



Officer Nominations

by Clarence Christian

WVAS's Nominating Committee, which is comprised of Gail Harris Linda Jones, Brad Cochran, and Clarence Christian, has recommended the following individuals to the Association's President for the position of Vice President and Three year Board Member as required by the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians Constitution and Bylaws:

Vice President

Twila Carr

Karol Wallingford

Three Year Board Member

Anthony Turner

Lloyd White

All of the candidates have agreed to run and are active members in good standing of the association. Nominations from the floor will be entertained at the time of the election.

This announcement shall serve as official notification to the membership.

This is YOUR Newsletter, Give us your input!

The Sanitarian's Newsletter is a publication of the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians. Articles printed are not necessarily the views of the WVAS. Editorials and Articles may be submitted to any of the contributing editors, or sent directly to:

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Lisa Dunn, R.S.

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William Pinnell, R.S. Retires

by Ron Forren, RS

After many years of public service, William Pinnell, RS has chosen to take his much deserved retirement, effective June 30, 1996. Bill has been to many of us, a fixture in public health and environmental health in West Virginia and will be missed considerably.

Bill began his career in public service in the United States Army. Bill earned an undergraduate degree from West Virginia University and returned there, after his discharge from the Army, to earn a master's degree. Prior to beginning work in the environmental health field, Bill worked for the Extension Service from 1960 - 68 in Delaware and from 1968 - 72 in West Virginia.

Bill began his sanitarian career in February 1972, for Gilmer and Doddridge County

Health Departments. In January 1975, Bill was employed by the State Health Department as a District Sanitarian assigned to the Philippi District Office.

In 1984, Bill relocated to the central office of the Office of Environmental Health Services to accept the position as an Assistant Director of Public Health Sanitation Division. During this time, Bill served as coordinator of the Sanitarian Training Center and supervisor of the Indoor Air Program.

In 1989, Bill decided to return to the Philippi District Office as District Sanitarian and Training Officer for the Public Health Sanitation Division. In 1992, Bill once again relocated to Charleston, this time to tackle the task of Director of the Radiation, Toxics and Indoor Air Division. During his tenure the indoor air program was resurrected and the lead program began taking shape.

It is from this position as Division Director, that Bill leaves us to join the good life. But do not think that Bill will head back to his Barbour County home with nothing to do. No! Bill and his wife, Pat, have plans to travel and to continue to serve the public through missionary work.

Their first project is head to Russia in July 1996, to work on an orphanage. Although we will miss Bill and all of his experience, we know that others are benefiting from our loss.

Congratulations to Max

by Karol Wallingford, R.S.

As most of you probably know, we have been operating without a program head for the Individual On-site Sewage System Program. You are also aware that this is an important and rapidly changing program.

We have finally remedied this problem by naming Max Fisher as program head. We are very confident in Max's ability to steer the program in the appropriate direction. Max will continue to be located in the Kearneysville District Office. Next time you see or talk to Max, offer him your congratulations and any and all suggestions and questions you have concerning on-site sewage.

Interstate Environmental Health Seminar

by Karol Wallingford

Just a quick reminder that the 1996 Interstate Environmental Health Seminar will be held at Canaan Valley Resort, July 24-26, 1996. This is the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Seminar and it is returning home to its place of birth to celebrate. We hope you will mark your calendars and turn out to enjoy a super training meeting, celebrate the past fifty years and welcome the beginning of the next fifty years!

Welcome New Sanitarians!

Well, here we go again, introducing newly hired sanitarians. The following individuals have been hired into the profession and many have already completed the Eight Week Sanitarian Training Course: **Dwight Phillips** - Cabell-Huntington; **Kirk Pownoznik** and **Verl Davis** - Monongalia; **Josh Marsh** - Morgan and Berkeley; **Elizabeth Green** - Mid-Ohio Valley - Pleasants & Wood; **Tate Hayman** - Mid-Ohio Valley - Wood; **David Holley** and **David Winowich** - Kanawha-Charleston; **Christina Mickey** - Fayette; and **Amanda Grimm** - Mercer. When you have the opportunity, please welcome these individuals and wish them good luck.

Prime Connection - FYI

by Francis Holton, R.S.

