

HEALTH IS WHERE YOU LIVE

By K. J. Eyer, Sanitarian
Where is public health and by whom is it administered? To whom are its benefits available? Public health is right where you are and it is administered by your local health officer and his staff. Its benefits are available to you and to the members of your family, whether you are a white man, a Negro, an Indian, or a member of some other race. These benefits are yours, regardless of your educational qualifications, or how much money you have or are capable of earning, or what your religious affiliations happen to be, or what boat your ancestors came to America on.

You are a part of public health, and, as such, you are entitled to all that it has to offer. The only question is: Are you acquainted with these benefits, and are you willing to accept them, for your own protection and the mass protection of the community in which you live?

Let us consider, briefly, the services to you that you have a right to expect of your local health department: Your local health department is charged with the responsibility of communicable disease control, including epidemiological and immunization service, for your protection against preventable illnesses, including diphtheria, smallpox, whooping cough and other maladies for which preventives have been developed. In this important undertaking, however, it is necessary that your health department have your support, to make its program of prevention successful. Another duty of your local health department is to exercise venereal disease control, by proper investigations and the promotion of serological tests.

X-ray service is available and certainly should not be overlooked.

You hear much these days about vital statistics, including the registration of births and deaths. Responsibility for the thoroughness of this service to the people rests with your local health department, plus your cooperation.

Sanitation is another important public health function, and this includes, among many other things, adequate inspection and grading of public eating places that you patronize. It also includes the inspection of milk, which is the most important food consumed by the human race, from the cradle to the grave.

The local health department—which is a part of you and your community set up—is charged with many other responsibilities, including protection and promotion of health of school children, maternal and child hygiene, oral hygiene and other services, to which you are entitled—health education and general health promotion.

Where is public health? You ask. Is it in Washington? Is it in Raleigh? Yes, in a measure, because it ties in very vitally with the United States Public Health Service and the State Board of Health. In North Carolina—as in other States—the State Health Department is the reserve center for ideas, financial support, educational and technical information, but its ultimate application is in the county, the neighborhood, in which you live and work.

Traffic Violators Major Factor In Highway Deaths

Traffic violations were involved in 217 and 311 fatal accidents which occurred in North Carolina during the first half of 1949, the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles has reported. Speeding, as usual, topped the list.

A total of 365 persons were killed during the period as compared with 308 during the first six months of 1948, an increase of 19 percent. Injuries numbered 4,157 in comparison with 3,312 in 1948. Accidents were on the increase, with 8,855 reported for the first six months of this year and 7,154 last year. Pedestrian deaths took a four percent downward turn, with 76 fatalities reported this year and 79 last year.

Collision between motor vehicles accounted for 127 deaths as compared with 99 in the six-month period last year, a 28 per cent increase. Sixteen persons were killed in train-motor vehicle accidents, a 129 per cent increase over the seven killed last year. Animal-drawn-motor vehicle collisions accounted for no fatalities this year but seven were killed last year. Bicycle deaths remained the same—16 during the first six months of each year.

Drivers in violation of the law numbered 8,324 and 10,873 violations were indicated. Speeders totaled 2,143, with 127 in violation in fatal crashes, with 104 exceeding the speed limit and 23 exceeding a safe speed. A total of 1,720 were charged with driving on the wrong side of the road, not in passing. These drivers caused 74 fatal accidents. Drivers who did not have the right of way numbered 1,662 and were responsible for 25 fatal accidents. A total of 653 drivers were charged with driving intoxicated and caused 31 fatal accidents.

Of the State's total accidents, 3,494 occurred in cities and towns, with 69 persons killed and 917 injured, as compared with 2,897 accidents with 60 persons killed and 822 injured for the same period in 1948.

Accidents in rural areas numbered 5,361 with 296 persons killed and 3,240 injured, as compared with 4,257 accidents with 248 persons killed and 2,490 injured. Wake County still was leading all other counties in fatalities with 17 for the first six months of the year. Robeson was next with 16; Guilford had 14, Sampson, 13, Mecklenburg and Brunswick, 12, and Durham 11.

We Was

Judge—Who was driving when you hit that car?

Marine (triumphantly, about three sheets in the wind)—None of us, judge. We was all sitting in the back seat!

Income Payments In North Carolina On Increase In 1948

Income payments to individuals in 1948 were of record dollar volume in nearly every state of the Union, according to a release of the office of Business Economics of the U. S. Department.

