

# NEWS



# LETTER

Sept., Oct. '70

## NEW SYSTEM TO MICROFILM 5 MILLION VITAL RECORDS



Looking over the Miracode's 'camera input' are l. to r., Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, State Health Officer; Anthony Ciaccio, Director, Bureau of Vital Statistics and John Lemasson, Head, Div., Tabulation & Analysis and seated, Mrs. Elfrjeda Felkner, Typist Clerk 2 in the Div.

Over five million birth and death records—registered with the Vital Statistics Bureau since 1914—can now be preserved on microfilm with the Health Department's new Miracode Microfilm System.

Dr. Andrew Hedmeg, state health officer, said "Miracode" is an automated system of reducing records to microfilm which identifies each record with an index code number.

Once the code number is known, a keyboard console (with fingertip control) provides fast retrieval of a single document plus a certified copy—all in approximately five to eight seconds. Two thousand documents can be stored on a single 100 foot roll of microfilm.

Since the department is required by law to maintain a vital records system, preserve these records over long periods of time (estimated 80–100 years) for legal purposes, and issue certified copies of the records, a more modern and automated system had to be initiated, Dr. Hedmeg said, particularly in view of the fact that:

1. Records were becoming worn and deteriorated due to constant use and handling of the original documents.
2. Floor area required to house the records (100,000 are recorded each year) was costly and not physically adaptable for fast utilization.

3. Increased demand for certified copies of vital records (700 a day are issued) warranted a faster retrieval system.

The Miracode System proposes to place on microfilm approximately 600,000 records each year, which makes it a long range program, yet, year-by-year, considerable savings in storage space, time, and cost will be realized in addition to the important factor of preserving the original record. Once the records are entered into the system the original records will be housed in the State Archives for future reference and historic value, and will provide a security back-up in the event of a disaster at one of the storage sites.

When visiting Central Office, Dr. Hedmeg invites you to stop in and let John Lemasson, Head of the Division of Tabulation and Analysis show you our Miracode System.



Vital Statistics Bureau Director Anthony Ciacio got a big cake and gourmet style buffet (prepared by his staff) in October on his 70th birthday despite his protests that he's only "39 and holding."

#### NOSOLOGIST-GREAT GRANDMOTHER HAS THIRTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. Catherine Johnson, nosologist (medical coder) in the Tab. & Analysis division celebrated 30 years with the department on October 14.

A native of New Orleans, she started out as a receptionist on the second floor of the Civil Courts building in the French Quarter.

Three times a great grandmother, Mrs. Johnson has seven grandchildren.

She and her husband, David, have two married daughters--Mrs. Elnora Gendusa and Mrs. Rita Solomone.



Clinicians from the Regional Tuberculosis Clinics, Regional Medical Officers and parish health unit directors in which clinics are located met Oct. 19 with Central Office Tuberculosis staff and clinicians. Dr. Vernon Houck, Deputy Director, Tuberculosis Program, USPHS, Dr. Morton Ziskind, Professor of Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine and Dr. John B. Bobear, Professor of Medicine, L.S.U. School of Medicine were present as resource persons for the conference.

## SYMPATHY

The families of Mrs. Omie Flores, P.H.N., DeSoto PHU and her husband, Leo, who were killed July 4.

Dr. Carolynn D. Talley, Maternal and Child Health Physician, whose mother died July 20.

Mrs. Dolores Davis, Central Supply Messenger, on the death of a grandson (twin) at birth October 16. The other twin survived.

Mrs. Dorothy S. Austin, Admin. Asst., Bureau Vital Statistics, on the death of her husband October 24.

#### SABINE HEALTH UNIT MILLAGE RENEWED DESPITE BALLOT SPOT, AMENDMENTS AND BOND ISSUE LOSS

Sabine parish voters approved renewal of a 2-mill ad valorem tax for operation of the parish health unit in the November 3rd general election by a vote of 1198 to 838.

The plurality was considered significant since the health proposal was listed last on a ballot which included 53 constitutional amendments all of which were defeated.

An accompanying water system construction bond issue lost by three votes.



SHOWN AT HIS desk in the New Orleans Poison Control Center is Lt. Comdr. Francis X. O'Sullivan.