The Food Code 1995 is now available for downloading off FDA's Prime Connection for those of you that have access. For more information about this contact Francis Holton in Lincoln County.

Going for the R.S.

by Karol Wallingford, RS

It is always such a pleasure to announce that several more of our colleagues have reached that goal of passing the PES exam for registration of sanitarians. This is an achievement they can be proud of and we all should be very proud of them too. This is an important milestone in the career of a sanitarian, not only in West Virginia, but all across the country. Those individuals who have searched for employment outside of West Virginia have found that passing the PES exam is quite an asset and is looked upon very favorably.

We were fortunate to have two sanitarians from North Carolina join us the last time we administered the exam. They needed to pass the test before July 1, 1996, in order to keep their sanitarian classification. Their supervisor paid for them to travel to West Virginia to take this exam in order to keep them employed in their current classification. That is pretty impressive!

Please offer sincere congratulations to the following individuals the next time you see them:

Albert Hall - Mid-Ohio Valley-Wood County

Magda Knott -Mid-Ohio Valley-Wood County

Penny Mangold-Upshur County

Jimmy Kinder - Hampshire County

Tom Koontz - Berkeley County

David Winowich - Kanawha-Charleston

Sewage Rules Committee Update

by Max Fisher, RS

As many of you may know, work has been progressing toward revising and updating the current sewage system rules and design standards. We thought we had completed this task several years ago and we were just waiting for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' Regulatory Development office to review our work and send it on to the legislature.

Well, when regulatory development finally did have time to review the documents, we did not fare well. We were told that the current documents could not be presented to the legislature and that they must be rewritten. So back to work.

Well, once again work is progressing on the revisions. The current committee, consisting of Max Fisher, Randy DeHaven, Gary Epling, Mike Sale and Paul Ashburn, has been working diligently. They have completed work on the design standards and are ready to start on the rules.

We hope that this version will be more

acceptable to regulatory development and that we will not have to wait another 3 years for the review process and presentation to the legislature.

(Please note that the regulatory development staff is small in number and must follow the priorities set by the department, no matter how important we or they feel our rules are.)

Sanitarian Awards

by Gary Hamilton, RS

Attention All Sanitarians! Please take the time to think about those sanitarians, individuals, institutions or groups that deserve recognition by our Sanitarian's Association for their work, assistance or achievement in improving our environment or profession.

An awards nomination form has been included with this newsletter for your convenience. **The deadline is rapidly approaching, so please complete your nomination(s) and return them to the Awards Committee ASAP!**

West Virginia Public Health Association Conference

The West Virginia Public Health Association will hold its annual meeting at the Holiday Inn-Gateway, Barboursville, WV

The program for the conference is shaping up nicely with **Dr. E. Richard Brown**, President, American Public Health Association, scheduled to speak on Thursday, September 26, 1996.

The theme for this year's conference is "Public Health - The Challenge of Change". Section meetings will be held on Thursday, September 26, 1996. This year's agenda is sure to hold something for everyone with topics to include: Implementation of the New Food Code by the National Park Service, infectious diseases and emerging pathogens, and some general soil science as it relates to sewage disposal systems. We hope to see everyone in Barboursville this fall!

Class II Sewage System Installer Courses

The past several months have been very busy around the central office. Since mid-October we have held three class II installer courses and had over 120 installers and sanitarians participate. We also revised the class II installer exam prior to the first course in October.

Most of the installers that attended the courses decided to take the exam at the end of the course and we had an overall success rate of 72%. This means there are now 62 newly certified class II sewage system installers in the state. We should be scheduling more courses next fall for those areas that did not have a course this year. We also expect to make annual offerings of the class II installer courses.

WVAS Display Board

by Karol Wallingford

Several months ago, the Executive Council of WVAS allocated funds to purchase a display board to use when we need to participate in various events such as Public Health Day at the Legislature. I am pleased

Kenneth R. Ware, RS

by Ron Forren, RS

Kenneth R. Ware, District Sanitarian in the Philippi District Office for several years, passed away on May 9, 1996. He had been in his usual health and his death was sudden and unexpected.

