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ANNUAL REPORT 1965

MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH · MOBILE, ALABAMA

MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

ROBERT O. HARRIS, III, M.D., CHAIRMAN
JOHN W. DONALD, M.D. THOMAS D. DAVIS, M.D. HENRY M. GEWIN, M.D. ROBERT T. KING, M.D

MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

EDWARD F. CRIPPEN, M.D., M.P.H.
HEALTH OFFICER
248 COX STREET, P. O. BOX 4533, PHONE 432-1631
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36604

Local government has certain responsibilities to the people. These are the things for which we pay taxes. They are protection from fire by the fire department, protection from assault and robbery by the police, and protection from disease by the public health department.

Fortunately most of us fire proof our own homes, buy locks for our doors and provide our own medical care. There are a few however who don't and the flames of their fire or diseases or crime can from time to time threaten the whole community.

When the time comes that there is no disease and no crime, then there will be no need for government.

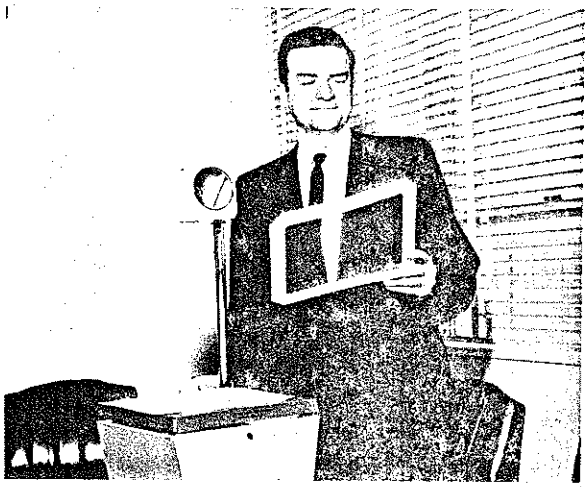
The Medical Society of Mobile in 1841 was charged with the responsibility of protecting the citizens of Mobile from disease and pestilence.

To carry out this responsibility, the Board of Health was formed. This Board, today, still carries out its responsibilities to the people of Mobile. In order to do this, the support of Public Health by the taxation bodies is needed; just as it is needed for the other protectors of the community.

Cordially,

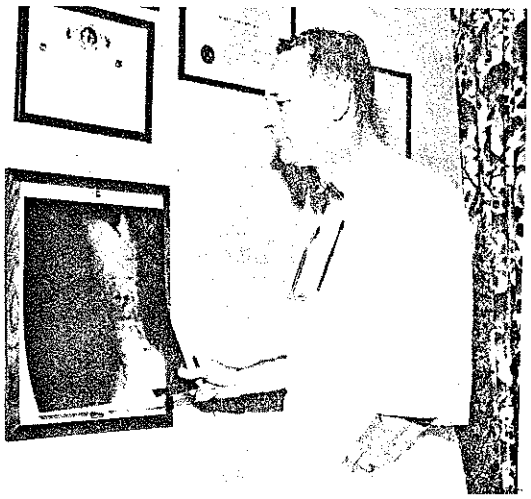
Edward F. Crippen M.D.

Edward F. Crippen, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer
Mobile County Health Department

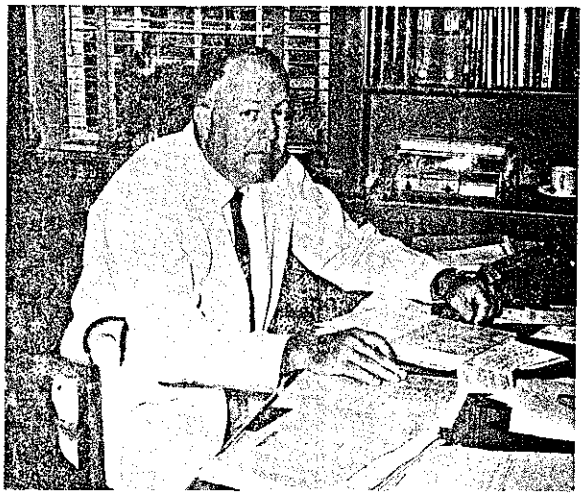


Wm. T. Wright, M.D., Chairman

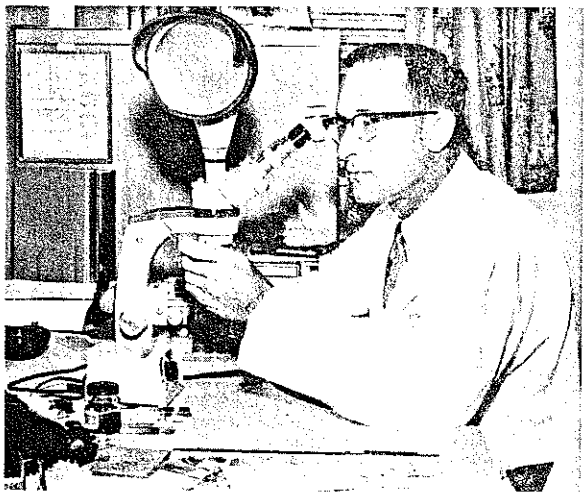
Leroy Stevens, President
Mobile County Commission



