

Kansas Public Health Association

Salutes

VIRGINIA PENCE LOCKHART

and

WALDO W. WILMORE



SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE BANQUET

Topeka, Kansas

April 22, 1965

SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD

To give recognition to members who have given long and faithful service in the field of public health, the Kansas Public Health Association has established a Service Recognition Award. This Award is presented to those who are selected by a committee composed of the President of the Association and the Chairman of each Section. The Award in the form of a Certificate, was presented for the first time in 1956.

Past Recipients

- 1956—Miss Cassandra Ritter
Mary C. Bure, R.N.
- 1957—Alice M. Finley, R.N.
Ivan F. Shull, M.P.H.
- 1958—Sarah Zeller, R.N.
James T. Newton
- 1959—Bertha H. Campbell
Melvin O. Johnson, B.S.
- 1960—C. Herbert Munger, M.D.
Jesse M. Reddy
- 1961—Flora Acton McKinley
Evan E. Wright
- 1962—Bernard J. Langdon
Margaret P. Shadoan, R.N.
- 1963—Roberta E. Foote, R.N.
James M. Mott, M.D.
- 1964—Hannah E. Lindberg, R.N.
Russell J. Stanbridge



VIRGINIA PENCE LOCKHART, A.B., M.P.H.

Virginia Pence was born April 3, 1922, the youngest child of Walter and Golda Pence. She, with an older brother and sister, grew up on a farm north of Topeka, Kansas.

Virginia's grandfather donated land for the Bethel Chapel and the schoolhouse across the road. Her father still owns the land homesteaded by Virginia's great-grandfather.

"Just think what a feeling of solidarity it gives a child growing up in such a close-knit family and community," Virginia says. "It is sad—even alarming—that children today do not have such security. I guess that is why I dream of a country home in a wooded area for my child—and the dogs."

Pierre, the poodle, Mick the bird dog, and now Pierre's puppy daughter, are very much a part of the Lockhart family. Virginia was married to Gene Lockhart, chief of the Venereal Disease Section (USPHS), in October, 1962. Their baby daughter, Gina, was born in August, 1964.

Another prized possession is the camping trailer. Gene and Virginia like nothing better than fishing, whether it's in a mountain stream or her dad's farm pond.

Virginia's love of the outdoors goes back to her life in the little farm community. She admits she was always a tomboy.

Virginia's grandfather organized a farmers' band and community life revolved around it. Nothing interfered with Monday night band practice. Sometimes it

followed an oyster supper; always it was a social gathering. Organized during the Spanish American War, the band continued until the early 1940's. At one time, it included Virginia's grandfather, his three sons, three grandsons, and a son-in-law. The band became famous in this part of the country, and played regularly in Silver Lake for many years. Virginia remembers the fun of band concert night. She also remembers the agonizing decision of how to spend her weekly nickel allowance. Should she blow it all at once on an ice cream cone or buy five all-day suckers?

About 1940 the Farmers' Band became the 4-H band with her father continuing as director. The members raised pigs to buy uniforms. They won a trip to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago. The Santa Fe donated a car for the trip and Virginia had her first train ride. Her musical instrument was a sousaphone, somewhat of a problem on windy Chicago streets and in the hotel revolving door.

Her sister played the bass drum, so the kids and their instruments filled the family car. Virginia remembers sometimes her mother stayed home to milk the cows. Other times their dad would go home, do the chores, and return to the Topeka fairgrounds where the young musicians were playing.

One time Virginia's 4-H cow won first prize for the most milk production in the state. That meant a trip to the International Dairy Congress at Waterloo, Iowa.

When Virginia's brother came home from World War II, the family moved to Topeka. Her dad bought

a grocery store. It became as much a part of the city neighborhood as his family had been in the farm community. He still owns a small store that thrives in this age of supermarkets and shopping centers.

Virginia majored in Political Science at Washburn University. She earned her A.B. degree in 3 1/2 years even though she worked 40 hours a week! She was elected to the National Social Science Honor Society, Pi Gamma Mu, and graduated with honors.

Virginia worked for her father in the legislature for 3 months in 1941, and became a secretary in the Shawnee County Social Welfare Office in March, 1941.

