



LAB DETECTS RARE CASE OF CAT RABIES

A Louisiana cat which developed rabies through vaccination has become one of three known animals on record in the United States to do so, according to findings of the rabies section, Louisiana State Board of Health central laboratory.

Positive identification was made by use of the fluorescent antibody technique and mice inoculation, said Dr. George H. Hauser, laboratory director.

The cat, which had been vaccinated Dec. 23, died Jan. 17—two days after biting a Jefferson Parish child on the arm. The head was submitted by a veterinarian to the rabies section to determine whether or not the animal had been rabid.

The first test, the standard Sellers Stain technique, proved negative. It was not until a second test, the new fluorescent antibody technique, was performed that a positive identification was made.

As soon as rabies was proven, the veterinarian was notified and treatment was started immediately on the child who had been bitten.

As far as is known, there are only two other such cases on record in the United States.

Because the cat contracted the disease through the vaccination, the Sellers Stain was incapable of picking up the rabies virus. The Sellers Stain technique usually picks up only the "street" type rabies virus and not a fixed virus.

Mice were also inoculated with brain tissue and salivary gland from the cat in question as the third of three routine steps taken by the laboratory in the detection of rabies. The mice became rabid and died.

A full report of the case has been sent to the Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga. for further study.

Keep Teachers Safe

"Tips for Keeping Teachers Safe" is the title of an article in the October issue of "Safety Education," a publication of the (U.S.) National Safety Council. Studies of the Council indicate that you're a little more than twice as likely to be injured while teaching than working in a steel mill... "Saskatchewan Department of Public Health"

10 FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS WERE INVESTIGATED IN 9 PARISHES DURING 1963

At least ten food poisoning outbreaks in nine parishes were investigated during 1963 by parish health units, and the Section of Epidemiology, with the assistance of State Board of Health laboratories, private physicians and medical facilities.

Individual outbreaks involved from four to 500 persons. Four outbreaks resulted from meals served in school cafeterias; two involved commercial products; one occurred during a local fair; one outbreak followed a church supper; one was the result of a barbecue, and the tenth is still under investigation. In four instances turkey and turkey products were involved. One outbreak was traced directly to chicken salad sandwiches. Custard pie and doughnuts were suspected sources in two outbreaks.

The ten outbreaks are summarized in the chart below:

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS, LOUISIANA, 1963

Parish	Place of Occurrence	Approximate No. People Involved	Source	Causative Agent
Caddo	Church supper	35	Turkey	Staphylococci
St. Landry	Church booth, fair	150	Chicken Salad Sandwiches	Staphylococci
St. Mary	School cafeteria	80	Turkey	Salmonella
De Soto	School cafeteria	500	Turkey	Not determined
Plaquemines	School cafeteria	177	Turkey	Clostridium suspected, but not isolated
St. Bernard	School cafeteria	21	Spaghetti, meat balls, milk, etc	Chemical suspected
St. Bernard	Commercial	6-7	Cream filled, jelly, glazed doughnuts	Staphylococci
Terrebonne	Barbecue	4-5	Potato Salad	Staphylococci
Jefferson	Home	8	Custard pie	Staphylococci suspected
Iberia	Incomplete	35	Boudin (blood sausage) suspected	Salmonella

"We have reason to believe that there have been additional outbreaks which were not reported to the Epidemiology Section," said Dr. Charles T. Caraway, assistant chief. He explained that specimens sent to the laboratory seemed to be connected to foodborne outbreaks but, in many instances, no followup reports were received. Dr. Caraway urged the health units to report all outbreaks immediately.

"This doesn't mean that we want to investigate every outbreak personally, although we are ready to assist local staffs when requested. But we can make certain helpful recommendations about the type of specimens and data to be collected, when we are notified promptly. Otherwise, it may be too late to get the kind of information we need," he said.

Dr. Caraway said that one reason for prompt, complete investigation of food poisoning outbreaks is that there is always a possibility that a common factor may be found. "If we consistently find a particular circumstance — causative agent, vehicle, etc. — we may be able to come up with some policy or recommendation that will prevent future occurrences."