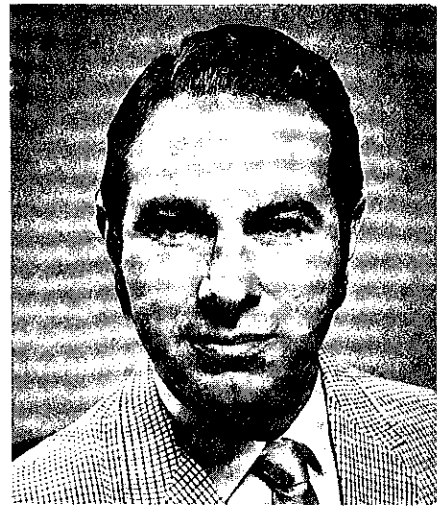
#### POISON CONTROL CENTER, HAM OPERATOR SAVE SNAKE BITTEN YOUNGSTER'S LIFE

The alertness of a retired N.O. ham operator and the services of the State Poison Control Center at N. O. helped save the life of a 5 year old snake bite victim in South America during September.

Responding to a distress radio plea from Cucuta, Colombia, Eugene H. Treadaway relayed the call to Lt. Cmdr. Frank O'Sullivan, associate director of the center located in the USPHS hospital in N.O.

The "gas gangrene anti-toxin serum" air-shipped on the next available flight by O'Sullivan saved the youngster's life and earned Treadaway a letter of congratulations from President Nixon.

O'Sullivan said a similar incident occurred on October 15, 1968 shortly after he was assigned to the center. Again it was a ham radio operator who asked for help for a Colombian snake bite victim (from Bogota) whose life was saved by "tiger snake anti-venin" shipped from Houston at O'Sullivan's request.



New to the State Health Department are l. to r. top row, Larry J. Anderson, assigned as Pesticides Control Adviser for Louisiana by USPHS; Gabriel Fried, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant to the Director, Bureau of Health Conservation, and Chief, Section of Chronically Ill and Aging; Russell A. Conley, M.D., M.P.H., Area Medical Consultant to St. John, St. James, St. Charles parishes. Second row, John M. Yeager, Sr., M.D., Health director for Rapides and Grant parishes and the new Handicapped Children's Program administrator Theodore Crosley shown with Mrs. Ima Lee Townley, former SE Regional ofc. secretary who succeeded retiree Pearl L. Anding as SE Region Health Records Consultant. At right is William R. Vanderwall, new chief of the Medical Social Services Section.



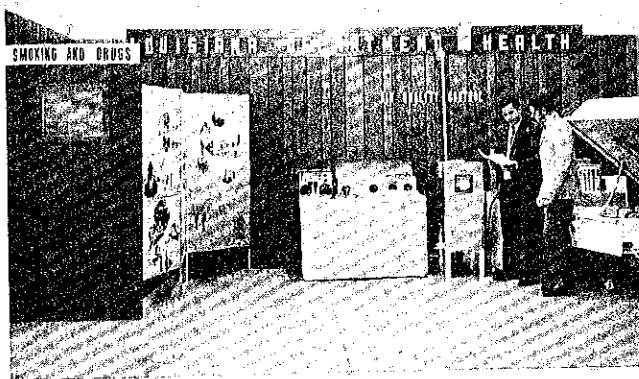
New in the Air Control Section are left to right Orey Tanner and Harold A. Moise, III, engineers; Gus A. Von Bodungen, ass't chief, Field Investigations shown with Gilmer W. Engelhardt, section chief. Center photo is new East Carroll PH Nurse Mrs. Mary R. Osborne. At right, new bride Mrs. Sondra Hutcheson Hebert shown with some of her bridal shower gifts at an October 22 central office party.