She began her tenure with the State Department of Health in April, 1942. When the State Civil Service called to tell her about a job in the VD Division Virginia thought she must have heard wrong, that perhaps they said TB. When she went for the interview, imagine her surprise. They really *did* say VD.

She went on to a "career" of VD education. First, she became a field investigator. In the absence of a medical director, she was assigned much of the administrative responsibility of the program. Later she was technical advisor for the award winning VD films, THE INNOCENT PARTY and DANCE LITTLE CHILDREN. (Sound tracks in Finnish, Italian, and Spanish have been made for both films.) She also supervised the publication of "Venereal Disease Education, A Guide For Teachers" in 1962.

In 1954, Dr. Robert H. Riedel talked to Virginia about graduate work. Dr. Thomas R. Hood, then the State Health Officer, encouraged her. He was especial-

ly interested in developing staff for community organization work.

Virginia went to Berkeley where she earned her MPH from the University of California School of Public Health. She was elected to Delta Omega, national public health honorary society.

On her return to Kansas, she was appointed consultant in Community Organization in the Division of Local Health Services. She then became chief of the Community Organization Section, Health Education Services. On July 1, 1960, she assumed her present duties as director of the Division of Health Education Services.

Virginia won wide recognition through her supervision of community health studies in Kansas. She was co-author with Dr. Thomas R. Hood on "Community Health Studies in Kansas," published in October, 1960 *American Journal of Public Health*. As a result, Virginia received many letters from people all over the United States and the iron curtain countries of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. They all requested information on the community health studies she supervised.

She explains, "It confirms our unshakable faith that beneficial action follows self-education and that 'health cannot be given to the people, it demands their participation'."

Another paper she wrote was on the results of four Kansas projects for diabetes screening. It appeared in the February, 1958 issue of the *Kansas Medical Journal*, with Dr. Robert H. Riedel as co-author.

Virginia pioneered in diabetes and glaucoma screening programs in the state. She not only supervises but *works* at the present diabetes screenings. No task is too menial for this dedicated health education director.

The State Health Department film library has grown, under her direction, to rate third in films circulated by state health departments.

Virginia has also been instrumental in maintaining an Accident Prevention Section for the State Department of Health.

The Division of Health Education has conducted some vigorous programs since she has been director. One of these was the publicity campaign for the Sabin oral polio vaccine, in cooperation with the Division of Disease Prevention and Control.

A current, ongoing project is the public health goal of 80 productive years by 1980. Her division works in cooperation with other divisions, local health departments, other agencies, and volunteer associations to emphasize a specific area of public health with 80 by 80 publicity each month.

She is a "pro" on exhibits. Under her direction, the history of public health in Kansas appeared in a Dodge City saloon replica at the 1964 APHA. Her neighbors couldn't understand that odd building going up in the Lockhart's backyard! She, her staff, and her husband worked far into the night for weeks. Besides the exhibit they made give-aways, miniatures of the famous Crumbine "Don't Spit on the Sidewalk" bricks.

Virginia is active in several professional organizations. She was named president-elect of the Con-

ference State and Territorial Directors in March. She has served in various offices for the Society of Public Health Educators. She is a Fellow in the American Public Health Association, and has held offices in KPHA. Space does not permit listing all of her affiliations and committee work.

As chairman of the State Health Department Training Committee, Virginia has helped develop many courses and siminars. This committee also makes decisions concerning stipends for graduate training. Virginia always encourages her staff to seek high quality training even though she may lose them to higher salaried careers elsewhere.

She explains it thus: "Any contribution I make to health education in Kansas is development of staff." She is too modest. Her own contributions are many.

"If I have a motto, it probably is this," she says, "developing quality of concern for people." She protests that she doesn't live up to it. Virginia's friends and co-workers disagree. She goes about her work with fairness and professionalism, an inspiration to all.



WALDO W. WILMORE

Two things happened in Harvey county in 1911 that were to affect tuberculosis prevention in Kansas. One was the sanatorium that could have been. Action was taken to buy a quarter section of land west of Newton for the first sanatorium in Kansas. But it was done without getting a clear title.

