

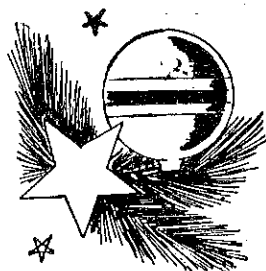
Louisiana Public Health

newsletter

LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Volume XXIV, No. 8

November - December 1968



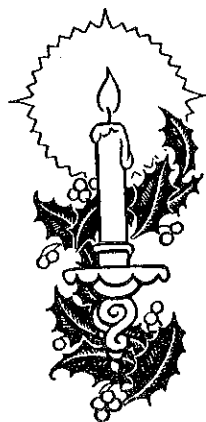
As the traditional symbols of Christmas again appear our hopes and endeavors are drawn together in a great longing for

PEACE ON EARTH



During this year each of us has contributed his skills, experience, time, and labor to a worthy cause; as we well know, one of the greatest of all blessings is

HEALTH



Thank you for your service, your enthusiasm, your support. I wish you the joys of the season, renewed satisfaction in your work, and much personal

HAPPINESS

Andrew Hedberg M.D.

State Health Officer

ALL ABOUT US

Medical social work students at Tulane who are assigned to the St. Bernard Parish Social Work Unit are **Merrily A. Barnes**, Illinois; **Charles E. Fair**, Alabama; **Celia Ford**, Florida; **Sara L. Honn**, Kentucky; **Robert Ketch**, Iowa; **Linda Onkst**, Tennessee; **Ariail Seshul**, Louisiana, and **Nancy Thumond**, Brazil. The students will work with the New Orleans District Office of the Handicapped Children program and the New Orleans Crippled Childrens Hospital.

Here's one for our public health historian, **Dr. Gordon Gillson**: An undated column clipping from the Crowley Daily Signal turned up recently in the files of the Acadia Parish Health Unit. "An act requiring each person in Louisiana to take a bath at least once every three weeks may be the caption of a bill to be introduced in the legislature in the next session, according to Dr. Oscar Dowling, president of the State Board of Health (from 1910-1928)."

T. R. Foster, Jr., who resigned as stock clerk in the Central Supply and Custodial Section, in October, said his 4½ years with the health department was "the happiest time of my life." Mr. Foster received a cash gift from his friends in appreciation of his services. He was succeeded by **Mrs. Gladys Douglas**, formerly the messenger whose daily mail delivery service kept Central Office going./

Congratulations were expressed by Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, and seconded by us, to **Larry C. Santana**, Head, Division of Purchasing, for an award he received from the Postmaster General for participation in the National Postal Forum in Washington, D. C.

The Division of Fiscal Services welcomes back **Evelyn Kilian**, a former employee who has rejoined the staff, and congratulations to **Mrs. Rebecca McMahan**, also an accountant, on the birth of her daughter Sondra, born Sept. 24.

Mrs. Helen Driggers, typist-clerk, Handicapped Children Section, will be flying to California to spend Christmas holidays with her son and family, on an annual visit.

Few vacations can have been more eventful than that of **Miss Lillian Jeffers**, MCH nurse consultant, who won an 8-day cruise for two aboard the Jamaican Queen. The trip included one hurricane (Gladys); student riots which prevented landing at Kingston; and twelve hours of being seasick, plus engine trouble. Was she sorry she had gone? Not at all, said Miss Jeffers stoutly. The entertainment aboard ship was the best that could be found in Kingston; she had a free bus tour to Port Antonio, and she took a painting lesson that resulted in a colorful landscape in oils.

We don't know about the curriculum in the rest of the state, but New Orleans high school science teachers are very big on flora and fauna collections. At least two mothers in health education have spent their free time for weeks chaffering their youngsters about the city in search of leaves. The next unit is "bugs." "Wouldn't it be great if I could find my son a black widow spider?" said **Mrs. Mary S. Dilts**, while **Mrs. Frank Snodgrass**, pamphlet librarian, lamented the bug that got away during the last leaf-collecting expedition. "Anyway, it might have been a stink bug," she consoled herself. Entomologists, to the rescue!



MRS. ROXINE SCHMIDT, nurse consultant with the Heart Disease Control Program, meets with board members of the Southeastern Division of the Louisiana Heart Association. With her (L-R) are **Mr. Waldo E. Francois**, representative from Jefferson Parish; **Dr. Alton Ochsner, Jr.**, president-elect, and **Dr. Charles B. Moore**, vice president and chairman of the cardiopulmonary resuscitation committee. Mrs. Schmidt reported on the rheumatic fever prevention program which supplies throat culture detection kits to general practitioners and pediatricians throughout the state.

