

West Virginia Association of Sanitarians

Sanitarian's News



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NEW CHILD CARE REGULATIONS

by Judi Rice, R.S.

A new class of Day Care Facilities was created by the 1996 Legislature in House Bill 4170. This new type of "Day Care Facility" may have seven (7) to twelve (12) children including children who are living in the household who are less than six (6) years of age. No more than four (4) of the total number of children may be less than 24 months of age.

The purpose of this new legislative rule is to establish minimum standards of acceptable care, protection and supervision for children in Family Day Care Facilities and to provide a uniform standard of enforcement statewide for the certification of Family Day Care Facilities. The rule is intended to promote the well-being of children placed in Family Day Care Facilities and to enhance their growth and development.

The proposed rule establishes two types of Child Care Centers - Family Day Care Facilities (7 to 12 children) and Day Care Centers (13 or more children). There is no additional funding provided to carry out the certification process. The rule states that existing staff within the Department of Health and Human Resources will be used.

Family Day Care operations need to be inspected by a sanitarian once every six months to assure adequate facilities and healthy environments for the children. This will require *MANY* man-hours and *MUCH* travel, creating a significant economic impact on county health departments.

If a Family Day Care operation is going to be "certified", the State has an obligation to monitor these facilities through regular unannounced site evaluations. For the Family Day Care Program to effectively provide increased support to working parents and encourage them to obtain employment, the facilities must provide quality care.

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. The Sanitarian's Newsletter is meant to facilitate communication between the members of the Association. For that reason, we are genuinely interested in your input. Without it, we become a forum of the few. We want to know the thoughts and ideas of all our members.

Editorials and Articles may be submitted to any of the contributing editors, or sent directly to:

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MEDICAID MANAGED CARE AGREEMENTS

by Jolene Zuros

Sanitarians in the northern panhandle want to say a loud **THANK YOU!!!** to **John Bertram, R.S., MS**, Administrator Brooke County Health Department and **Larry Lewis, R.S., MS**, Administrator Wheeling/Ohio County Health Department for negotiating contracts for Medicaid Managed Care.

The northern panhandle counties were given the privilege of being the first area of the state to have Medicaid Managed Care established. John and Larry were instrumental in negotiating agreements with the Health Plan of the Upper Ohio Valley and MAMSI, two HMOs currently operating in the northern panhandle. These agreements were the first to be negotiated in the state and might be used as prototypes or guides for other health departments to use in similar negotiations throughout West Virginia.

Each Sanitarian in the northern panhandle will feel the financial effects of John's and Larry's work. **THANKS FELLOW SANITARIANS, John and Larry, for helping to assure the continuation of environmental health programs in the panhandle.**

In Loving Memory of
Jay Burchinal Baker

Born

May 31, 1910

Died

September 7, 1996

Place and Time of Service

Allen Funeral Home

**Monday September 9, at 10:30
A.M.**

Clergy

Rev. Dr. Dale C. Waters

Interment

**East Oak Grove Cemetery
Morgantown, W.Va.**

**GOOD BY TO A GOOD
FRIEND**

by Ron Forren

Mr. J. B. Baker, formerly Chief Sanitarian with the West Virginia Department of Health, passed away on September 7, 1996. He was 86 years old.

Mr. Baker joined the Health Department in 1993 as District Sanitary Supervisor in Wheeling. In 1934, he was employed in Preston County and in 1935, was District Supervisor in Huntington.

In 1936-1937, Mr. Baker was the District Milk Sanitarian in Clarksburg and from 1937 to 1938, he was assigned to the Sanitarian (Public Health) Training Center.

From 1939 until 1957, Mr. Baker was Chief Sanitarian, Division of Sanitary Engineering, State Health Department.

Mr. Baker was Chief Sanitarian, Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department and Regional Sanitarian, working out of Clarksburg from 1957, until his retirement in 1970.

He was a member of the West Virginia Board of Sanitarians from 1971 until 1975.

Mr. Baker and his wife, who survives him, resided at Bridgeport.

MASS GATHERING REGULATIONS NEEDED

by Lisa Dunn, R.S.

The Lollapalooza Concert Tour has made stops in Jefferson County for four years straight. Every year we talk about how a mass gatherings regulation would have helped us get better cooperation from the promoters in providing adequate facilities for this event.

This year, more than every before, we were handicapped by not having this set of regulations to support our efforts.

For the most part, we have relied on the Food Service Sanitation Regulations to back up most of what we have required to be provided at the concert. But this year, even those regulations did not help in our hour of need.

As usual, we informed the concert promoters and their attorney that all plans for the event must be submitted six weeks in advance of the concert date. This included information on all temporary food services facilities, potable water stations, portable toilets, solid waste disposal, provisions for adequate electricity, first aid, shade tents, etc.

Right from the start their attorney pushed us by sending us a letter stating that the deadline that had been set was unreasonable and that there was nothing in writing (i.e. West Virginia Law) that stated there was such a deadline or that we could set one. We responded that we did have the right especially since cooperation on their part had not been ideal in the past and the problems from previous concerts needed to be addressed in advance of the concert.