The other event was the birth of a baby boy down the road a few miles. That boy was Waldo Wilmore, recipient of the 1965 Kansas Public Health Association service award.

Little did that boy realize, when he was trying for a Kansas Tuberculosis Association "knight" pin or when his 4-H heifer was tested as a tuberculin reactor, that he would someday be executive director of the Kansas Tuberculosis Association.

As he grew up on the farm, young Waldo was delighted at the birth of each new colt, calf, and gosling. However, disease and predatory animals sometimes stalked their herds. His poults were frequently lost from blackhead and sometimes the goslings and ducklings were killed by animals or floods. One of his little spotted shetland colts died of encephalitis.

"All in all," Mr. Wilmore explains, "my boyhood experiences taught me the value of preventive disease practices."

One of his earliest and most vivid childhood memories is the arrival of the "Horse and Buggy Doctor" Dr. Arthur E. Hertzler, at Shady Lane Farm. He drove his buggy from Halstead to visit the family. Frequently, however, Waldo and his brothers and sisters lined

up by the bay window for Doctor Hertzler's physical checkup.

He recalls a sore arm after "an unknown person" came to vaccinate the country school children, following a smallpox scare. A public health nurse he does remember by name is Mabel Alice Taylor, R.N. She talked to the children as a group, individually, and with their parents when possible. Her scales for weighing the children were a real novelty to them.

During the 1920's, the Modern School Health Crusade was introduced in the schools. Reports on tooth-brushing, nail cleaning—and possibly even ear washing—resulted in different awards. The child could become a yeoman, a squire, or a knight, and receive an appropriate pin supplied by the Kansas Tuberculosis Association.

The Modern School Health Crusade later resulted in the recognition of health in the school curriculum. Good health finally came to be recognized by leaders in education as one of the primary aims of education.

Waldo learned that drinking from a common cup at the pump or dipping into an open pail in the rear of the schoolhouse were not the best health practices. His early years were marked by a record consumption of green apples and puckering persimmons. But, as he points out, he and the other children survived.

"To my parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Wilmore, goes the credit for many of the fine values that mark all our lives," acknowledges Mr. Wilmore. "While Dad was encouraging me to be a good dairyman, Mother was busy stressing the 4-H values of properly utilizing head, heart, health and hands."

He reports the greatest thrill of his youth was an opportunity to attend a 4-H Roundup at the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City. While there he saw Seppala and his famous dog team that had rushed antitoxin to Nome, Alaska. Mr. Wilmore says he can still, in his mind's eye, see the lead dog straining as he pulled the sled down Paseo Avenue on a warm October evening.

On his return home, the thrilled 7th grader reported—with shaking knees—on the 4-H Roundup to the annual county-wide Farm Bureau meeting.

His experience with livestock and preventive disease practices in animal husbandry made Mr. Wilmore a "natural" to work on the Kansas State University dairy farm while a student there.

He received his A.B. degree from Missouri University in 1934, and M.A. from the University of Kansas in 1939 and attended Iowa University in 1940.

Mr. Wilmore was principal of Washington School, Newton, from 1935 to 1942.

"In view of my total life's work, I was fortunate to be employed there," he explains. "My first interview included discussion about school health programs. I gradually found we were working in a school system with one of the finest organized health programs anywhere. It was largely organized by Maude Brown, Ph.D. The medical society backed the program 100 percent. The teachers had home interviews, school-room and playground programs, and a health record for every child from pre-school roundup through the senior year.

"Besides working in cooperation with some won-

derful school nurses, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Floyd C. Beelman while he was tuberculin testing the school youngsters in Harvey County. Little did I know then that after World War II I would be employed in the Kansas State Board of Health with Doctor Beelman as executive secretary."

Following his position as principal, Mr. Wilmore worked with the newly established Civil Service Department in Kansas from 1942 to 1944. While working with the Public Administration Service staff, he set up a position classification plan and established a compensation plan and merit rating system.

After two years as a deck and communications officer in the Navy—entering Tokyo Bay in August, 1945—Mr. Wilmore returned to Kansas. It was then he became personnel officer for the Kansas State Board of Health.

