

Kansas Public Health Association, Inc.

**SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE  
BANQUET**



HONORING

**Ivan F. Shull, B.S.C.E., M.P.H.**

Wednesday, May 10, 1972

Holiday Inn Plaza

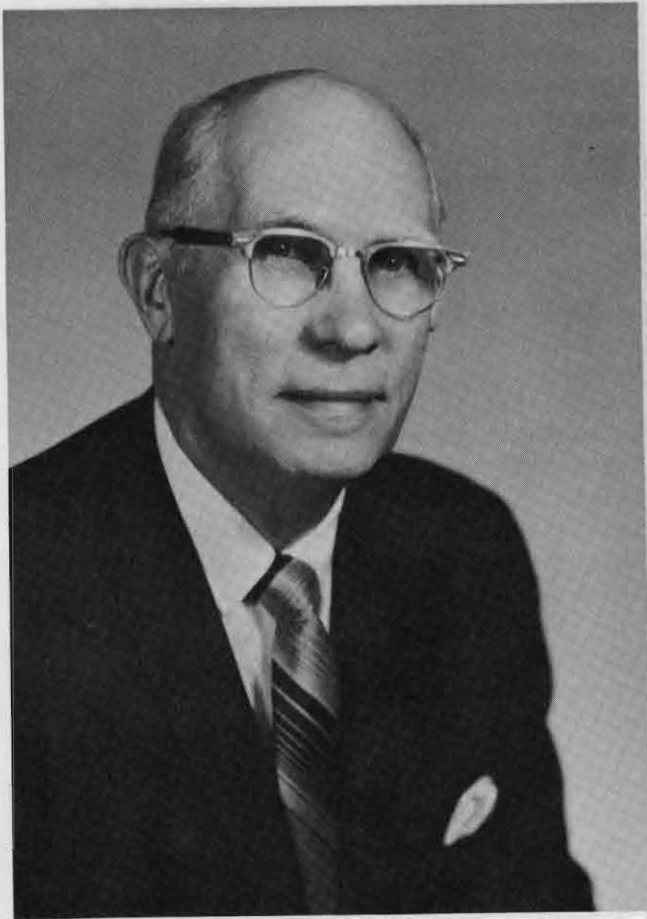
Wichita, Kansas

## 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.
- 1968—M. Leon Bauman, M.D., M.P.H.
- 1969—Thomas R. Hood, M.D., M.P.H.
- 1970—Evan Wright
- 1971—Cora M. Downs, Ph.D.



## **IVAN F. SHULL, B.S.C.E., M.P.H.**

Years before ecology was a household word, Ivan Shull was concerned about people and their environment. What's more, he was doing something about it. Because of his outstanding contribution to environmental health in Kansas and to public health in general, the Kansas Public Health Association has selected Ivan Shull for its highest honor -- the Crumbine Medal.

Ivan was born in Gem, a small town not far from Colby. He has one sister and one brother. The family moved to a farm in Jefferson County where he spent most of his childhood.

Ivan's job at the one-room country school he attended was to start the fire each morning in the potbellied stove in the center of the classroom -- a far cry from today's modern school heating plants. But thanks to Ivan's mother, who was on the school board, the teacher was one of the best.

Ivan and his brother Ray learned to swim in the "ole swimmin' hole" in Evans Creek, now under 40 feet of water at Perry Reservoir. If their reckless swimming activities ever gave their mother any anxious moments, she never said anything about it. Being one of 11 children in her family, she probably knew it wouldn't do any good!

Ivan attended the Oskaloosa High School and Highland Junior College in Highland. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Kansas in 1936.

## His Early Career

Ivan's first job after graduation from KU was as rodman on a survey crew for the Kansas State Highway Department in Northwest Kansas. One day during the winter of 1936, Ivan counted 29 young engineers in the Division office that had more experience than he had, so he decided the road ahead was pretty well blocked. Through a classmate at KU he got a job with the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company and helped stake out a new 20" pipeline from Liberal, Kansas to Mexico, Missouri.

One Friday in September, Ivan received a call from Roy Johnston asking him if he was interested in a job with the Health Department. If so, he was to meet Roy in Topeka on Saturday and report to Vanderbilt University for 12 weeks of special training. Ivan was thrilled at the opportunity and checked in at Vanderbilt on Monday. From that day on, it was public health all the way.

Ivan's first job in public health was with the Sedgwick County Health Department where Dr. Floyd C. Beelman was health officer and Peggy Shadoan was TB Nurse.

While there, he married Lenore Mullet of Wichita. His wife reminisces about those days.

