Kansas Public Health Association

SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE
BANQUET

HONORING

M. LEON BAUMAN, M.D., M.P.H.

Thursday, April 25, 1968

Ramada Inn, Topeka, Kansas
THE SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE MEDAL

Presented for outstanding service in public health

1946—Samuel J. Crumbine, M.D.*
1947—Clarence H. Kinnaman, M.D.*
1948—Charles H. Lerrigo, M.D.*
1951—Earnest Boyce, C.E.
1952—E. V. McCollum, Ph.D.
1954—Earle G. Brown, M.D.*
1955—Karl A. Menninger, M.D., and
    William C. Menninger, M.D.*
1956—Ralph I. Canuteson, M.D.
1958—Vernon M. Winkle, M.D.*
1961—Franklin D. Murphy, M.D.
1962—Leona Baumgartner, M.D.
1963—Charles A. Hunter, Ph.D.
1964—Fred Lowe Soper, M.D.
1965—Dwight F. Metzler, C.E., M.P.H.
1966—Geoffrey M. Martin, M.D., M.P.H.*
1967—W. Fred Mayes, M.D., M.P.H.

*Deceased
HONORING DOCTOR M. LEON BAUMAN

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to public health in Kansas, the Kansas Public Health Association has chosen M. Leon Bauman, M.D., M.P.H., as the 1968 recipient of the Samuel J. Crumbine Medal. Dr. Bauman has devoted most of his professional life to improving public health in the state of Kansas. A major contribution has been in the planning, organization, and administration of comprehensive generalized community health services. Dr. Bauman has made many contributions to public health in this state. For this, the citizens of Kansas and his colleagues salute him.

The life history of Dr. Leon Bauman exemplifies the access to opportunity open to every American willing to make the effort to traverse it. This certainly has had something to do with the greatness of his career.

Leon Bauman was born in 1901 near Carthage, Missouri, the second of four sons. When he was five years of age, his parents, poor in financial resources but rich in courage and ambition, left the rented farm they had been working. They migrated to the open spaces and the rugged life of the New Mexico frontier.

After completing grade school in the Gramma Valley, Leon spent a year working. Then he entered high school at Roswell 75 miles away. He treasures the memory of the lonely hours spent riding herd by day, the gorgeous sunsets, the starlit nights, the sudden storms, the stampeding herd, and the checking next day for the cattle count.
"It was during those times," says Dr. Bauman, "that I developed a considerable amount of my philosophy which still stays with me today."

During his two-and-a-half years at Roswell, he lived in the home of the high school principal and did odd jobs. He acknowledges his gratitude for the sacrifices made by his parents to keep him at school when his services were badly needed on the ranch.

Tired of the continual struggle with an insufficient water supply, his father sold the homestead in 1917 and moved the family to a farm in northeastern Oklahoma. There young Leon completed his high school studies at Nowata High School.

The following two years he "worked out" at a variety of jobs. He entered Oklahoma A & M College, with but $40 in his pocket. There he found part-time employment in the college creamery and shared a room above it with one of his brothers. In order to enjoy a balanced diet, they exchanged dairy products for other campus produce.

Leon's interest in athletics, which continued through college and into adult life, got its start when he went out for the football team, where the suits were provided. This saved the price of a gym suit which he would otherwise have had to buy. He became a three-year letterman on the varsity football and wrestling teams. He was also a cadet colonel in the ROTC and a member of the Student Senate and of the Alpha Gamma Rho social fraternity.

After Leon's graduation from college in 1925, his first position was at Kemper Military Academy in Booneville, Missouri. For three years he served as line coach, wrestling mentor, and instructor in biology and chemistry. Then, in 1928, he began a four-year service at the University of Kansas as wrestling coach and athletic trainer. At the same time he completed all the courses required for a degree in physical education. A high point of this period was when one of his Kansas University wrestlers won the world Olympic championship in Los Angeles.

But coaching was not to be Leon Bauman's career. In July, 1932, he accepted a position in Lawrence as a public health sanitarian for the Douglas County Health Department. During the eight years he was with the department, he studied at the university to earn his M.A. degree in bacteriology. The following two years he was with the Kansas State Board of Health in Topeka, in charge of milk sanitation.

At the age of forty-one, Leon Bauman enrolled in the University of Kansas Medical School. This was against the counsel of the university authorities because of his age and family responsibilities but with the warm encouragement of his wife. He received his M.D. two years later, ranking seventh in his class. He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the honorary medical fraternity.