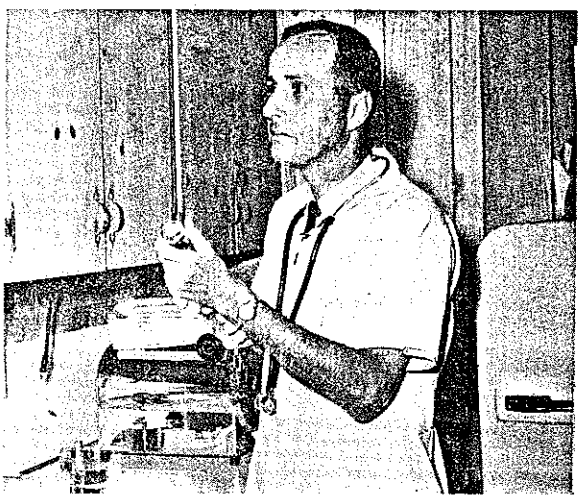
Robt. T. King, M.D.



Henry M. Gewin, M.D.



Thos. D. Davis, M.D.



Robt. O. Harris, M.D.

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

D. Barlow
L. Barlow
H. Bethea
P. Buchanan
L. Clark
M. Clark, D.V.M.
L. Cochran
D. Downing
C. Etheredge
J. Fibbe
H. Hays
J. Henderson
B. Howell
A. Martin
W. Mason
C. McCrory
L. McMillan (Ret.)
W. Mims
C. Moses
J. Nettles, D.V.M. (dec.)
J. Poole
F. Renshaw
F. Roberts
B. Sims
T. Sims
C. Stanley
B. Stewart

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

J. Burkart
L. Carsons
C. Cooper
M. Crawford
J. Dawsey
S. Dawsey
C. Demetropolis, Registrar
M. Gartman, P.H.N.
P. Hare
E. Harris
L. Horn
D. Jockisch
T. Kotis
S. Lyster
B. Maxey
J. Minchew
C. Montee
D. Palmer
J. Pope
W. Prine
D. Ridings
V. Shamp
A. Thomas
E. Vance

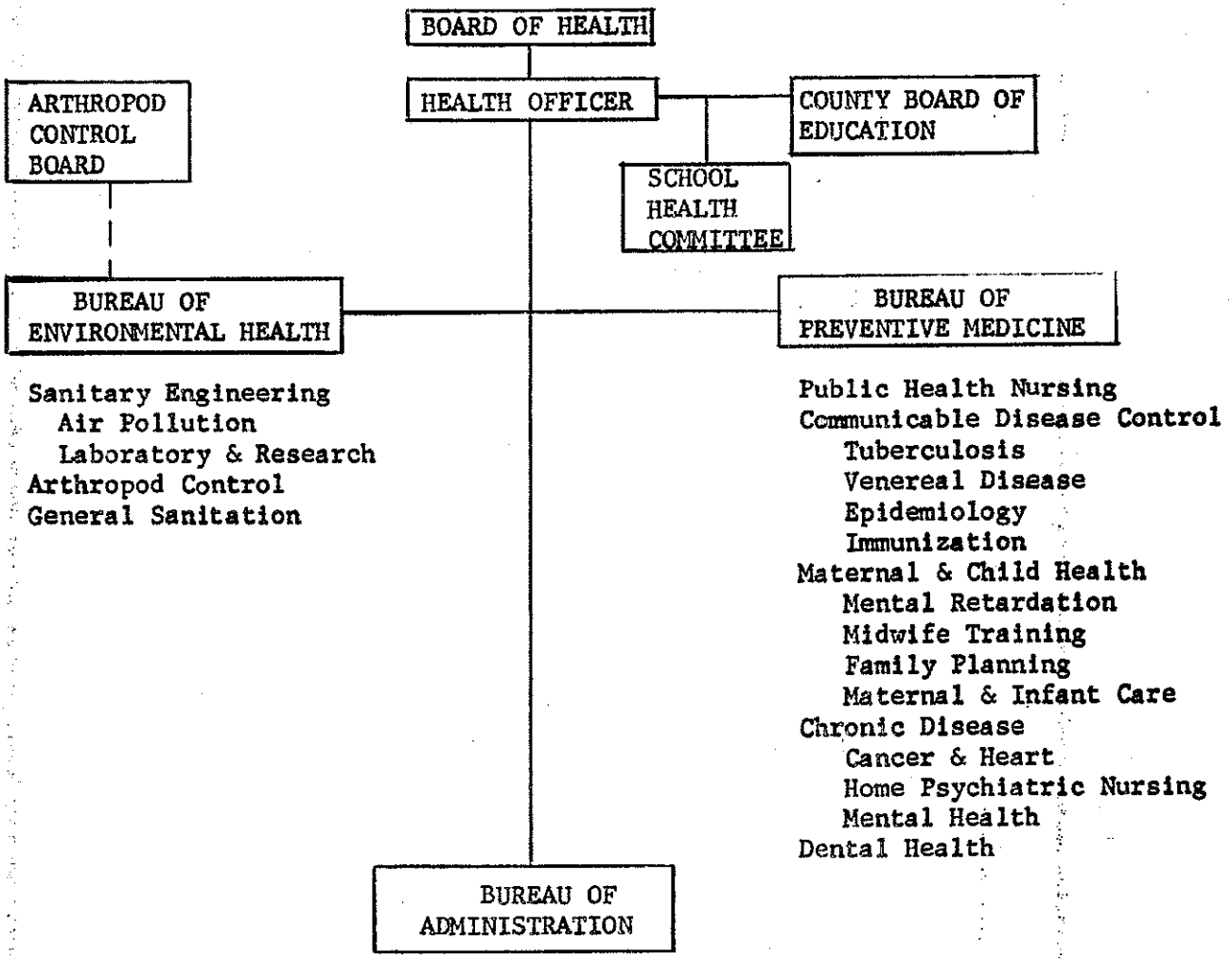
BUREAU OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