The promoters agreed to submit the plans by the deadline. All the exotic food vendors did likewise because our notice to everyone had stated that no additional plans would be accepted after the deadline and there would be absolutely no exceptions.

During the plan review process, several attempts were made by the exotic food vendors to make menu changes. The answer was always "no new plans after the deadline."

The major food vendor appeared from the beginning to be able to meet all the sanitation regulations. The menu and set-up was to be the same as last year. Then, just twelve short days before the concert, we read in the local newspaper that the vendor has appeared before the Jefferson County Commission to get approval to sell beer at the concert.

What's wrong with this picture? First of all, no mention was ever made in any of the plans about a beer garden. Secondly, no one ever informed us at any point that it was even a consideration. We were surprised when we read about it in the newspaper.

Then we found out that by a 3 to 2 margin the county commission had voted to "not object to the sale of beer." This was a surprise because they had objected all the previous years.

The vendor was immediately notified by our office that we did not have any plans for a beer garden and that the deadline for submission of plans had passed. Because beer sales meant a lot of extra revenue, their attorney started talking about taking us to court.

The end result was that they were not allowed to sell beer but not because they didn't submit plans. The State ABC Board turned them down because (of all things) they did not meet their 30 day deadline for submission of plans.

This department was put in the position of performing plan reviews in a rushed situation. If the vendors would change the plans this year to add a beer garden, what would keep them from changing all the plans the day before the concert next year?

I am appealing to all the county sanitarians and the Bureau for Public Health. Please help us protect the people who attend these types of events. Passage of mass gathering regulations is desperately needed. These regulations will assist county health departments in assuring that adequate facilities are provided at these events to protect the public's health and isn't that what our job is all about?

editors note: Please send us your comments on Lisa's article. Interesting topic!

DISTANCE LEARNING FROM CDC'S PHTN

by Don Bloss

In 1993 the Public Health Training Program (PHTN) became a major provider of public health distance learning programs and training products for the CDC. PHTN offers distance learning resources which allow participants to remain at home or near the workplace and receive the latest, high quality training in areas relevant to specific fields of knowledge. Not only are most courses offered free to public health workers but continuing education credit is given for successfully completing the courses.

The free catalog is available from the CDC (call 1-800-418-7246) and contains listings for home-study courses including Environmental Health Sciences, Basic Mathematics in Environmental Health, Communicable Disease Control, Vector-Borne Disease Control, Environmental Protection, Food Borne Disease, Water Fluoridation, Microbial Ecology of Foods, and Principles of Epidemiology.

Each course offers 2 to 5 C.E.U.'s, which translate to our C.E.H.'s at a rate of 10 C.E.H.'s per C.E.U. That means that, by successfully completing just one course, we meet State training requirements for certification. For counties experiencing budget restrictions, these courses are very attractive....little cost, good training and no travel!

As public Sanitarians, the courses are free to us. Our only expense is for the programmed learning books and any texts which may be required.

I've just completed the Principles of Epidemiology course and I found it to be extremely informative, well structured and easy to understand. The course covers the history of Epidemiology, how and why various techniques are used to investigate CD outbreaks, statistics (optional for additional credit,) data acquisition and presentation, and reporting procedures. I'm impressed with the PHTN program and I'll be taking more of the courses. The program is a cost effective opportunity to learn more ways of solving the problems we face daily.

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT BEHAVIOR

Source: *What to Say to Get What You Want*, by Sam Deep and Lyle Sussman, Addison-Wesley Publishing Co. Inc., Reading MA 01867.
Submitted by Clarence Christian, R.S.

Consider these tactics when you have to cope with people who are difficult to deal with:

“Kill” with kindness. Treat everyone well regardless of how people treat you. Be direct-but likable and polite. It's difficult to treat a thoughtful person thoughtlessly.

Listen and respond. Allow the difficult person to fully express his or her feelings. Then acknowledge your awareness of the situation, describe what you see and hear, reveal what you think and feel, and say what you want.

Tip: Don't judge (“You shouldn't be that way”) or generalize (“You always do that”).

Don't take a position - deal with a need. Find out what motivates a person so you can offer alternative ways of solving the problem. Chances are the difficult person confronting you has simply adopted the most obvious solution.

In other words, move from what the person wants to why the person wants it.

Accept blame. More often than not, you have played some role in bringing about the behaviors others subject you to. Admit what your fault is quickly and emphatically. Whenever you shoulder your share of the blame, others are more likely to own up to theirs.

Tip: Sometimes you can encourage the other person to cooperate by claiming more responsibility than you deserve.

FOOD SAFETY INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH WEST VIRGINIA EXTENSION

by Gary Hamilton, R.S.

Jane Lerow, a Wood County Extension agent, contacted me a couple months ago to share information on food safety. At a recent meeting at the Jackson Mill State 4-H Camp, significant food safety materials were made available to Extension agents. They were encouraged to contact and offer assistance to local health departments for the advancement of food safety in their communities.

Since I am generally willing to take advantage of any opportunity that a lady offers, I reviewed much of the material.