Ken began his employment as a sanitarian in 1960 for the Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department. He was a milk specialist for that department for many years, in addition to being responsible for the retail food store program. Ken joined the state staff in 1973 as District Sanitarian for the area covered by the Philippi District Office. He was certified by the Food & Drug Administration as both a food and milk survey evaluation officer. Ken retired from the health department on October 31, 1988.

Ken's wife Elaine lives at 103 Lee Street, Belington, WV

to tell you that the board has arrived and is very nice.

The marquis sports the association name and logo in blue lettering, the board background can be either blue or charcoal, and there are two sets of lights for illuminating the display materials and association name.

The board made its inaugural appearance on February 14, 1996, at Public Health Day and should be on display at the 1996 Interstate Environmental Health Seminar and the 1996 Public Health Conference. I hope everyone will have an opportunity to see and/or use the board at some time.

Training Center News

by Karol Wallingford, RS

Another Eight Week Sanitarian Training Course is finished. Whew! We had seven sanitarians complete the course this year and another four completed sections of the course. It was also nice to see that some veteran sanitarians were taking advantage of the course to refresh their knowledge or gain more knowledge while accumulating continuing education hours for renewal of their registration. Keep this in mind in the coming years and give me a call if you would like a copy of the syllabus.

We also had a successful Mid-Year Meeting with FDA providing a very enlightening course on Plan Review.

I know that those in attendance walked away with a totally new perspective on plan review and one that can help eliminate many problems before they happen.

We were also fortunate to have environmental health professionals from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Delaware join us at Cedar Lakes for this course. Those of you who missed this course missed an excellent educational opportunity.

EASTERN PANHANDLE AWARDED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE GRANT

BY JUDI RICE, R.S.

The Eastern West Virginia Disease Surveillance and Control Initiative has been established through a grant from the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health. This program will address problems and improve communication mechanisms in the area of communicable disease reporting and investigations in Region 9.

The Eastern West Virginia Disease Surveillance and Control Initiative has been structured to maximize communication and input on both the local and regional levels while minimizing meeting requirements and travel distances. It consists of a Team Coordinator, a Regional Core Disease Surveillance & Control Team, and five Local Disease Surveillance & Control Teams. Under this structure, the Team Coordinator, **Kimberly Kline**, will serve as catalyst for the project activities and the formation of the Regional Core Teams. Kimberly, a native of Franklin, West Virginia, has an extensive background in microbiology. She will be using Pendleton County as a base of operations.

Lincoln County Adopts Clean Indoor Air Act

by Francis W Holton, RS

On August 28, 1995, the Lincoln County Board of Health adopted its version of Clean Indoor Air Regulations. The ordinance becomes effective on January 1, 1996. Lincoln County was the nineteenth county to adopt such an ordinance.

During the last few weeks, I have been hand delivering the information and signs to all the businesses in Lincoln County. I have found that a majority of the business owners support non smoking, but are afraid of making customers mad by posting signs.

For those small counties considering passing a similar measure, I would recommend that the sanitarian take the time to deliver the packets. While this is time consuming, the results from talking with the public are the best gauge of public sentiment on the subject.

WV Cottage Industries

Explode

by: Clarence "Hollywood" Christian

Approximately forty new cottage industries for specialty food products have sprung up in West Virginia over the past several years.

These cottage food manufacturers are producing such products as herbed vinegars, BBQ sauces, salsa, chow-chow, candy, fudge, jams and jellies, biscuit mixes, meal mixes, breads, etc.

Many of these manufactures are operating out of a separate kitchen established in their home or out of one of WV Department of Agriculture's incubator kitchens established to encourage development of cottage industries.

The WV State Health Department is currently doing the initial inspection of these facilities. After the initial inspection, a decision is made on whether the state will continue inspecting the business or turn it over to the county health department. If any interstate commerce is involved, the state continues to conduct the inspections.

If you are aware of or are inspecting any

cottage industries in your county, please make sure Linda Jones or your district sanitarian know about these facilities.

"What's a Pie Cost"

by: Clarence "Hollywood" Christian

A new free food service sanitation video will soon be available to each county health department in the state thanks to **Dr. Henry Taylor's** office and the efforts of **Cathy Lee**, Information Director.

The now famous video known as "What's a Pie Cost" is being copied free of charge by Dr. Taylor's office and upon completion will be distributed to each county health department.

