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J.Y.
John Parish Health Unit
JUL 11 1960
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LOUISIANA
CONFIDENCE

NOTICE

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WILL BE CLOSED
DURING AUGUST**

**38 Cases of Infectious Hepatitis
Reported, Mainly in 2 Parishes**

In 1960's first five months, 38 cases of infectious hepatitis were reported in Louisiana, mainly in two parishes, - Caddo, with 18; and St. Tammany, 14. The disease was under surveillance by state and local staff. Though not often fatal, infectious hepatitis causes prolonged disability and convalescence, and during the latter can relapse into chronic liver disease. It may be transmitted through contaminated food and drinking water, or spread by direct contact from person to person.

Infectious hepatitis is on the increase in the United States. In Louisiana it has long been considered as under-reported. Not yet answerable is the question: is the disease increasing also in incidence in Louisiana, or do the 1960 cases merely show more accurate reporting? Louisiana listed 120 cases of infectious hepatitis in 1959; 26 in 1958.

In Caddo parish nine of the cases reported since February occurred in Southern Hills elementary school, Shreveport. Caddo-Shreveport health unit director, Dr. Virginia E. Webb, and her staff, investigated the outbreak, making an analysis of food and water and checking cafeteria food preparation, but failed to find the origin. Dr. Webb advised more frequent chlorination of the school's water supply, derived from a private source. She also recommended gamma globulin inoculation, to be given by doctors or at the health unit, to check spread of the disease.

The Central Laboratory sent a supply of gamma globulin to Shreveport at Dr. Webb's request.

James E. Coerver, chief, section of Water Supply and Waste Disposal; Gerald D. Healy, regional engineer; and Harry E. Wood, assistant regional

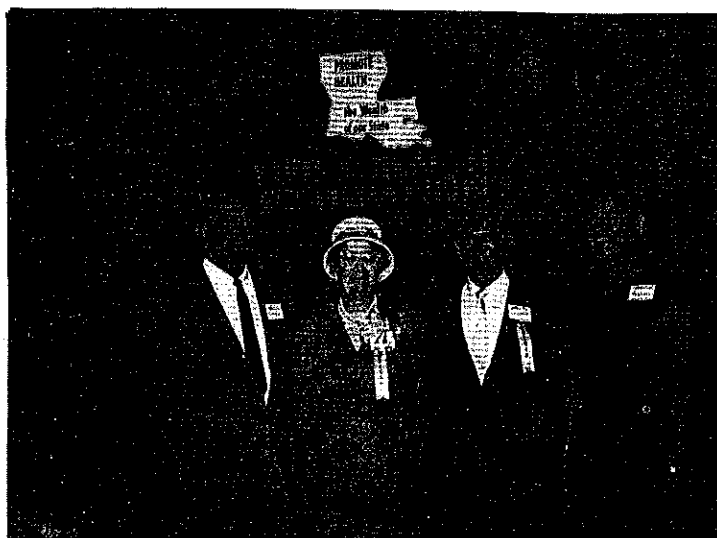
(Continued on page 7)

**Psychiatric Counseling
Added to Crippled
Children Program**

The Louisiana State Board of Health Crippled Children's Program recently began providing psychiatric counseling for selected crippled children through cooperative arrangements with Louisiana State University Medical School Department of Psychiatry and Neurology and Tulane University Medical School Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Charles Watkins is chief of the LSU department, and Dr. Nina Lief of the Tulane Medical School Department of Child Psychiatry. The counseling is available to crippled children and their parents at the New Orleans Crippled Children's program district clinic, 200 Henry Clay Ave. At this office, consultant psychiatrists from the two university faculties see children who have been referred by orthopedists or pediatricians associated in the Crippled Children's Program.

Crippled children who must be immobilized in body casts for months of treatment are thought to be among those most subjected to psychological strains which may require help from psychiatry. Since this is not certain, the program will also have a research value, for it will enable the psychiatric staff to explore the effect of various types of disablements on children of different ages.



