

HISTORY OF THE TULSA CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (TULSA HEALTH DEPARTMENT)

by

George W. Prothro, M.D.

With Thanks and appreciation to the physicians and staff of the Tulsa County Medical Society who have served and supported the health department over the years and with apologies for any errors and omissions herein. This is the history of the Tulsa City-County Health Department particularly in relation to the membership of Tulsa County Medical Society.

The Origin of the Tulsa City-County Health Department

The TCCHD dates its origin to 1950 and indeed the first annual report of the TCCHD is the 1950 report in which T. Paul Haney, M.D., is listed as the Superintendent of Health. Why then does the January, 1954 issue of the TCMS Bulletin report that T. Paul Haney, M.D., Chairman of the TCMS Public Health Committee is working with the state legislature to secure passage of permissive legislation creating joint city-county health department boards? Dr. Haney reported that although efforts had been unsuccessful in the last legislature, nevertheless the committee would continue to work toward this goal. The TCMS Public Health Committee in 1950 consisted of Dr. Haney, Fred Nelson, M.D., R.E. Goen, M.D. and Margaret Hudson, M.D. In 1952, the committee included R.M. Wadsworth, M.D. and in 1953, D.L. Garret, M.D. and Hugh Graham, Sr., M.D.

To understand the apparent discrepancy between the TCCHD first annual report in 1950 and the TCMS Public Health Committee 1954 report indicating failure to get legislation creating a combined city-county health department, we will review provision of public health services to the area prior to 1950.

Before 1950, public health services were provided by a variety of resources. There was a county health department with county employees providing services to the county outside of the city of Tulsa. A Tulsa city health department provided services within the city limits. Some services were provided by State Health Department employees. A most interesting 1920 report of Mrs. T.H. Sturgeon who was sent by the OSDH for checking, and correcting environmental conditions in this area is attached. This report is most impressive in regard to the determination and effectiveness of this lady. It also gives a picture of the Public Health problems at that time. Another important entity in providing public health services to the area was a

voluntary health organization, the Tulsa Public Health Association. This group provided public health nursing services and tuberculosis control services. The Tuberculosis Association which later became the Lung Association and the Heart Association had their beginning in the Tulsa Public Health Association.

On February 6, 1950, the Tulsa City Commission and the Board of County Commissioners signed an agreement to form the "Cooperative Health Department of the City and County of Tulsa." This provided that the City Health Department and the County Health Department would contract for the services of a Superintendent of Health who "shall be the directing head of said Cooperative Health Department, and shall have supervisory control over all personnel." As far as the personnel duties, the Cooperative Health Department, there was little change. The County employees remained county employees serving the public health needs of the county outside of the city limits. The City Health Department employees remained employees of the City and served the public health needs within the city. There was no state legislative authority to form a truly integrated city-county health department and Board of Health.

Dr. Haney and the TCMS Public Health Committee continued to seek such legislation. In 1955, the legislature passed HB 907, which authorized the establishment of a city-county Board of Health in Tulsa and Oklahoma counties and defined its duties and authority. The legislation provided for a nine member Board of Health with five members appointed by the City Commission and four members appointed by the County Commission. Members were appointed for seven years and could succeed themselves. For many years the Tulsa City charter restricted their five appointees to physicians. This restriction was later deleted.

On October 24, 1955, the Tulsa City and County Commission formally created the Tulsa City-County Health Department in accordance with HB 907. T. Paul Haney, M.D., the former Superintendent of the Cooperative Health Department was named the Medical Director of the TCCHD. Funding of the combined department was uncertain. The Board of Health was to develop an annual budget, submit it to the county, each city in the county, school districts and "other agencies participating in the operation of the health department." Recommendations were to be made to each entity regarding their proportionate share of the budget. These recommendations were to serve "as a guide to such participants in providing of the financing of the health department." On December 19, 1961, the City and the County amended the agreement which created the Tulsa City-County Health Department to provide a formula for determining the proportion of the health department budget which would be funded by the City and the County.



Plaque on Health Department Building—4616 East 15th Street, Tulsa

The Oklahoma legislature subsequently passed a law enabling counties the option of a vote authorizing an amount up to 2 ½ mills of the assessed valuation of taxable property in the county for support of the health department. On December 14, 1965, Tulsa County voters authorized up to 1.9 mills for the TCCHD. At a later date, circa 1975, the voters in Tulsa approved the maximum levy of 2.5 mills for the health department. This has provided a stable base of funding for the health department.

The 1950 annual report of the health department noted that the Tulsa County Public Health Association has supported, and been a vital partner of the TCCHD. The nursing personnel of the Public Health Association worked closely with the TCCHD nurses and were eventually housed in the same facility and under the overall supervision of the health department Director. In general the Public Health Association nurses provided direct patient care in the home while the health department nurses provided traditional public health nursing services. The Public Health Association had its own Board of Directors and was primarily funded by the United Way and its predecessors. After an association of many years the nursing staff of the Public Health Association separated from the TCCHD and ultimately became the Visiting Nurse Association of Tulsa.

People

To attempt to list the people involved in public health in Tulsa is an impossible task and immediately means that so many physicians who have contributed so much will be overlooked. This report being prepared for TCMS will limit the list to Board of Health members and physicians serving in TCCHD clinics. The 1950 annual report of the health department listed the following Board of Health members:

Frank J. Nelson, M.D., Chairman
 Homer A. Ruprecht, M.D.
 Hugh C. Graham, M.D.
 A. Ray Wiley, M.D.
 H.D. Murdock, M.D.

Medical Personnel of the health department included:

T. Paul Haney, M.D., D.P.H., Superintendent of Health
 James H. Neal, M.D., Assistant Superintendent of Health
 Margaret G. Hudson, M.D., Director of Maternal and Child Health Division
 D.V. Hudson, M.D., Director, Division of Communicable Disease
 Richard Apffel, M.D., Director of Child Guidance

Note: Dr. Margaret Hudson was later honored by having a comprehensive program for pregnant teenagers named in her honor. This excellent program continues to serve the area.