Dr. Bauman's internship experience at Trinity Lutheran Hospital in Kansas City reinforced the conviction formed in his previous public health work—he wanted to devote his life to prevention rather than treatment of disease. Accord-
ingly, he accepted the position offered him as Director of Public Health in Labette County. Four years later he took a leave of absence to pursue graduate work at Harvard University for an M.P.H. degree. He received the degree in 1950, together with membership in the Delta Omega, honorary public health society.

**His Career in Wichita**

When Dr. Bauman became Director of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Department of Public Health in June of 1950, the first problem he faced was effectively merging the Sedgwick County and Wichita City Health Departments. They had been consolidated the previous fall. Dispersed and inadequate buildings made the program for 350,000 people difficult until a new building was completed seven years later.

Basic in Dr. Bauman’s philosophy of community health is his concept of a total health program for the individual and the community. He believes that a fragmented or specialized approach should be avoided. He places on each staff member the challenging burden to keep ever in mind how his individual responsibilities relate to the total person and total environment in the community.

Putting this concept into practice, Dr. Bauman has marked the area covered by his department into districts. He assigned one district in the city and one outside the city to each of the staff teams he set up. A team consists of a nurse and a sanitarian working together. These teams are respon-
sible for knowing the existing health problems and needs of their respective districts and are free to exercise initiative in developing health programs specifically suited to their districts. Along with this, Dr. Bauman holds that public health education is one of the basic requirements in developing a successful public health program.

In 1957 Dr. Bauman saw the fulfillment of a long hoped for dream. It was the completion of the new Health Department Building where all segments of the department could be united. He personally oversaw the planning of its well-appointed offices, conference room, laboratory, dental facility, library, auditorium, foodhandler training room, and other features. He wanted to assure himself that the relationship of the various working areas would lend themselves to efficient functioning by his staff.

Dr. Bauman had long felt that mental health should be an integral part of the program of a community health department. Through his efforts, the Mental Health Division was established in the Wichita-Sedgwick County Department of Community Health in 1962.

Dr. Bauman has been actively associated with numerous national, state, and local organizations. Currently he is a Fellow in the American Public Health Association and member of the Kansas Public Health Association, Board of Preventive Medicine, American Medical Association, Kansas State Medical Society, Medical Society of Sedgwick County, Delta Omega, and Alpha Omega Alpha. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Legislative Council’s state-wide study of health services.
Dr. Bauman has served on the Long Range Planning Committee of the Health Officers Section of the American Public Health Association, as well as on various other committees. He has been a member of the Governing Council and of the Resolutions Committee of the American Public Health Association. He was one of the first members of the Mental Health Committee; it eventually developed a manual for mental health as a part of public health.

He is a past president of the Kansas Public Health Association and has served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of County Health Officers. He also served in all capacities, including the presidency, of the now defunct Kansas Local Health Officers Association.

In Wichita, Dr. Bauman has served on the Board of Directors of the Wichita Urban League and the Sedgwick County Health Association and on the Sedgwick County Social Welfare Advisory Board. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Sedgwick County Mental Health Association.

Leon Bauman met his future wife, Alice Isabel Sherbon, during his days as a coach at the University of Kansas. She was majoring in physical education at the time and later taught in the women's physical education department at the University of Iowa. For two years before her marriage, she was a member of the Martha Graham dance group in New York City. Dr. Bauman says that because of her upbringing in a home where both parents were physicians, she has been a constantly understanding and stimulating teammate throughout his professional career.

Community health, says Mrs. Bauman, has been her husband's principal interest away from the job as well as on it. His two main hobbies, she adds, have been their two sons. He shares their interests and activities with enthusiasm. Several years ago, Dr. Bauman helped the boys build entries for the annual Soap Box Derby. He was heard to say that if it not been for his 6'3", 225-pound frame, he would have been tempted to enter the contest himself!

Stevan is now attending Michigan State University, working towards a doctorate in psychology. Sidney is a sophomore at Rockford College in Illinois.

Dr. Bauman has always been an avid reader, especially of scientific and philosophical literature. He also enjoys photography, vegetable gardening, and do-it-yourself projects around his old-fashioned, two-story home in Wichita.

During the years it has been under Dr. Bauman's leadership, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Department of Community Health has shown a steady growth in its community service and prestige. It has become recognized as an accredited training center for public health personnel and as one of the outstanding local health departments in the United States. Dr. Bauman's work as a good citizen and able professional leader has added to the progress of community health in Kansas. To him we say, "Thank you for a fine job."
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