A "bug" on exercise is **Mrs. Ann Goodman**, secretary, Nursing Division, whose bowling league recently won third place in the St. Bernard ladies league. In summer the group plays softball and has a strenuous volleyball league going all winter.

PIERRE PELICAN SAYS it's a boy, **John Mitchell Hayes**, born Oct. 24 to **Dorothy (Mrs. Paul) Langley Hayes**, former health educator. Other proud parents of a firstborn son are **Dr. and Mrs. Willard Ellender, Jr.** Mother is the former **Kay Godfrey**, departmental informational representative. **Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Whitelock** announce the arrival of a daughter, **Jill Lynne**. Bob is a public health advisor in the VD Control Section.

Kathy Duhon (VD Section) and husband **Sgt. Ronald J. Duhon**, celebrated his safe return from a year's service in Vietnam by acquiring a new automobile.

Continued on page 4



Sympathy is expressed to **Mrs. Dorothy Maher**, secretary to the president, on the death of her mother; to **Leo W. Spath**, Head, Division of Food and Drug, on the death of his mother; to **Mrs. Muriel Belala**, account clerk, Division of Fiscal Services, on the death of her father.

Services of the Louisiana State Department of Health are rendered on a non-discriminatory basis in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Louisiana Public Health Newsletter is published by the Division of Public Health Education of the Louisiana State Board of Health at 325 Loyola Ave., New Orleans. Mailing address: P.O. Box 60630, New Orleans, La., 70160.

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

27 Health Units Take Part In Head Start Programs

12,309 Children Receive Direct Health Services This Year

What is the extent of health unit participation in Head Start programs in Louisiana? In an effort to find out, a questionnaire was sent to the health units, branches, Central Office departments, regional offices, laboratories, and some special program administrators.

The questionnaire attempted to find out who participated, the number and disciplines of public health employees involved in giving direct services, the number of children and parents served, where services were provided, kinds of services provided, and how the participating personnel felt about the program.

The questionnaire was limited to Head Start programs, although public health workers also contributed consultation and services to other OEO programs. This report is based on replies received only from the parish health units and a few branches which responded independently of their main units.

Of 62 parish health units (excluding Orleans and Plaquemines parishes) 27 indicated some form of participation in a Head Start program during 1968. Most of these were summer programs; one was year 'round, and one had not been completed at the end of the reporting period (October 1968). Twenty-one units said they did not participate; an additional 8 units said they did not participate because there was no program in the parish this year. Six parishes failed to reply to the questionnaire.

In the 27 participating health units a total of 291 public health workers were directly involved in giving service. Approximately 12,309 children were served. Approximately 4,422 parents received direct service. Public health workers spent some 12,404 hours on Head Start programs. More than twenty disciplines were involved in giving services through the local health units. These included physicians (clinicians, health unit directors, regional and area medical directors), nurses (including orthopedic and consultant nurses), clerical personnel, (including secretaries, clerks, stenographers), sanitarians, educators, vision and hearing consultants, audiologists, health unit aides, nursing aides, communicable disease investigators, nutritionists, Vaccination Assistance Project personnel, psychologists, dentists, ophthalmologists, and social workers. Not included are various categories of laboratory workers and OEO employees who often were supervised by health unit personnel. Not all participants were locally employed but their services were supplied as part of the health units' contributions to different aspects of the medical program.

Services were performed in health units, schools, neighborhood and community centers, a Methodist education building, a center on the Barksdale Air Force Base, in dentists' and physicians' offices, in OEO offices, in churches, homes, clinics, and laboratories.

Not all health units gave the same or as many services, but overall services were extensive. In broad outline they included planning, service on local OEO boards, consultation, training and supervision of OEO workers, physical examination of children including dental evalua-

tion, heart screening, vision and hearing testing, testing for parasites, etc., and immunization. In some parishes private practitioners did the examinations; in one parish the health unit director was in charge of the entire medical program; in another, the director did the examinations in all rural centers. Where remedial care was indicated it was performed by private practitioners on a fee basis.

Other services included parental counseling, home visits, referral to the Handicapped Children program, to regional chest clinics, and other sources, follow-up by nurses, provision of space for examinations, and of materials for immunization, of equipment for laboratory specimens, for screening, and provision of immunization records, school health records, and birth certificates, instruction about and inspection of food serving facilities, and Head Start centers, and lectures and film showing to staff.