I believe that the quality of the literature and the availability of recently produced food safety audiovisuals may be an asset for Sanitarians' libraries. I was particularly impressed with an April, 1995 fourteen page Scientific Status Summary titled, *Foodborne Illness: Role of Home Food Handling Practices*, Produced by the Institute of Food Technologists and the list of nineteen audiovisuals, fourteen of which are video tapes, and all produced since 1988.

I ordered three of the videos from the Extension agent. The videos were shipped from the West Virginia University, Dorsey Resource Center to the agent. I picked up the videos and had about ten days to review them before I needed to return them. I incurred no cost and understand that videos produced by Extension services under government contract are not copyrighted.

I encourage you to consider the Extension's resources in furthering our mutual goal of increasing knowledge in food safety for our citizens.

MONONGALIA COUNTY NEWS

Contributing Editor Art Adams

Monongalia County Health Department has been undergoing painful right-sizing necessary to live within a reduced budget. The shift from primary care to basic public health cannot occur without staffing changes which impact all areas. On the positive side, Environmental Health has received great support from the Department's Board of Health and our Executive Director. That support is the direct result of communication. Environmental health job functions and activities have been continually communicated, proving the need for adequate staffing.

Are you providing the necessary information about your job duties to those in charge? I certainly hope so because in the shrinking financial climate, environmental health work is too important to be overlooked. Take every opportunity to share your accomplishments and the problems you deal with every day, with the public and with those in charge.

Stand proud! You are among a select group who uses knowledge to find solutions to a multitude of problems affecting public health.

EPIDEMIOLOGY GRANT

by Robert White

Region 7 was awarded a CDC grant through the Division of Surveillance and Disease Control to enhance the epidemiology, disease reporting, and outbreak response of communicable diseases in the region. REACT (Regional Epidemiological Assurance Coalition Team) was chosen as a most appropriate name for the grant.

Monongalia County Health Department is the lead agency, with Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor County Health Departments participating. Each county has developed a local response team which includes a sanitarian, a nurse, and an office assistant. Each team member will be trained in various epidemiological assignments related to their profession and with cross-training for other team functions. Sanitarians taking part in

the grant are Mike Fogel, John Hathaway, Bruce Jenkins, Mike Nestor, Robert Thomas, and Lloyd White. Robert White is the Team Leader and Grant Coordinator for the project.

SHIGELLA SONNEI

by Robert White

Monongalia County has had a significant increase in the reported cases of *Shigella sonnei*. *Shigella sonnei* is a bacteria that is spread either directly via the fecal-oral route. To date 28 positive cases have been diagnosed, with no end in sight. No cases were reported in 1995.

Two child care centers have been involved with children and workers testing positive. Intervening measures taken so far have seemed to lessen the spread of the illness. Letters were sent to all child care centers detailing the need for thorough handwashing, sanitary diaper changing, and good hygienic practices. Handouts were also given to all food workers attending food-worker training.

Two television stations and local newspapers have provided information to the public regarding this illness. (P.S... Watch out who you shake hands with! You don't know what they're trying to hand you!)

PUTNAM COUNTY NEWS

by Anita Ray, R.S.

As of September 1, 1996, Putnam County has four staff sanitarians. Josh Marsh, formerly with Berkeley and Morgan counties, has joined the environmental health staff of Putnam County.

As the state's fastest growing county, Putnam can certainly use the additional staff member. Josh will be helping with the ever increasing work load in on-site sewage systems. He will also assist with the new food service establishments that keep cropping up around the county. With the Toyota plant coming to Buffalo in 1998, the help is definitely needed.

Putnam County is also in the process of establishing a Clean Indoor Air Regulation. The public hearing is set for September 4, 1996, and we hope everything will move along without any major opposition.

KANAWHA-CHARLESTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

by Charles Saber, R.S.

On September 11, 1996, as a result of an outbreak of "Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease," the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department ordered a Child Care Center to close for a period of five (5) days.

This is the fourth child care center that has been closed in the last four months due to this disease.

The Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease is an infection by a virus called "Coxsackievirus." It is spread by both droplet infection in the air from the respiratory tract when coughing or sneezing, runny nose, or saliva on toys, and from feces to mouth transfer. Direct contact with the blisters can also transmit the virus. A child that has previously been infected with this virus can become infected again with another strain of the virus.

Because the incubation period is thought to be from 3 to 5 days, it is hoped that, by shutting down the Center immediately, we will limit the spread of the infection to other children and staff.

The department has prepared a letter and fact sheet that is given to each parent advising them of the need for this action.

This year marks the ninth year that the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department has conducted the Food Manager's Certification Course. Since the inception in 1987, over three hundred managers have completed the course. The latest class has sixteen enrolled. This is a voluntary program that consists of a six week course for three hours each week.

The department is now researching the idea of requiring mandatory certification for all food managers.

PRESTON COUNTY

by Bruce Jenkins

A rabies conference was held on July 31, 1996 at Alpine Lake Resort in Preston County. The conference was sponsored by the resort and coordinated by Kevin Fike of Alpine Lake Security.

Preston cont'd

The panel of speakers consisted of Jim Crum, PhD, Wildlife Biologist with the Elkins office of the Division of Natural Resources, Lowell Hott, DVM, a practicing Veterinarian from Hampshire County and Dr. Carl Berraman from the WV State Office of Epidemiology.