In this connection, Dr. John M. Bruce, chief of the Section of Epidemiology, agrees with Dr. Caraway that large fowl, like turkeys, present the school lunchroom with many problems, and are a potential source of food poisoning. They explained that large turkeys frequently are thawed and cooked one day, but not served until later. This could be considered a dangerous practice because the intermediate temperatures between cooking and cooling, and between refrigeration and reheating, allow food poisoning organisms to grow.

Getting to

Know You

ASSUMPTION PARISH HEALTH UNIT is housed in new quarters completed in 1959 and located on the Court-house grounds, Napoleonville, P.O. Box 27, telephone 2381.

Dr. David E. Brown serves as medical consultant, and nurses are Mrs. Nell L. Caballero and Mrs. Hilda M. Landry (part-time). Larry J. Legendre is part-time sanitarian, Mrs. Wilma R. Lagrange is clerk, and Mrs. Augustine Simoneaux acts as public health unit aide.

The unit reports that a total of 12,099 people were administered vaccine during the 1963 mass oral polio campaigns and that 80.50 percent received type I, 73.08 percent received type II, and 76.30 received type III. Complete records were kept and entered on permanent files at the health unit. The nurses are conducting follow-up immunizations on those who missed the vaccine, beginning with school children.

Four new health services and a new unit building have been added at the **BEAUREGARD PARISH HEALTH UNIT**, 202 Third Street, P.O. Box 327, DeRidder.

New health services incorporated in the unit which moved to its new location in 1961 include hearing and maternity nursing clinics, heart disease control and influenza immunizations for Old Age Assistance.

Staff members for the Beauregard unit include Mrs. Elizabeth C. Hartt, nurse; Otto Bolin and Albert P. Windham, sanitarians; Mrs. Gloria B. Hickman, clerk; and Mrs. Sylvia Cagle, aide.

The unit reports that special clinics were set up for its participation in the mass oral polio campaigns.

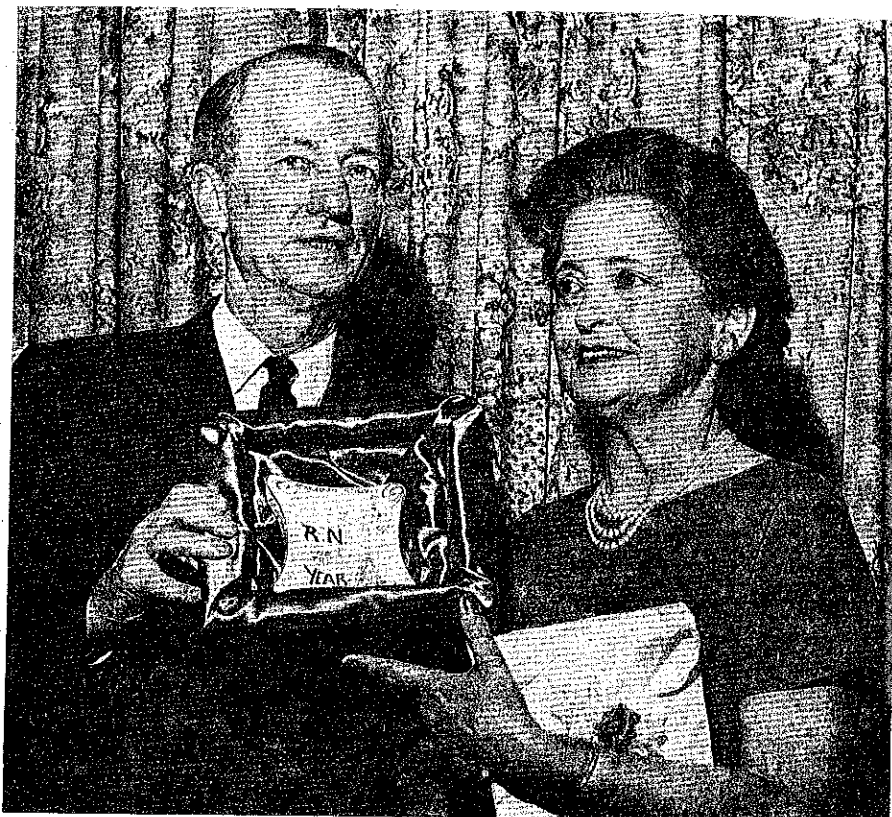
BIENVILLE PARISH HEALTH UNIT operates at the corner of Chestnut and Beach streets, Arcadia, P.O. Box 276.