TULSA CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

**This list was originally compiled by TCCHD staff from
 available information in 1998**

1969 TO 2006

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE APPOINTED</u>	<u>DATE RESIGNED</u>
Adelson, Stephen J., M.D.	7/23/74	5/3 1/93
Alexander, John, M.D.	10/79	5/31/84
Arthrell, Dan, MA	6/1/99	5/1/05
Benton, Dr. Paul	1963	12/72
Bouchard, Dave, DVM, MPH	10/90	4/2/93
Boyd, Betty (replaced Richter)	11/1/01	Present
Brannin, Dan E., D.D.S.	10/2/74	Died 7/91
Braverman, Dr. Irwin	1/30/73	5/74
Burnidge, Gary D., DDS, MS	6/30/97	Present
Butler, Pamela, RN, MS, JD	3/4/93	10/28/98
Cohen, Rick, M.D.	10/19/84	5/31/90
Covington, Terrell, M.D.*	6/65	10/78
Cunningham, Craig	7/1/96	7/1/98
Elias, Tyrone Mr.	7/11/91	05/01/97
Ellison, Geraldine, Ph.D., R.N. (replaced Arthrell)	5/1/05	Present

Featherston, Robert, D.V.M.	5/23/61	7/1/91
Fell, William	4/11/75	7/1/81
Fiker, Dan, D.O.	1/11/83	5/31/88
Goldenstem, Linda, M.D.	7/1/93	5/6/99
Goodwin, James O., J.D.	3/69	Present
Grewal, Harleen, M.D.	10/1/98	11/04
Grogan, Patrick, DVM (replaced Grewal)	12/04	Present
Gustafson, Gerald E., M.D.	10/24/72	6/7/78
Helmerich, W.H. (Rik)	05/03	Present
Herndon, John L.	6/30/97	Present
Hidy, Dr. Dean**	6/68	12/72
Johnson, Brent, CPA	9/9/91	7/1/96
Kamp, George H., M.D.	1/16/79	12/92
Keithline, Nancy.	7/1/97	Present
Kempe, Walter F., D.O. ^a	11/6/70	5/31/89
LaFortune Jr., J.A.	6/69	4/75
Maddox, James, M.D.	6/11/62	7/74
Mathis, Beverly, D.O.	7/1/95	Present
McCullough 11, Robert D., D.O.	12/89	5/1/95
E. Montez Mutzig, MD, MPH, FACP	9/30/99	05/03
Nelson, Dr. Frank ^b	9/59	- 11/70
Overton, George	8/1/78	4/10/81
Palermo, Carl	9/86	2/90
Peters, Myra, M.D.	6/1/84	7/2/84
Richter, Ralph W., M.D., F.A.C.P.	7/88	5/2001
Ruprecht, Homer, M.D.	9/58	5/31/82
Sherwin Jr., Robert E.	4/26/93	7/01/97
Smith, Sheryl S.	1/13/92	06/97
Stanley, C. Page	9/63	6/69
Schwartz, Stanley, M.D.	5/16/78	9/79
Winslow, Tom	4/3/81	12/1/85

*No record of Covington's appointment, but he attended meetings from June 1968 to October 1978.

**No record of Hidy's appointment, but he attended meetings from June 1968 to December 1972.

- a. Walter Kempe, D.O. was the first osteopathic physician appointed to the Board.
- b. Homer Ruprecht, M.D. and Frank Nelson, M.D. were two of the first appointees to the BOH in 1950. It is probable that their service on

the Board was continuous from that 1950 date rather than the appointed date listed on this chart.

PERSONS KNOWN AS BOH MEMBERS PRIOR TO 1969

Appointed in 1950

Frank J. Nelson, M.D.
Homer A. Ruprecht, M.D.
Hugh C. Graham, M.D.
A. Kay Wiley, M.D.
H.D. Murdock, M.D.

Were on BOH in 1954

King Bostock
Walter E. Brown, M.D.
D.M. Hawkins
J.M. Patrick
Walton Clinton

Were on BOH in 1957

R.M. Wadsworth, M.D.
Robert S. Todd, D.V.M.

TCCHD Clinic Physicians including part-time persons:

Margaret G. Hudson, M.D. – Director of Maternal and Child Health, 1950 - ?

D.V. Hudson, M.D. – Director of Communicable Disease Division, 1950 - ?

Richard Apffel, M.D. – Director of Child Guidance, 1950 - ?

Betty Conrad, M.D. – Director of Communicable Disease Division, 1966-1987.
Dr. Conrad had a well deserved reputation for her dogged determination to bring T.B. and Venereal Disease patients to treatment.

C.R.McKewon, D.O. – Dr. Conrad's full time assistant for the latter half of her career and continued to serve the health department after Dr. Conrad's retirement.

Carolyn Wetzler, M.D., and Mary Jo Jacobs, M.D. – both served as full time clinical staff during the 1968-1978 period.

James Hammersten, Jr., M.D., - Communicable Disease Division dates after 1990.

Leroy Carpenter, M.D. – served in the Communicable Disease Division after 1989.

James Seabass, D.O. – is the present (2006) Director of the Communicable Disease Division.

John Kramer, M.D. – served part time as clinician and Director of the Pediatric Clinics. Dr. Kramer and his associate, Donald Pfeiffer, M.D., developed the first pediatric nurse practitioner training program in Oklahoma. Health department nurses, and later school nurses participated in this program.

R.M. Wadsworth, M.D. – had served as a volunteer in pediatric clinics prior to 1967.

Dean Diment, M.D. – Physician Family Planning Program, 1970 era.

Radiologists who provided chest x-ray interpretation for the tuberculosis program. Many other physicians who have given invaluable service and support to the health department and whose names are not listed here.

Public Health Residents during the 1970-s

Robert Fortune, M.D.

Don Swetter, M.D.

James Felsen, M.D.

Places

In 1950, the health department listed the following locations:

521 North Boulder, Tulsa

536 East Oklahoma, Tulsa

This was the Variety Health Center which had been given by the Variety Clubs of America—a Hollywood based theater group who gave this as a site for a North Tulsa health center.—GWP

City Hall, Sand Springs

City Hall, Broken Arrow

Library, Collinsville

808 South Peoria – Public health Association Center

In 1954, new health centers were constructed at Bixby, Broken Arrow, Skiatook, Collinsville and Sand Springs.