"When I first met Ivan, he had written a directive to the rural teachers regarding the proper way for the children to wash their hands. This seemed somewhat odd to me. Then I learned that they were

having difficulty with outbreaks of impetigo and I understood why handwashing was so important. I understood even better years later when our oldest daughter developed impetigo after having been bitten by mosquitoes many times during a vacation at a New Jersey beach."

In 1938, Ivan took a leave of absence from the health department in Wichita to study sewage-disposal problems in Johnson County for the State Board of Health.

"Much of the credit for the early planning for the establishment of Johnson County sewer systems must be given to Ivan," explains Myron K. Nelson, Chief Engineer of the Johnson County Main Sewer Districts. "Ivan attended many meetings and gave valuable counsel resulting in the formation of Mission Township Main Sewer District Number 1. This district was one of the first of its kind.

"Ivan's advice and counsel was that of a dedicated professional engineer who recognized the many practical problems inherent in any public improvement program."

A present coworker, Jack Burris, describes it as "the best example of county sewer districts of any place in this part of the country."

Following his leave of absence for the study, Ivan moved to Denver. He accepted the position of Regional Engineer for the Farm Security Agency, U. S. Department of Agriculture, conducting a rural sanitation program throughout the Midwest.

In 1942, Ivan went to Washington, D. C., as chief engineer in charge of the nationwide rural sanita-



tion program for the Farm Security Administration. He was commissioned a captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Reserve and assigned to the War Food Administration. In that capacity, he helped develop a program to improve the health and sanitation of migrant workers. Some 20 years later, he was on the on-site evaluation team and served as technical advisor in developing the present Kansas Migrant Health Service program in Western Kansas.

Because of a hearing loss, Ivan left the Public Health Service in 1946, as a major. He returned to Kansas and started working in the State Board of Health's Division of Local Health Services. The office was in the old condemned Hillcrest Sanatorium at Topeka.

Ivan took a leave of absence to do graduate work at the University of Michigan. He earned his MPH in 1949. Because of his experiences during Kansas' 1951 flood, he was Michigan University's guest lecturer on disaster sanitation for several years.

When Ivan returned to Topeka in 1949, he was named Chief of the General Sanitation Section. At that time the Sanitation Division was in Lawrence so the Shulls sold their home in Topeka and moved to Lawrence. When the Division was transferred to Topeka in 1957, Ivan gave up and "stayed put." He has been commuting from Lawrence ever since.

Ivan soon became well known throughout the state. For him, working with people epitomizes

community health regardless of one's discipline. He convinces them that health personnel can provide assistance, encouragement, and expert consultation free of charge (and in good humor) to help the city, county or municipality meet requirements that will actually benefit them. His quiet manner, the reasoning and affection apparent in his communication with others, has often made "believers" out of officials of local government, organizations or private industry. Where first they were ready to resist regulations, they became active supporters of the concept as Ivan described it.

Woven throughout Ivan's activities through the years is his interest in legislation. Had he chosen another career it might very well have been law. His knowledge of legislation has not only been of value to the entire department but to other agencies as well.

One of the early programs that Ivan worked on was the so-called Privy Program that put an estimated 65,000 sanitary privies on Kansas farms. He presented a paper "Elimination of Pit Privies" at the 42nd annual Water and Sewage Works School in November, 1962.

The department's Fly Control Program was under Ivan's supervision. His section promoted and conducted demonstrations of fly control over the state. At 1952's close, 26 cities had purchased and were operating power spraying equipment.

Obviously the cities most successful in fly and rodent control eliminated the insanitary condi-

tions that encourage breeding. In 1950, the General Sanitation Section conducted a survey of refuse collection and disposal methods in Kansas with depressing results. And Ivan's long battle against improper solid waste disposal began.

He conducted sanitary landfill demonstrations all over the state. The day he was in Wichita, the city was honoring a Korean War Ace. Naturally that's where the crowd went, especially the city officials. Another time the bulldozer at Ivan's demonstration got stuck in the mud. Catastrophes such as these didn't exactly help sell the idea of a landfill. The Caterpillar Tractor Company awarded Ivan a bound copy of the famous **Saturday Evening Post** stories "The Earthworm Tractor" to assuage his broken spirit.

### In Later Years

In more recent years, Ivan has devoted countless hours to the development of model county sanitary codes. They are used by counties in Kansas as guidelines for their county codes.