# ENTRE NOUS

**Judy Sylvester**, nutrition's training coordinator, took three months educational leave on Oct. 1 to attend a graduate course in child development at the U. of Washington in Seattle . . . the LTDR in New Orleans and Shreveport is offering free plastic "Pollution Kills" bumper stickers in yellow, black and white . . . teachers and students can also help the cause by requesting copies of their popular "Air Pollution Primer" . . . congratulations to Calcasieu-Lake Charles Health Educator, **Lawrence Estaville** who was named "Rotarian of the Year" by the Lake Charles Southeast Rotary Club and was presented an award and a plaque for having "fostered and advanced the ideals of Rotary in an outstanding manner during 1969-70." The objects of Rotary are basically the advancement of understanding, good will, and the application of the ideals of service toward our fellow man . . . **Irene R. Martin's** new address is Tunis (I D) Dept. of State, Wash. D.C. 20521 . . . Health Educator, **Mary Dilts**, got a glowing letter of thanks signed by three supervisors of instruction in St. Charles parish as follows: Please accept our thanks and appreciation for your participation and contribution at the "Pre-School Workshop." "Your presence and participation was indeed an enormous help in preparing educators for the tremendous responsibility of imparting knowledge to youngsters at a time when all the world is in confusion and rebellion . . . It may please you to know that 'feedback' indicated this workshop was the best ever" . . . Calcasieu-Lake Charles PHU gave a farewell tea party on July 31 for **Dr. Banyat Atiburanakul**, health chief of the Nakorrphanom Povincer in northern Thailand who studied public health practices there with special emphasis on environmental sanitation and tuberculosis control . . . **Dr. Vasquez's** mosquito fighters have been recognized for their efforts in a letter from the chairman of the board of a Lake Charles Insurance Company which read: "I live on Bluff Lane in the Prien Bluffs addition. At times, the mosquitoes are simply unbearable, and were it not for the fogging, I don't know

what we would do. Please express my appreciation to the men on the trucks who seem to have a personal interest in making sure they cover every area possible."

. . . News from nursing: **Mrs. Fern Mier** is the Assistant Head, Division of Nursing for the Central office in Alexandria, covering 11 parishes . . . **Mrs. Mary Causey** is the new nursing consultant in Home Health Services . . . **Mrs. Velda Copeland** (formerly Public Health Nurse - Union Parish) and **Mrs. Bertha Schipplein** (formerly Family Planning Program) joined the New Orleans District office of Handicapped Childrens Services . . . **Miss Mary Dass**, WHO Nurse Fellow, spent two months with the Division of Nursing . . . She was in Shreveport for two weeks and Alexandria one week . . . **Eleanor Moore** leaves Nov. 17 to get married (see "Snared"), then takes up residence in Johnstown, Pa. . . . **Ruth Hodas** was promoted to assistant nursing supervisor for West Jefferson and **Grace Harry** to Home Health Aide . . . **Gloria Richardson**, **Beulah Remy** and **Patsy Phelan**, new public Health nurses, were assigned to East Jefferson and



Health Educator Don Mullins and Air Control Specialist R. N. McMullen played host as approximately 50,000 visited State Health Department's booth at the La. State Fair at Shreveport October 23-November 1.

**Morris Miller** employed as Sanitarian trainee. **Yvonne Williams**, Public Health Nurse, transferred to Charity Hospital. **Mrs. Wava Mouton**, ass't head, S. W. Nursing Region and **Mrs. Hester Traweek**, St. Landry PHU Supervisor of Nursing, gave a slide presentation of the role of the PH nurse to the Opelousas Kiwanis Club on Oct. 14. . . . **Wava** also briefed Beauregard parish officials on health "programs, priorities, needs, objectives and long range plans". . . . HAM (Radio Operator, that is) **Mrs. Audrey P. Collins**, research analyst, Division of Tabulation and Analysis is having fun these days, calling other ham operators. **Mrs. Collins** is licensed, operates on 7182 Kilocycles. Should anyone wish to chat with **Audrey**, her call letters are WN5YFQ - she will send you a "QSL" card to verify the contact . . . **Elfrieda D. Felkner**, Typist-Clerk 2 in the same division spent a happy vacation in Mexico. . . the Jefferson parish health unit is assisting radio station KGLA in Gretna in a drug addiction educational program involving distribution of pamphlets to the public and to schools . . . Health Education's new typist clerk is **Eileen Hakenjos** . . . **Dr. Ben Freedman** was a featured speaker Oct. 22 at the Mississippi Public Health Association's convention in Jackson, Miss. and **Dr. Hedmeg** at the APHA convention in Houston on Oct. 27 . . . the Opelousas Daily World carried an August 18 release on the purity of St. Landry water in which **Dr. Leo Tucker**, PHU director reported "five newly installed rural water systems covering the major populated areas of the parish have water of such purity and chemical neutrality as to require no treatment" . . . meanwhile St. Martin PHU director, **Dr. Murphy Martin** reminded parish residents of state and parish regulations covering the disposal of garbage. **Dr. Martin** cited a parish ordinance that prohibits the dumping of garbage on parish roads, ditches, and waterways. The police jury, in cooperation with the Sheriff's department periodically attempt to curb the practice of dumping trash along public thoroughfare and has recently outlawed the abandonment of vehicles along parish roads . . . In West Carroll parish, **Dr. Dupree** issued a last minute reminder on August 13 to

(continued on bottom of next page . . .)



