

*Louisiana Public Health*  
**newsletter**

VOLUME XXV, No. 2

March 1969

**LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



**NATIONAL  
POISON  
PREVENTION  
WEEK**

**MARCH 16-22**

A GOOD TIME to clean out your medicine chest, dispose of old medicines, and make your entire home poison proof. Best advice: keep all hazardous products locked up, out of reach and out of sight of small children.



**Nutritional Deficiencies Seen in La. Survey; No Starvation**

No evidence of starvation has been found in the state of Louisiana, first report of the Louisiana phase of the National Nutrition Survey stressed. Evidence was found, however, of nutritional deficiencies in all segments of the population studied, particularly in adolescents and infants.

First findings of the survey, which has been going on since last July, indicate also that "the dental health of the vast majority of persons studied is deplorable," according to the initial report by Dr. Walter G. Unglaub, medical director for the survey.

Preliminary report of the survey — which is 90 percent complete — was released January 23 by Dr. Unglaub, professor of nutrition in the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and Dr. Andrew Hedneg, state health officer.

The Louisiana Nutrition Survey is a joint project of the school and the State Health Department. Field director of the survey is Dr. Patrick Morgan, assistant professor of public health nutrition at Tulane. Coordinator of nutrition teams in the survey is Rose Ann Langham, chief of the State Health Department's nutrition section.

The information presented in the preliminary report is from a study of 2,774 persons from 81 of 97 Census Enumeration Districts in 16 of the 19 Louisiana parishes originally selected for study. The individuals selected are from 2,000 families in districts the average income of which was in the lower 25 percent of the economic scale in 1960.

Of this group, approximately 50 percent were below 16 years of age; 37 percent were from 16 to 59 years old; and 13 percent were above the age of 60. Females made up 58 percent of the sample, while 42 percent were males.

The Louisiana survey team members use a battery of objective tests and interviews to obtain social, cultural, economic, clinical, dietary, and biochemical data involved in assessment of the nutritional status of the state.

Parishes included in the survey, selected at random, are: Caddo, Bossier, Red River, Ouachita, Franklin, Rapides, Calcasieu, Evangeline, St. Landry, Acadia, Vermilion, St. Mary, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard.

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## MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF POISON CENTER

**DR. J. M. PERRET, JR.**, assistant medical director of Pan American Life Insurance Company, was named part-time medical director for the Louisiana Poison Control Center at New Orleans.



## FILM CLERK

**MRS. ETHEL BARNES** joined Health Education Division in January as clerk-typist in the film library.



of schoolchildren and adults. He frequently worked nights and weekends to accommodate audiences, and received many letters of appreciation for his excellent presentations.



SYMPATHY is extended to **Donald Burris**, sanitarian, Tangipahoa, on the death of his brother, **Bernard Osborne**, January 10.

## Dr. Boggs Succeeds Dr. Riggs

Gov. John J. McKeithen appointed **Dr. H. Whitney Boggs, Jr.** of Shreveport to the Louisiana State Board of Health. He succeeds **Dr. Ralph H. Riggs**, also of Shreveport, whose term had expired.

In a letter to **Dr. Riggs**, which was read at the Board meeting, **Dr. Andrew Hedmeg**, state health officer, expressed thanks and appreciation for his many contributions to public health, and his "consistent efforts to upgrade public health programs."

**Dr. Riggs** was the recipient of the **Axson-Choppin Memorial Award** presented by the Louisiana Public Health Association in 1968.

## Health Unit Highlights

Annual reports have been published by the **Grant, Richland, and East Carroll Parish Health Units**.

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A successful millage tax election was held in **Natchitoches Parish**.

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Dog vaccination clinics were set in **St. Landry Parish**.

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Participants in a **Health Careers Workshop** held at **Bossier General Hospital** included **Mrs. Barbara Judlin**, regional public health nutritionist, and **A. E. Scott, Jr.**, medical technologist and assistant administrator of the **Shreveport Regional Laboratory**.

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**JOHN J. McKEITHEN**  
Governor

**ANDREW HEDMEG, M.D., M.P.H.**  
State Health Officer

**M. E. KOSSACK, M.S.P.H.**  
Head, Division of Public  
Health Education

**IRIS M. DAY**  
Editor

## ALL ABOUT US

Sorry about that! The Newsletter abbreviated **MCH** psychologist **Gordon Robertson's** name to **Roberts** in the last issue. All we can say is: a **Santa Claus** by any name is welcome at the **St. Helena Parish Health Unit Christmas party**.

**Dr. Waldo L. Treuting**, former Louisiana State Health Officer, was a recent visitor to Central Office. Now director of the **Allegheny County (Pittsburg, Pa.) Health Department**, he has published a handsome progress report, "Building a Healthier Community." It's available in our library.

The engagement of **Miss Sylvia Herbert**, Steno-clerk, Food and Drug Division, to **Mr. Louis C. Passauer** of New Orleans, was announced in January.