NEW OFFICERS of the Louisiana Public Health Association are (from left): A. G. Owens, secretary; Lucille Godelfer, president; George Ineichen, treasurer; Odie Lee Gossett, second vice-president. (See pg. 3 for annual meeting story.)

ALL ABOUT US

Congratulations to the sons and daughters of public health workers who donned cap and gown and received diplomas, honors and new stature as high school and college graduates this spring. Among the proud parents: FLORENCE FORMAN, secretary, Occupational Health, and Safety, whose son Murray received his B.S. in Business Administration from LSU in Baton Rouge; WARREN H. REINHART, chief, same section, whose daughter Diane was one of six students in the second graduating class of LSU's school of nursing. DR. OTIS K. BAILEY, former health educator at Shreveport, was presented a plaque for the outstanding paper submitted for initiation to the C. Victor Vignes Odontological Society at Loyola's school of dentistry, and was accepted for membership into the Tau Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honorary Fraternity.

Dr. Joseph Theodore Brierre, Jr., LSU medical school graduate, received the Louisiana Pathology Society Award from DR. GEORGE H. HAUSER, representing the society's president Dr. Klam. Dr. Brierre is following in the distinguished footsteps of his father, president-elect of the Orleans Parish Medical Society, and his grandfather, an outstanding general practitioner in New Orleans. Dr. Hauser noted that several of the young Dr. Brierre's research projects have already been recognized by the medical profession.

Military leave has taken some of our colleagues away from their public health duties: LT. ROSEMARY KARST, Jefferson PH nurse, Navy Reserve; MAJOR J.C. WATSON, Jefferson chief sanitarian, Air Force Reserve; Sanitarians PIERRE MORERE and EMILE KUGLER, non-commissioned officers, Air Force Reserve; CAPT. CLIFTON LAWRENCE, administrative audiologist, U. S. A. R., Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

District orthopedic nurse ODIE LEE GOSSETT, Monroe, and LILY HEBERT, PHN, St. Landry, attended



FLOYD HOLLY is the first industrial representative in the Lake Charles area to become a Registered Sanitarian. The Borden Company employee (third from left) is shown receiving his certificate from Dr. Guillermo Vasquez, Calcasieu-Lake Charles health unit director, in the presence of Andrew Fontenot, chief sanitarian (left) and George Miner of the Borden Co. (right).

the short course of cardiac nursing at LSU medical school, sponsored jointly by the department of nursing of the LSU medical school and the Louisiana Heart Association.

EDISON MHIRE, Cameron parish's only public health sanitarian, recently was elected vice-commander of the Seventh District American Legion post. Mr. Mhire is also a member of Lions Club, VFW, Knights of Columbus, and chairman of the South Cameron Hospital Service Board.

SCHUYLER ELSBREE, former Jefferson sanitarian, accepted a position with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

MARLENE BOND, regional nutritionist, Monroe, was elected president of the Northeast Area Dietetic Association.

ELSA NELSON, health educator at USPHS hospital, Carville, was the subject of the profile in the April issue of Health Officers News Digest... "her interests are many and varied; her enthusiasm contagious, and her energy and thoroughness a spur."

BIRDIE H. MAY, Tensas PH Nurse, attended a Community Leaders Luncheon during National FHA Week, as a representative of the parish health unit.

ALICE STAUNTON, secretary, nutrition, motored to Philadelphia, following the path of spring through apple festivals and cherry blossoms; enjoyed the patriotic thrill of watching the Loyalty Day parade from a reserved seat in front of Independence

Hall.

MATTIE SMITH, PH nurse, Vermilion, was chairman of the Gueydan High School P-TA meeting. Guest speakers were ANNA HARRISON, chief medical social services, and MARION WOLF, nutritionist.

MR. AND MRS. E. B. MC CARY (Alma is secretary for Preventive Medicine) celebrated their silver wedding anniversary June 8.