The film was produced by Tomcat/Hollywood Productions in an effort to provide a humorous basic food service sanitation video.

The cast of the film includes:

Linda Whaley (Inspector I.M. Picky)

Clarence Christian (Clarence C. Clappsaddle)

Mark Whittaker (Cletis Clappsaddle and Clarice Clappsaddle)

Tom Felton (Bubba Clappsaddle)

Forrest Adkins (Nubby Dangass)

Mike Sale (Restaurant Customer)

The film is an amateur video produced by your fellow sanitarians. The film has received rave reviews, and is in great demand across the country (not). We hope you enjoy your copy of the film and find it useful.

News from Kanawha County

by Randi Neurman, RS

The Kanawha-Charleston Health Department obtained an injunction to close a commercial business providing a place of entertainment for teenagers. The business was closed inasmuch as the toilet facilities and a sewer system were not in place for the business to operate. The West Virginia Legislative Rules, Board of Health, Sewage System Rules, Chapter 16-1, Series IX (1983) Section 5.1 and 5.2 was used to obtain the injunction.

Last month, the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department closed a major retail store with a score of 60.

The Health Department, along with a representative from the Meat Inspection Division of the Department of Agriculture, conducted a joint inspection of the facility. As a result of closing the retail store, a meeting was held with all the key personnel of the chain. **Steve Jones and Randi Neurman** conducted the session in basic sanitation

A successful Food Manager's Certification Training Course was conducted. Thirteen of the fifteen students successfully completed the course.

The Kanawha-Charleston Health Department has taken action to close three (3) child care centers due to an outbreak of "hand, foot and mouth disease". Hand, foot and mouth disease is an infection due to a virus called "Coxsackie virus".

It is transmitted through direct contact with noses and throat discharges and feces of infected persons. A common mode of infection is toys with saliva on them from children putting them in their mouths. Direct contact with blisters can also transmit the virus.

Because the incubation period is thought to be from 3-5 days, it is hoped that closing the child care centers for at least 5 days would prevent the spread of the infection to the other children and staff.

This Department has attempted to place more emphasis on the regulating of all temporary food vendors, profit as well as non-profit. This summer promises to be a very busy time for our sanitarians since the Governor declared this year as Homecoming '96, and so the communities have planned special events.

On June 18, 1997, the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department will celebrate its Fiftieth (50th) anniversary. Special events are being planned for this milestone. More information will be available as plans are developed.

NEWS FROM BERKELEY COUNTY

BY TWILA CARR, R.S.

The Berkeley County Health Department received the Bell Atlantic Grant for \$26,000 for a multi-media "Hot Java" internet web page to promote Environmental Wellness. The Berkeley County Health Department will team with Intrepid Technology and several of the State's best teachers to design a multi-media program for grades K-12. The site will be available in the Fall.

The grant included the connection of Ron Forren's office, Lincoln County Health Department, and Ohio County Health Department to the Internet. The program will be offered to all schools and the public. The highlight of this grant was when **Ron Forren** drove **Twila Carr** and **Jane Dighman** to the Edgewood Country Club for the presentation in his father's Mercedes.

Aerial Photography of 14 flight lines for a total of seven square miles in Berkeley County showed 369 malfunctioning sewage systems. Berkeley County Health Department hopes to use this information to help the County Public Service District to receive infrastructure grant money to extend the public sewer system.

Tom Koontz and Josh Marsh are glad to be out of training school. Tom's car window is fixed from the Charleston brick incident.

Downs Racetrack in Charles Town will be the site of a Lollapalooza concert. The headline act for this year's concert is Metallica and according to the promoter's, is a very large draw. Once again they are estimating attendance to be at least 40,000.

You would think by the fourth year things would be getting a little easier since we should know what to expect. Unfortunately, it hasn't. Every year more and different vendors apply for temporary food service permits. This year we received applications for 14 exotic food vendors and 1 main food vendor who will have at least 2 very large units (40' x 120'), 3 small drink stations, and one roving unit.

We have given everyone due dates when plans must be submitted and a final date by

which time everyone must prove that they can meet all the regulations.

At the time this article is written, the final due date is tomorrow and we still have not received satisfactory information from the exotic food vendors. It may be like the very first year when all exotic food vendors were denied permits to operate. An update will follow in the next newsletter to let you know how we survived.