A special thanks goes to Alpine Lake Resort and Kevin Fike for sponsoring this event.

(editors note: FYI Preston County is in the midst of an epizootic with rabies. I'm sure Bruce will have some interesting stories to share with us in the future. I know I'd like to hear about the groundhog that chased the riding lawnmower).

THE DREAMER

submitted by Stan Mills

Last night while I lay sleeping,
I died, or so it seems;

Then I went to heaven,
But it was only in my dreams.

But, it seems Saint Peter met me
there at the pearly gate.

He said, "I must check your record,
so stand right there and wait."

He returned and said, "Your record
is clouded up with flaws.

But on earth I see you labored
for a very worthy cause.

You fought snow and ice in winter,
worked hard in summer heat;

Then was frowned on by the public
when you stopped for a bite to eat.

I see where you drank whiskey,
and you used tobacco, too;

fact is you have done everything
that a good man shouldn't do.

We can't have men like you up here;
your life was full of sin.

Then he read the last of my record,
grasped my hand and said, "Come in!"

He took me up to the Big Boss,
said, "take him in and treat him well,

he worked for the health department, Sir,
he's had his share of hell!"

NORTHERN PANHANDLE LEAD PROGRAM NEWS

Contributing Editor Jolene Zuros

The Northern Panhandle Lead Program under the direction of **Joe Golebiewski, R.S.**, Project Coordinator, has applied for a grant and submitted a proposal for an EPA screening project.

He reports that one is for CDC grant money. The money would be used specifically to replace the two cobalt 57 power sources for the Sci-tec Spectrum Analyzers and for replacing the dosimeter badges for the 10 northern panhandle Sanitarians who are certified to perform environmental lead assessments.

The second funding source possibility was made through the West Virginia Lead Program. It is for EPA money and targets risk assessments of housing of kindergarten aged children. If implemented, a survey form will be sent home with kindergarten students. The six northern panhandle county health departments will then offer to conduct environmental assessments on the homes of any families who were identified from the survey, as being high risk.

More lead news...Sanitarians from the northern panhandle will be using area fall festivals and fairs to "get the lead out" message to WV residents and visitors. The first of these is the Ohio County Inter-Agency Council Children's Fair which will be held at the Wheeling Civic Center on Sunday, September 15. Later in September, you can once again see our display at the WVPFA Annual Conference in Barboursville.

THE SUMMER OLYMPICS - ONE SANITARIAN'S REPORT

by Jolene Zuros

In early July 1996, **Anthony LaPosta**, 21 year veteran R.S. from Hancock County got an eagerly awaited call from Atlanta, Georgia. He had been selected to work at the 200th Olympic Games.

Altogether, 70 sanitarians worked the games. Twelve were from Fulton County Georgia. Others were from all over the country including California, Florida, and Tennessee. Anthony reported that there were two groups of Sanitarians working the Olympics - Food Sanitarians and Non-food Sanitarians.

Anthony worked the approximately 800 food service establishments of which 700 were temporary - outside of Olympic venues and about 100 were within them. The Non-food Sanitarians were concerned with the sewage and water facilities (were there enough available for the crowd?) and adequate solid waste management. As with any other mass gathering, Anthony said, there was some confusion, but the Sanitarians were told to be visible and make their presence known. They wore special shirts to make it easier for vendors to identify them.

All food service establishments submitted plans and were approved and permitted before they were allowed to operate. Anthony reported that there were temporary vendors from all over the US serving many different kinds of foods. The temporary food service establishments were divided among the Food Sanitarians geographically. Each food establishment had to be inspected or monitored one time per shift. The shifts were eight to twelve hours long.

Inspections and potentially hazardous food temperature monitoring were conducted using the same procedures as are used here at home. Anthony believed that the Georgia State Health Department was responsible for inspecting the housing and food service for the athletes.

All in all, Anthony enjoyed the experience, meeting people, and getting to see some of the games.

RECREATIONAL WATERS AND WAYNE COUNTY

by Ish Stevens

submitted by Linda Whaley, R.S.

Once again the joyous warmth of Summer fills our hearts with joy and makes our weekends mean that much more.

On many of those weekends, folks will want to enjoy themselves by taking a dip in one of the variety of aquatic entertainment options that Wayne County affords. There are two "bathing beaches", one at East Lynn and one at Beech Fork Lake, there are several public swimming pools, and some folks have their own pools at home. As more and more people avail themselves to these resources, it becomes important to talk a bit about water quality and its importance to you.

Many different organisms which cause disease can be found in water. Viruses such as enterovirus, adenovirus, and Hepatitis A; parasites such as Giardia and cryptosporidium; and bacteria such as pseudomonas, staphylococcus, and shigella. These organisms can cause a variety of diseases ranging from urinary tract infections to conjunctivitis and otitis media to gastrointestinal illnesses with symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Fortunately, most of these potential illnesses can be avoided through proper pool sanitation and by obeying the restrictions that local authorities sometimes place on water resources.