In general, cooperation with OEO agencies and personnel, and parish school boards, was favorably reported. One health unit noted that recommendations given at the preschool roundup were followed by the Head Start program. One parish health unit recommended that reimbursement should be on the basis of material and equipment rather than of additional personnel. Where programs had been operated longer than one year services were better organized and cooperation among all participating agencies was broader and more effective. The comments of reporting units seemed to indicate acceptance of the Head Start program as filling a need, and as a valuable educational program.

All new cars manufactured after December 31, 1968 will be required to have two head restraints. The action is intended to "reduce the frequency and severity of neck injury in rear-end and other collisions," according to Federal Highway Administrator Lowell K. Bridwell.

The risk of death from lung cancer is more than 10 times greater for cigarette smokers than for nonsmokers.



KENNETH DU FOUR, manufacturer's representative, demonstrates a Phono-Cardio-Scan machine on volunteer "patient" **Carl Moreno** of DeRidder, to **Mrs. Lucille Franks** (center) and **Mrs. Elizabeth Hartt**. Mrs. Franks is the technician for the new heart-sound-screening program in Beauregard Parish schools. Mrs. Hartt is chief nurse at the parish health unit. The machine was furnished by the state health department for use in the parish school health program.

Post Office Gives Tips On Early Christmas Mailing

Christmas mailing suggestions from the United States Post Office:

1. Shop now for Christmas.
2. Buy your supply of the 1968 Christmas stamps before the long lines start forming at post office windows.
3. Get your mailing list up to date. Be sure each address is complete, with full name, street and number, city, state and Zip Code number. **USE YOUR ZIP CODE NUMBER IN YOUR RETURN ADDRESS.**
4. Parcels for local and nearby areas should be mailed by December 14.
5. Christmas cards for distant states should be mailed not later than December 11 and not later than December 16 for local delivery. There will be no delivery of Christmas cards and letters on Christmas Day, other than special delivery mail.
6. Get first class service on your cards. Christmas cards prepaid at the 6¢ rate may be sealed and contain written messages and will be given priority of dispatch, delivery, and forwarding. First class mail is also returned to the sender at no additional cost, provided the return address is shown on the envelope.
7. Christmas time provides an excellent opportunity for you to notify all your correspondents of your correct address and Zip Code number.
8. Use the free post office labels to tie your cards and letters into "LOCAL" and "OUT-OF-TOWN" bundles with addresses facing all one way.
9. Be sure the address of your Christmas card or package is complete and legible.
10. Prepare your packages properly for mailing. Use sturdy corrugated mailing cartons, heavy wrapping paper and strong cord. Stuff them with tissues or shredded newspaper to cushion the contents and use ZIP CODE in all addresses.
11. Enclose a slip listing the contents and show the name and address of both sender and addressee in each gift parcel to permit identity in case of damage or loss of the outside address label. The outside address label should be placed on only side of each parcel.
12. If your package is going AIRMAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY, SPECIAL HANDLING, or FIRST CLASS, be sure to endorse it in the way you want it sent.
13. Check with the Post Office before you attempt to mail parcels of unusual size or bulk to be sure they do not exceed the weight or size limitations.

ALL ABOUT US

Continued from page 2

Arthur S. Kennington, Head, Bedding Division, proudly relays word that his nephew, William A. Kennington, has been promoted to the rank of full Commander in the atomic submarine service.

Dr. Paul Peterson, U. S. assistant surgeon general, awarded posthumously the U. S. Public Health Meritorious Service Medal to the late Dr. John M. Whitney who was regional director for PHS at the time of his death, August 25. Dr. Whitney was to have received the award Sept. 11. It was accepted by his son, Lt. John M. Whitney, Jr.

THE DIVISION OF HEALTH

EDUCATION

Wishes You

Joyous Holidays





FISHING IS a competitive sport among Calcasieu-Lake Charles Health Unit staff. Public health nurse Ellon Bentley presents her prize catch, tied with ribbon, and weighing from "4½ to 8½" lbs., to sanitarian Elmer Donnehoo.



REVIEWING the dietary form used in the nutrition survey are these field team members (l-r): Martha Ann Whitaker, Shreveport, who entered internship at Vanderbilt in September; Linda Lee Leggette, Abbeville, senior nutrition student at USL; Malee Boonvanno, Thailand, who is taking her field training at the University of Tennessee; Frances Schaft, Metairie, and Mary Ann Prejean, Abbeville, both senior nutrition students at USL.