The past few months have been extremely busy for septic system installations and home loan evaluations. Also, one of our sanitarians, **Beau Ouimette**, who does sewage and water work for about 1/2 of the county has been out since May 15th due to ankle surgery. This has forced the rest of the staff to become very efficient in scheduling their workloads. I personally hit a record of 13 water samples in one day this month. **Randy DeHaven** has made several trips to Bridgeport with **Max Fisher** to work on the new sewage regulations. **Mr. Cooper** has made his usual treks to Charleston for meetings for numerous committees. **Judi Rice** and I have kept busy with seasonal events such as food workers conferences, fairs and festivals.

Several members of our staff are attending the Interstate Conference in July and the Annual Public Health Conference in September. Hope to see you there!

Boone County News

by Bill Harvey, RS

Well, things have been fairly quiet in Boone County lately, so **John Epling** thought he would head north to see if he could stir up a little trouble. John went to Moundsville to tour the prison, but he apparently didn't cause too much of a ruckus since they didn't try to lock him up and keep him.

Bill Harvey has been pretty busy these days. He has managed to kill two deer so far and is also working on completing a new home. Bill will soon be moving into a new log home constructed with logs cut from trees that once stood on the property. Bill has experienced all of the headaches that come with building your own home, but it will certainly be worth it all when he gets to enjoy the fruits of his labors.

ROOF COVERED TRASH COMPACTOR

BY LISA DUNN, R.S.

In March a new Martins supermarket opened in Jefferson County. Martins is a chain of stores affiliated with Giant Foods out of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. They first submitted plans to us in May, 1995. Several changes to their original plans had to be made in order to meet the West Virginia Food Service and Retail Food Store Sanitation Regulations.

One of the biggest problems was that they did not plan for a sewer drain near the garbage compactor. They claimed that their "state of the art" compactor did not leak and asked to be granted a waiver.

Ron Forren backed me up and did not waive this regulation. Ron said that if this compactor did not leak it would be the first he's ever seen.

After winning that battle, in comes the public sewer district. They claim that this sewer drain will collect "thousands of gallons" of storm water which will tax their sewage treatment plant. Therefore, the PSD was refusing to allow the drain unless Martins did something about the storm water.

Martins agreed to put a curb around the compactor to prevent excess water from getting in to the drain. "Not good enough," says the sewer director. Martins agreed to put a locking lid on the sewer drain which would only be removed when the area was to be washed down. "Not good enough," says the sewer director.

What do you do when you're between a rock and a hard place and you must open the store by March 15th or heads roll? You do whatever it takes to get the store open. The final agreement between the sewer district and Martins was for them to put in a curb all the way around the trash compactor and a roof over the entire unit. I'm sure this is a first. My question is "How did so many grocery stores get built in West Virginia without all these extras and survive the local PSD's?"

NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN PANHANDLE

Jolene Zuros, RS

WATER...WATER...WATER

Water conservation, water quality assurance, water for recreation, individual sewage disposal and a county plumbing code were the topics of the September Tri-State Environmental Health Association meeting held at Lenora's Cafeteria in Steubenville, Ohio. The meeting hosted by Jefferson County Ohio Health Department covered the subject of water completely. The morning session was conducted by **Mr. John Hoopingarnier**, General Manager of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy. A video allowed those present to see that the conservancy is a major provider of both recreational land and water for east central Ohio. The conservancy area runs from Summit County (Akron) in the north and as far south as Washington County (Marietta); and from as far west as Richland County (Mansfield) to the Ohio River at Belmont County.

Mr. Gene Pool, certified plumbing inspector from Jefferson County gave the group an overview of the rules and regulations within the recently adopted plumbing code with an emphasis on water conserving fixtures.

During this meeting, members welcomed **Nada Beneke**, RS who began working for the Wheeling/Ohio County Health Department in September when **Dick Thoburn**, RS retired after 30 years working in Public Health.

HOMETOWN HACCP

"Hometown HACCP - Recipes for Food Safety" was the topic of the October meeting hosted by the Steubenville, Ohio Health Department. Sanitarian **Tony Pasquarella**, RS had taped the September 14 Satellite Broadcast of the latest FDA State Training Branch's efforts to update local Sanitarians on the use of HACCP during routine inspections. Our group thought that this video was one of FDA's more informative presentations.