Mrs. Josephine E. Stinson is the unit's nurse while Mrs. Louise G. Chandler and Mrs. Marjorie N. Patterson serve as clerks.

The Bienville unit has been in its new quarters since 1955, and established a branch office at Hill Street, Ringgold, La., in 1956. The branch office is open Tuesdays, only.

New services at the unit include PKU testing, heart and hearing clinics, and chest x-ray.

First oral polio vaccine clinics were held in the parish in October 1963, with health unit assistance.



MRS. LUCILLE SAWYER, nurse supervisor at the Caddo-Shreveport Health Unit, was named "Registered Nurse for the Year 1963" by the Shreveport District Nurses Assn. She is shown receiving a special plaque from Shreveport Mayor Clyde Fant, a speaker at the group's annual banquet.

ALL ABOUT US

Clifton Lawrence, former administrative audiologist now doing postgraduate work in sunny California, paid Central Office a brief visit during one of our colder weeks. "First thing I did was to buy an overcoat," he complained, but says he is looking forward to a permanent return to Louisiana.

Dr. Ben Freedman, director, preventive medicine, has an article in the January issue of "Medical Times" - "The Problem of Fragmentation of Community Health Services Operated by State Government."

Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, director, local health services, resolved to decline an invitation to serve a third year on the resolutions committee of APHA.

Mrs. Patricia Larkin has accepted a position as program coordinator with the New Orleans City Health Department. As health educator for the State Board of Health, she introduced a cancer education program into the Louisiana school curriculum, with emphasis on the smoking-cancer relationship, predating the Public Health Service report.

Miss Lillian Jeffers, nursing director, and **Mrs. Roxine Schmidt**, heart program consultant, attended a month-long Rehabilitation Nursing Workshop at the Rancho

Los Amigos Hospital in California, located a few miles from Disneyland.

Continued on page 3

LOUISIANA PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Louisiana State Office Building,
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MEDICAL QUACKERY MEETING, MARCH 25

A statewide conference on medical quackery sponsored by the Louisiana State Medical Society will be held at the Capitol House Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on March 25, 1964.

The purpose of the meeting according to Dr. George H. Hauser, president of the Louisiana State Medical Society, is to focus public attention on the increasingly dangerous and costly problem of medical quackery.

"People in this country spend over \$1 billion a year on worthless cures, mechanical gadgets, food fads, cultists and other quack gimmicks. More important than this great waste of money is the bodily danger presented by quack treatments and nostrums," Dr. Hauser said.

Dr. Hauser said the meeting will be closely patterned after the successful national quackery conferences jointly sponsored by the American Medical Association and the Food and Drug Administration. Among those who will participate in the Baton Rouge meeting will be representatives of federal and state agencies, voluntary health organizations, the American Medical Association, Better Business Bureaus and the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Persons wishing to attend the conference who have not been specifically invited, may request invitations by writing the Louisiana State Medical Society, 1430 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, 70112. Guests will be admitted to the conference by invitation only. There will be no registration fees of any kind.

INSERVICE TRAINING

Regional inservice training programs for nurses, clerks and sanitarians were resumed Feb. 26, with meetings scheduled at Lafayette, Baton Rouge, Shreveport and Alexandria.

Schedules for inservice training meetings for the next fiscal year will be issued at a later date, depending upon the availability of funds, according to a memorandum from Dr. James R. Strain, State Health Officer.

Dr. Strain noted that each agenda should include at least one presentation of "new information."

Good Government

A recipe for good government by former Louisiana Governor Sam H. Jones included this ingredient: "follow the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, with the assurance that (a) better education will wipe out illiteracy, and (b) disease prevention will save thousands of beds of pain."

New Health Officer

Dr. Verne L. Thibodeaux, 29, has assumed his duties as district health officer for St. Mary and Terrebonne parishes.