Dr. and Mrs. Hedmeg present a pearl pin to Pearl Anding, Health Records Consultant who retired September 1. Beth Dubuc (center) cuts baby shower cake before taking maternal leave. Inset at right Irene Martin, PH Nursing Consultant, TB Control Program for two years with farewell party cake. She took on a new USPHS assignment in Tunis (See Entre Nous).

### NEW CADDO-BOSSIER DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION SPONSORS SEMINARS

A drug abuse seminar was held at the Shreveport Civic Theatre, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 for students and teachers of Caddo and Bossier parishes.

It was sponsored by the recently organized Caddo-Bossier Drug Abuse Commission, the two parish school boards and the Parents League of Shreveport, Inc.

Other seminars were held in May for clergymen and in June for youth leaders and teachers.

The week of Nov. 1-8 was proclaimed Drug Education Week by the mayors of Caddo and Bossier.

Officers of the Drug Abuse Commission are Dr. Peyton Kelly, president; Dr. Pattie Van Hook, Caddo-Shreveport PHU Director, secretary; and Dr. L. V. Landry, Bossier PHU Director, member of the board of directors.

### SAVINGS BONDS INTEREST JUMPS TO ALL TIME HIGH

Interest on U.S. Savings Bonds has been increased AGAIN - this time from 5 to 5½ percent.

On Series E Bonds (the kind most people buy) the extra ½-percent is tacked on as a bonus when the bonds mature (in 5 years, 10 months). These bonds are sold at 75 percent of face value.

On Series H. Bonds (current income securities sold at face value) which mature in 10 years, interest averages 5½ percent a year.

Both increases are retroactive to June 1, 1970.

Drive Chairman, Philip W. Howe, Jr., urges you to use the payroll savings plan - the easy way to buy bonds . . . now a better buy!

parents that children entering public schools for the first time, including kindergarten, must have started their immunizations. "Don't wait another day to get your child's school health needs taken care of. See your parish health unit or your family physician for information about protecting your child against diseases before school starts," Dr. Dupree declared . . . In September he released an activities report covering the first six months of 1970 which was also carried in the West. Carroll Gazette . . . Dr. Robert B. Thompson's request on Sept. 8 to the Beauregard Parish Police Jury for immediate local funds to maintain enough staff members to conduct the recommended health services in the parish stressed the need of the Police Jury's finding a solution to provide dedicated funds to operate the health unit. The request was tabled for 30 days then reopened for consideration with the result that a millage election will be held soon to provide the funds . . . Oliva B. Jacobs completed 25 years with the Madison PHU on Aug. 1, and got her picture in the Madison Journal . . . Proper food handling techniques and how to achieve standardization in food preparation were among the topics covered during the Aug. 26-27 workshop for Natchitoches Parish School food service workers. Participants in the workshop at the satellite kitchen in Natchitoches included Health Educator Lil Edwards.

### Heired

Brian Christopher Newton, July 8. Papa John is a N.E. Region Air Control Technician.

James and Donald, Sept. 14, to John and Rebecca McMahon, accountant, Fiscal Services division.

A daughter, June 3, to Oscar and Simone A. Lewis, typist clerk 2, Div. Tabulation & Analysis. Baby Simone breaks a tie. The Lewises have two other girls and two boys.

### Paired

Ronald Jeffrey Powell and Martha Ann Bell (August 19). She's a No. Region Handicapped Children Services clerk.

