over the project and

doing a terrific job. When I arrived at the Capitol, the work was done - the fold-out table top display and boxes of pertinent information were waiting. Karol, Gary and I spent the day in those dim-lit halls, illuminating the lives of passersbys with information and radon test kits. A special pat on the back is owed to Karol.

The survey of Sanitarians' thinking regarding the Public Health Improvement Plan, contacts with individuals regarding our position and the Legislative status of various bills that potentially could affect our members, most notably Senate Bill 7, kept me quite active.

In addition to being a member of the Food Code Committee, I have participated in the Sanitarian's Liaison Committee, the W.V.P.H.A. Executive Council, established the General Environmental Health Sanitation Rule Committee plus aided in conducting its first meeting, stuck my nose into such things as the planning of the Sanitarians' Mid Year Training Program, and the soon to be printed Temporary Food Service Pamphlet and the Food Born Illness Pamphlet. Additionally, I have written several letters and made numerous phone calls on behalf of the Association's interests. I want to go on record right now; my boss, Earl L. Burgess, Jr., R.S., is a patient and understanding supervisor.

Now, after all that, if you believe that you would like to assist our Association by serving as an officer, please contact Jolene Zuros, R.S., our Nominations Committee Chairman. I have found the active involvement stimulating and rewarding. ✎

FINAL EDITOR'S NOTES

The next newsletter will not for be published until shortly before the Annual Meeting. I would like to thank all those who have contributed, proof-read, and generally supported the WVAS Public Relations Committee in developing this written form of communication for all sanitarians.

I still haven't figured out the best format for the newsletter. I am currently using WordPerfect to publish it, and even ordered a newsletter template from WP-Corporation (notice the change in the front page), but couldn't get it to work quite right. I installed a CD ROM on my computer and now have access to over 30,000 graphics. It is a hassle just to find what you want. One program I purchased, makes crossword puzzles, and I have included one in this issue. I certainly am not a very good cruciverbalist (puzzle constructor), but thought it might be some fun. It seems you either HATE or LOVE crossword puzzles, so I'll wait for some feedback from the masses as to whether to continue it or not.

As chairman of the WVAS PR Committee, I am pleased to tell you the WVAS Executive Council is very supportive of our efforts. It was voted to purchase a display board to help promote our public image. I'll make sure it is put to use! ✎

WVAS Puzzle: the theme is food

ACROSS

- 1 A nervous shaking of the body
- 3 Who is doing this puzzle
- 6 Having the qualities of oily, greasy
- 7 Federal agency
- 8 South East
- 9 Marked by a low temperature
- 11 Excruciating punishment
- 13 To lean suddenly unsteadily and erratically from the vertical axis
- 15 To control or direct the functioning of
- 17 You eat it from a cow
- 18 weight of gold
- 20 A close or systematic study
- 23 An orderly columnar display of data
- 26 To prepare (food) for storage and future use
- 27 A light bounding movement
- 28 Foul or dirty matter
- 29 In the manner expressed or indicated
- 30 Some need cooled; some

- 33 don't To lessen the strength of by or as if by admixture
- 34 A slight amount
- 35 A person who prepares food for eating
- 36 ounces
- 37 Oklamoma
- 38 Keep it hot or cold but check this
- 40 You use this to calculate circles
- 41 To begin and carry through to completion
- 43 Being in or showing good spirits
- 44 An area sunk below its surroundings

DOWN

- 2 To change the ownership of (property) by means of a legal document
- 3 A person having administrative authority in an organization
- 4 A fixed amount of money charged for a privilege or service
- 5 A negative response
- 6 To break loose and leave suddenly



- 8 Your write your report on an inspection ?
- 9 According to the rules
- 10 A public statement; edict, manifesto, declaration, announcement, proclamation, pronouncement
- 12 pound
- 14 A tract of unproductive land
- 16 An audible blow
- 19 A difficult or tedious undertaking
- 21 To render free of microorganisms
- 22 To the cook the grill must be ?
- 25 An untrue declaration
- 26 Must be cooked to 165 degrees
- 27 Being at a higher temperature
- 29 The quality or state of assurance
- 31 Many counties have to deal with this new policy
- 32 Environmental Health
- 38 Not coffee but ?
- 39 used to clean floors