First let's discuss the bathing beaches. There are rules and regulations for sampling and testing the water quality at the points where bathers can access the water. The water is tested at regular intervals for the presence of coliform bacteria (a broad class of bacteria) and more specifically for fecal coliforms. This latter group is of particular concern due to its increased propensity to cause disease. Standard levels are set for the allowable amount of these bacteria in the water. Then these standard levels are exceeded, it becomes necessary to close the beach. You may have seen a sign posted at one time or another that reads "These waters are bacteriologically unsafe". It cannot be stressed enough that these signs are there for a reason. They were not put up just to spoil someone's

good time, they were placed there to protect the public. Some folks seem to think that if they take the sign down, the problem will go away, but this just deprives every one else of the warning that they properly deserve.

How do these organisms get into the water? Several ways exist for disease causing organisms to enter the water supply. Flooding causes sewers to back up and holding tanks to overflow, people and animals defecating in the water introduce bacteria, and lastly some bacteria just exist anyway in the environment. So what can we do about it?

One of the major ways to help the lakes maintain better water quality is to run motor boats in them! While some cranky folks may complain it scares the fish, it serves an invaluable service as a water mixer. Another way is a novel approach to keeping the bathing beach area more free of bacteria by using a "fabric boom". This device is along styrofoam ring with a propylene fabric draped over it and secured to the floor of the lake. The fabric has very small holes in it that allow water and oxygen in, but keep bacteria out. The uses of these booms has decreased disease causing bacteria by up to 62% in some areas.

Now let us turn to swimming pools, both public and private. One concept that is essential (and easy!) To understand, is that of "bather load". Simply put, the more people you have in a pool, the more "junk" you get in the pool. If more people use a pool, it becomes necessary to treat the water more often. The more splashing that kids (or grown-ups) do, the more chlorine gets oxidized, and it needs to be replaced. The current recommendation for "free chlorine residual" is 2.0 mg/L for swimming pools and 3.0 mg/L for spa or wading pools. You must be careful not to over-chlorinate, though, as this can cause skin and eye irritation.

It is very important to check the water quality of your pool regularly. You can purchase small strips that can be dipped into the pool for a quick check. Local pool

companies, such as East End Pools, offer free swimming pool water analysis. If you take a zip-lock baggie full of your pool's water to them, they will analyze for chlorine, pH, alkalinity, water hardness, and cyanuric acid (a stabilizer). pH is a measure of the acidity of the pool's water and should be between 7.2 and 7.8 for the chlorine to function properly.

The vast majority of diseases occurring from swimming pool use occur due to improper or even absent chlorination, but there are some things you can do to help. Always shower before you enter a pool. I know that it is tempting to jump into the pool after a hard, sweaty day of work, but do everyone a favor and shower first! Secondly, keep a close eye on young ones who haven't quite mastered bowel control yet. Fecal accidents are a prime cause of "pool borne" disease. Anytime a fecal accident occurs, the pool should be cleaned with appropriate supervision, as this involves raising the chlorine level to a hazardous level. And lastly, tell your children to never, ever drink the water from the pool.

Well, this has been a whirlwind tour of water quality and how it relates to you and me. If you are interested in learning more about water quality and some of the more technical aspects of the organisms that can cause disease in the environment around you, may I suggest the Journal of Environmental Health and the American Journal of Public Health. Stay safe and have fun!

(Ish is a 4th year medical student at Marshall School of Medicine. He was under the supervision of Dr. Greg Carico of Wayne and working on a community health project with Linda Whaley at Wayne County Health Department. This article is a result of his research and the lake samples, and was printed in the local newspaper for public information.)

MID-OHIO VALLEY NEWS

by Gary L. Hamilton, R.S.

Significant changes have and will continue to occur with our agency. **Rein Valdov** has resigned as the executive director to work in Syracuse, New York. Rein has become increasingly aware of his need in assisting his age challenged parents who live in that area of New York. **Earl Burgess**, our Environmental Health Director was appointed the acting executive director. Earl's initiation began in earnest as more information was learned of a financial shortfall in our projected budget. I am confident that I speak for the staff when I say that we appreciate a man of Earl's intellect and dedication leading the agency.

Two of our staff members have recently lost family members. **Doug Powers** lost his brother-in-law in the TWA Flight 800 disaster and **Tate Hayman** lost his grandfather, a resident of Mason County.

Pat Fulmer has begun a comprehensive travel trailer/recreational subdivision program. Pat has had the arduous task of cruising the shorelines of the Ohio and Little Kanawha Rivers with the local DEP inspector. With two major recreational rivers, we are up to twenty or so found facilities and the number may go up as Pat plans an additional river excursion. Water and particularly sewer deficiencies are being addressed. I commend Pat for his efforts in establishing this needed program.

Now that September has arrived, we are down to just seven more major weekend festivals! Hooray!!!

NEWS FROM JEFFERSON COUNTY

by Contributing Editor Lisa Dunn, R.S.

It has been a very busy summer to say the least in Jefferson County. Like many other counties, summertime is a time of fairs and festivals. So far this county has hosted the Mountain Heritage Arts & Crafts Festival, Homecoming West Virginia, the Jefferson County Fair, the African-American Heritage Festival, the Fourth of July Celebration at Harpers Ferry National Park, numerous carnivals and fund-raising events, and of course Lollapalooza.