**Mrs. Wava Mouton**, assistant head of nursing, Southwest region, was a judge for the **Iberia Parish TB Press Project**. **Iris Day**, departmental information representative, served on the judging panel for the **State TB and RD Association press project**.

Three public health nurses were assigned to coordinate local health unit services with the **Louisiana Family Planning Program, Inc.** They are **Mrs. Fern Mier**, Huey P. Long Charity Hospital area; **Mrs. Nancy Kemp**, Earl K. Long Charity Hospital area; **Mrs. Bertha Schipplein**, New Orleans Charity Hospital area.

The success of the **Avoyelles Parish Easter Seal Drive** will be due in large part to the efforts to ladies from the parish health unit. **Eva M. DeCuir**, typist-clerk, is parish health chairman for the **Home Demonstration Council**, and **Betty Chatelain**, PHN, has been chairman of the parish **Easter Seal Society** for the past ten years. She also is secretary of the board for the state organization, and a delegate from **Region III**. Both ladies work hard the year 'round on behalf of crippled children.

Health Education Division is sorry to announce the resignation, Feb. 4, of **James G. Foster, Jr.**, S.E. regional health educator. During his seven years with the department **Jim** taught mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to thousands

# Nutrition Survey

Continued from page 1

Although the data are still incomplete, in the portion of the survey concerned with eating habits, 24-hour dietary questionnaires have been completed for a total of 1,073 individuals and 575 households. Through January 9 of this year, blood samples have been obtained from 3,720 subjects of the study.

Only two instances of what could be termed "starvation" have been encountered in the survey to the present time, Dr. Unglaub said. These two cases involved infant twins, prematurely born and under medical supervision from birth.

Concern was expressed in the report about the existence of nutritional problems in adults, particularly in pregnant women. And there is cause for concern from the preliminary findings, Dr. Unglaub said, about two other major groups of the study population considered to be among the most susceptible to the effects of nutrient deprivation - adolescent children and infants.

"From this analysis," he said, "there appears to be reason for serious concern about the nutritional status of the adolescent group with respect to calories, iron and vitamin A in particular, although the level of intake of all the nutrients listed is cause for concern enough."

In respect to the infant group studied, Dr. Unglaub again expressed concern about the levels of intake of calories and iron, "although in general the infants would appear to be relatively better nourished than their older brothers and sisters."

According to Dr. Hedmeg, the Louisiana State Health Department will, as a result of the study, make a thorough analysis of the statistical data available through the official reporting system for the past several years in the area of nutritional deficiencies insofar as both disease and death are concerned.

"We will also give serious consideration to recommending to the State Board of Health that in the future all disease conditions reported as being due to nutrition problems be investigated in the same manner as communicable and other reportable diseases," he said.

## Health Unit Highlights

A series of programs on mouth-to-mouth resuscitation was conducted for Home Demonstration Clubs in Beauregard Parish by Arthur Sneed, regional health educator.

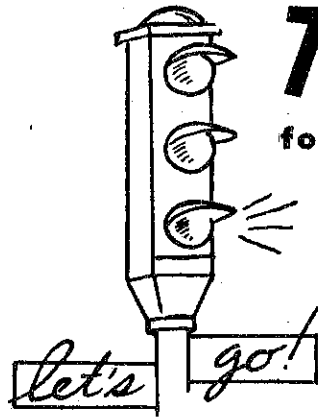
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Regional sanitarian John Hicks told the Oak Grove Jaycees that the West Carroll Health Unit is currently operating in the red. He said that taxpayers of the parish are currently contributing \$4,891 for the operation of the health unit, while state and federal funds up until this year amounted to \$25,000. He recommended a 1½ mill tax to "restore the parish health unit to a solvent condition."

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Ft. Polk has been chosen one of the 23 monitoring control stations in the United States which will assist the U.S. Public Health Service in determining the pattern of air pollution throughout the nation. Members of the Air Control Section and Vernon Parish Health Unit assisted in checking the newly-installed equipment at the control station.

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## 7 EXCUSES

for making the scene  
at ROWNTOWNER

LAFAYETTE

April 23 25

1. Crayfish Bisque
2. Crayfish Pie
3. Cajun Stories
4. Evangeline Downs
5. Azalea Trail
6. Crayfish Etouffe

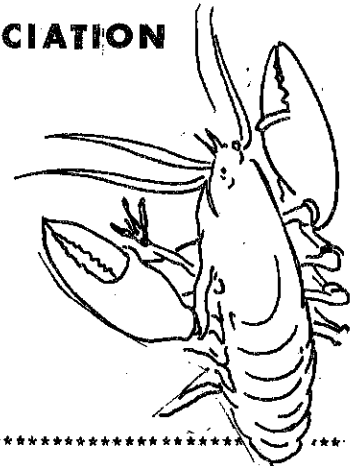
## 7. LOUISIANA PUBLIC

### HEALTH ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL MEETING



JOIN  
TODAY!