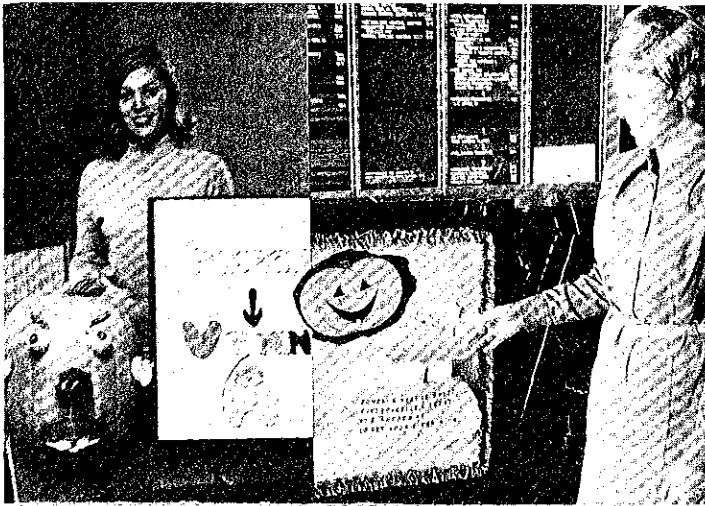
Mrs. Carrie C. Thornton and Alfred Rottman, Jr. (August 22) So. McComb Baptist Church, McComb, Miss. He's an X-ray technician in TB Control Section Program.

### Snared

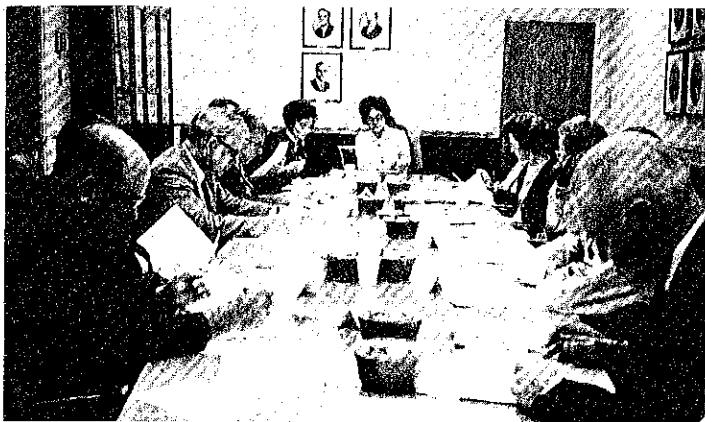
Frances Vitter, typist-clerk, Personnel office, and Richard LeBlanc, June 26, 1971, St. Angela Merici Church, Metairie, La.

Eleanor Moore, Nutrition's Mass Communicator, and Dwight B. Wicks, D.D.S., Nov. 28





Mrs. Billy Dupree, home economist in the nutrition section, "pushes punkin pies" for Halloween with this display in the lobby of central office building. She appeared on the "Morning Show" Oct. 30 WWL-TV's half hour women's program aired at 9:30 a.m. daily. She emphasized the Vitamin A of pumpkin meat and ticked off the various ways to make desserts with it.



The Home Health Services Advisory Committee held a meeting September 28 in the Board Room to elect officers, discuss proposed bylaws and review current and future status of the program.



M. E. Kossack, health education division head, visited this drug abuse exhibit of the Calcasieu Parish sheriff's office at the National PTA convention held at the Roosevelt in New Orleans. The two convention delegates and the sheriff's deputy manning the booth are unidentified.

#### DRUG ABUSE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY AMA-NEA PROBLEMS COMMITTEE

A series of resolutions aimed at improving health education in the nations' schools has been approved by the Joint Committee on Health Problems in Education of the National Education Assn. and the American Medical Assn.

While two of the resolutions zero in on the drug abuse problem, the Committee gave consideration to all AMA programs.

One of the resolutions on drug abuse urges "the dangers of misusing drugs and the advantages of correctly using drugs be taught to all children and that such education should be a continuing, important part of the health education curriculum."

A statement about sensitivity training in schools recommends that individuals "attend only those meetings conducted by group leaders who have credentials in academic and professional clinical experience," and that participation in such meetings be "voluntary."

Concerning teacher preparation, a committee measure urges that "all prospective teachers and administrators be required to participate in professional courses of health education in order to qualify for certification recommendation" and that "in-service training programs be offered in the various school districts and update education of teachers and administrators currently in the profession."

The Joint Committee, composed of five representatives from each of its sponsoring organizations, has been in existence since 1911.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT SUPPLIES TEACHER WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

The state Health Department supplied 20 speakers for three summer "schools and community health" workshops for teachers in New Orleans, Monroe and Shreveport.

M. E. Kossack was state coordinator for the three week (graduate credit) seminars sponsored by L.S.U. with academic direction by the state Education Department's Physical and Recreation Education dept. and the Department of Extramural Teaching.