January 1957 – moved to new health center at 4616 East 15th Street, located on Fairgrounds property owned by the County. Between 1969 and 1976 a third story was added to this building and later a three story annex at the west end.

1971-Jenks and Owasso Health Centers opened.

1974-John Tomblin Health Center at 2828 West 51st opened.

1983-Maternal and Child health Center opened at 7354 East Admiral (Clinics moved to Central Regional Health Center in 1992).

1992-93-Central Regional Health Center opened at third and Utica.

1998-The East Regional Health Center moved to a large facility with extensive grounds located at the Northeast corner of 129th East Ave and 51st. (building had been vacated by a petroleum based company). This became the main office of the TCCHD. The building was later designated the James O., Goodwin Health enter in honor of the long time Board of Health member.

Timeline 1907 – 2007

1907-Oklahoma admitted to Union as 46th State

1908-Oklahoma State Board of Health created

1910-1911-Anti-tuberculosis Association formed

1917-Oklahoma Vital Statistics law passed

1918-In a six month period, 7,340 Oklahomans died from influenza and pneumonia. Schools were closed.

1920-OSDH inspector documents a “Clean Up or Close Up” program in Tulsa area (See *Attachment I*)

1945-1949-Average of 20,000 polio cases a year in U.S.

1950-Tulsa City and County Commissions form “The Cooperative Health Department of the City and County of Tulsa.”

T. Paul Haney, M.D., Dr. Public Health, named Superintendent of Cooperative City and County Health Department.

1952-58,000 cases of polio in U.S. Early versions of the Salk polio vaccine were successful on a small sample of population.

1953-February issue of TCMS Bulletin notes “plans for a polio hospital in Tulsa advanced by a group of business persons and polio parents.”

1953-After much controversy in prolonged public meetings, Fluoridation was approved for Tulsa water supply. Tulsa County Dental Society was in the forefront of push for this legislation. (See *Attachment II*)

1954-Massive field trials of Salk vaccine
Health Centers built in Collinsville, Skiatook, Broken Arrow, Bixby and Sand Springs.

1955-Oklahoma legislature passes HB 907 authorizing a coordinated City-County Health Department in Oklahoma and Tulsa City-County areas.

City and County of Tulsa create the Tulsa City-County Health Department.

T. Paul Haney, M.D. named Medical Director of Tulsa City County Health Department—served to January 1962.

1957—Main Health Center completed at 4616 East 15th Street on Fairgrounds.

Other public health activities during Dr. Haney’s tenure:

Dental clinic opened (1952) for indigent children sponsored by Tulsa County Dental Society and Tulsa Pilot Club.

OSDH turned nursing home inspections over to TCCHD

Milk control Division established

Completion of Turkey Mountain Sewage Treatment Plant (1954).

Meat inspection program transferred from City to TCCHD

Paul Benton, M.D., Acting Director TCCHD–January 1962–August 1962.
Paid \$300 per month on basis of one day a week of service.

Cecil Jacobs, M.D., Medical Director of TCCHD 1962 – 1967 (Salary \$20K)

1963 – Mass oral polio immunization program implement in Tulsa County.
This was a community-wide effort. Over 250,000 doses of the Sabin vaccine were given of each of the three vaccine types. A 25 cent donation was suggested and over \$90,000 was collected and distributed to 21 participating organizations. The TMCS received \$31,500 and used these funds to start the TCMS Scholarship Fund. Robert Endres, M.D., coordinated the TCMS participation in this effort.

1964–Only 121 cases of polio in the U.S.

1966-1967–TCCHD with support and involvement of the TCMS was approved for a federally funded program to establish a Comprehensive Health Center serving the predominately black North Tulsa area. Employee recruitment began. A “Advisory Board” for the Center consisted of TCMS appointees: E.N. Lubin, M.D., Daniel J. Alexander, M.D., Robert K. Endres, M.D. Appointees from the Board of Health included: Terrell Covington, Jr., M.D., Frank Nelson, M.D., and Homer Ruprecht, M.D. Also on the Advisory Board were Bruce Stewart, DDS and Thad Taylor, Jr. DDS. Seven other members were representative of the population to be served.

1967–Moton Hospital closed.

George W. Prothro, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director of TCCHD–January 1968 – October 1978. (Salary \$25K)

1968 – October – Moton Comprehensive Health Center opened in old Moton Hospital which had been “gutted” and refitted for the health center.

Ambulance ordinance drafted for City of Tulsa requiring ambulance equipment and personnel to meet Department of Transportation standards. Note-prior to this date ambulance service was provided by

Tulsa funeral homes using available vehicles and personnel from the funeral homes. Service provided at a no fee or minimum fee. Stories existed of responders to an accident scene being more interested in the bodies than the survivors.

1969–Mobile X-Ray unit was discontinued for T.B. case finding.

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program developed by John Kramer, M.D. and Donald Pfeiffer, M.D. Started with public health nurses.

1970–First air pollution regulation in Tulsa, banned burning of refuse in open containers (i.e. old oil drums) and salvage yard burning.

1971–Moton health Center become independent of TCHD

1976–Woodland Hills Mall construction caused 16% increase in food establishments

1977–WIC program for food supplement to Women, Infants and children available through Maternal–Infant care program.

Other public health activities during 1968 – 78 tenure of George W. Prothro, M.D. as Medical Director of TCCHD.

Two remaining State T.B. Hospitals closed, first at Clinton, and last at Talihina.

TCCHD approved as one year of the three year residency program for physicians meeting Board requirements for the American Board of Preventive Medicine. Physician residents completing one year of training at TCCHD included Robert Fortune, M.D. Donald Swetter, M.D. and James Felsen, M.D.

Development of a mobile radio link between TCCHD, the ambulance service, and all local hospitals.

Developed community disaster response plan and held unannounced trial run with “made up” disaster victims and one of the Tulsa schools.