C. Archer
D. Arnold
T. Babington
M. Banks, P.H.N.
J. Bass
C. Boston, P.H.N.
C. Broadus
R. Cate
W. Copeland
E. Geist
U. Giglio, P.H.N.
M. Goodloe
L. Hawkins, P.H.N.
N. Henderson, P.H.N.
G. Hendricks, P.H.N.
E. Hobbs, P.H.N.
J. Huddleston, P.H.N.
J. Inge, P.H.N.
B. Jackson
J. Jackson
S. Keeley, P.H.N.
R. Lester, M.D.
Y. Lovelace
E. Maitre
O. Mallon, P.H.N.
L. Moe, P.H.N.
M. Owen, P.H.N.
V. Rabuzzi, P.H.N.
D. Rockwell, M.D.
G. Schenher, P.H.N.
D. Steadham, D.V.M.
S. Stephens, M.D.
E. Stolp, R.N.
R. Tarleton
B. Thompson
A. Worthy, P.H.N.

ARTHROPOD CONTROL BOARD (ACTING)

Mayor V. O. Capps, Mobile County Municipality Association
Edward F. Crippen, M.D., Chairman
Mr. Joe Delcambre, Mobile County Wildlife & Conservation Association
Mr. Julius E. Marx, Chamber of Commerce
Mr. James E. Moore, Mobile County Commission
Honorable Commissioner Arthur Outlaw, City Commission
Mr. John C. Ramsey, County Extension Division
Mr. Chester H. Stanley, Director

MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Sanitary Engineering
- Air Pollution
- Laboratory & Research

Arthropod Control
General Sanitation

Public Health Nursing
Communicable Disease Control
- Tuberculosis
- Venereal Disease
- Epidemiology
- Immunization

Maternal & Child Health
- Mental Retardation
- Midwife Training
- Family Planning
- Maternal & Infant Care