He explains that it was in this capacity that he was privileged to meet many fine people, most of whom are still active in public health and in their professional group, the Kansas Public Health Association. One of them, Dwight Metzler, has become president of the American Public Health Association. Another, Fred Mayes, M.D., is dean of the School of Public Health at Chapel Hill. Robert H. Riedel, M.D., is executive secretary of the State Board of Health. Still another, Roberta E. Foote, loved by all, is proving that good people in public health never really retire.

Mr. Wilmore reports that a few years later he became the "victim" of a "professional plot." Through the "Connivance of Doctor Beelman, Doctor Mayes, Dr. Seth Cox, and Dr. Charles H. Lerrigo, Mr. Wil-

more became assistant executive secretary of the Kansas Tuberculosis and Health Association.

He says, "The change to a voluntary health agency was interesting and challenging. I was now enlisted fulltime in a crusade against a killer that had wiped out my father's entire family."

Waldo Wilmore became executive director of the Kansas Tuberculosis and Health Association in 1950. He spends considerable time working toward the goal of successful tuberculosis control in every county in Kansas, and in cooperating in state and nation-wide public health efforts.

His family consists of his wife, Hilda, two daughters and a son. Carol is Mrs. John Franznick, temporarily of Topeka; Douglas is a medical interne at the University of Pennsylvania; and Kathleen is a sophomore at Topeka West High.

The Wilmores are members of the Central Congregational Church of the "In His Steps" Charles Sheldon fame. Mr. Wilmore represents the voluntary health association in the Topeka Rotary Club and was president of the Newton club in 1941 and 1942. Although his family and large lawn take much of his spare time, he steals time to train colts and devote attention to his friends, the Arabian horses. Mr. and Mrs. Wilmore serve as co-chairmen of the Topeka Community Concert Association membership campaign.

Mr. Wilmore has been a leader in public health, mental health, and educational activities in Kansas.

Dr. Ralph I. Canuteson, a previous Crumbine award winner, when president of the Kansas Tuberculosis and Health Association, emphasized that the voluntary agency should lend its support to other worthwhile health movements and organizations. Dr. Charles H. Lerrigo, long-time executive-secretary of the Association and also another Crumbine Medal recipient, advanced the idea that sound preventive health programs for every community is a basic necessity. Mr. Wilmore's activities have borne out these concepts. Cooperating with child health programs, especially in the areas of preventive health services and health education are regarded by him as essential. Consequently, his interest in health workshops, in professional training activities and in the activities of the American College Health Association and the School Health Advisory Council has been sustained through the years. He has expanded the greatest logical needs and efforts on the home front. Waldo has also supported and participated in national activities such as the White House Conference for Children and Youth and has emphasized his belief in fundamental preventive measures through active membership in the Kansas Council for Children and Youth and cooperating voluntary, governmental, and professional groups.

Mr. Wilmore is a past-president of the Kansas Council for Children and Youth. He was a charter member and president of the Kansas Rehabilitation Association. He was also active in the Kansas Mental Hygiene Society for many years, serving as secretary during its "rebuilding" period after World War II.

Now he is serving as president of the Kansas School Health Advisory Council. Next October he becomes president of the Mississippi Valley Conference on Tuberculosis.

Mr. Wilmore joined the Kansas Public Health Association soon after being employed by the Kansas State Board of Health. After serving as president in 1957-58, he became secretary-treasurer, a position that he still holds. He considers his recent election as the Kansas representative to the Governing Council of APHA a great honor and responsibility.

He has a dual objective which he hopes Kansas may attain. One is complete coverage of all areas of Kansas with the most efficient, well-planned, and supported preventive health services feasible for this great State. The other is a goal of eliminating the suffering and human and economic wastes caused by tuberculosis. He believes these goals are both within reach, and one supports the other. That through joint planning, able leadership and public support—all available, if enough sincere and dedicated people move toward this goal together—these steps may be realized in the relatively near future. The Kansas Public Health Association can, and must, give its share of dedicated leadership, knowledge and skill to bring about this new day in Kansas. Kansas—its citizens, its industries, its unique and unparalleled contributions to American life—will be the better.

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