Pierre says:



It's a girl for MRS. DORIS CENTANNI, switchboard operator, Jefferson; a boy for MRS. JEAN NASH FIRMIN, former Jefferson PHN; a girl for MRS. ELIZABETH LEE, PHN, St. Helena.

Sympathy is extended to JAMES O. BRYANT, Jefferson, death of brother; ELLA ROUSSELL, Jefferson, death of father; GERALDINE BYARGEON, West Carroll, death of grandfather; BERTHA M. DUPUY, St. Charles, death of sister.

Dr. Ochsner on Smoking

Dr. Alton Ochsner of New Orleans, discussing link between cigarettes and lung cancer:

"If there was one-tenth the evidence that Brooklyn Bridge was unsafe for traffic it would be closed in 24 hours."

- AMA NEWS

LPHA Elects Lucille Godelfer; Record Attendance at Meeting

Miss Lucille Godelfer of New Orleans, laboratory technologist for the state board of health, was elected president of the Louisiana Public Health Association at the group's annual meeting, May 19-20, at the Jung hotel in New Orleans. Other new officers are: first vice-president, Miss Madge Kelly, Monroe, chief clerk with the Ouachita parish health unit; second vice-president, Mrs. Odle Lee Gossett, Monroe, nurse consultant; secretary, A. G. Owens, Monroe, regional sanitarian, state board of health; and treasurer, George Melchen, Rayville, child safety consultant, state board of health.

Section chairmen elected are: Laboratory, Mrs. Gladys Junker, New Orleans; Nursing, Mrs. Vera Blanchard, New Orleans; Health Officers, Dr. M. J. Picinich, Baton Rouge; Special Services and Education, Miss Anna Harrison, New Orleans; Clerical, Mrs. Dorothy Austin, New Orleans; and Sanitarians, Mr. Charles Triche, Lake Charles.

Approximately 375 members and guests, the largest attendance ever registered at an LPHA meeting, applauded the choice of Dr. Charles Manly Horton, general practitioner of Franklin, La., as the recipient of the annual Dr. Felix Formento memorial award for meritorious activity to promote the public health program in Louisiana. The presentation was made by Dr. George Hauser, director of laboratories.

For long time diligent and loyal service to public health, the LPHA presented Agnes Morris memorial awards to Mrs. Sue Arnoult, of the New Orleans city health department; Miss Natalie Nobles, assistant nursing supervisor, Caddo-Shreveport health unit; Felix Richard, St. Landry parish health unit sanitarian, and Albert E. Riquelmy, sanitarian with the Calcasieu-Lake Charles health unit.

Seven employees of the state board of health received 20-year serv-

ice pins: Mrs. Grace Bailey, former public health nurse, Vidalia; Mrs. Clerfe Bernard, Sr., New Iberia; Mrs. Louise Chandler, Castor; Miss Louise

The beautiful blue, white and gold backdrop which you will see in many of the LPHA annual meeting photographs is a new and permanent acquisition of the Association.

A masterly job of efficient supply and operation of visual aids equipment was performed by Florian Leach and Burnell Robertson of the division of public health education.

Mrs. Gloria Moritz, health education secretary, competently arranged for the setting up and removal of the 12 Voluntary and USPHS exhibits which were an attractive and informative feature of the meeting.

LPHA president, Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, was presented the gold key of the City of New Orleans by Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison, an honor which has been accorded to many great and famous visitors and public leaders, some of international stature.

Guidry, Mrs. Thomas H. Rowe, Mrs. Lucille Sawyer and Miss Floriene Schoen, all Shreveport residents.

In addition, the LPHA awarded certificates honoring 10 years of service to 53 public health workers.

LPHA membership neared the 750 mark at convention time, an increase over the previous year, it was announced. A reorganization plan was proposed at the business meeting for the purpose of improving community relations and to encourage community backing of the public health program. It was proposed that a committee of representatives from 15 state organizations be invited to serve as a temporary advisory committee to the governing council for one year.

