

KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Salutes

HANNAH E. LINDBERG, R. N.

and

RUSSELL J. STANBRIDGE



SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE BANQUET

Kansas City, Kansas

April 23, 1964

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.



HANNAH E. LINDBERG

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Hannah Elizabeth Lindberg and her twin brother, Harold, were born April 10, 1900, at McPherson, Kansas. Their parents were Levin and Christina Lindberg. Hannah, together with five brothers and one sister, lived in the New Gottland community. She attended the Prairie Queen and North Union Grade Schools and the McPherson High School.

Hannah was always a cheerful youngster. She loves to relate the good times she had when the family entertained or when they visited relatives and friends in the neighborhood. She had a deep love for her elders and especially for the grandparents who lived in her home.

Hannah took her nurse's training at the McPherson County Hospital and graduated May 22, 1922. The early years of her nursing career were spent in the supervisory capacity of general duty nursing at the McPherson County Hospital, and in private duty nursing. At that time it was indeed full time — 24 hours a day.

When Hannah started with the county program in 1941, it was understood that as well as being school nurse, her duties would include supervision of the tuberculosis cases and other communicable diseases. She was the first nurse hired for school nursing by the County Commissioners. During the school year, she worked in the schools and during the summer she taught Red Cross Home Nursing classes. Prior to this time, the county nurse was employed by the Red Cross.

The northern part of the county was stricken with flood waters in 1941. Mass typhoid immunization was necessary in the Marquette and Lindsborg areas. Through Hannah's efforts, this program was initiated and carried out.

That same year, 1941, she was accepted for graduate work at the Peabody Hospital at Nashville, Tennessee. Since both parents were ill, Hannah was unable to take this special work. She resigned her position because she was needed at home.

In 1945, however, the County Commissioners approached Hannah again. So she took up her duties as County School and Health Nurse and has continued to the present time. In 1945, there were 105 schools that came under her supervision. Today, school consolidation has decreased this number to 33.

Many new duties have been added since 1945. She works closely with the County Welfare Department, the Cancer Society, Polio Foundation, Kansas Heart Association, Mental Health Program, Kansas Crippled Children's Commission, Council of Social Agencies, American Red Cross, and various civic clubs. She also makes referrals to private and state institutions.

The vaccination and immunization program has come a long way. At the time Hannah entered the work, about 40% of the children were immunized. Today the percentage is about 90%.

New drugs have brought about many changes, particularly the Salk and Sabin vaccine that caused such a decline in the number of polio cases.

Evaluation of nursing homes for the aged and care homes for children is a program that was not known in her early years as County Nurse. Presently, Hannah supervises thirteen Homes for the Aged and ten licensed Child Care Homes.

Hannah is a native of McPherson County and is well-known there. Her telephone is never quiet. She is called upon for help and advice regardless of the time of day or night. Because she knows most of the people personally, she has been able to help many times. If someone has a problem and doesn't know where to go for help, he can go to Hannah. She usually finds a way.

Miss Vinnie Lindbeck, McPherson County Superintendent of Schools, offers this word of appreciation:

"Hannah Lindberg has given outstanding service as a supervisor of public health in McPherson County for many years. In difficult situations, she has upheld principles of her position and maintained quality service. Teachers have readily turned to her for help with difficult problems of health, child care, and family situations. She has always gladly solved their problems with them.

"I am sure the teachers of McPherson County agree with me that she is a most worthy candidate for a Service Recognition Award."

Hannah's health officer, Dr. Weir Pierson says, "The public health program in McPherson county never could have been carried out to the full extent it has except for Hannah's integrity, her desire for accom-

plishment, and her willingness to work long hours. Hers has been a heavy load since McPherson County does not have a full-time health officer."

It was Hannah who organized the injectable polio and oral polio programs. She acts as the coordinator on sanitation and communicable diseases, making the initial call when a complaint is received about neglected children, communicable diseases, and unsanitary conditions. She shows young mothers how to bathe and care for their new babies, and helps in homes where an invalid needs bathing or dressings changed. Tuberculosis patients return home from the Sanitorium to continue medication for a period of time. Hannah is asked to give the injections.

With all the many and varied demands for her time, she visits all the schools in the county for vision and audiometer testing.

A member of the Evangelical Covenant Church, Hannah has always been an active and ardent worker, first in the New Gottland Covenant Church and now in the McPherson Covenant Church. Hannah is a home-loving person. Her spacious home is always open to her family and her many friends.

She is a member of the local nurse's club, the District Nurse's Organization, the Kansas State Nurse's Association, the American Nurse's Association and the Kansas Public Health Association. She is also a member of the McPherson Business and Professional Women's Club.