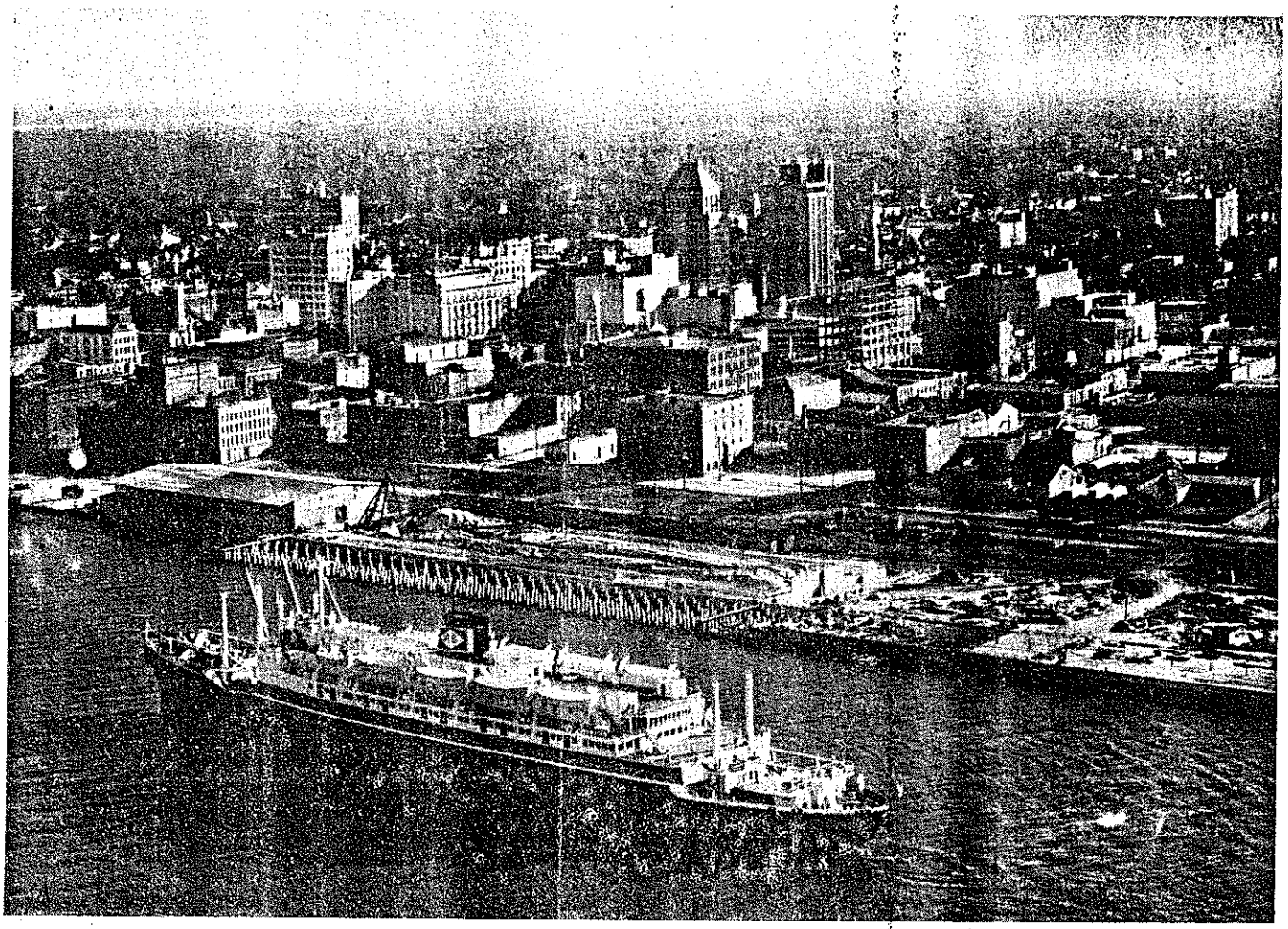
Chronic Disease
- Cancer & Heart
- Home Psychiatric Nursing
- Mental Health

Dental Health

Vital Statistics & Records
Community Health Centers (Satellites)
Health Education
- Library & Visual Aids
- School Health

Research
- Accident Prevention
- Disaster Planning

Budgeting and Accounting
Office of Management
- Maintenance



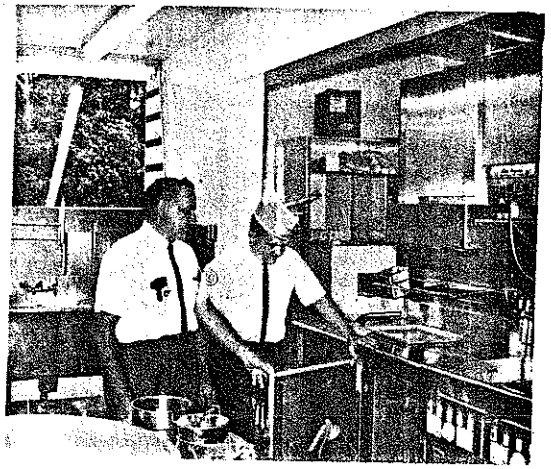
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The prime objective of the Bureau of Environmental Health in 1965 was to increase and improve services vital to the overall Public Health in Mobile County. Accomplishment of this goal required initiation of new programs, in-service classes, more direct supervision of Community Health Specialists in the field and a closer working relationship between the Health Department and municipal governments. So that the Sanitarians would not be confused with garbage collectors, they were given the title, "Community Health Specialist", it is more in line with what they are and their duties. In the interests of providing a better understanding of Public Health activities in the area, as well as furnishing assistance and consultation, personnel attended nearly all scheduled Council, Commission and Board meetings.

In order to serve the public better, Community Health Specialists in the Sanitation Division have been assigned a district which coincides with census tract boundaries. This reorganization was designed to place a team, consisting of a Public Health Nurse and a Community Health Specialist, in each census tract. Most Public Health problems in that area would be handled by them, with consultation and assistance from other staff personnel as required.

We were fortunate in obtaining the services of specially trained personnel to fill vacancies in old positions and in newly created phases of Public Health work. A new program for Air Pollution Control was established June 1, 1965. In addition the position of Public Health Veterinarian and Director of the Bureau of Environmental Health was filled. Many activities, such as the following, kept this Bureau fully occupied.

In-service and special training courses for bureau personnel were initiated. Classes were designed to give employees a more complete picture of Public Health, so they might in turn serve the public better. Some employees were sent to special courses in air pollution and arthropod control in Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. These courses were sponsored by the United States Public Health Service, Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Georgia.



Inspections of the food industry averaged about 750 per month. A total of 1179 food and drink establishments in the County required 9,017 visits in 1965. Food poisoning incidents were at a low ebb during this year. Reports and complaints were promptly investigated. This possibly kept down outbreaks which might have run rampant in the County.