The association also adopted a resolution asking that the Governor and the Legislature study the problem of the separate administration of health programs by a number of agencies with the view of consolidating them under competent medical direction such as provided by the State Board of Health.

It also adopted a formal resolution of appreciation to the press, radio and TV stations of the city and state for cooperation in reporting the meeting.

The association wound up its two-day session with section meetings devoted to new approaches to the problem of effective control of communicable diseases.



TWENTY-YEAR service pins were awarded these ladies at the LPHA annual meeting by the state board of health. They are (from left): Floriene Schoen, Louise Guidry, Lucille Sawyer, and Mabel Bernard. (More pictures on page 5.)

Penicillin-Free Polio Vaccine Distributed

Dr. H. E. Cannon, director of Livingston Parish Health Unit, recently announced in the Denham Springs News that a shipment of polio vaccine containing no penicillin had been received. "It will allow those who are allergic to penicillin to receive their polio shots without harmful effects," the paper reported.

A check by the Newsletter with Dr. George Hauser, director of laboratories, revealed that all Salk polio vaccine now being supplied to parish health units is preserved with formalin, polymyxin B and Streptomycin and contains no penicillin.

Dr. W. J. Rein, state health officer, said no allergic reaction to any of the Salk polio vaccine injections given in parish health unit clinics in Louisiana had been reported since the beginning of the immunization program.

Further reports with regard to the three-month accelerated immunization program have been received from health unit directors:

Dr. Marietta Alper, St. John parish health unit, announced that polio night clinics on the East and West Bank were discontinued at the end of six and five weeks respectively. Attendance at both clinics totalled 317. For the St. Charles health unit, she reported, 84 polio shots were given at New Sarpy at five weekly night clinics; 375 shots given during 9 weekly night clinics at Hahnville.

The Caddo-Shreveport health unit, Dr. Virginia E. Webb, director, re-

LPHA THEME "TIMELY"-- HEDMEG

"The theme of the LPHA annual meeting this year, Communicable Disease -- New Outlook, is indeed a timely one," said association president Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, sounding the keynote for the two day annual LPHA meeting at the Jung hotel in New Orleans. "Timely from the aspect that a thorough reevaluation of our public health approach to the control of some of the older communicable diseases such as smallpox, typhoid fever, diphtheria, and so on, is needed," he added.

Mrs. Mary R. Lester, chief, nursing section, epidemiology branch, Communicable Disease Center, USPHS, Atlanta, noted that while there has been a consistent decline in the incidence of some contagious diseases, new entities are being identified as communicable, and certain of the long-recognized ones remain as major public health problems. Those of importance in the U. S. today, she said, are (1) diseases which

 reported that 15 general immunization clinics were held at which 4,525 polio, DPT, smallpox, and tetanus shots were given. The health unit planned to hold clinics in April and May also.

The Newsletter thanks all directors and health unit staff who supplied clippings, and other reports, of the special clinics, so that public health workers could exchange information about this program.

Staff from Central Office, New Orleans health department and Jefferson parish health unit kept the registration going smoothly. Working in three shifts, under the supervision of Maxine Jackson, Fabia Davis and Evelyn Giroir, were the following: Dorothy Engelbracht, Mary Esteve, Mary Tragellis, Ione Itman, Vera Beyer, Shirley Hennessy, Susan Ardoin, Mary Russo, Corinne Ciravolo, Dorothy Macera, Carolyn LaGrange, Zellie Kemp, Bertha Derby, Melba B. Bourg, Ena B. Murphy, Vivian Meynier, Vivian Huth, Anna Lee Vallee, Carol Murden, Nettie McBride, Adelaide Puccio, and Florence Favaron.

 are controlled to such an extent that only active surveillance is necessary; (2) those for which effective procedures for prevention and control are known, but not applied to the extent necessary for control; and (3) diseases for which effective preventive measures are not yet known.

"The role of the Sanitarian in Communicable Disease Control" was set forth by Mr. Reuel H. Waldrop, technical consultant, USPHS, CDC, Oklahoma City. Dr. Margaret H. D. Smith, associate professor, department of pediatrics, Tulane medical school, discussed current major problems in tuberculosis control, to wind up the morning general session.

