

**KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

*Salutes*

**Bernard J. Langdon**

and

**Margaret P. Shadoan, R.N.**



**SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE BANQUET**

**Topeka, Kansas**

**April 12, 1962**

## **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



**BERNARD J. LANGDON, P.E.**

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Bernard J. "Barney" Langdon was born November 8, 1890 at Ottumwa, Iowa. His father was Trainmaster for the Kansas City Division of the Milwaukee Railroad. Early in 1893 Barney's mother and older sister died of diphtheria. Soon Barney and the rest of the children were taken to live with an aunt and uncle at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Barney's uncle was a grading construction contractor. During summer vacations the entire family would live in a camp on the job until time to go back to school in the fall.

There were plenty of riding ponies and horses in the camp, and all the children became good in the saddle. The older boys became adept at harnessing horses and hooking them up to the spring wagon or buckboard for the ladies and younger children. Each summer was a grand vacation for the kids. As this was in a period of expansion of railroads, these vacations were spent in many different states. The kids learned a lot about geography of the good old U.S.A. before they knew what geography was.

### **GOES TO WORK:**

When Barney was eleven he learned to hold a rod and chain on a construction survey party. After this he could generally be found with the survey party early and late. In 1905 he got his first pay job with a Milwaukee Railroad surveying party in South Dakota. However, he went back to school again that Fall. He was back on the job with the Milwaukee again the next Summer in Montana, and back to school again that Fall. This continued until he graduated from high school and the Milwaukee Coast

Line was completed. During this period he had learned to be an instrumentman as well as a rodman.

After high school he went to Western Canada and worked as an instrumentman on construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern Railways. Both of these lines are now the Canadian Government Railways.

### **MILITARY SERVICE:**

In 1914 all construction work was closed in Canada and Barney returned to Montana to work for the U.S. Reclamation Service until resigning to take up a course in Civil Engineering at Iowa State College. However, his education was interrupted in the Spring of 1917 by World War I. He served in the Sixth Engineers in France with the Third U.S. Army Division. He was wounded during the Aisne-Marne Offensive on July 29, 1918. He was hospitalized but came home with his division in 1919, and was discharged July 2nd that year.

Barney went back to Iowa State in September 1919 but was sent to the Marine Hospital at St. Louis, Missouri, in December for treatment of residuals of phosgene gas. He was released in June 1920 but was sent back again in December for the same treatment. He was released in May 1921.

### **CAREER:**

In the Fall of 1921 he was back at Iowa State College again. This time he stayed and was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1925. Barney spent his spare time and summers working for the Iowa Highway Commission while in college and after graduation he stayed on with the Commission until duodenal

ulcers forced him to give up in the Fall of 1928 and go home to Council Bluffs.

While under treatment in Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs he was offered the job of City Engineer which he accepted. Through this job, Barney decided to become a Sanitary Engineer. He resigned to accept a job with the Public Works Administration covering sanitary projects in Western Iowa. The next year he was transferred to the Public Health Service and went to Washington, D.C. He served there until he was sent to the Kansas City District in 1940. He was on loan to the Kansas State Board of Health from 1941 to 1945 when he was transferred to Arkansas and points south. He came back to Kansas City in January 1946 and a short time later came back to Kansas. He has been with the Johnson County Health Department since as Director of the Sanitary Section.

### **HONORS AND MEMBERSHIPS:**

Barney is a member of the American Public Health Association, Kansas Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, Kansas Water Pollution Control Association, National Society of Professional Engineers and a Life Member of the Kansas Engineering Society. The latter honor was awarded him in 1961. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Forty and Eight Society and the Veterans of World War I. He was awarded a life Membership in the American Legion in 1956 for services rendered to disabled veterans for many years.

Barney, his wife, and one son, who is a junior in high school, reside in Olathe. The Kansas Public Health Association is pleased to add Mr. Langdon's name to its list of honorees.