Deana Dulesky, RS from the Belmont County Ohio Health Department hosted the November meeting of the Tri State Environmental Health Association.

Barbara Napier, RS, Milk Sanitarian out of the Wheeling District Office of the WVDH arranged the morning program which consisted of a tour of the United Dairy Plant in Martins Ferry, Ohio.

The milk plant processes and packages approximately 450,000 gallons of milk during a five day work week. Raw milk from Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York is trucked in to United who recently purchased Valley Belle Dairy of Charleston. The tour guide reported that Ohio State health officials visit the plant often and the Ohio Department of Agriculture visits monthly. Barbara Napier collects raw milk samples ten times per year from the bulk milk tank trucks. The tour was exceptional. Sanitarians who collect milk samples regularly should try to visit a milk plant.

After a brief business meeting, the group took an afternoon tour of the new Belmont County Correctional Facility where 1500 male inmates are currently housed. The facility includes maximum security, minimum security, and a camp where inmates who are close to being released, work out in the community in jobs such as picking up litter along the interstates as well as holding regular jobs outside of the facility and returning to the camp after work.

The kitchen is state-of-the-art and approximately 5,000 meals are served from it daily. The meals which provide each inmate and staff with approximately 3000 calories per day cost between .95 and \$1.01 each. The daily taxpayer's cost to keep an inmate at the facility is about \$37.50. Twenty four years and five months is the average age of the inmates which are sent to the facility from all over the State of Ohio. The inmates have medical, educational, and psychological services provided to them on site and have recreational opportunities each day. The facility is basically a town within itself.

GET THE LEAD OUT

The primary goal of the Northern Panhandle Lead Program has been to increase public awareness of the dangers of lead exposure. A second goal of the group has been to make the public aware of services our local health departments can provide in identifying lead contamination sources within their homes.

The consortium has purchased a display board and northern panhandle sanitarians have done a great job in presenting it to the public. So far, educational programs or the display has been utilized at the Marshall County Fair; the Tyler/Wetzel County Health Department Open House; Wetzel County Town and Country Days; WVPWA Conference; Northern Panhandle Head Start; Weirton Medical Center; Mount Olivet Lions Club Health Fair; Northern Panhandle WIC Employees; Cameron Health Care Center Health Fair; and the Hancock County Health Department.

Jolene Zuros, RS, Hancock County, represented the Northern Panhandle Lead Program at Public Health Day at the Legislature on February 14. Northern panhandle Delegates and Senators were especially interested in the environmental services that the six northern panhandle counties provide.

1996 CEH UPDATE

The January Tri State Environmental Health Association meeting was hosted by Hancock County. **Rich Weigand** from the WV Environmental Training Center, Cedar Lakes, presented an outstanding day-long workshop. His presentation included discussion regarding the prevalence of Giardia and Cryptosporidium in water - why they are present and why the concern; the difference between total and fecal coliform lab testing procedures; equipment and procedures used in running lab tests to detect total and fecal coliform.

We actually had the opportunity to count fecal coliform colonies under a microscope and Rich showed us examples of time saving tests used in water and wastewater sampling; and explained how to better understand lab reports.

The February meeting was hosted by Ohio County Health Department. The morning session featured **Ron Forren**, Director, giving an overview of the 1996 Legislative session.

Mike Barrick from the WV State Fire Marshall's Office gave our group a great presentation which included the different categories of fire extinguishers and how Sanitarians and his office can cooperate in correcting problems in commercial food service establishments and facilities such as nursing homes and personal care homes. Mike knows so much about food service inspections, we should make him an honorary sanitarian.

Pat Murphy from Tyler/Wetzel Counties was the host of the March meeting. Max Fisher conducted the morning session. Max shared his extensive knowledge with Northern Panhandle Sanitarians about the proposed sewage system rules; changes in the design standards; and WV contractors licensing as it pertains to certified sewage system installers. **Nada Beneke**, RS from Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department and playground specialist took the group to the state of the art playground at Wheeling Park. During our visit to the playground, Nada walked us through an inspection pointing out equipment that may be unsafe or dangerous to children.