Recalling her years of service, Hannah says, "I never would have survived in the work if it were not for the in-service training at the Kansas University and the State Department of Health."

Then she refers to the changes through the years, "I have been unlearning as much as I have been learning."

That humility, and her enthusiastic, unselfish work through the years have earned for her this Service Award.

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RUSSELL J. STANBRIDGE

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The forty-three year career of Russell Stanbridge is pretty much the history of public health in Wichita and Sedgwick County.

Russell was born in Pike County in Illinois, near New Salem where Abraham Lincoln operated his general store.

He was the oldest of the six children of Jess and Mollie Stanbridge. Russell's father was a railroad worker, and his work meant repeated moving for the family. As Russell remembers, they lived under very adverse conditions. Money was scarce, and most of what they had was spent on food. Housing, clothing, and health care were given little attention. According to Russell, this was particularly true of health care. Due to the lack of finances and knowledge regarding health, about all that was done in those days was to pray and hope that sickness would not strike. This proved insufficient. Two of Russell's sisters died, one from diphtheria and the other from an unknown cause. Russell was also stricken with diphtheria, however, through the use of antitoxin, his life was spared.

The family's frequent moves made schooling very difficult for Russell. Nothing reveals his real character and capacity more than the fact that his long and successful career has been achieved without a formal education. The first three years of Russell's schooling was haphazard between several schools in Illinois

and Iowa. In 1908 the family moved to Wichita. This was to be the first time that the family ever planted any permanent roots.

Russell finished his schooling in the Wichita area and graduated from the eighth grade in 1915. A person with just an eighth grade education today has many road blocks to overcome. But Russell says, "I feel pretty lucky because in those days not everyone had the chance to even finish the eighth grade."

After graduating, Russell worked at the Bell Telephone Company as a repairman. In 1920 his father got Russell a job as a sanitarian with the local city health department. His father was also a sanitarian at the time but he resigned shortly after Russell joined the staff.

Russell had no particular qualifications for the job. However, in those days, according to Russell, "It wasn't so much what you knew, but who you knew."

From October 15, 1920 to January 1, 1921, Russell served in the capacity of "Outside Sanitation Officer." This job consisted of walking in alleys to see that garbage and trash containers were maintained in a sanitary manner. The city provided no means of transportation, so walking was the only way the sanitarian had to get around.

During the early 1920's, there was no municipal garbage pick-up service. Twenty-two horse-drawn wagon routes were operated by private haulers. Each disposed of the garbage by feeding his own hogs inside the city limits. Serious problems such as flies

and odors stemmed from this type of operation, but nothing much could be done. Present regulations and ordinances did not exist.

On January 1, 1921, Russell was promoted to Food Inspector. This job consisted of inspection of food handling establishments for sanitary conditions. Hotels and rooming houses were checked, too.

Russell also took water samples from swimming pools and from bottling plants selling bottled water. There were no standards or written regulations that could be enforced at that time. Russell says that you just got them to do what you could.

Russell was promoted to Quarantine Officer, April 4, 1927. This particular job consisted of an investigation and quarantine of any communicable disease. He saw to it that a house with a communicable disease inside was placarded.

During the winter of 1930, Russell quarantined a total of 6,842 homes for measles; and in 1931 approximately 551 persons for smallpox. It has been said that Russell has probably seen as much or more smallpox than anyone in Kansas.

As quarantine officer he would help the nurse take nose and throat cultures. According to Russell, they did it a little differently than it is done today. "If they didn't cooperate, I would just take them down and sit on them."

Russell explains, "Good public relations were necessary in the quarantine business, and you learned it in a hurry."

He recalls nursing a fat lip for days after a woman resented having her home quarantined. She grabbed his hammer and struck him in the mouth.

In the summer months when disease was usually low, Russell was in charge of weed cutting and bindweed control.

Russell served in these capacities until January 1, 1953, when he was promoted to the position of administrative assistant to Dr. M. Leon Bauman, Director of the Health Department. He is in charge of all records related to work programs, budget control, purchase and management of a fifty-vehicle car pool, and of all vital statistics related to births, deaths, and causes of death. His thorough acquaintance with all details of his work, his even-tempered disposition, and his quick readiness to serve, have won him the high esteem of all his fellow workers.

Russell was married to Rose Miers of Wichita in 1919. They live at 1505 Coolidge in Wichita. There are no children in the family.

He holds memberships in various organizations. They are National Office Managers Association, Kansas Public Health Association, and Credit Committee of Wichita Municipal Federal Credit Union. He is a member of the Central Christian Church.

In summary of his work, Russell says, "I haven't got rich on the job, but public health is most certainly a challenging and enjoyable field to work in."

KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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SERVICE RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

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