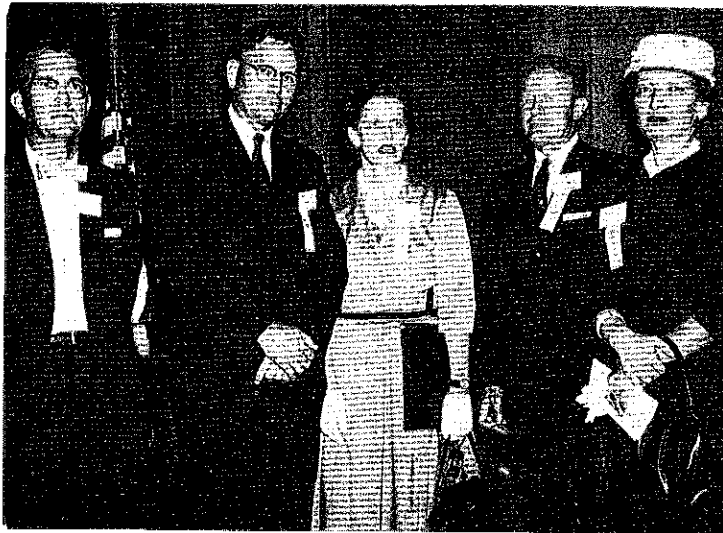
Prior to the afternoon business session, Sim B. Shattuck, program officer, Division of Health Mobilization, PHS, Washington, D. C., told the audience, "Civil defense health services in anticipation of a thermonuclear attack are practically in their infancy. There are many unknowns in the areas of supplies, manpower utilization, training and education, public information, and many other phases." He said the Public Health Service feels that "a program of training and education is basic in the mobilization of health resources for emergency."

It Pays to be Curious

(See page 8)



1. What was the lowest general death rate ever recorded in the United States?
2. What is the general death rate prevailing in the United States as a whole?
3. What is Louisiana's general death rate?



DR. JOHN BRUCE, (left) program chairman, posed with a group of principal speakers: Reuel C. Waldrop, Dr. Margaret Smith, Marvin O. Stromberg, and Mrs. Mary Lester.



DR. CHARLES Manly Horton, Franklin's famed general practitioner (left) and Dr. George H. Hauser, director of the state board of health laboratories, re-enact the presentation of the Dr. Felix Formento Memorial award.

LPHA Photos by Dan Charles



H. F. REED, Southeastern regional milk sanitarian, had the attention of the entire "registration corps."



ANOTHER busy scene at the registration desk. Girls from Central Office, New Orleans city health department, and Jefferson worked in shifts to handle 367 members and guests, largest attendance ever registered at an LPHA convention.

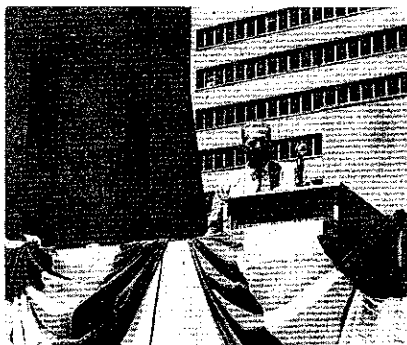


LPHA audiences heard (top) Reuel Waldrop, speaking on the sanitarian's role in communicable disease control; (center left) Sim Shattuck, discussing the problems of health mobilization; (center right) John Lemasson, reporting on convention arrangements; and (bottom) Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison, who presented the gold key to the City of New Orleans to Dr. Andrew Hedmeg.

Dr. Rein, PH Workers Attend Center Opening

Dr. William J. Rein, state health officer, was one of the state officials introduced Thursday, April 29 at the dedication of Dibert Radiation Therapy Center, New Orleans Charity hospital. Central office employees of the state board of health were invited to attend and were excused from their duties, when possible, to do so. Dedication speakers included Gov. Earl K. Long. Charity hospital director Dr. Leo J. Kerne accepted the resources of the radiation therapy center as "an invaluable anti-cancer weapon."