A native of New Iberia, Dr. Thibodeaux attending the University of Southwestern Louisiana, completing his pre-medical curriculum in 1954. He received his M.D. degree in 1959 from the Louisiana State University medical school, and interned at New Orleans Charity hospital. Following one year of general practice, he served briefly as director of the TB annex of Lafayette Charity hospital, then entered the U.S. Medical Corps in 1961. He was honorably discharged in July, 1963.

Dr. Thibodeaux's headquarters will be at the St. Mary Parish Health Unit in Franklin.

ALL ABOUT US

Continued from page 2

Mrs. Vera Blanchard, consultant for special studies, and Mrs. Ruby Giroir, assistant nursing supervisor, Lafayette, took a course in January at the Oklahoma Mental Retardation Center in Tulsa.

New appointments among medical personnel: Dr. Sarah M. Braud, consultant to the Assumption Parish Health Unit; Dr. Leo W. Tucker, consultant to the Evangeline Parish Health Unit; Dr. T. N. Armistead, Area Medical Consultant to a district including DeSoto and Red River parishes, (where he is presently director), Claiborne, Lincoln, Bienville, Bossier and Webster parishes. Dr. Verne L. Thibodeaux, Jr., is the new district health officer for Terrebonne and St. Mary parishes.

Burnell J. Robertson, motion picture projector operator, was honored at the Annual Recognition Banquet, John Albert District, New Orleans Area Boy Scout Council, for achieving 25 years of scouting. In 1955, Rev. Robertson received the Outstanding Scouters award.

According to "Keeping Up," Calcasieu's informative bulletin, Luna Hayes has resigned as executive secretary of the Calcasieu-Cameron TB Assn., a position she has held for the past 16 years.

Sympathy to Mrs. Ruby J. Brewer, typist-clerk, DeSoto, death of mother.

Health Board Requests Mosquito Control Funds

The Louisiana State Board of Health has submitted a request to the legislative budget committee for \$150,000 in grants-in-aid funds for local mosquito control operations. Dr. James R. Strain, Board president, said that the request for \$60,000 for temporary control measures, and \$90,000 for permanent control measures, was included in the 1964-65 fiscal budget recommendations of the Division of Public Health Engineering.

The proposal specifies that any mosquito control district or any local health department whose overall plan of control operation is approved annually by the State Board of Health will be eligible to receive a grant of 10 cents per capita, based on the estimated population within the jurisdiction, or \$10,000, whichever is greater, to match locally appropriated funds dollar-for-dollar to a maximum of \$15,000.

The granted funds may be used for any purpose within the plan of operations approved by the State Board of Health, presumably in temporary control measures. For permanent control measures it is proposed that grants up to \$35,000, in addition to the above sum, be made on a matching fund, dollar-for-dollar basis.

The Engineering Division of the State Board of Health would allocate priorities, and administer the grant-in-aid funds. As proposed, funds would be secured either through separate legislation, or as a special budget.

The Board also proposed intensification of its insect vector and rodent control programs.

Elmer Donnehoo, Calcasieu sanitarian, is the proud father of a baby girl.

Mrs. Claire Whitehurst has joined the health education division as Departmental Informational Representative I, just in time to assist with the Board's Biennial Report.

Mrs. Velda Copeland is the new Union Parish Health Unit nurse, replacing Mrs. Rebecca Post who resigned.

FOOD POISONING

Continued from page 1

State Board of Health nutritionists say it requires a great deal of ingenuity for school lunch personnel to cook and serve large turkeys to large groups of people on the same day.

Another reason for investigation of food poisoning outbreaks is that in almost every case trained public health workers can point out things that were done wrong, and make specific recommendations for better food handling.

Courses for food handlers in restaurants, schools, hospitals and other institutions are conducted throughout the state by public health educators. Arrangements for food handling schools usually are made through local health unit sanitarians.

Health Unit

Highlights

ALIEN

Preschool inspection of children entering Oberlin High School for the first time was given at the health unit in January. Milk grades were announced last month.

CLAIBORNE

Mrs. Mildred Whitfield, public health nurse, as chairman of the Homer Community Council's committee on exceptional citizens, served as moderator for a recent panel discussion of the educational needs of mentally retarded children.

DE SOTO

When a 16-year-old youth was stricken with spinal meningitis, school officials worked closely with Dr. T. N. Armistead, health unit director, and Mrs. Omie Flores, PHN, to find possible contacts.