For the fourth year in a row this county was a stop on the Lollapalooza Concert Tour. Although it may not have been the crowd of 40,000 people like we had two years ago, it still kept this department very busy for almost two months (see mass gathering article). A special thank you goes out to the following people who graciously volunteered to help us on the day of the event: **Bill Nichols** - Mineral County; **Rob Campbell** - Morgan County;

Richard Wheeler, Max Fisher, and Alan Marchun - Kearneysville District Office. What makes these people even more special is that they have all helped out in previous years and still continue to come back. That is quite honorable of them considering the long day and the hot temperatures we have to endure. These guys are real troopers!

And if the fairs and festivals were not enough to keep us busy, we have been running at top capacity in the sewage and water department also. This county performs almost 400 home loan evaluations of wells and septic systems each year. We also issue about the same number of permits to install new septic systems and drill new wells. I would guess that at least half of these are done during the summer months for obvious reasons such as weather and people moving between June and August between school sessions. So I'm sure sanitarians in counties that are growing like gangbusters like our county will appreciate what we're going through.

Special activities have also been numerous. **Randy DeHaven**, R.S. has been working with **Max Fisher** and the committee which have been perfecting the new sewage regulations. **Judi Rice**, R.S. has been attending the meetings of the newly formed Eastern Panhandle Communicable Disease Coalition. **John Cooper**, R.S. has continued on with his work on numerous committees including the State Board of Registration for Sanitarians and The Well Advisory Board. All three also attended the Interstate Health Conference in Canaan Valley. **Beau Ouimette**, R. S., spent two months at home convalescing from ankle surgery and then played catch up when he did get back to work and I stayed here all summer doing field work day in and day out and covering for other people while they were away. Everyone is looking forward to fall and cooler temperatures which will make the ever busy work load seem lighter.

BRAIN TEASERS

Submitted by Clarence Christian, R.S.

You are given a seven gallon bucket and a five gallon bucket. With only these buckets to use as measuring devices, you are ordered to bring back exactly four gallons of water. How do you do it?

Answer: You fill the seven gallon bucket and pour it into the five gallon bucket. This leaves two gallons in the larger bucket. Then empty the smaller bucket, and pour the two gallons into it.

Now fill the seven gallon bucket again and pour it into the five gallon bucket. As two gallons are already in the smaller bucket, it will only accept three more, leaving four gallons of water in the larger bucket for you to bring with you.

A frog fell into a well thirty-two feet deep. Each day he jumped two feet up the side wall and slid back down one foot each night. How many days did it take him to jump out of the well?

Answer: Thirty days.

MEMO FROM THE SOUTH

by *Contributing Editor Barbara Wollman, R.S.*

Sanitarians in the southern part of the state are so busy that it is hard to track them down to gather news. In some counties they are working as the lone sanitarian, and this is always a busy time of year with more sewage work and recreational programs kick into high gear. It has been a long, hot and wet summer.

Mike Sale reports that tourism continues to create growth in Fayette County. The area is being looked at by a group wanting to develop a wild animal preserve. Another 1300 acres is to be developed into the New River Resort with condos, hotels and conference center. Public water is being extended to 1500 people along Route 60 so more growth will occur there. I'm sure Mike has Bridge Day plans well organized. **Bonnie Morgan** and **Mike Eltzroth** report that things are quiet now in Greenbrier County after the State Fair drew to a close. More about them later.

Jim Sheets has been in Logan General Hospital after undergoing an emergency appendectomy - we wish him a speedy recovery. **Phyllis Lowe** says she has the office to herself now - Pete Spurlock is off to Florida.

Lack of funding in Mingo County has resulted in **James Meade** being laid off and now **Sam Harmon** is working alone. **Steve Trail** reports that rabies is still raging in Summers and Monroe Counties - he calls it a "continuing 6 year epidemic." Many residents are still recovering from the floods. Clean up and rebuilding is a long process, one that we sometimes forget about when it is no longer on the 6 o'clock news.

Stan Walls reports that the Summers - Mercer Regional Water System is fast becoming a reality. Start up for this water system is expected in October. This will eliminate the Princeton Water Plant which has had taste and odor problems all summer due to algae build up.

There is a hearing scheduled in September to discuss Bio-Environmental's proposed autoclave to treat infectious medical waste. Many citizen groups are opposed to this project.

Raleigh Counties growth continues - how many more restaurants, motels, and convenience stores can we support? And inspect. It's too soon to say if Tamarack will have much effect upon our economy. The "best of West Virginia" is now housed in this unique building - it's a delight to see all the wonderful things that are created by citizens of this beautiful state. If you are traveling through stop and visit.

And as for population growth - **Lisa Myles** should have a new daughter by the time you read this - September 4th is the big day. She has really had a long summer - beats me how she can still climb up into that big red Dodge Ram. **Judy Vallandingham**'s mother is recuperating from recent lung surgery and we wish them all well. (Don said to get personal.)

Sam Thissmer in McDowell, **Sam Argento** in Nicholas and **Rick Baldridge** in Wyoming said they had no news to report this time.