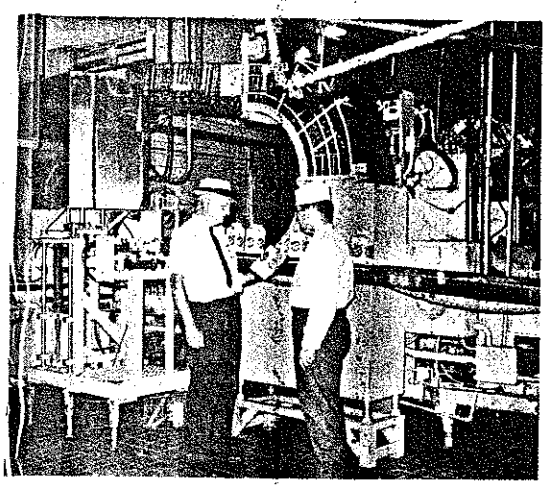
Inspection for your protection!

A Satellite Health Center for South Mobile was dedicated November 15, 1965. It is conveniently located in the Thomas James Housing Project at 1513 Raven Drive and is part of a long range plan to bring health services closer to the people. A Community Health Specialist is assigned and assists in all environmental health problems in this district.

A closer relationship and lines of communication have been established between Community Health Specialists and School Administrators. Increased activity in the inspection of the 137 schools in Mobile County resulted in some phases of inspection being put on a monthly, rather than annual basis.

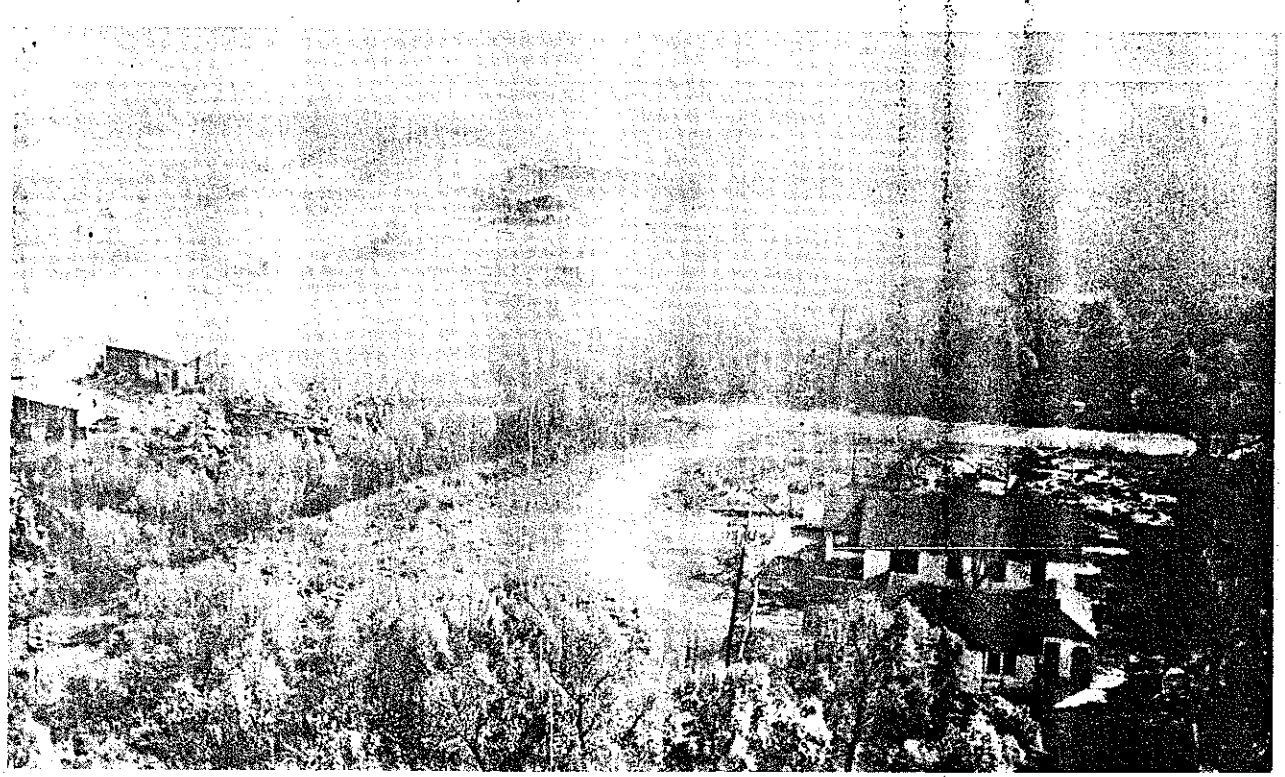
Sanitation standards in new trailer parks were increased and tightened. Due to the popularity of mobile home living, people are demanding better accommodations; this approach will tend to make all parts comply to the demands of the populace. Plans are in the making for new trailer park regulations.