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Louisiana Public Health Association, Inc.  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section Affiliation - (Check One)

- |                          |     |                  |     |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Health Officers          | ( ) | Laboratory       | ( ) |
| Public Health Nursing    | ( ) | Education and    | ( ) |
| Sanitation               | ( ) | Special Services | ( ) |
| Clerical and Statistical | ( ) | Engineering      | ( ) |

Are you a Member of The A.P.H.A.? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues \$3.00 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send Check to: Madge Kelly, Treasurer

P.O. Box 4460, Monroe, La. 71201

# Dr. Cook to Coordinate PH Services With OEO

The Louisiana State Department of Health has taken a giant step toward better coordination of community health services throughout the state.

In a policy statement, dated January 20, Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, state health officer, directed the local health units to cooperate with the Office of Economic Opportunity and federally assisted programs of the Department of Education under Title I, Public Law 89-10, Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The health units were instructed to assume the responsibility for planning with, and providing leadership to their local OEO corporations and local school boards in matters of health services.

To assist the health units, Dr. Hedmeg named Dr. Paul Cook, as coordinator, working in conjunction with the regional medical consultants and regional office staffs.

Liaison between the various agencies and the health department will consist primarily of reviewing all applications involving health services submitted by local OEO corporations to the State Office of Economic Opportunity, and reviewing health programs submitted by local Education departments to the federally assisted programs.

Bureaus, Divisions, and Sections in the health department will be kept informed about health programs submitted for approval and funding, and encouraged to join with local health units and other community agencies to develop new community health service programs.

Dr. Cook will assist the agencies to develop parish workshops in which programs will be identified; priorities will be set; a course of action will be chosen; and resources will be collectively organized and allocated to develop programs.

The entire aim is to improve the quality and quantity of services, by preventing the duplication of scarce professional services and expensive administrative machinery, and of promoting more effective use of public funds, Dr. Hedmeg said.

He pointed out that local health units are far more knowledgeable about the prevalence of local health problems, and have greater competency in developing effective scheduling health priorities, and committing necessary medical, dental, nursing, and environmental resources than school boards and OEO directors.

The health programs that offer the greatest potential thrust to the concept of community health services, and the greatest opportunity for cooperative planning between local health units and the local OEO corporations, are the Neighborhood Health Centers, Dr. Hedmeg said.

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The National Health Council will sponsor nine short courses in 1969 for eligible personnel of official, professional, and voluntary health agencies and organizations. For information write to: The Director, Continuing Education Program, National Health Council, 1740 Broadway, New York City, N.Y. 10019.

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"Forty-Seven Years of Progress" is the theme of the abstract report for 1968 published by the Washington Parish Health Unit. Dr. Hollis A. Stafford, Sr., is director.

# Credit Union Meets

Members of the Louisiana Public Health Workers Federal Credit Union paid tribute to their deceased president, Mr. Louis P. Ganucheau, Jr., at their annual meeting January 13; heard the treasurer's report, and elected new board members.

It was announced that a 4.8 percent dividend in the amount of \$16,313.04 was declared. Membership totaled 1138 on December 31, 1968, of whom 188 were new members. A total of 516 loans was granted in 1968, in the amount of \$498,585.78.

During the past year members were offered a payroll deduction service for loan repayments and purchase of shares. All restrictions on the amount of investments were lifted, and members of the investors' immediate families were invited to join the Credit Union.

Elected to the board were Henrietta Wedell and Vernon C. Parker. The board elected the following officers: L. C. Santana, president; Ione Ittman, 1st vice president; Leo Spath, 2nd vice president; Dr. George H. Hauser, treasurer; and Mrs. Wedell, secretary.

Members of the Credit Committee are Lorraine Knight, Mary Tragelis, Anthony Ciaccio, Phillip Howe, and Lucille Godelfer.

# Motorcycle Law Upheld

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear a case involving the conviction of a motorcyclist who refused to wear a protective helmet, which has the effect of giving legal substance to the NHB's standard on motorcycle safety. The case, involving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts vs. Robert H. Howies, Jr., was appealed through the Massachusetts court system and to the U.S. Supreme Court on grounds that the headgear requirements was unconstitutional. The finding in Massachusetts was that it was "within the power of the Legislature to adopt reasonable measures for the promotion of safety on public ways in the interest of motorcyclists and others who may use them."

Highway safety legislation passed by the 1968 Louisiana Legislature provides that every person operating or riding upon any motor driven cycle must wear an approved safety helmet, secured properly with a chin strap while the vehicle is in motion.

# Getting to Know You

A general staff conference was a direct response of Lafourche Parish Health Unit staff to the Continuing Education Project, reported Dr. Sarah Braud, director.

"Returning from one of the programs we realized that even though we considered ourselves a real team there were definite gaps...between disciplines," she said. At the staff meeting, each discipline summarized the various aspects of its work. Field visits come next, with sanitarians inviting nurses to accompany them on routine inspections, and nurses inviting sanitarians to observe their work in schools, homes, and specialized clinics.

"I would recommend this approach for a much better understanding and, I hope, better team work," Dr. Braud concluded.