Now for the best. **Mike Eltzroth** and **Bonnie Morgan** hosted the August 23rd In-Service meeting for the Beckley-Logan district - at the Greenbrier Hotel. **Cathy Lee**, Information Director, WV Bureau of Public Health, discussed "Dealing With the News Media" - the one thing most of us dread. Several Sanitarians participated in taped role playing - all doing a good job in front of the camera. The historian, **Tom Conti**, of the Greenbrier then conducted a tour of the hotel. After an enjoyable lunch **Ron Forren**, Director, Public Health Sanitarian and **Gary Epling**, President of the Sanitarians Association, gave us updates on Environmental Health and Association News. The afternoon ended with a tour of the Greenbrier Bunker, formerly the National Defense Bunker for Congress. Those attending the in-service seemed to enjoy the day - a nice change from our usual day. Hope to see many of you at the WVPWA Conference at Barboursville.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

by *Don Bloss*

Another newsletter submitted, hopefully on time. (please note that hopefully does not have an "s" in it.) I'm very pleased with the submitting editors. I gave them a really short deadline and darned if they didn't all get the articles in two or three days early! There were, by necessity, a couple of articles that I received at the last minute.

Stan Mills was on Reserve flood duty and couldn't help being a bit late. The article he submitted was well worth the wait. If you want to better understand the politics of what is happening to our public health programs, take a look at the last page of the Newsletter. As long as man survives, greed will motivate some, but, fortunately, others will be motivated by the need to serve. I hope that San will continue to provide us with columns and articles that keep us abreast of the trend toward privatization of public health services. We also need the comments and ideas of our readers about this topic.

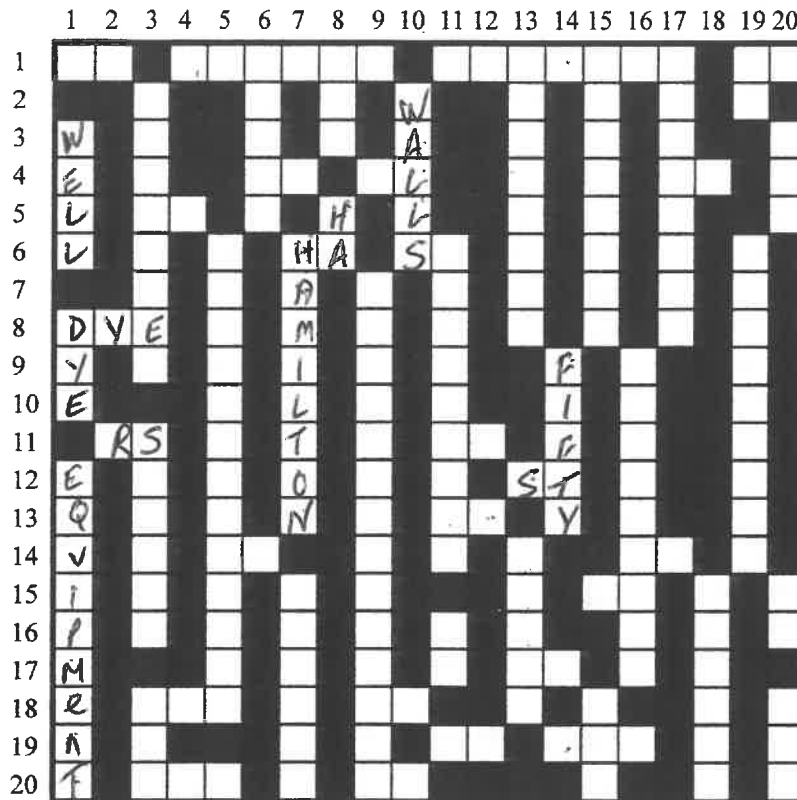
"All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do (say) nothing." Was it Machiavelli that said that? We need to speak up.

Thinking of one who would speak up for us, I was very sorry to hear that **J.B. Baker** passed away recently. From everything I've heard about him, he was a good friend to have, really knew his business, and was a truly motivated public servant.

I understand that J.B. was the first graduate from WVU, with a degree in Public Health, to become a sanitarian in West Virginia. He also earned a Masters Degree from North Carolina. He may have been the best trained sanitarian this state has ever had.

Mr. Baker was rightly the first inductee into the West Virginia Public Health Hall of Fame. I wish I had had the opportunity to know him.

Mr. Baker knew the importance of the job we have. He worked a lifetime providing services to our communities, training others, and giving his best to the state he loved, West Virginia. We should strive to do no less.