At the end of 1965, Mobile County milk shed consisted of 55 wholesale dairy producers. All dairies were Grade A and most were of modern design and had the latest equipment. A total of 1,300 inspections were made that year. There were two retail raw dairies and two pasteurization plants which required regular inspection. Samples of milk were obtained for laboratory tests and to insure proper handling.

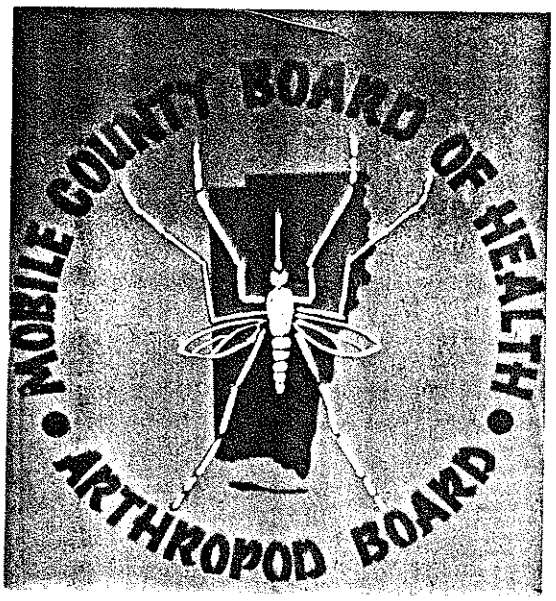


Arthropods include all jointed animals; however the Arthropod Division deals primarily with the control of rodents and mosquitoes. Besides the numerous complaints of rodent infestation in business and private areas which were investigated, a special study was made of the rodent problem at the Alabama State Docks. The survey resulted in a program of better control initiated by dock personnel with advice from our specialists.

Perhaps the most shocking event of the year was the Mobile City Dump! Investigation of a complaint of rats revealed that this 41 year old dump harbors rats, infected dogs, over 50 desolate people and was a reservior of disease. The problem is further compounded by the present methods used for garbage disposal. Dumping has contributed to water p pollution and burning rubbish adds to the present air pollution problem and its stench permeates the city. A program to rid the City of this scourge and to support the new garbage disposal (compost plant) was initiated. Efforts are being made to retrieve the surrounding neighborhoods from this continuing health hazard.



This festering sore in Mobile!



ARTHROPOD CONTROL BOARD SEAL

From June 1, 1965, to the present, the Board of Health carried out a Countywide mosquito survey program. The survey revealed that Dauphin Island was rearing most of their own mosquito population----hardly a welcomed guest at a beach party! In addition the State Legislature enacted a law forming an Arthropod Control Board under the Board of Health, Act #1256. Arthropod Control, which includes flies, rats, and mosquitoes, presents a great challenge to the Health Department. Extensive plans were made for an exacting program to be conducted in the most affected areas. The Aedes Aegypti Branch of the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta carried out a survey of the Aedes Aegypti breeding spots in Mobile in the summer, 1965. Results show that this kind of mosquito is present in several urban areas of the County.

The Engineering Division carries the responsibility of maintaining general supervision over the operation of private sewage treatment facilities, water supplies, air and water pollution control, swimming pools and related activities. The work involved has been hampered during this and past years by lack of a Public Health engineer. Along with routine engineering services, some progress was made in air pollution and greatly needed swimming pool regulations.

A special study of regulations concerning swimming pools in Mobile County was initiated and extensive work was done by assigned personnel. These regulations, now awaiting State Action, calls for long needed supervision of both public swimming pools and bathing areas.

An Air Pollution Project was applied for and obtained, effective June 1, 1965, with the County and all local communities contributing a total of $7,357.00. The Federal Government furnished $22,071.00 for the first year. A chemist and clerk were employed to work in this program with a Community Health Specialist. Each municipality in the county contributed its share of the $7,357.00 needed for the air pollution support at the local level.

An extensive survey was made of the Dog River area during the summer of 1965, related to an outbreak of infectious hepatitis in that area. A house-to-house study was made of general sanitation conditions and a special effort was made to locate possible sewage waste overflow. When unsanitary conditions were found, action was quickly taken to prevent further contamination of these recreational and residential waters.

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

As time marches on, each passing year adds new dimensions to the field of community health. During the past year, the Mobile County Health Department has expanded its services to include an immunization program, an air pollution program and a Board for arthropod control has been appointed.

In addition the staff of the Health Department has been expanded by the addition of a Director of Environmental Health, a Health Educator, two Administrative Assistants, and a Basic Scientist. With the valuable assistance of the Mobile General Hospital, an important project is in the planning stage in the field of Maternal and Child Health for the prevention of mental retardation.

The place of the local health department in the community is also beginning to be realized. Shortage of personnel and finances have always been, and are, a deterrent to this phase of local public health services. During the past year a great deal of planning has been done in the development of projects which will meet the needs of Mobile County.

The support of any public agency ordinarily comes from the people through tax sources. The support for the Board of Health in this area comes from local, State and Federal funds. The accompanying tables will give some idea about the receipt and expenditure of funds by the Mobile County Board of Health during the Fiscal year 1964-1965.