JACKSON

Type III oral polio vaccine was offered in January.

OUACHITA

1963 was the parish's first polio free year. Dr. W. Carroll Summer urged all non-immunized persons to get the anti-polio vaccine this spring.

ST. LANDRY

Dr. Leo W. Tucker, health unit director, advised crawfish eaters to use only cleaned crawfish from approved sources—identifiable by label stating the name and address of processing plants and the State Board of Health permit number. Dr. Tucker urged smallpox vaccination through a letter to the editor of the Opelousas Daily World. Mrs. Bernes Folkner, regional nutritionist, is conducting monthly nutrition classes for maternity clinic patients at the health unit.

ST. MARTIN

A group of parish women received certificates for completion of a medical self-help course, sponsored by the health unit and Civil Defense agency. Mrs. Lelia O'Brien, PHN, was instructor. A second class was scheduled to begin in January.

WEBSTER

In order to avoid waste of the anti-polio vaccine, the Webster Parish Health Unit set up an appointment system for persons to take any of the three types of Sabin oral vaccine.

A veteran Indianapolis racing driver, Bob Veith, said in Regina that not only do auto seat belts save lives—they also contribute to safe driving because of the comfort they give the drivers.

Credit Union Board Elects H. L. Hortman

H. Luther Hortman was named president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Public Health Workers Federal Credit Union. Other officers are Mrs. Ione Ittman, first vice-president; Philip W. Howe, Jr., second vice-president; Mrs. Ethel Ruck, treasurer, and Mrs. Evelyn Rudolph, secretary. Other board members are Dr. George H. Hauser, immediate past-president, and L. R. Menendez.

At the 13th annual meeting, held Jan. 20 at the state office building, the 797-member credit union declared a 4½ percent dividend in the amount of \$10,652.15 of undivided profits. Credit union assets at the end of Dec. 30, 1963 were \$279,768.44, of which \$148,406.03 was on loan to members. During 1963 there were 318 loans granted, in the amount of \$196,999.73.

Four vacancies were filled on the credit committee: Mrs. Thyria G. Broussard and Lawrence C. Santana were elected for two year terms; Mrs. Lorraine R. Knight and Miss Mary Tragelis for one year. Anthony Ciaccio, chairman, has one year still to serve.

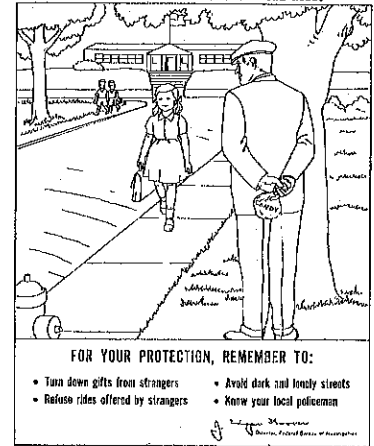
The credit union reminded members that borrowers may take eight months to repay any signature loan up to \$300, and 24 months for signature loans up to \$500. All signature loans and co-signed loans from \$500 to \$1200 are repayable in 30 months. This is an extension of six months over the previous time allowed for repayment.

To make a car loan or any other type of loan from your credit union you may telephone collect. Ask for Mrs. Arthur Kennington at the credit union office, 529-5231, extension 228.

COLORING POSTERS

Boys and Girls

COLOR THE PICTURE AND MEMORIZE THE RULES



During the past few months the Division of Public Health Education has distributed thousands of FBI coloring posters to schools in a safety campaign designed to alert children to the dangers of taking gifts or rides offered by "strangers." Active in the campaign were P-TA safety chairmen and school personnel; parents and safety organizations.

Among those organizations which cooperated in the campaign was the Homer Williams Post No. 8720, VFW, of Abita Springs. According to the adjutant-quartermaster, Gustave E. Kustenmacher, the Post, in cooperation with the St. Tammany Parish visiting teacher, reached all schools in their area. The Post donated 24 small prizes and each class had a contest with the best coloring winning a prize. Second graders wrote letters to Mr. Kustenmacher thanking the VFW for "thinking of their safety."

The Bogalusa post requested additional posters for a Girl Scout troupe they sponsor.

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