ACROSS

- (1,1) evaluation type
- (1,8) check for failures in septic system
- (2,11) restaurant prefix
- (3,5) evaluation type
- (3,18) too frequently carries rabies
- (3,20) outlet must be this number of inches below inlet
- (4,1) type of vehicle (cryptic)
- (5,14) evaluation type
- (6,4) home aeration prefix
- (7,6) evaluation type
- (9,4) a pad is required
- (9,18) registered performer of miracles
- (9,20) restaurant prefix
- (11,1) must usually filter to remove
- (11,11) two years and a big test
- (11,13) requires lots of study
- (11,19) restaurant prefix

- (13,12) septic system prefix
- (13,17) permit prefix for Nyadic
- (14,19) requires thermometers
- (15,15) must refuse standard system first
- (16,14) the best of the good guys, recognized nationally
- (17,4) mainstays of our discipline
- (19,1) test both septic and water

- (5,6) building used for business
- (6,1) won lawsuit pertaining to Clean Indoor Air Regulation
- (7,6) President before Epling
- (7,15) liquid waste containing matter in suspension or solution
- (8,1) outlet must be this number of inches below inlet
- (8,5) it is to laugh, or permit prefix for activity number 51 on your daily

DOWN

- (1,3) requires permit to abandon
- (1,8) check for failure of septic system
- (1,12) not utensils but are still used in food preparation
- (3,2) disease causing agent
- (3,11) type of vehicle (cryptic)
- (3,18) host of last reported case of human rabies in WV

- (9,7) "hand, foot and mouth culprit
- (10,2) sometimes dirty, item 37
- (11,6) type of food service
- (11,16) prefix for restaurant permit
- (13,1) in accordance with regulations
- (13,14) home of the Earl of Sanitarians
- (14,9) feet a legal well is from an HA
- (15,1) used for human occupancy

LET'S THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE...

by Stanley Mills, R.S.

As the incoming president of the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians, I am one lucky individual. To follow such presidents as Gary Hamilton and Gary Epling is quite an honor because both of them began a fantastic blueprint to follow into the future. Thank you both!

Let me reflect on the upcoming year by reviewing an article in the Journal of Environmental written by Peter D. Thornton, President, NEHA.

"We live in interesting times for environmental health. The Congress is in an anti-regulation mood. State legislatures are of the same mind-set. Even counties, cities and townships are interested in pleasing the customer - over allowing the systems to work. The local promise to contractors of one-stop, one-day permits is a prime example. In a recent survey conducted by the National Conference of Local Environmental Health Administrators, local administrators were asked about the major issues facing them in their jobs. Overwhelmingly, the answer was providing more services with dwindling resources. Add to the list that privatization is becoming an increasing concern. The public, as always and appropriately, is concerned about efficiency and government cost.

If, as an environmental health official, you went into a coma in 1986 and awoke in 1996, you would be confused. You would be told of diseases whose names you had never heard and of diseases you knew well, but which are re-emerging. You might think environmental health would be well-funded by this time. Finally, you would hear about the mandates without funding, the long traditional departments that lost support, and the anti-regulation air at all levels of government. You would hear about the deepening chasm of differences between those departments that have, and those that have not. While some states and locales are divesting programs, others are in the difficult position of regaining previously divested programs and not having staff expertise to conduct the 'new' programs. You might hear of states that are hiring high school graduates to do environmental health work, while others are mandated by statute environmental health degrees. Then there would be

programs that were destroyed by changes in Medicaid and primary care flow, while other programs were well-funded. You might want to go back to sleep.

In any trying situation, one should always look for the positives - take the disadvantages and make them into advantages. To do so and to solve these problems, we should first look at the fundamental differences between the public and private sectors.

The public sector operates in a fish bowl. It has many more rules and regulations

"The problem before us is focus. Stick to being effective over being efficient. Then sell the effectiveness."

and is observed by entities that will actually celebrate the finding of a trivial mistake. The 'Board of Directors' (who are not selected by the CEO) is large and its members can rarely reach consensus on what the agency should do. It is not at all like manufacturing lawnmowers. The public agency cannot quite develop a product or service, test it, and correct it before it is marketed to the public. The public designs it along with the agency. Would something as complex as a television set make it through a public hearing process? Finally, the individuals on these 'Boards' are often plotting a hostile takeover of the agency.

There are, however, advantages to being in the public sector environmental health. What we do is important, very important. Protecting the public from epidemics, safeguarding the water and food supplies, extending and improving the very quality of life itself. What could be more important? Whatever privately offered product

or service comes in second won't even hold a candle to what we do.

Then why are we in this predicament? Because we don't believe the above. Before we convince the world, we need to convince ourselves. I overhear conversations between environmental health employees and legislators, and the legislator is being told something to the effect of 'I agree that it doesn't make sense, but the code says it must be this way so we have no choice.' That, to a legislator (if not to everyone), is over-regulation. Such statements are what people with personal agendas celebrate.

Even more important, we need to decide if we are preventing disease and injury of environmental origin, or are we counting inspections to satisfy quotas. I sense that if there were a monthly review of the effectiveness of each program in preventing disease, our programs would look drastically different.

Many of us have gone from being population-based to being client-based which, in public health, is not effective. We treat as least as much as we prevent. In health units, look at the attendance in the maternity clinic in comparison to the family planning clinic.

Once we are convinced, marketing is next. We all know that marketing is important, but we tend to have environmental health professionals design the marketing. That's like having the assembly line sell the car. You might get honest answers, but the profit loss will put the company out of business. A poor program can look great if it has good marketing. Just think how a good program would look.

The problem before us is focus. Stick to being effective over being efficient. Then sell the effectiveness."

I see us in this article. Read, reflect, and we will discuss this in the future.