Established Food Advisory Council to work with Consumer Protection Division regarding Food Code and its enforcement.

Health Department dentists and dental hygienists implemented a dental education program including three sessions with the

Tulsa County fourth grade students and follow up three sessions in the fifth grade.

TCCHD employees organization established.

Developed Annual Plan and a follow up annual evaluation for each division of the Health Department.

1978–Fred A. Reynolds, M.D. Acting Director

1979–Edgar M. Cleaver, M.D., - Medical Director of TCCHD

1981–Bixby adds fluoride to water

1982–Early discharge program started for mothers and babies released from hospital 24–36 hours after birth. A public health nurse would make a home visit within 24 hours.

1984–B.E.L.T program offers car seats on loan to parents of newborns.

1985–OSDH and TCCHD conduct asbestos survey of all private and parochial schools and all state owned/leased and county buildings.

1986–Jerry Cleveland, P.E, Acting Director of TCCHD

AIDS epidemic imposes new burden on Communicable Disease division.

1987–Ralph R. Wooley, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director of TCCHD
Staff reorganization

959 HIV tests given

1989–Jerry Cleveland, P.E., Interim Director TCCHD

Began working with Tulsa County Court system establishing program for accepting referrals of all persons arrested for prostitution to receive HIV counseling and preventive education.

Glyn G. Caldwell, M.D. Medical Director TCCHD 1990–1992

Immunization program, in cooperation with Southside Rotary Club, gave 52,240 immunizations – an increase of 52% over 1988.

Gary Cox, J.D. named Director of TCCHD 1994 –Present (2006)

Gary Cox is the first non-medical Director of the health department. He began his employment with the health department as a sanitarian circa 1968. While working full time, he attended the Law School at the University of Tulsa in evenings and week-ends. He obtained his law degree and passed the Oklahoma Bar Exam. He was then promoted and became the first full time Public health Attorney for the TCCHD.

Established the Community Health Foundation to augment and support public health activities.

1997–Healthy Start program for children began.

1998–Turning Point Advisory Council formed – part of a national program to utilize all elements in the community in assessing public health needs, program planning and implementation.

Legislation passed which transferred environmental regulatory duties to the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality).

September 11, 2001–The Terrorist act which destroyed the World Trade Center in New York City. This would have an impact on many facets of our life including public health planning and involvement.

Disaster planning takes on a new meaning. The Health Department becomes involved in planning for such potential community disasters as mass epidemics, mass poisonings, and explosives. TCCHD has assumed a prominent role in coordinating with all appropriate entities in developed an integrated plan for responding to such threats or activities.

Attachment I

Clean Up or Close Up

This is an excerpt from the Fifth Annual Report of the State Department of Health of Oklahoma --for year ending June 30, 1921 by Inspector Mrs. T. H. Sturgeon. Originally printed in "Newsletter of Oklahoma Society of Registered Professional Sanitarians" September-October issue, 1975.

It was last July I was sent to Tulsa. Here I felt that the whole world had piled up before me, and that my housekeeping job was endless, but I must clean up. So I adopted the slogan, "Clean up or close up." This worked. In Tulsa I met with the most hearty co-operation with both city and county administration, civic clubs, town clubs, fraternal organizations, and the entire citizenship seemed to back me. In some cases the methods were strenuous and the health laws had to be produced. Credentials had to be exhibited many times before the resentful ones were convinced that one in petticoats could wield the club of war and law on dirt to just as great an advantage and with the same results as the "blue coats."

Here there were grievances galore from street and alley to beauty parlors, pig pens, city dumping ground, Greek candy kitchens, Mexican chili joints, even exhaust fans that exhale the inner odors of conglomerated food in kitchen over the city and nearby office and hotel buildings were enclosed in towering ventilating pipes. Unkempt rest rooms were ordered to install greater power pressure. In the Mayo building an order was issued and for four days twenty-two rest rooms were nailed and bore the sign, "Closed, by Order of the State Health Department." The owners were very nice; they cleaned and installed powerful engines.

The city market with forty booths, where the country folks sell their wares, were infested with flies, drooping screens, open sewer and uncovered garbage cans, was closed and guarded by two police, a deputy sheriff and myself. The city and county commissioners have responded wonderfully at our every request. The fire stations were looked after and new mattresses were given in the place of the old worn ones.

One morning an emergency call came to go to a Jew store in the edge of town. The neighborhood where the store was located a mad dog had been killed. I was told to go to the icebox, a big square homemade affair, containing A conglomeration of cheese, butter, fruit, lard, meats and a few open cans of vegetables. Here, to my utter astonishment, rested the head of a dog, a yellow mongrel, a real poor white-trash cur dog. I yelled, "Sam, in the name of mercy

what are you doing with this in there." "Oh," he said, "The doctor say I put him on ice." The doctor told him to pack him in ice and send him to the laboratory in Oklahoma City. Sam just gets things mixed. However, he isn't in business today.

At the Busy Bee Candy Kitchen in Tulsa I found worms in the candies, cockroaches in the fudge and glucose, worms in the soda fountain, I closed him. "When I asked them to destroy the candy and empty the syrups the Greek, a fellow of 350 pounds, said, 'No, we cook it over, worms die.'" I took his arm and asked him to come with me to the police station. He resisted, said he would have me arrested "in the Newnited States court." I took his arm and his partner interfered. I called the police station and three police were backing me at once. There had been a real uprising in Greece, They, by main force, had to be lifted in the Hoodlum wagons, so two Greeks, three police, a chauffeur and myself appeared before the sergeant. They were fined to the limit. One was locked in jail for awhile. Something over 39 arrests have been made and not one time has any court failed to convict the defendant.

I have worked in and out of Tulsa the past year, with exception of one month when a flying trip was made to the west side and in the extreme south and visited the county seats of 38 counties. Recently I was sent to Medio on a mad-dog case, and owing to reports four dogs had been bitten by this one. It was a problem to persuade the owners to kill their pet dog and by main force and the law I succeeded in averting a tragical situation in this settlement.