**MARGARET POTTERF SHADOAN, R.N.**

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Margaret Potterf Shadoan was born to Ruth and Ernest Potterf at their home near Oneida, Kansas on July 26, 1913, the second of six girls. Because her mother thought she was ready for school, she entered the first grade at five years of age.

The family enjoyed life on the farm until the death of their father when Margaret was seven years of age. At that time, the George Jones' family of Horton, a well-to-do farm family with four boys in college offered to help Mrs. Potterf by caring for one of the girls. Peggy, as she was nick named by her sister, Beulah, was described as pretty and gay. She went to live with this family and remembers the tender loving care and the advantages she had with them. They were fond of her, too, and a grandchild was named for her. Her mother provided for the others through work as a telephone operator.

Margaret was able to accept responsibility at an early age. When she was about twelve her mother visited her at the Jones' home. Margaret was preparing dinner for a group of farm men all by herself during Mrs. Jones' absence. Margaret considered this responsibility an honor but her mother was quite dismayed.

When her mother could manage it, Peggy returned to her family where she finished high school.

During this time, one of the sisters had an illness which required frequent trips to the hospital. Because their mother couldn't leave her work, Peggy often had the responsibility of taking her sister for these appoint-

ments. The nurses were friendly and told her about their work. It sounded so interesting that Peggy entered nursing school at Wichita Hospital in 1930 at the age of 17.

There were strong ties among the members of the family during the early years and to this day Margaret continues to watch over the others. A family member recently spoke of her as a tower of strength. When a sister was ill for an extended period, Peggy helped arrange for care of the children and took one of them into her own home. When she learned to sew, she took pleasure in sewing for the nieces as well as for herself.

#### **CAREER:**

Margaret has continued to practice her profession in various capacities. These included private duty and the position of surgical supervisor at the Sedgwick County Hospital. However, she found her real place when she began work as a public health nurse with the Sedgwick County Health Department in 1938. She has remained with this growing agency, now the Wichita-Sedgwick County Department of Public Health, ever since. She became a supervisor in 1947.

Peggy states: "I am a truly generalized public health nurse. It seems equally important to me to share information and give support to expectant parents, or to help with the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. All phases of public health nursing have remained interesting and challenging to me, and I have realized much satisfaction in helping nurses assigned to me achieve and maintain high standards of service in this field.

"As for the people who have given me inspiration and creative guidance, there are so many that I am at loss to name anyone specifically. In general, I do think public health people are the greatest, and I believe that no one else could do our job as well or could possibly make as great a contribution to people's health as we do."

Peggy has grown in her ability to supervise and lead. In turn, her staff nurses have reaped these strengths.

#### **MARRIAGE:**

Margaret Potterf and Robert Shadoan were married on July 20, 1938. It is reported that they met while walking down the street in opposite directions. Each turned and stared. Later they were introduced and remembered this earlier meeting. "Red" Shadoan was teaching at Wichita University and was popular with both students and faculty. A year later he became ill with multiple sclerosis. His illness did not run the usual course of the disease but was sudden and completely disabling. The young couple faced their problem with courage. Both were determined that "Red" should be as independent as possible and should live as full a life as possible. Dr. Harold Jones of Winfield gave them intensive guidance and support toward this end. Red was started with both active and passive exercises in water in a specially constructed tank in their home. Because Red is a large man, neighbors and friends helped with this daily activity. Every type of self-help equipment was secured including a special lift designed by engineering friends.

Both Margaret and Red learned that rehabilitation is

hard work on the part of everyone involved including the patient. They have been rewarded by the fact that after more than twenty years Red has no contractures and still manages to get up at least once or twice a day.

Of equal importance to his physical rehabilitation is the fact that he is involved in so many community activities. In addition to carrying on an insurance business from his bed, he heads the state and national semi-professional baseball ticket sale and sponsors advertising programs for groups such as Wichita University. He did much to get an Indoor Sports Group started and has been an officer.

As Peggy puts it, "In spite of his handicap Red enjoys life and people to the fullest. Because of his strength, I feel that we probably have been able to manage this long term illness somewhat successfully. It occurs to me at this moment that life is rather simple at least when I am able to secure a mature, conscientious person to care for Red at home, while I am working, but when I cannot, it's really rugged." Their friends would say that Margaret's strength has matched that of her husband.