The radiation unit, weighing 15 tons, 15 feet high, and emitting two million volts, was the gift of the Donner foundation, Philadelphia. Louisiana paid for the structure which



FORMER Gov. Earl K. Long spoke at the dedication of the Dibert Radiation Therapy Center at Charity hospital in New Orleans.

houses the machine. It was pointed out that New Orleans Charity hospital has the state's only cytology cell detection laboratory for early detection of cancer, but until the radiation therapy center opened, was not able efficiently to treat by radiation certain forms of deep-seated internal cancer.

Sanitarians' School

A two-week course of postgraduate instruction for Caddo-Shreveport Health Unit sanitarians, was conducted in Shreveport, beginning April 28.

This was the first time in the health unit's history that state health officials conducted such a school in Shreveport. The usual practice has been to send sanitarians to the Central Office training center in New Orleans.

SWIM POOL HAZARD

Swimming pools are among the many home hazards which constantly threaten the lives of children. Owners should fence their swimming pools, and children should be taught to swim at an early age, safety experts advise. They also point out that fish ponds, lily pools, irrigation ditches, uncovered wells and cisterns are among the other water hazards which may claim the lives of unguarded tots.

Radiological Health Studied at Dallas

M. E. Kossack, director, Division of Public Health Education, attended a regional meeting of state directors at Dallas, Texas, May 31-June 1.

A highlight of the meeting was a presentation on Radiological Health and Public Health by Dr. Dade W. Moeller, chief of Radiological Health Training Activities at the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center.

This was probably the first time that the Public Health Service Region VII office has held a meeting of state directors, Mr. Kossack said. Participants were from Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Miss Dupuy Thanked

Miss Bertha Dupuy, St. Charles parish health unit nurse, took part in the health program at the St. Charles Parish 4-H Club Achievement Day, and received the following letter from the Home Demonstration and County Agent officials:

"May we take this means of thanking you for the wonderful assistance and cooperation given us in making our Achievement Day a success. We feel that this past Achievement Day was one of our best and that its success was measured in part by the very important role you played toward making it so."



"DOC" WILSON, St. Mary Parish Health Unit sanitarian, surveys the open-type garbage dump inside the city limits of Morgan City. This unhealthy, unsightly scene was converted to a sanitary land fill.

- Photo by Cecil Allen

The Louisiana State
Board of Health

Hon. James H. Davis
Governor

William J. Rein, M.D.
State Health Officer

M. E. Kossack, M.S.P.H., Director

Iris Day, Editor

Duplication process supervised by
Louis Bernier

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PH Library Offers New Book & Journal List

A new book and journal list is available from the public health library, Miss Alecia Kline, librarian, reported. The Library has mailed to each parish health unit and regional office a list of books received in 1959 which are available for their use.

The list includes the journals to which the Library subscribes and which also may be borrowed.

No further issues of the journals list will be published, Miss Kline says; however, lists of books received during the current year will be distributed at intervals, and notations will be made of journals added or deleted.

Copies of the new book and journal list will be furnished by the Library on request.

Millage Tax Passes

A 2-mill tax for ten years to support the parish health unit was successfully passed in Natchitoches parish.

This makes the 30th parish in the state to vote such a tax, placing local health units on a firm financial basis, noted Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, director of local health services.

Assessments were \$1,294,623 for; \$977,797 against. The Newsletter congratulates the parish and the health unit staff.

HEPATITIS...

Continued from page 1
engineer, Monroe, made a thorough examination of the school's water and sewage pipe system. They found no cross connection which might have led to contamination of the school's drinking water.

Possible sources of the outbreak were also discussed by Dr. Webb, and Dr. Ben Freedman, director, Division of Preventive Medicine, and Dr. John M. Bruce, chief, Epidemiology section. At this writing no source of the outbreak has been found.