Conditions were bad in Pawhuska. Three trips have been made there the past year and conditions are yet to be improved upon. In one afternoon five cafes, two soda fountains were closed. Here I found a carload of flour which had been on hand since 1918 being marketed. With the aid of a policeman it was located and ordered dumped in Bird Creek.

On a rush call to Osage Junction, I found three cases of ptomaine poisoning, caused from spoiled fish. They had been sold by the Express company to a cafe owner for half price. This meat was soaked in salt petre and vinegar, destroying the taint and odors. This is an every-day occurrence.

In Hominy there was open cans of Pet milk in the refrigerators, and in this place two cases of ptomaine poisoning had resulted. The place was closed and its proprietor is still going west.

At a hamburger joint I found a man mixing his meats with his hands, which were a solid mass of sores. Here he was making and serving to children. I called Dr. Goss, county health superintendent, who pronounced it a malignant type of eczema. In two of the largest meat markets in Tulsa,

contaminated and rotten meats were found. The keepers begged that I not arrest them or give them publicity. They were willing to pay their fine and costs to me privately. But not so. All law violators must pay the same penalty, and these matters are only settled before the court of justice.

In Claremore one evening I happened to be gazing out the -hotel windows, watching maneuvers of the cooks, dishwashers and back-door attendants of a cafe. A negro was preparing roasting ears, and using a sharp knife, supposedly. Suddenly he jerked off his shoes and began paring a bunion on the bottom of his foot with the self-same knife he was using cleaning the vegetables. In this place I found a Mexican in the meat department who was closely guarding two large lard cans of meat trimmings. When I asked why saving such smelly stuff, he shook his head and said, "Me no English speakee." On showing him my badge, he immediately spoke English and said "Make tamales chile for Greeks." Now. these Greeks, to save these contaminated cuttings, employ this Mexican to work over such filth and sell it evenings in a tamale and chili wagon.

In Sapulpa the Liberty Cafe was closed. Last winter I closed this café three days to repaint, install new refrigerator and clean up generally. On a return trip four weeks ago, sanitary conditions were fierce. Entering the cafe, which was filled with guests, the porter was sweeping without floor sweep. Pies were strung along the counter uncovered, four platters of spoiled meat were found in the refrigerator, one undergoing a chemical treatment, molded fruits in open cans in an icebox, no screens at rear doors and no garbage cans. Garbage was in a heap three feet high on the back porch. I closed him at once. I turned in a police call and told him not to move the contaminated foods, but while I was calling he threw out everything. I put a sign on his door. He jerked it off. I put on another, he did likewise, and pushed me out of the door. Just here two husky police grabbed him and took him to the police station and filed five charges against him. Sweeping while guests were eating, serving impure food, interfering with an officer, running an unsanitary place and assault and battery. The trial was set for the following morning. Owing to his not being able to secure council it was continued to the next morning. He was then sick. A case of gastritis, perhaps, from eating his own food. A third day he was still sick. I then withdrew the case from the city's jurisdiction and filed it in the county court of Creek county. London Petrapole, George Petrapole and Louie Pantegeous are the defendants. On the next day the sheriff served a restraining order on me, not allowing me to enter their place of business. I immediately had this quashed by the county judge. On this same day these fellows sued me in the sum of \$5,500 in the district court, claiming I had injured their business to that extent. This was so absurd and amusing that it was flashed over the Associated and Universal Press wires, arousing the indignation of our American citizenship, and within

a few days fifteen of the leading law firms of Oklahoma, one in Texas, wrote me, offering their services gratis.

Bartlesville is a delightful little city. Things were in good condition with the exception of a grocery store, the worse by far I have ever found. Here I confiscated three barrels of candy, dried fruit, bakery products and all else in the store that carried aged earmarks.

In Sperry, an old-time soda fountain had housed many rats during the winter season. In fact, they had spent the time in syrup jars, which, through a slight oversight, the proprietor admitted had been filled with their luscious fluids without rinsing the jars. And here the sight of all was beheld. When the fountain was getting its once over-horrors alive-rats floated in every jar. He began fishing them out with a spoon. This was not satisfactory. It was all dumped in a garbage can. When I remarked, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself," he said, "Gee, I have been drinking it, too."

Alleys have been filled in and paved, cesspools have been drained and cleaned, out door toilets have been installed with fly-proof boxes, fire escapes have been built, and even railroad stations and dining cars have been investigated and given cleanings. During the year many organizations have taken the work up through the city folks and have the local conditions much better.

In Jennings they have mosquito trouble; sewerage pipes are on the ground, but impossible to get them installed. However, after spending two days in this over-worked oil town, local authorities donned their working clothes, picks and shovels, and within a month the mosquitoes were at a loss to find a real good resting place.

At Durant, the cockroaches have given us more trouble than most anything. One traveling salesman vows that they are so large in a certain hotel that they open his mail and give his competitors his prices before he arrives on the scene. In Sand Springs the bed bugs watch the register and know your room number and make life most miserable when you arrive.

There is a law in Oklahoma whereby one who has infectious or contagious diseases cannot handle foodstuffs, but no health certificate is necessary. This health law failed to pass in the last legislature, so I have adopted a way of my own of finding out the real conditions of various handlers of food. A few days ago, at the police station in Tulsa, a man was called to the stand, and on questioning him, in regard to his occupation he was found to be a butcher. His charge was lewd conduct. The court asked him to stand aside for a blood test. I followed the test and found it to be positive. Immediately went to his

place of business, had him attend a clinic and discontinue his business for a time at least. While sitting in the reception room of three doctors a few days ago, five foreigners wended their way into a specialist's office who handles venereal troubles. Each of these were waiters in cafes, and I recognized them all and spoke. They seemed dreadfully embarrassed when they saw me. I have been making it a practice recently to drop in at police court and watch the charges on people handling food, and where a blood test was necessary have followed it up and have succeeded in getting nineteen to take clinic treatments and discontinue this kind of work.