Curtis R. Emery, Ed. D., Associate professor of Health, Physical and Recreation Education, L.S.U., Baton Rouge, served as director.

In a letter of thanks to Dr. Hedmeg for "the support and cooperation extended to me by your department," he acknowledged the following for their "professional contributions to our programs":

Mrs. Mildred Bailey, Miss Margaret Bond, Miss Germaine Brouillette, Mrs. Mary S. Dilts, Miss Lillian Edwards, Mrs. Virginia Fontenot, Bennie Hixon, Henry Hutson, Mrs. Barbara Judlin, M. E. Kossack, Walter LaBorde, Mrs. Dorothy Leonardos, Don Mullins, Mrs. Lucille Sawyer, Eugene Stassi, Miss Sheridan Sylvester, Dr. Pattie Van Hook, Jerry Walker, Mrs. Benny Wollerson, Miss Judy Willis.

The workshops were held at L.S.U., N.O., (June 8-26); Ouachita Parish Media Center, Monroe (June 29-July 17) and L.S.U., Shreveport (July 20-August 7).



#### SPEED CHRISTMAS MAIL (10) WAYS:

- Shop now for gifts you plan to mail.
- Buy stamps early. Pre-cancelled stamps speed mail.
- Zipcode every address including your own. Write or print clearly.
- Mail out of town parcels by Dec. 1, cards by Dec. 10.
- Mail local parcels by Dec. 11, cards by Dec. 15.
- Use free post office labels to separate mail in bundles.
- For parcels, use strong cartons, wrapping paper and cord.
- Enclose slip listing contents of package, your address and destination address (in case of damage or loss of outside address label).
- Indicate clearly how you want package sent: parcel post, air mail, etc.
- Check post office size and weight limitations for parcels.



**DR. TAYLOR RETIRES, PLANS TRAVEL TO SEE HOW REST OF WORLD LIVES**

Dr. Kendrick Taylor retired July 31 after 22 years as Rapides PHU director.

He was Jefferson Davis PHU director from Aug. 1946 till Nov. 1948.

A graduate of L.S.U. Medical School, Dr. Taylor got his M.P.H. at Michigan University.

He and his wife plan to travel and "see how the rest of the world lives."



**Retirees**

(July 31-September 30, 1970)

Dr. Kendrick Taylor  
Mrs. May Jeanne R. Stewart  
Miss Pearl L. Anding

Rapides PHU Director  
PHU Nurse 4, Han. Chil. Services  
Regional Health Rec. Cons.

July 31  
Aug. 7  
Sept. 1

**ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS LISTED FOR AREA MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS**

The Louisiana State Department of Hospitals operates two mental health centers in the New Orleans area. Persons desiring consultation should call for an appointment at:

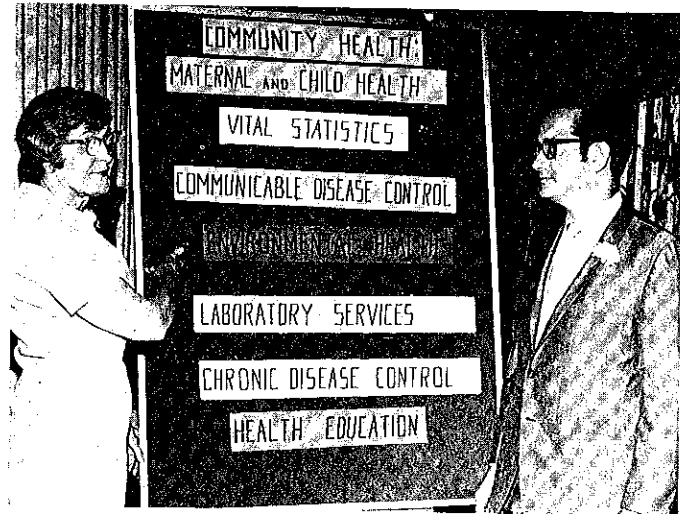
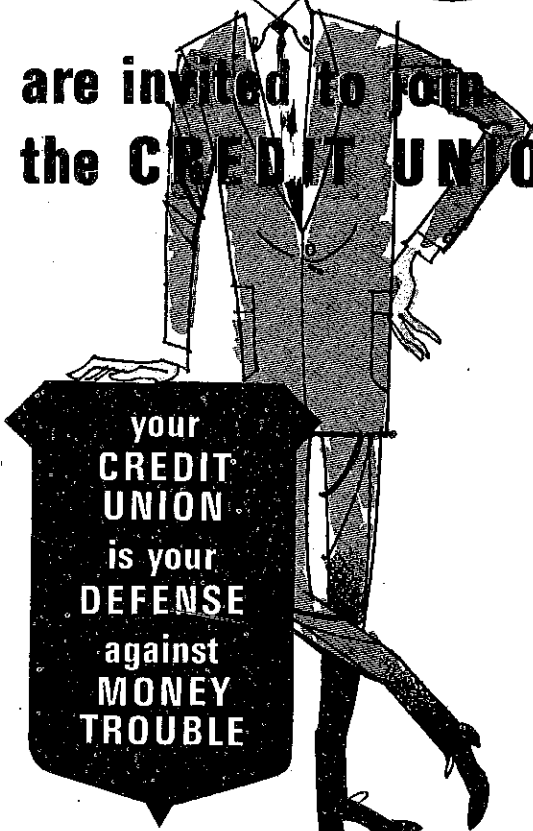
N. O. Mental Health Center  
3100 Gen. DeGaulle (Algiers)  
Tel. 367-3850