North Carolina's income payments in 1948 amounted to \$3,531,000,000 as compared to \$3,314,000,000 in 1947

and \$3,037,000,000 in 1946. The 1948 figure for North Carolina indicated an increase of 7 per cent.

North Carolina's per capita income for 1948 was \$930, as compared with \$896 for 1947.

On a nation-wide basis, incomes received by individuals increased 9 per cent from 1947 to 1948, reaching a total of \$206 billion, according to an article in the August issue of the "Survey of Current Business." Per capita income payments, at \$1,410 in 1948, were 7 per cent above the 1947 average of \$1,319.

Income payments represent the current income received by individuals from all sources and comprise wages and salaries, the net income of un-

incorporated businesses including farms dividends, interest, net rents, and such other items as social insurance benefits, relief, and veterans' pensions and benefits.

Vets' Question Box

Q—May I borrow money from a bank or lending agency and use my Government insurance policy as security?

A—No.

Q—My brother is in a VA hospital. In case of his death, will Veterans Administration arrange to have re-

ligious services performed according to his faith?

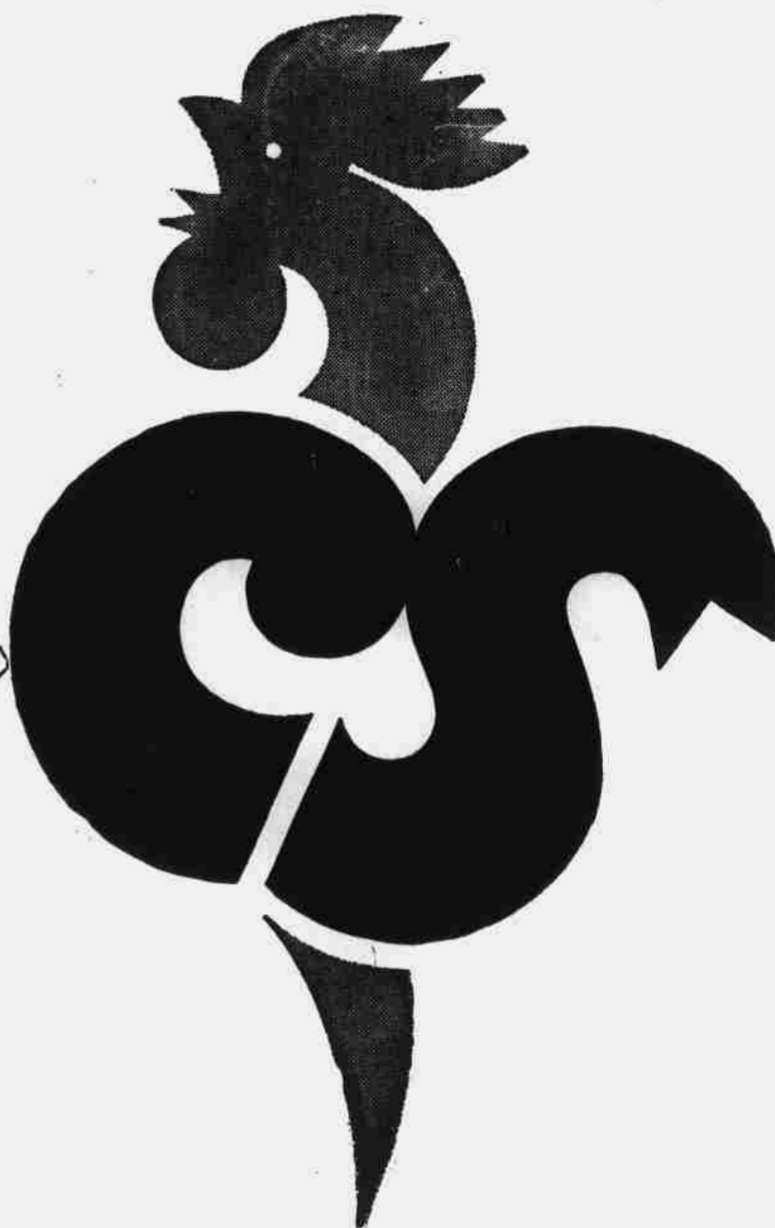
A—Yes, if contract burial services are furnished.

Q—May the loan privilege be exercised on converted National Service Life Insurance while the insurance is in a premium waiver status?

A—Yes.

Q—What effect has a bad conduct discharge on burial allowance of my husband?

A—There is no allowance in his case, since the legal requirement for the type of separation from service is not met.



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