Mark Whitaker, RS, Fairmont District Sanitarian and **Robin Mullins**, RS from the Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification gave presentations at the April meeting hosted by Marshall County. Mark's presentation regarded disaster sanitation, complete with slides of this winter's flooding. With his expert narration and the group discussion that followed, we learned a lot about what we need to know about disaster preparedness. Robin's presentation concerned local health department's jurisdiction with regards to personal care homes, residential bed and board and nursing homes.

Tony Pasquarella of the Steubenville, Ohio City Health Department hosted the May meeting. The morning program was a demonstration of the RMD lead detector and an overview of the lead assessment

program that was implemented by Columbiana County, Ohio. We were impressed by the ease of operation of the machine as well as its size and weight.

In the afternoon, we toured Everly Septic Tank Manufacturing plant in nearby Amsterdam, Ohio. Mr. Everly manufactures septic tanks, package plants, burial vaults, and, yes, the dreaded dry well.

Our June gathering consisted of a tour of the old WV Penitentiary in Moundsville, WV. The Pen was built in 1863 and was used until 1995 when the new State Pen opened in Mt. Olive. Nearly 100 men were executed either by hanging or electric chair. Seeing the tiny 5 x 7 cells that at one time housed one to three inmates was very sobering. We also saw the kitchen and cafeteria that was built in 1986 as a result of an inmate riot. The riot was held to demand better conditions within the Pen. Amazingly enough, much of the stainless steel equipment is still in the now deserted facility. The Penitentiary has been closed for about a year.

Some of the cells were "customized" with graffiti and there were murals throughout the facility mostly of majestic mountains; free flying eagles or deer standing proudly and unafraid in the woods. Serenity, freedom, and the great outdoors seemed to be the underlying theme of these murals.

CLEAN INDOOR AIR

Brooke and Ohio Counties joined the other twenty-some counties who have passed clean indoor air ordinances. Brooke County's ordinance went into effect June 1. A brief synopsis of the ordinance was provided by the Brooke County Health Department follows:

The following areas shall not be subject to the smoking restrictions of the regulation:

- Bars with a seating capacity of 35 seats or less.
- Private residences, except if used as a child care or health care facility.
- Hotel and motel rooms rented to guests.
- Retail tobacco stores.

-Conference or meeting rooms or public or private assemblyrooms of hotels, motels, and fraternal organizations while these places are being used for private functions.

-A private enclosed office workspace occupied by only one person or occupied by smokers, even though such an office or work space may be visited by nonsmokers. Any employee has the right to designate his/her work area as nonsmoking and smoking shall be prohibited in all public waiting areas and lobbies.

Restaurants may designate a contiguous area up to 50% of the seating capacity of the restaurant as a smoking area.

Restaurants shall post, at every entrance, a highly visible sign stating that a nonsmoking section is available, and that smoking is allowed only in the designated smoking area.

Although smoking regulations are primarily self-regulating through social pressure, enforcement of the regulation shall be the ultimate responsibility of the Brooke County Health Department.

Ohio County passed their ordinance on May 23 and it comes into effect on July 22.

THE FLOODS OF 1996

TV viewers probably got tired of watching scenes of flood ravaged WV towns on national news and the Weather Channel but those of us directly affected by such a disaster really wish they never occurred.

Only a few facilities in Hancock County were affected. All but the mobile home park were in New Cumberland. One day care center, six food service establishments, one mobile home park, one sewer and one water supply were flooded. By Friday, January 26, all establishments but the day care center were ready to re-open.

The day care center re-opened the following week and as of this writing, the mobile home park is still re-building. The New Cumberland City Park, the Little League field and the Fire Department field were under water also and the New Cumberland sewer system had extensive damage to its pumps and there was a boil water order in

effect until satisfactory water test results were obtained. Five schools were closed due to the boil water order. New Cumberland residents have been flooded many times and basically know what procedures to take to clean and sanitize belongings and dwellings.

In Wellsburg, Brooke County, approximately twelve food service establishments were flooded - some having equipment and food discarded - others only basement flooding. Two retail food stores were flooded. Two schools in Wellsburg had water in them and Beech Bottom School was closed due to drinking water problems.