Reservoir sanitation is another recent program. It is an example of how Ivan always meets the changing needs of the times. He saw Kansas change from mostly prairie land to a state of lakes, and was a leader in suggesting ways for more orderly development around the large Corps of Engineers and Bureau Reclamation Reservoirs. He and his staff revised policies and procedures many times trying to find workable solutions to satisfy local communities but that would also

provide reasonable protection against land and water pollution (from failure of sewage disposal facilities). Legislation regarding reservoir sanitation has changed several times. Ivan's men had to nail signs on posts at the reservoirs one year, and tear them down the next!

Ivan was always interested in swimming pools and their quality. In fact, a former coworker remembers Ivan's battles with a California swimming pool designer. Ivan has also worked consistently for supporting legislation.

He has received recognition from the Kansas Swimming Pool Association, and was largely responsible for establishing the annual Swimming Pool Operators School and the annual Recreational Camping Conference. Both are dedicated to the improvement of pool and camping operations.

Ivan has served as department representative on the Joint Council on Recreation and its predecessor, the Governor's Advisory Council on Recreation. He also helped compile technical material appearing in a Guide for Engineers and was active in developing the National Sanitation Foundation testing program for Swimming Pool Equipment and Chemicals. He served as public health consultant on the Standards Committee from 1960 until 1969.

Long before today's kids were talking about ecology and the environment, Ivan was promoting health education at an early age. He wrote in the March 1952 **Kansas Teacher**: ". . . greater attention must be given to sanitation in the home



and in the school during the early formative years of children, when attitudes and habit patterns are being developed . . . If we teach Johnny and Mary that 'sanitation is a way of life—a quality of living' and not laws, ordinances, and regulations issued by some governmental official, we can expect clean homes, clean farms, and clean communities."

Ivan has served on the Interdepartmental Committee on School Health since its beginning. It is composed of representatives from the State Department of Health and State Department of Education. He has worked with the Kansas Teacher Association and was a charter member of the Kansas School Advisory Council during the early years when legislation authorizing unification of school districts was being developed.

Most of the technical material in the **Vade Mecum** School Inspection Handbook for Kansas was compiled by Ivan. He has also had numerous articles published in the **Kansas Teacher** magazine.

Ivan's work in school health is summarized by Dr. Evalyn Gendel, Director of the Maternal and Child Health Division. She says, "When I first came to the Division, one primary responsibility was to reorganize the system of reviewing public school facilities for environmental and other health and safety factors. I was referred to Ivan Shull and he became, for me, a 'teacher' in the true sense of the word."

Dr. Gendel goes on to say that she learned

from Ivan the principles of public health—service and consultation. "In school settings where often several local agencies might be involved, his caring and rational concern for the 'consumer'—the child in school—was influential in persuading the parties affected not only to reconsider their viewpoint on meeting certain school standards, but caused them to take a new look at other health and safety factors in their community and its people.

"To be a 'learner' under Ivan's tutelage is a great experience, one that has continued ever since we stood in our first rundown school when it was obvious that 'children don't vote'."

### Personally Speaking

You might have a rather lengthy conversation with Ivan. Then, almost abruptly, with a wave of the hand he is gone. Suddenly you realize that he has left with you a bit of philosophy or humor. Ivan is a great philosopher and likes to look deeply into anything before he does it. As for that sly humor, it surfaces at unexpected intervals rather adding to the fun.

Ivan has great faith in people and thus tends to bring out from them rather more than they thought they could do. (He isn't surprised because he knows they could do it all along, even if they didn't know they could do it.)

Another trait frequently mentioned is Ivan's tendency to be rather absent-minded about his

driving. Most passengers think a few worrisome moments are offset by his philosophical comments and good stories, however.

A favorite story of his fellow commuters concerns a traffic policeman. It seems that there was a fire in the area of 8th and Harrison in Topeka and traffic was backed up even more than usual. Ivan wanted to turn left so he could drop Harold Stoltenberg off at his lab, and the others at the State Office Building and then on to the parking lot. There stood that cop, just a few feet from Ivan's car, indicating he could *not* turn left.

Ivan, as usual, simply could not wait. He honked and the cop jumped. Rolling down his window, Ivan shouted, "You'd better let me turn!" And the policeman did!

The fellows still haven't figured out whether it was Ivan's distinguished grey hair, the look of an executive, voice of authority, or just what.

Don't think that Ivan flaunts law enforcement. Far from it. He has a very strict sense of right and wrong. Dwight Metzler, now with the New York Department of Health, tells this one.

The two men were on their way to a meeting in Salina, with Ivan driving. He was picked up by the Military Police for exceeding the 25-mile per hour limit through Fort Riley, along Highway 40. Ivan explained what an important meeting they were going to, how many people would be inconvenienced, and so on. The M.P. finally released them with the promise they would be back that evening so Ivan could take the required examination on

driving on a military reservation.