We began the year with 55 employees and a new health officer. We greeted 1966 with 67 employees. In the interim, we had two deaths on our staff, Dr. John Nettles and nurse, Mrs. Sara Brady. Two other members resigned or retired and 16 were employed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OCTOBER 1, 1964 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1965

REVENUE

City of Mobile		$ 132,580.00
City of Prichard		11,247.63
County of Mobile		111,847.86
Air Pollution Project:		
Chickasaw	$ 105.00	
Saraland	47.25	
Satsuma	15.91	
Mt. Vernon	11.55	
Citronelle	23.10	
Bayou La Batre	26.25	
City of Mobile	2,935.45	
County of Mobile	3,725.00	
Prichard	514.50	
Federal Government	11,035.50	
		18,439.51
Vital Statistics		9,139.70
Project Headstart		7,089.77
Immunization Control Project		2,541.33
Rents, Refunds, Transfers, & Misc.		1,423.46
Slaughter Houses		466.80
TOTAL		$ 294,776.06

This is 83 cents per capita based on Mobile County's estimated population as of January 1, 1965 of 354,150. The need for increased funds becomes more apparent with the increased demands for Public Health services and the higher cost of living.

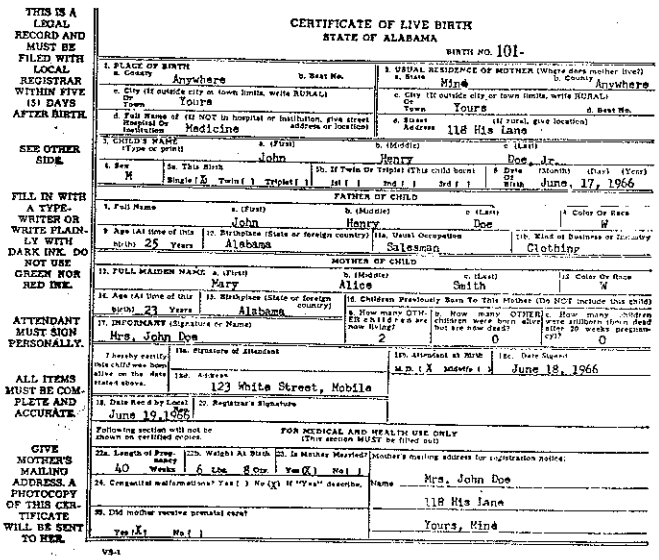
The American Public Health Association recommends over $3.00 per capita. Jefferson County, Alabama citizens have $3.56 spent on them for public health services each year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OCTOBER 1, 1964 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1965

Expenditures		
Salaries	$ 216,785.47	
Social Security	7,454.47	
Retirement & Pensions	7,828.73	
Employers Insurance Contribution	2,496.69	
Total Salaries and Fringe Benefits		$ 234,565.36
Travel and Mileage	22,052.05	
Operating Supplies and Equipment	8,290.57	
Building and Grounds Improvements	2,207.26	
Clinicians and Other Fees	4,295.50	
Immunization Project	3,151.98	
Utilities	10,208.64	
Project Headstart	3,766.52	
Insurance, Bonds, Miscellaneous Costs	988.31	
Petty Cash Disbursement	50.00	
		$ 55,010.83
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 289,576.19
Revenue Exceed Expenditures	5,199.87	
Plus Cash Balance Brought Forward	50,648.94	
Balance for operations 9/30/65		$ 55,848.81

Records and Vital Statistics Division records vital events like births and deaths. These are compiled along with reportable diseases and sent to the Health Officer in order for him to evaluate the health programs, analyze the material for threatening health problems, and to plan for future health needs.

In 1965, this unit was made a Division. Provision was made for a full time Director of the Division and an additional Clerk II. A new copying machine was purchased that enables the Division to provide instant service to the public when they are in need of certified copies of vital records.



THIS IS A LEGAL RECORD AND MUST BE FILED WITH LOCAL REGISTRAR WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS AFTER BIRTH.

SEE OTHER SIDE.

FILL IN WITH A TYPEWRITER OR WRITE PLAINLY WITH DARK INK. DO NOT USE GREEN NOR RED INK.

ATTENDANT MUST SIGN PERSONALLY.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE.

GIVE MOTHER'S MAILING ADDRESS. A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS CERTIFICATE WILL BE SENT TO HER.

