

# Requested Health Funds Would Provide Nurse For 2 Counties

## Doctor Says New Nurse Could Serve Macon-Jackson

Passage of an appropriations request by the General Assembly to provide additional funds for health departments in the state's 100 counties will pave the way for the employment of a nurse to divide her time between Jackson and Macon.

Dr. Guy V. Gooding, health officer for the Macon-Jackson-Swain district, this week estimated that Macon County alone stands to receive \$2,465 from the requested appropriation of \$468,000. This amount, coupled with Jackson's, would provide for the extra nurse and also some salary boosts for other employes of the district, he said.

### Clearing Out

Meanwhile, as the scene shifts to Raleigh and the anticipated generosity of the lawmakers, staff members of the Macon County Department of Public Health are clearing out the last reminders of 1956. The department's annual report was scheduled to go into the mails this week.

### Marked Advances

Now behind them is a year of marked advances in public health fields. Under its program, the health center administered 5,289 anti-polio shots during 1956; supervised 31 tuberculosis cases and 227 tubercular contacts; held monthly general clinics and several specialized ones; and supervised the general health conditions of the county, ranging from an expanded program of health education in the schools to milk control in dairies.

### Great Advance

Probably the greatest single advance was providing chest X-ray service to all foodhandlers, tubercular cases, and tubercular contacts, according to Mrs. Frank Shope, senior public health nurse. The health center's X-ray machine, which was installed in late 1955, is used exclusively for the detection of tuberculosis. A charge of \$2 is made for the service to foodhandlers. Cost of handling indigent patients suspected of having tuberculosis and providing the X-ray service to all school children is borne by the state tuberculosis association.

### 9 New Cases

Of the 31 TB cases on file at the health center, nine were new in 1956 and the rest were hold-overs from prior years, the nurse explained this week. Eleven of the cases were classed as "active", with eight of the patients hospitalized in sanatoriums and three

under treatment at their homes.

### Are Supervised

Mrs. Shope said each of the 227 tubercular contacts — those who have been in contact with known "active" cases—in Macon County are kept under constant supervision and report at intervals to the health center for either X-rays or skin tests.

As an example of how each active tubercular case is kept in check by the health department, the nurse said 58 new contacts were put on file along with the nine new tuberculars discovered during the year.

### 368 Tested

A total of 449 X-rays were made at the center under the tuberculosis detection program. Also, 368 persons were given tuberculin tests, with 15 showing up as "positive" and 353 as "negative". Foremost among the basic functions of the health center are special clinics for the public.

### General Clinic

A general clinic is held every Thursday from 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m., with the district health officer in charge.

Held in conjunction with the general clinic is an X-ray clinic, with hours of 9 a. m. to noon.

A general clinic also is held by the staff of the health center the first Wednesday of each month in Highlands at the high school. Hours are 1 to 3:30 p. m.

Nantahala has its general clinic the second Wednesday of each month at Nantahala School. Hours also are 1 to 3:30.

### Baby Clinic

Dr. R. D. Daniels, Sylva pediatrician, conducts a well baby clinic for the three-county district every third Wednesday in the month at C. J. Harris Community Hospital.

As of the first of the year, Macon County had 22 "regulars" among the young set attending this special clinic. This number



**POLIO SHOTS** have been an important part of the health center's program in the past year. Here Mrs. Frank Shope, senior public health nurse, is giving a booster to Lavaunda Miller, 11, a fifth grader at Cullasaja School.

represented 75 visits to Sylva for treatment during 1956.

Also as a district service, an orthopedic clinic is held every third Saturday at the Bryson City Health Center beginning at 9 a. m. for the treatment of patients from Macon, Jackson, and Swain. Mrs. Shope represents the local department at the clinic.

### Cancer Clinic

Of major importance also is the operation of a cancer detection clinic (for the six western counties) every Friday at C. J. Harris Community Hospital, beginning at 9 a. m.

Participation so far from Macon County has been "very low" in the district's newest clinic for heart cases, according to Dr. Gooding. He attributes this, however, almost entirely to the newness of the clinic which opened in December and which is held every second and fourth Friday at the Sylva health department.

### Heart Cases

Sponsored by heart associations on local and state levels and by the N. C. Department of Public Health, the new clinic is set up primarily to detect rheumatic and other heart conditions in both children and adults.

Dr. Gooding said medicine is furnished free for indigent patients. Those who can afford to pay are referred to private physicians for treatment, he added.

### School Work

Health supervision of infants, pre-schoolers, and school children is another important function of the health department. Its "potential" population (estimated) of those one to four years of age is 1,685; five to 17 years, 4,808; and 18 to 20 years, 636.

During '56, Mrs. Shope reports that 23 new infants less than a month old received nurse supervision from the department outside of regular child health conferences.

"Parents just dropped into the center with most of them," she explained.