Fully expecting to spend several hours in study and writing the exam, Ivan checked in at the M.P.'s headquarters that evening on the way home. No record had been made so they refused to throw Ivan in the clink. He insisted that he had been in the wrong and didn't want to be treated different from anyone else. He expected them to make him study for that test and then give it to him. In spite of all this, the M.P.'s regarded Ivan and Dwight merely as trouble-makers and sent them on their way.

### **His Family and Hobbies**

Ivan and Lenore have two daughters, Carolyn and Nancy. Carolyn is now Mrs. Robert Cater of Oakland, California and Nancy, Mrs. Robert Smith of Lawrence. There is a grand-daughter, 5-year-old Kelly Cater, and two grandsons, Matthew Cater, 3, and Marty Smith, 7.

When the daughters were small, they would ask, "What does Daddy do?" It was rather difficult to explain. One time one of the girls told her friends that Daddy had something to do with getting rid of the garbage! His work did develop a consciousness of sanitation and public health in the whole family, however. When Carolyn was about three, she reported to her Daddy the condition of rest rooms across the country from Washington, D.C., to Topeka.

The Shulls are tireless workers in the interests



of their home, church, and community. Ivan belongs to Lawrence Masonic Lodge number 6, and is an elder in the First Presbyterian Church. He was a key person in convincing the congregation that it should move away from its downtown location to a much more spacious site in southwest Lawrence. He not only helped make the decision but also had a major hand in acquiring the land and getting the new church structure designed. He served on the building committee until the church was dedicated in 1967.

As for hobbies, Ivan is interested in gardening, photography, sports, politics, and philosophy, and likes to discuss all of them. One friend says that it came as a surprise to see Ivan vacation as he is such a hard-worker.

Ivan's vocation is his avocation, too.

Lenore reports "We went from wells at rural homes and schools, to school lighting, migrant labor camps, septic tanks, nursing homes, swimming pools, sanitation problems around the reservoirs, to solid waste disposal, and so on."

Through the years their color slide file has become filled with pictures of whatever his program was at the time, from water wells to landfills. Recently when a roll of film was returned from the developer, Ivan could hardly wait to see the results. Lenore expected to see vacation pictures. Instead she was "treated" to a series of pictures of city dumps around over the state, taken from the air!

## Publications and Organizations

As for his publications, mention has already been made of several of them. Many of his articles have appeared in the **Kansas Government Journal**. Ivan compiled technical material for the manuals of recommended standards for septic tank systems and water wells for rural homes. These are widely used by local health officers in Kansas.

Other subjects that he has written about include refuse collection and disposal, flood disaster insect control, swimming pools, suburban utilities, school sanitation, to name a few. Even at that he says, "I have written little but talked a lot."

And when he talks, people listen. They realize they are hearing someone who knows what he is talking about but who also understands their side of the matter, too.

Ivan is a Fellow in the American Public Health Association and an active member of many other professional societies including American Society of Civil Engineers, Kansas Engineering Society, Kansas Swimming Pool Association, and many others.

He has developed association with many groups outside the health field. Ivan has always been more interested in getting a problem solved than worrying about who does it, or who gets the credit. Some of the groups he has worked with are the American Institute of Planners, the American Society for Public Administration, Kansas Teachers Association, Kansas School Advisory Council, American

Institute of Architects, Kansas Municipal League, Public Works Association, and Kansas Council of Churches.

When it comes to KPHA, Ivan is a man of vision. He has talked about what he thinks it might become. He was President in 1968, after being President-elect and Vice-president. A recipient of the Service Recognition Award in 1957, he has served on many committees. He was chairman of the charter and by-laws committee when they were completely revised and the association incorporated.

His latest assignment for the association is to help compile the history of KPHA. He says that it is a work of love because it is so delightful to delve into past history and discuss things with so many of the people he knows and enjoys. His enthusiasm is contagious.

When Ivan was chairman of the Awards Committee, he urged the committee to carefully consider all aspects. He wanted to be sure that the award went to someone deserving, not as a popularity contest but for true merit.

Incidentally, he and Dwight Metzler, the 1965 awardee, helped draft the criteria for the Crumbine Medal. Ivan also has a hand in the design of the metal itself and worked with Eldon Tefft in its sculpture. The first award was presented to Dr. Samuel Crumbine, Kansas' pioneer health officer, in 1946.

Now, a quarter of a century later, Ivan receives the award with the medal he helped design. No one is more deserving.