Peggy had needs, too, and Red was determined that she should have an opportunity to advance in public health nursing. He participated in the plan for his mother to care for him while Peggy completed her public health nursing courses at George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee.

#### **OTHER INTERESTS:**

Margaret and Red belong to the Hillside Christian Church in Wichita.

Peggy used to enjoy golf and can lose herself in reading, sewing or homemaking activities. At present she is a collector of antique furniture and dishes. She spends many hours refinishing some of her finds.

One of the nurses said that Peggy's motto should be, "I am my brother's keeper". The aged, the children of her friends and even their grandchildren confide in her. Their problems become hers and she helps them find ways of coping with them. One mother stated that Peggy believes implicitly anything which the children tell her and they soon realize this. Using this ability to listen and help she has served as nurse and health counselor to the boys and girls placed in detention homes by the Juvenile Judge.

Last fall she was excited and thrilled when her sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Les Sanahl, invited her to spend a month in Europe with them with all expenses paid!

#### **APPRECIATION FROM HER CO-WORKERS:**

Mrs. Shadoan's health officer pointed out that one of her outstanding contributions was the development of classes for parents whose children were about to enter school. With the assistance of health department personnel, school personnel, and others, discussion sessions for the parents are held in schools desiring classes. At the same time the children are screened for vision and hearing defects and immunizations are provided.

The nurses expressed their feeling for Mrs. Shadoan in many ways such as: "She has the ability to inspire confidence". "She keeps her staff on an even keel". "The

health department would fall apart without her". "When there were difficult problems to be handled, Peggy drew her little flock of nurses around her. We never knew what she said but we observed that they accepted it and attacked the problem."

The following statements from a recent public health nursing director sum up the contribution she is making to public health nursing service in Kansas:

Mrs. Shadoan has given outstanding service as a supervisor of public health nurses in the Wichita-Sedgwick County Department of Public Health. In difficult situations as well as in times of calm, she has been able to maintain a position of leadership that helps the nurses under her supervision to maintain quality service. She presents a fine example of perseverance toward a goal. The nurses who are responsible to her, turn to her readily for guidance and find it.

She has done well in the area of development of clinic service for which the supervisors in this agency are responsible in addition to the supervision of the field work of nurses. When the chest clinic was discontinued and then restarted, she took the main responsibility for the reorganization and for working out plans to get it on a functioning basis again. The situation was fraught with problems and the measure of success which the reorganization had was due to Mrs. Shadoan.

She has also been quick to take opportunities to improve her supervisory ability, and to apply what she has learned. She took the extension course in super-

vision that was offered in Wichita and immediately applied the principles learned to help improve the counseling skills and public health nursing service of the nurses she supervised. She initiated small group case conferences to improve the staff nurses' understanding of family problems and to help them improve their technique of working with these problems. This was an effective means of in-service education.

Because of her ability to inspire others, to provide leadership, to develop new programs, and continually to grow in her position, Mrs. Shadoan has been a very valuable nursing supervisor to the Wichita-Sedgwick County Department of Public Health and to Kansas.

This is an appropriate time to honor Margaret Shadoan. Her life shows accomplishment in three areas which are receiving increasing attention from the federal government and the public health leaders of the state and the nation.

1. Years before rehabilitation was generally thought of as a nursing responsibility, Peggy demonstrated its importance and value by helping her husband remain as active as possible. This gave knowledge and skill that could be applied directly to community nursing problems.
2. Before "organized home care" plans had been invented, Peggy organized her own to care for her husband at home and helped to bring the world to



his door. This, too, has since had application as she helps other nurses in planning and carrying out home care in other family situations.

3. Now that further academic preparation for nurses is becoming imperative, Peggy reminds us that it is sometimes possible to go to school even when special arrangements must be made for the family.

We are proud of Peggy and wish her continued success and happiness.

# KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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## Committee for Service Recognition

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