I have spoken before the Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis and Chamber of Commerce of Okmulgee, Tulsa County Medical Society, Rotary, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce of Tulsa, Welfare Boards, Tulsa Town Club, the various schools and the Cosden and Texas Refineries, the Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce, Muskogee civic organizations, Cooks and Waiters' Union, Hotel and Restaurant Associations.

I have worked continuously in my district, and have made a number of special trips throughout all of Oklahoma. The following towns were where I have been: Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Pawhuska, Claremore, Wynona, Beggs, Morris, Kelleyville, Durant, Walters, Lawton, Sapulpa, Panama, Garber, Enid, El Reno, Kingfisher, Bartlesville, Guthrie, Medio, Sand Springs, Turley, Sperry, Bigheart, Glenpool, Bixby, Collinsville, Snyder, Red Ford, Wagoner, Dewey, Frederick, Clinton, Medford, Alva, Fairview, Cordell, Sulphur, Davis, Purcell, Pauls Valley, Perry, Skiatook, Coweta, Nelogony, Osage Junction, Hominy and Marietta.

Tulsa: Thursday, July 8, went to Osage to inspect the Osage Inn and 3 Greek cafes that had been reported as being in a deplorable condition-and that was no joke. At the Osage Inn four dozen dishes were consigned to the china pile. The bed linen was being used no telling how many times, as during the nights three and four different crews of men occupied the same beds. There was also a bad sewer condition which was removed while I was there.

Tom Poulas cafe was a sight. Closed him on the spot and had a regular cleaning. Broke eight dozen dishes. Emptied two iceboxes of spoiled meats and fish. At the rear of the cafe there were three barrels of garbage, all maggots. When I told him to empty it he poured it all right on the ground at the door. Then I arrested him and he was fined \$25 the following morning. Kept him closed all day.

Mexican Chili joint was bad and had to break a lot of dishes and order beds out of the kitchen. People's cafe was not so bad; had a few bad dishes and bad garbage cans. Osage Drug Company was bad; had to close the fountain a few

hours for a cleaning. Wilson rooms had bugs. In fact, things were not so bad as I expected. There is a ravine that runs through the town and the toilets run into it. The store keepers have a habit of throwing trash down in it. This I ordered stopped and ordered five toilets have cans or fly-proof boxes. On Friday morning I went to Hominy and begun work there. Closed Tarkio Cafe, a Chinese joint, the first thing. It was so dirty. No screens and a dirty back alley and yard. Then inspected Carnation Cafe; bad dishes and bad toilet. Kennedy's Cafe, only fair. Broke eighteen dozen dishes in all at these cafes. Hominy Pharmacy, bad fountain; Gates Pharmacy, bad fountain, bugs and dirty syrups; Hominy Hotel, undergoing repairs, not serving meals. Bad streets and ordered four toilets put on sewerage.

Saturday went to Tulsa. Inspected Harmony Cafe, bad dishes, broke three dozen. Al's Cafe, undressed cook, dirty icebox. Coney Island, bad dishes, bad icebox. Newport, fair. Poulas Confectionery, closed for not having screens, Elete Cafe, good.

Monday, July 13: Visited city physician and Dr. Reeder in the morning. In the afternoon went to Sand Springs and did quite a lot of work. Inspected there and returned the following morning (Tuesday). In the two days went over sixteen grocery stores, two meat markets, one bakery, seven cafes, and eight rooming houses. These included negroes also. At the Pursing Rooms eight mattresses were burned. Gideon's Market, a lot of spoiled meat, and closed him until he cleaned up. At Gillett's Grocery, a number of bad sweet potatoes. All alleys were filthy and there seemed to be no regularity whatever about garbage or toilets. Ordered three put on sewerage, Ordered two barns cleaned or closed.

Wednesday: Dr. Presson, Mrs. Roads and myself went to the Independent packing plant, found everything very bad, no screens practically. Two cases of spoiled liver, rotten sausage and no system of incinerating the waste. It was a bad mess. Gave them just half the day to clean up. In the afternoon, we went to West Tulsa, Dr. Presson, city physician, and I, to order boxes installed in toilets and gave general clean-up orders in alleys.

Thursday, 15th: Got wire from Mr. Folan to go to Coweta at once. I left on the 5:20 train Friday morning and met with the Chamber of Commerce. Took a survey of the alleys and told of the need of the bond issue which was to be voted on the following day. Inspected seven cafes and broke in all seven dozen dishes. Six grocery stores, all fairly good. Two meat markets, one, the Sanitary Market, lost its name, as it was the worst ever. Closed it all afternoon and made the meat cutter dress up and shave and clean up generally. Two drug stores, Dean and Dean, had a bad fountain. Had to show them how to clean it. One bakery, it was very Clean. Inspected three "bars".

Two hotels, Hardon rooming house bad, and had to order screens installed and four mattresses burned. In all Coweta is a clean town, with the exception of sewer. There must be someone to go out there and order the toilets fixed and boxes installed.

July 17 (Saturday): Worked in Tulsa. Inspected Frisco Bakery, Southern Cafe, broke 43 dishes. Three waffle houses and found all very good except one. K.C. No. 3, dirty cooks and cockroaches. In the afternoon went out with Dr. Presson to see a dumping ground just outside the city limits and ordered the dump place filled with real dirt.

Monday, July 19: Went to Beggs. First begun a survey of the streets and alleys. Inspected nine cafes. Closed the Liberty all day; dirty, rotten meat, bad screens, serving spoiled chicken. No garbage cans and the worst open toilet ever. Closed the Majestic Cafe also; it was in the same condition as the Liberty. Broke five dozen dishes at the two places. Inspected eight grocery stores, all very fair condition with the exception of two. Closed John J. Evans grocery store. It was dirty and had chicken coop in the rear and the floor full of water. Just closed him up good, also Chester A. Potts. Burned his spoiled meats at his back door and also had a chicken pen in his store, odor dreadful. Had no back screen; everything was so bad closed him also.