Jeff. Par. Mental Health Ctr.  
111 Causeway Blvd. (Metairie)  
Tel. 834-9560



At Southeast area Public Health Nursing In-Service meeting August 24 were, l. to r. Miss Elaine Lambour, R.N., Mrs. Eunice Seale, R.N., C. P. Upshaw and Dr. John A. Lewis, with a chart showing "New Active Tuberculosis Case Rates." In a letter, Mrs. Lambour thanked the Health Education division for their assistance at the meeting, particularly Clarence Colbert, Motion Picture Operator 2.

**YOU**  
are invited to join  
the **CREDIT UNION**



Regional Health Educator Miss Lillian Edwards is shown with the "flannel board" she used in a recent "Your Health is Our Business" talk to the Monroe Rotary Club. Looking on is Joe Maggio, assistant administrator of St. Francis Hospital (Photo by Jon Mask, Monroe Daily World).

# LPHA Sets Deadline For '71 Award Nominations

Deadline for 1971 LPHA award nominations is December 31, 1970, Mrs. Dorothy "Pat" Talbot, Awards Committee Chairman announces.

Nominations of candidates who "meet the criteria" for the six awards should be sent to one of the following section chairmen:

Dr. J. T. Perret (Health Officers); Mrs. Adele Watson (Clerical & Statistical); Robert McMullen (Engineering); Mrs. Barbara Tannehill (Laboratory); Larry Legendre (Sanitarian); Mrs. Dorothy Leonardos (Nursing) and James Guillory (Education & Special Services).

Any LPHA member may submit names of deserving persons for awards according to Mrs. Willie Jean Shields, LPHA president, but only those nominated for a specific award will be considered by the awards committee at its January 1971 meeting she said.

The awards and their criteria are:

- AXSON-CHOPPIN AWARD: "Significant, long-time activity to foster public health program in Louisiana by individual not in full-time employment by an official public health agency,"
- DR. FELIX FORMENTO AWARD: "Meritorious activity to foster public health in Louisiana by individual not in full-time employment by an official public health agency."
- DR. E. H. BARTON AWARD: "Significant achievement in research, scholarship or outstanding pioneering performance in public health by any person in the state." Supportive research data must be included.
- DR. C. B. WHITE AWARD: "Meritorious and diligent service in public health in Louisiana by any person in full-time employment by an official public health agency in the state."
- AGNES MORRIS AWARD: "Long time (approximately 20 years) loyal and diligent public health service in the state by any full-time worker in an official public health agency (municipal, parish or state).
- VELMA PRESSBURG BRUSSE AWARD: This cash award is given to a full-time public health worker in Louisiana for meritorious service over and above the call of duty.

Awards will be presented at the May 6, 1971 annual meeting in Monroe.

Names of award candidates submitted for consideration in previous years must be re-submitted.

---

Published by  
LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Division of Public Health Education  
Rm 617; State Office Bldg., 327 Loyola Ave.  
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, Div. P.H. Education

R. A. "Dick" Cousins, Editor