Poison Center Gets Emergency

Coral Snake Antivenin Call

At 7:45 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, Francis X. (Frank) O'Sullivan, U.S. Public Health Service Hospital pharmacist on duty at the New Orleans Poison Control Center, answered a telephone call from Dr. Leonard A. Bible of Touro Infirmary. Dr. Bible, who is director of Touro's ATC unit, was calling for information about coral snake antivenin for a patient in Bogota, Colombia. He said that a ham radio operator friend, Mr. Bernie Wilenzick, 3201 St. Charles Avenue, had picked up an emergency broadcast from the U.S. Embassy there, and had quickly summoned Dr. Bible who lives in the same apartment complex and was off-duty.

Although the family and genus of the snake had been told, the species was unknown to Dr. Bible. While this information was being elicited, Mr. O'Sullivan went to his files. He knew that Wyeth Laboratories recently had supplied the USPHS Hospital, and some other hospitals in Louisiana, with antivenin for U.S. Eastern and Texas coral snake venom. But were these specifics? Or could one or both be used to save the snakebite victim in Colombia? He found a 1964 report of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums which listed the different types of poisonous snakes all over the world, with specific antivenin, and where supplies were located, if available at all.

Dr. Bible reported that the snake involved was of the South American, or Sonoran, species (*elapidae micrus mipartet properelisa*).

By this time various stations around the world had picked up the emergency call.

"We talked to Chicago, Memphis, and Miami," Dr. Bible said.

A Chicago station relayed the message that Tiger snake antivenin could be used for the Colombian patient. Mr. O'Sullivan consulted his report and learned that Houston was the nearest point of supply.

Then Ocala, Fla., radioed that the antivenin probably was available at the herpetarium there. (It is, and the antivenin is species specific, it was learned later.) Dr. Bible said that seemed to end the hunt and, as they were signing off, Sao Paulo, Brazil, came on the air with information that the desired antivenin could be obtained from its herpetarium, the world's largest.

CU Open To Members' Families

The Credit Union has announced that members of a shareholder's immediate family, living in the same house, may become members of the Credit Union. This privilege is extended to a member's husband or wife, child, father, mother, brother, or sister.

For information contact Mrs. Virginia Kennington, Credit Union, room 512 in Central Office, or write to her at Post Office Box 60630, New Orleans, La. 70160.

The Louisiana State Board of Examiners for Sanitarians has published a career pamphlet called "The Professional Sanitarian and the State of Louisiana." Copies are available on request to the Board, P.O. Box 60630, New Orleans, La. 70160.



SHOWN AT HIS desk in the New Orleans Poison Control Center is Lt. Comdr. Francis X. O'Sullivan, assistant chief of pharmacy at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, recently named associate director of the Poison Control Center. He succeeds Lt. Comdr. John J. Piccoro, Jr. who has accepted a position as assistant professor of clinical pharmacy at University Hospital, University of Kentucky Medical School.

It was 11:15 p.m. Mr. Wilenzick had stayed at his set the entire time. Two days later he called back and got the happy news that the patient was recovering.

Mr. O'Sullivan had warm praise for Dr. Bible's efforts to coordinate the international life-saving effort in this area.

"The staff at the New Orleans Poison Control Center should be commended for their courtesy and cooperation," said Dr. Bible.

Those ham radio operators, of course, are something else!

Health Workers Protest Retirement Services Cutback

Details of inadequate staff and curtailment of services to members of the Louisiana State Retirement System were announced in that agency's final Newsletter, received in September.

Especially alarming to public health employees was the news that annual statements of members' contributions would no longer be provided.

In Central Office, some employees prepared a petition to Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, state health officer, asking him to make further inquiry and to protest certain of the System's decisions, on behalf of the state health department's 1200 employees.

Dr. Hedmeg received a delegation of employees, went over the petition with them, and presented a letter which he had written even prior to their request. He promised to forward the petition with another cover letter.

Replying promptly was W. W. McDougall, director of personnel, Louisiana Civil Service, who wrote, in part, "I agree that it is a serious thing to discontinue sending the statements annually to the members and this will be reconsidered with a view toward resuming this practice."

Mr. McDougall, who since has been appointed by Gov. John J. McKeithen to assist in reviewing state agencies management, also wrote that as a result of presentations made to the Board of Liquidation and to the Budget Committee the agency had "received assurance that help is forthcoming and that we will soon be able to relieve our staff problem."