Issued an order on Mr. Perry, who owned the ruins of a brick building, that had burned the 5th of July. The old canned goods (it was a grocery store) were smoldering and decaying and the whole town smelled of it. Ordered it cleaned away within five days and he was to begin work the following morning. Later I heard that the work was under way. Inspected the laundry and it had an overflow tank that was running into the street and alley and causing stagnant water to stand in pools. Ordered it fixed at once. Ordered six toilets put on sewerage. Inspected eight rooming houses and at Jake Wilson's burned seven mattresses and fifteen quilts. Two bakeries, they were both clean. In the evening before I left, met with the city council and they wanted me to stay another day. One was enough for me. Closed the Beggs Pharmacy No. 3 fountain, also the Cornette Drug Co. Only they cleaned the fountains.

July 22 (Thursday): Closed the Tulsa City Market and stayed with them all day until 7:30 p.m. Had a real stormy time. The market had had two orders to fix screens and get rid of flies, clean toilet, empty garbage. Flies were so thick the customers complained all the time. I emptied three tubs of rotten melons they were selling at 15c a dozen. Emptied two buckets of soured berries and rotten cabbages by the dozen. There are about 50 places where farmers sell their produce, and the city gets big rent. These people wanted it closed in order to get the place cleaned. In the evening the commissioner of

public property proceeded to tell the police to open before the screens were up, and I called the sheriff and he told them to turn those keys over to me at once and they did; and the market was not opened until I opened it the next day, and it was cleaned; mosquito bars were over the goods, fly paper was in evidence, toilet was cleaned, new garbage cans installed. Then I opened the doors for business.

Saturday, July 24: Went into Oklahoma City. Stayed in until Tuesday. Came back to Tulsa and begun inspecting here Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Inspected the notorious Pig Pen at Dawson, and visited the county attorney and had a talk with him; also Dr. Reeder, and that took the whole day. Thursday, Dr. Presson took me with him to the swimming pool and to the south part of town to see some open toilets. Friday: Went to inspect some call-backs, and some alleys. In the evening I got a wire to go to Bartlesville and left that evening for that town.

Saturday, July 31: Begun work in Bartlesville. Called on mayor, Mr. Cobb, head of the sanitary department. We inspected the special call. A rooming house had inside rooms, and closed it until repaired, cleaned and painted. This place is owned by Mrs. D.B. Clevenger. Inspected Fitts Bakery, dirty. Newport Cafe, fairly good, broke three dozen dishes. Victoria Cafe, broke 30 dishes. Right Away Cafe, dirty and bad dishes. Victoria, emptied spoiled chicken, bad screens. Bartlesville Cafe, closed, very bad, dirty. Closed it and the manager took the sign down. The police and I took him to the police station and arrested him and had the trial there. Fined him \$25. Utopia Cafe, bad, but gave them a few hours to clean. Barlas Bros., bad, closed the fountain, found eleven cockroaches in the syrup dispensers and filthy conditions; stayed with him two hours until he knew how to care for a fountain. Manhattan Cafe, fairly good. Eureka Drug Co., bad fountain, cockroaches in the marshmallow and caramel. This was all the inspection I did, but expect to be sent back.

Attachment II

Notes on Fluoridation Hearing., Tulsa City Commissioners, City Building 4th & Boston January- 6, 1953

Some of the main supporters of the fluoridation program in attendance were: Dr. Fred S. Simms, President of the Tulsa Dental Society, Dr. Yeager and Dr. Max Armstrong., former presidents of the Tulsa Dental Society, Dr. T. Paul Haney, City County Health Department Head, Dr. Frank Bertram, State Department of Health Director of Division of Preventive Dentistry, Dr. Wayne E. White and James M. Godwin, from the Ozark-Mahoning Company of Tulsa.

The spokesmen for the opposition included Mr. Walter J. Madson, President of the Tulsa Organic Farm and Garden Club, Mr. Jos. J. Brankey, a member of the Tulsa Organic Farm and Garden Club, Mr. Wm. L. Wall, representing the Christian Scientists, and Mr. H. C. Arlen

The hearing began at 10:20 AM and Water Commissioner Glenver McConnell read the resolution which had been presented to the City Commissioners in regard to fluoridation of the Tulsa water supply. Some of the statements brought out in the resolution were:

1. The State Department of Health has given approval for the fluoridation of Tulsa water.
2. The following should be carefully checked: (1) Content of fluoride used, (2) Personnel working with fluorides, and (3) A careful check and balance system of the fluorides introduced into the water.
3. Never over 1 to 1.5 ppm to be in the water.
4. The State Department of Health has no doubt that Tulsa's Water Personnel is quite competent to 'add the fluorides to the city water supply.

After Mr. McConnell read the resolution, Mayor Warren suggested that since such a large crowd (approximately 125) had come to the hearing, that the proponents select a spokesman for the group to lead the discussion.

The group asked Dr. Fred E. Simms, President of the Tulsa Dental Society to act as spokesman for them. Dr. Simms agreed, and proceeded to read a short summary of the whole fluoridation question, stating that while we must

respect beliefs and teachings of other groups, the American Medical Association the American Water Works Association, the American Dental Association, and numerous other technical groups feel that fluoridation of public water supplies is a good thing and beneficial to the people. He particularly stressed that we were for controlled fluoridation of the water.

Mr. Walter J. Madson, President of the Tulsa Organic Farm and Garden Club, asked to be allowed to speak in behalf of the opposition to the fluoridation question. The following are statements which he addressed to Dr. Simms:

1. "I am wondering why New York City, a hot-bed for communism has not even proposed fluoridation."
2. "If fluoridation will do what dentists say, will it not put 90% of the dentists out of business?"
3. "If an excessive amount of fluoride is put into the water, is there an antidote?"

Dr. Simms said in answer to number three, "We are speaking of controlled fluoridation. There are any number of communities that have a natural fluoride content in their water far above the 1 ppm we are recommending for Tulsa." He suggested that Dr. W. E. White would be able to answer the question more fully. "Yes, said Dr. White, lime water or alum will prevent poisoning by fluoride."

"How do you explain the increase in heart disease, polio, nephritis, and numerous other dread diseases after Detroit began fluoridating their water supply?" asked Mr. Madson. In answer to this, Dr. T. Paul Haney, who was then in the spokesman's chair, said, "Detroit is not fluoridating their water supply."