One hundred and twenty new babies over a month old also "were taken in" and the nurse made 193 visits outside of regular conferences.

### Cripple Aid

Eighty-six cases are in the health center's file under service to cripple children. About half of these are polio victims, the nurse said, and 49 of them regularly attended the Bryson City orthopedic clinic during the year. Four of the cases involved children under a year old. The nurse

made 194 visits in connection with this service.

### Visits Schools

Under the heading of "school sanitation", Sanitarian H. T. Collins made 73 visits to the county's 11 schools during 1956 to inspect facilities.

In inspecting water and sewer setups, he approved 74 water installations, 87 sanitary privies, 52 septic tanks, 30 sewer connections, and 25 water connections.

On private premises, he made 111 visits in connection with water supply and 122 in regard to sewage disposal.

Mr. Collins investigated 187 sanitary complaints over the county and reports he secured 184 corrections.

In grading and inspecting, the sanitarian made 72 visits to three slaughter houses; 250 visits to the county's 22 restaurants and cafes; 65 visits to the frozen food concern in Franklin; 49 to the county's three hospitals; 44 to the 10 hotels; 76 to the 12 tourist courts in operation; 18 to two tourist homes; 86 to two meat markets; and 65 to the school system's nine lunchrooms.

Visits in the interest of milk control totaled 272 at seven producer dairies.

### Inspects Pool

Mr. Collins also made five inspections of the swimming pool at the golf course during the season.

Laboratory services also are available through the health center, although specimens must be sent away for analysis.

The annual report shows the center processed 91 water examinations; 334 for milk; 427 for blood; 39 for parasites; and 21 tuberculosis cultures.

### 3 Full-Time

Macon's health center is staffed with three full-time employes, Mrs. Shope, the public health nurse; Mr. Collins, the sanitarian; and a clerk, Mrs. Alice Buchanan, who is now on leave of absence.

The district health officer, Dr. Gooding, divides his time equally between Macon, Jackson, and Swain.

### Plans Services

In general terms, the health officer is the administrative head of the local health department and plans its services. In Dr. Gooding's case, he also functions as an X-ray technician. Under the law, the health officer is charged with seeing that all first graders receive physical examinations and that children referred to the department by teachers receive the necessary attention.

### Duties Many

Briefly, although her duties are many and varied, the public health nurse has the responsibility of carrying out the public health nursing services in homes, schools, and clinics.

The sanitarian has the job of overseeing all sanitary functions within the county, including dairies, eating establishments, and private and public dwellings.

### Is 'Hostess'

"Hostess" of the health center is the clerk, who also serves as deputy registrar of vital statistics and general filing clerk for the center and its services.

Locally, the health and education programs of the health center are done cooperatively with the following organizations and agencies: Lions Club, P.-T.A.'s, home demonstration, county agent, American Red Cross, board of education, tuberculosis association, Rotary Club, heart association, cancer society, polio chapter, League for Crippled Children, and Asheville Mental Hygiene Clinic.

Macon's health center is located on Riverview Street, across from Angel Hospital. It was opened in Nov. 1954, and was financed with local and state funds totaling \$29,181.25.



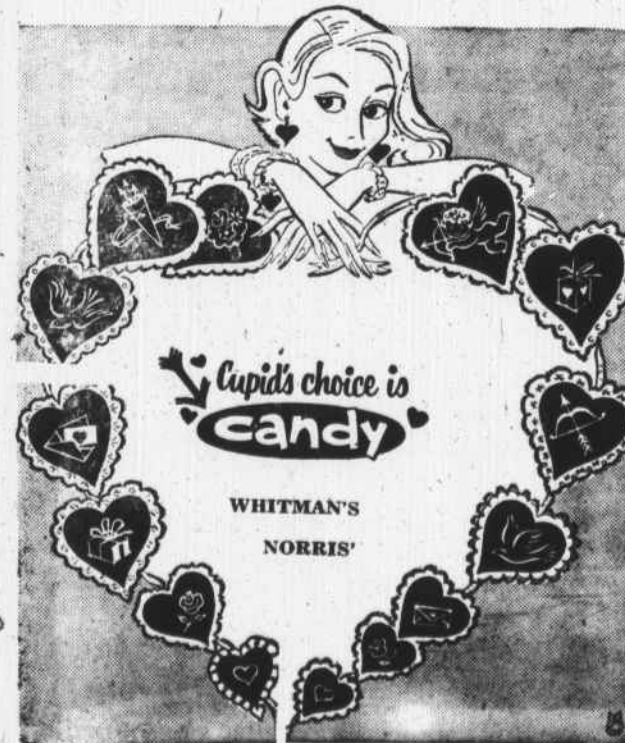
**MEETING THE PUBLIC** is another service performed by the health center. Sanitarian H. T. Collins (left) is shown talking about his work with members of R. A. Byrd's eighth grade at Union School. The Union students also visited the local creamery the same day as part of a work unit.

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