In Ohio County, Wheeling Island, center and south Wheeling were inundated with Ohio River flood water. Wheeling Downs Race Track and about sixty other food service establishments, and two schools were affected. Water systems and sewage plants continued to function. Wheeling Island residents have been through floods before and were familiar with clean-up procedures. As in other counties, the Red Cross provided a feeding site for flood-weary residents and workers.

Tyler/Wetzel counties were spared during the January flood but heavy rains in May caused damage and destruction to eighty-four residences. Sixty-three had minor damage not reported to the State Fire Marshall. Eight were damaged but repairable and three were condemned by the State Fire Marshall. Other facilities affected were one fire department; one industrial site; four businesses; one assembly hall; and one mercantile establishment. In addition, fifty landslides were reported, three bridges were damaged, and water and sewage outages were reported.

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK 1996

Hancock and Brooke County Health Departments provided a public information day at the Millsop Community Center in Weirton on Monday, April 1. The information that was offered that day included the Northern Panhandle Lead Program display as well as a cold and hot food temperature demonstration stressing maintenance of the proper holding temperatures

of potentially hazardous foods thereby keeping them out of the danger zone. We also made regulations, design standards, and other pamphlets and bulletins available. We answered a host of questions from visitors and felt the day that we spent educating the public was well spent.

Wheeling/Ohio County utilized the Lead display in a general environmental display at the Ohio County Courthouse on Tuesday, April 2. Sanitarians reported that the public showed a large amount of interest in the environmental programs that the Health Department provides.

AROUND THE NORTHERN PANHANDLE

Larry Lewis, RS, Administrator from Wheeling/Ohio County and **Jolene Zuros, RS**, from Hancock County earned their Masters of Science Degrees in Community Health Education from the WVU School of Medicine in December ... One Ohio County Sanitarian has reported that recently a bat was spotted that had a five foot wing span and a head as large as a dog. The bat was seen in Oglebay Park?

Joe Golebiewski's son Michael, recently graduated Cum Laude with a BS and a MS in Computer Engineering from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

George Sobota has his own flood experience. George's mother has lived through about twenty floods and George has weathered six. This winter's flood reached George's mother's Benwood, WV home again, but before it was too late, George disassembled her furnace and moved it and the hot water heater up to safety thus eliminating repair/replacement when the water receded. We didn't know that George's talents extended from food and beverage preparation to plumbing and heating. I'm sure his services would have been in demand all over West Virginia this year with the severe cold and floods. George, do you make housecalls? ... Medicaid Managed Care will become effective in the four northern panhandle counties on August 1. We don't know what affect this funding change will have on our Environmental Health Programs - wish us luck.

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department News

by Gary Hamilton

This year has brought about tremendous changes in our environmental health program. **Fred Barley, R.S.** resigned to pursue a Mater's Degree at WVU, **Joe Leffman, R.S.** retired after many fine years of dedicated work. Joe was recognized at a retirement luncheon on March 27, 1996. Fellow employees and several state sanitarians gathered to honor Joe and to wish him well. Acknowledging the losses, we need to recognize our gains. Three new sanitarians and a roving clerk have been added to our environmental staff. The sanitarians are; **Don Bloss** - Calhoun and Roane Counties, **Liz Green** - Pleasants and Wood Counties, and **Tate Hayman, R.S.** - Wood County. **Pat Fulmer, R.S.** has shifted counties - now Wirt and Wood. **Mindy McPherson** provides clerical service in the Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, and Wirt County offices. Don came to us via Mercer County, Liz is a new recruit to the ranks of environmental health and Tate was welcomed on board after a three year stint with the Public Health Service in Alaska.

The Mid-Ohio Valley Board of Health has signed a letter of intent to pursue the sale of Housecalls, our home health and hospice programs to a local hospital. Negotiations are in progress and little can be reported. This potential sale appears to represent a pro-active effort to deal with an evolving and continuing change in the health care arena.

Summer has brought forth the festivals and fairs. We are experiencing growth in new festivals and have observed significant increases in the number of food concessions at the established festivals. It looks like a long, hot summer.....

Editors note...

Whew! I guess that, with the exception of the souther counties where Barbara Wolman is the contrubuting editor, this should catch us up to date! Barbara's father passed away recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