Following a burst of laughter from the crowded assembly room, Mr. Madson said that he had meant Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. Madson asked: "What per cent of fluoride do we have in our present water supply?"

Mr. Jewell, of the Tulsa Water Department answered: "Less than 0.05 ppm."

Mr. Madson, who took up a great deal of the morning session with his questioning brought out the statement, "The University of Texas has proved that fluorides help cause cancer."

Dr. Max Armstrong, answered this by reading excerpts from a paper written by Dr. Edward Taylor, Director of Dental Health Dept. of Health, Texas, entitled: FACTS RELATIVE TO RUMORS THAT FLUORIDATION IS HARMFULL, published in the Texas Dental Journal, September, 1951. The paper pointed out errors in the report which first came out as a rumor and stated emphatically that the evidence indicated less cancer rather than more. Dr. Taylor wrote, "Studies of mammary tumor rates in thirteen Texas cities with populations of more than 10,000; divided into three groups with varying amounts of fluorides; based on statistical data from the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics; showed that in the areas with the high fluoride water, the breast cancer rate is lower than in the areas where there is practically no fluoride in the water. From a state bureau of vital statistics records throughout the United States, the average rate of breast cancer is 13-plus per hundred thousand population. For the five New England States where it is generally known that there is practically no fluoride in the water supplies, the rate is 17-plus per hundred thousand population; while for Texas, where it is generally known that there is more fluoride in the water supplies, the rate of breast cancer is only 7.3. Doctors Tannenbaum and Silverstone of the University of Chicago, made a study a little more than a year ago on the relationship of fluorides And breast cancer on C3H,Mice., and found that the breast cancer rate was lower in the mice consuming fluorides than in the group that were on fluoride-free water. After outside scientific investigation, it was found that Doctor Alfred Taylor was using sodium fluoride as F., apparently assuming that it was 100% fluoride (actually NaF is only 44% fluoride) so that the mice supposedly consuming one part per million fluoride were actually getting only 44 one hundredths of a part per million fluoride. It was further found that he was feeding the mice a dog chow for their exclusive diet which, when analyzed, proved to contain 42 parts per million fluoride. In the study, the results of 0.44 ppm F in one group and 4.4 ppm F in another group, were found to be the same."

In order to get an explanation, Mr. McConnell asked the question "Just what are inorganic and organic chemicals?", especially when talking with Christian Scientists or members of the Tulsa Farm and Garden Club.

"What age group will benefit from the addition of fluorides?", asked Mr. Walter J. Madson.

"The younger People, mostly from birth to about fifteen years old. Most of the benefits received are obtained during the formation of enamel of the teeth , and the purpose of the fluoride is a more resistant enamel to be produced and that is produced early in life.", answered Dr. Frank Bertram.

The Mayor interrupted the discussion to ask Mr. Madson, "Just what group do you represent?"

Madson answered, "I am here only in the interest of health."

Mr. William L. Wall, representative of the Christian Scientist group who had heretofore been silent, asked "Can fluoride be removed from the water by boiling?"

Dr. Bertram answered, "No."

Dr. LaLibre, a Tulsa chiropractor, asked,, "Would it be possible to use the fluorides taken from the air and earth instead of taking them from the laboratory?"

"It would be possible, maybe, but too impractical said Dr. Bertram.

The Mayor asked if fluoride in the water would affect the taste and if not, what concentration would be detectable, Dr, Bertram said 100 ppm would probably be necessary before anyone could detect the fluoride in the water.

Mayor Warren then began a series of questions to Dr. Bertram relative to the type of fluoride feeder he would recommend for the Tulsa system.

Dr. Bertram said the State Health Department, Dental Section has approved fluoridation, and added that the Tulsa installation for putting the fluorides into the water has been approved by department engineers.

At this point of the discussion, the first woman to take any verbal part in the session came forward with the question, "Just what engineers are you talking about?" "I don't have much faith in just any engineers!" This was Mrs. C.E. Baldwin of Tulsa.

Dr. Bertram answered her question by stating that Mr. Lindsey of the State Department of Health was in charge of the Tulsa district and that he was a very capable young man.

The hearing was adjourned at 11:55 AM for lunch and resumed at 1:30 PM.

Immediately after the meeting was called to order by the Mayor, the opponents were given the floor. Mr. Wall again rose and stated that his and the Christian Scientists only objection to the issue, was that they felt it was an infringement on the constitutional rights of American people to worship as they pleased, and to select the type of medication which they desired.

Mr. Joe Brankey, a member of the Farm and Garden group opposed the fluoridation of Tulsa water, he said because all of the facts are not in, and the plan should be studied further before any action is taken. Mr. Brankey read several paragraphs from the Congressional Record for March 24, 1952 pp. A1899-1901. This is an address by A.L. Miller, Nebraska member of the House of Representatives wherein Representative Miller describes his reversal in opinion on fluoridation because of adverse findings by the Delaney Committee on Chemicals in Food. Mr. Brankey stressed "go slow", feel your way, there is no need for hurrying on this project.

A Mr. Q. C. Arlen took the floor after Mr. Brankoy completed his discussion and read from Dr. Ralph F. Martin's column in the Tulsa Daily-World for April 30, 1952, wherein he reports the suggestion by Dr. Gunnar Santesson (of also Chem. & Eng. News, April 21, 1952) that fluoride be added to table salt.

A question was asked regarding legality of fluoridation and liability of the city in case of claims of injury from the fluoride. Mayor Warren called on City Attorney Widdows who replied that there had been three court cases and each had been decided in favor of the city in having the right to treat water by adding fluoride. Damage-claims would be based on establishing negligence in control and operation.

The Mayor gave some opportunity to the proponents to question the speakers for the other side, but few questions were raised, possibly because of the wide range of arguments and a feeling that questions alone would be futile. The Mayor ended the hearing at 2:55 PM after a motion was made by Police and Fire Commissioner, Jay Jones to postpone the matter indefinitely. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Transcribed January 9, 1952 by June L. Morrison, secretary to Dr. Wayne E. White.