ETV Schedule For Continuing Education Project Announced

Health Unit Highlights

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

- Dec. 10 1968 4. As Others See Us (Monologue). Miss Elizabeth Reed, Voluntary Health Agency, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Jan. 14 1969 5. Prejudices and the Delivery of Health Services. Dr. Samuel Schulman, Social Scientist, University of Houston.
- Jan. 28 6. Questions and Answers. Louisiana Panel.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

- Feb. 11 1. Tuberculosis Control and Overview. Dr. William Bailey, Local Health Department, Jefferson County, Ala.
- Feb. 25 2. Syphilis Control. Pres Fish, State Health Dept., Tenn.; Miss Geraldine Gourley, North Carolina School of Public Health.
- March 11 3. Epidemiology. Dr. Alex Langmuir, Chief of the Epidemiology Division, National Communicable Disease Center.
- March 25 4. Epidemic Encephalitis - Epidemiology and Control. Dr. James Bond, Director, Encephalitis Research Center, Florida.
- April 8 5. Newer Immunization Procedures. Dr. Bruce Dull, Assistant Director, NCDC.
- April 22 6. Questions and Answers. Louisiana Panel.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- May 13 1. Knowing Your Community. Reuel Waldrop, NCDC.
- May 27 2. Foodborne Infection. Henry Parrish, University of Missouri.
- June 10 3. Poison Control, with Emphasis on Newer Toxic Chemicals. Drs. John Davies and Joe Davis, Miami, Fla.
- June 24 4. Pollution and Solid Waste Disposal. Film; "No Laughing Matter."

The Continuing Education Program will be discontinued for the summer, resuming in October 1969.

Dr. Hedmeg Graduation Speaker

Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, state health officer, was principal speaker at graduation exercises for 39 inactive registered nurses from New Orleans who completed special six-week refresher courses designed to prepare them for their return to active nursing practice.

A total of 160 inactive registered nurses have completed refresher courses in the state under a special program, "Operation Bring Them Back," held throughout Louisiana by the Louisiana State Nurses Association and the Louisiana Hospital Association, according to Miss Julie Yvonne Webb, coordinator.

Women who smoke cigarettes spend 17 per cent more days ill in bed than women who have never smoked.

WEST CARROLL - Mrs. Robert May, PHN, taught the lesson on health and nursing care of the aged as part of a 20-hour home nursing course for senior citizens, attended by 18 ladies of the parish. Each will receive a certificate when completed physical reports come in from the parish health unit.

How do the citizens of West Carroll Parish feel about a possible 1½ mill tax to support the health unit? According to a story in the Oak Grove newspaper, the police jury members want to know the people's reaction before deciding whether or not an election will be called after January 1.

"We simply cannot provide any more health unit support from the general fund. That means that if West Carroll provides any more support for the health unit than at present, the people would have to give their approval in a special tax election," the paper quoted J. W. Copes, jury president.

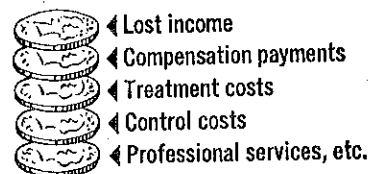
LAFAYETTE - Oct. 27 was Immunization Day in Lafayette, St. Martin, and Iberia parishes. VAP staff assisted the local health units at mass clinics designed to hold a diphtheria outbreak and prevent future cases of polio, tetanus, whooping cough, and diphtheria. Immunization campaigns were supported by local physicians.

MOREHOUSE - An increase in local appropriations for health unit support was approved recently.

Almost 50,000 American servicemen have lost their lives during the Vietnam war - but 44 per cent of the deaths were the result of accidents, more than half of them traffic casualties, according to an article in the Bulletin of the New York State Department of Health.

TIME AND MONEY * THE COST OF RESPIRATORY DISEASE

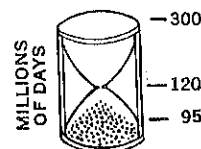
Tuberculosis and other chronic and acute Respiratory Diseases cost the American people billions in dollars and lost days each year. . . .



TB—a billion dollars in lost income and direct costs

Emphysema—90 million dollars in disability benefits alone

Disability benefits
Lost income
Treatment and other costs



Acute Respiratory Diseases—nearly 300 million bed days—120 million school loss days—over 95 million work loss days

Your Christmas Seal contribution—a matter of life and breath—fights Tuberculosis, Emphysema, Chronic Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases. Send it in today!