Inservice Training Program Resumes for Clerks, Nurses

Training courses for public health nurses and clerk trainees have resumed at the Public Health Training Center. The first such courses to be held in the new state office building were scheduled for May 30-June 24 for clerks; May 30-July 1 for nurses.

The clerks' inservice program included lectures and demonstrations by state board of health personnel, films, field trips and observation and participation in local health unit activities.

The nursing schedule included, in addition to state board of health instructors, representatives from other state agencies and voluntary health organizations which work closely with the Board in public health programs, as well as field trips, films, classroom discussions and demonstrations.

Clerk trainees in attendance

were: Maydel Boudreaux, St. Bernard; Carolyn LaGrange and Carol Ann Murchison, both of Jefferson; Thelma Rush, Calcasieu-Lake Charles; Emmie Scarborough, Ouachita; and Betty Begnaud and Jane Zerbe, of the Lafayette Parish Health Unit.

Nurses in attendance were: Jewell F. Arthur, Caddo-Shreveport; Iva Delaune, Calcasieu-Lake Charles; Bertha Dupuy, St. Charles; Claire W. Edwards, St. Bernard; Eida M. Hurley, Terrebonne; Belma Rosser, Madison; Faye Smith, Tangipahoa; Leola Wrigley, Cameron; Peggy Zumbro, West Carroll; and Elaine Lambour, Calcasieu-Lake Charles Health Unit.

Jefferson Parish Health Unit announced summer hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for June, July, and August.

SAFETY ZONE

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxxcpt for onx of thx lxttxr kxys. I wishxd vxry oftzn that it workxd prxfctly. It is trux that thxrx arx forty-sxvxn kxys that fctnction wxll knough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrncc bxtwxn prxfct and a mxss.

Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that our safxy program is somxwhat likx thx typx-writxr - not all thx kxy pxoplz arx working proprly.

Maybx you fxxl; "wxll, I am only onx pxrson. I don't makx or brxak a program". But it doxs makx a diffxrncc, bxcxuxs a safxy program, to bx xffctiv nxxds thx activx participation of vxxy xmployxx.

So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and that your xfforts arx not nxxdxd, rxmxxbxxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson in our safxy program and I am nxxdxd vxry much".

A few changes from - NEWS LETTER of Boston Chapter, ASSE
credited to - Safety Bulletin, Ohio Power Co.

RABIES ROUNDUP

"Our rabies clinics were 25 per cent better this year than in the past three years," reports Charles W. Purnell, St. James Parish health unit sanitarian. 630 dogs were immunized. Advance posting of rabies posters, lectures, and distribution of clinic announcements to each school child in the parish helped to make the Saturday clinics successful.

The Richland Parish Police Jury published in the Beacon News a notice to dog owners, reminding them of the parish rabies ordinance and listing a schedule of rabies clinics for May.

Notice of the final rabies vaccination clinic of the season for Webster parish was published in the Minden Press. Clinics sponsored by the health unit were held during a two-month period.

ANSWERS TO

"CURIOUS"

1. 6.7 per 1,000 population. This was recorded in 1955 by Utah.

2. Between 9.2 and 9.6. Since 1946 the general death rate for the country as a whole has not risen above 10.1 per 1,000 population nor fallen below 9.2. The rate was 9.6 in 1957, according to the 1958 annual report of the U.S. Public Health Service.

3. In 1958 the general death rate for Louisiana stood at 9.0 deaths per 1,000 estimated population. This represented a slight decrease under the rate of 9.2 recorded for 1957.

"RESCUE BREATHING"

The bulletin of the First Baptist Church of Rayville carried a special announcement of the film showing of "Rescue Breathing" at the Rayville high school, and urged attendance.

Friends Afield

HELEN NOEL, the pleasant, busy and efficient clerk at the West Baton Rouge Parish Health Unit; below, the cameraman interrupted a conference between public health nurses Gladys Nelson (left) and Bessie Allain, both of West Baton Rouge.