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH
STATE OF ALABAMA
BIRTH NO. 101-

1. PLACE OF BIRTH — a. County: Anywhere; b. Reg. No.; c. City (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL) Or Town: Yours; d. Full Name of (If NOT in hospital or institution, give street address or location): Medicine

3. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER (Where does mother live?) — a. State: Mine; b. County: Anywhere; c. City (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL) Or Town: Yours; d. Reg. No.; e. Street Address (If rural, give location): 118 His Lane

4. CHILD'S NAME (Type or print) — a. (First): John; b. (Middle): Henry; c. (Last): Doe, Jr.

5. Sex: M; 5a. This Birth: Single [X] Twin [ ] Triplet [ ]; 5b. If Twin or Triplet (This child born) 1st [ ] 2nd [ ] 3rd [ ]; 6. Date Of Birth (Month) (Day) (Year): June, 17, 1966

FATHER OF CHILD

7. Full Name — a. (First): John; b. (Middle): Henry; c. (Last): Doe; 8. Color Or Race: W

9. Age (At time of this birth): 25 Years; 10. Birthplace (State or foreign country): Alabama; 11a. Usual Occupation: Salesman; 11b. Kind of Business or Industry: Clothing

MOTHER OF CHILD

12. FULL MAIDEN NAME — a. (First): Mary; b. (Middle): Alice; c. (Last): Smith; 13. Color Or Race: W

14. Age (At time of this birth): 23 Years; 15. Birthplace (State or foreign country): Alabama; 16. Children Previously Born To This Mother (Do NOT include this child) a. How many OTHER children were born alive but are now living? 2; b. How many OTHER children were born alive but are now dead? 0; c. How many children were stillborn (born dead after 20 weeks pregnancy)? 0

17. INFORMANT (Signature or Name): Mrs. John Doe

18a. Signature of Attendant; I hereby certify that this child was born alive on the date stated above.

18b. Address: 123 White Street, Mobile

18c. Date Signed: June 18, 1966

18d. Date Rec'd by Local Reg.: June 19, 1966

19. Attendant at birth: M.D. [X] Midwife [ ] Other [ ]

20. Registrar's Signature

Following section will not be shown on certified copies.

FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH USE ONLY (This section MUST be filled out)

22a. Length of Pregnancy: 40 Weeks; 22b. Weight At Birth: 6 Lbs. 8 Oz.; 23. Is Mother Married? Yes (X) No [ ]; Mother's mailing address for registration notice: Name: Mrs. John Doe; 118 His Lane; Yours, Mine

24. Congenital malformations? Yes [ ] No (X) If "Yes" describe.

25. Did mother receive prenatal care? Yes [X] No [ ]

VS-1

Vital records are stored dating as far back as 1820. Due to lack of funds, microfilming of these old records has not been possible. The need for instant broad statistical information to alert us in time to outbreaks of disease demands that a modern data processing system be installed. The Division was authorized to obtain the needed data processing equipment and should get this program underway early in 1966. The County and City governing bodies appropriated special funds for the new equipment. Birth and Death records posted as to place of residence will enable this Division to estimate the population growth (Table II) of the Cities and County down to the census tract every six months.

The Registrar of Vital Statistics is primarily responsible for the registration of births, deaths, and stillbirths, and 1965 recorded these statistics, in addition to 110 stillbirths. The Division also issued 7,643 certified copies and 3,085 verifications of the records to provide a basic service for the public.

TABLE I

Population

of Mobile County and Incorporated Towns

Census of 1950 and 1960 and 1965 estimate

Municipality	1950	1960			1965		
		Total	White	Non-White	Total	White	Non-White
Mobile	129009	202779	136886	65893	238000	160650	77350
Prichard	19014	47371	25028	22343	50000	26400	23600
Chickasaw	4920	10002	9997	5	11000		
Saraland	*	4595	4151	444	8120	7332	788
Bayou La Batre	2196	2572	2405	167	2760	2580	180
Citronelle	1350	1918	1584	334	2200	1817	383
Satsuma	*	1491	**	**	1900	**	**
Mt. Vernon	*	553	**	**	1150	**	**
County Unincorporated	74616	43020	29125	13895	43270	29294	13976
Total County	231105	314301	212873	101428	358400	242637	115763

* Not incorporated at time of census.

** Not available by race.

TABLE IV

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES FROM SELECTED CAUSES,
MOBILE COUNTY, JEFFERSON COUNTY,
ALABAMA, UNITED STATES 1965**

Cause of Death	Mobile County		Jefferson County		State of Alabama		United States**	
	NO.	RATE*	NO.	RATE*	NO.	RATE*	NO.	RATE*
Diseases of the heart	859	239.7	1763	264.3	10477	301.0	699861	365.8
Vascular Lesions	421	117.5	852	127.7	4493	129.1	198209	103.6
Malignant Neoplasms	420	117.2	915	137.1	4235	121.7	289577	151.3
Congenital Malformations & Certain Diseases of Early Infancy	179	49.9	197	29.5	1193	34.3	80610	42.1
Senility & Ill-defined conditions	148	41.3	***	***	1877	53.9	25259	13.2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	113	31.5	148	22.2	1257	36.1	46930	24.5
General Arterios-clerosis	107	29.9	92	13.8	803	23.1	37176	19.4
Influenza & Pneumonia	105	29.3	147	22.0	1111	31.9	59451	31.1
Other Accidents	102	28.5	174	26.1	1140	32.7	56913	29.7
Other Diseases of Respiratory system	88	24.6	***	***	***	***	23427	12.2
All Other Diseases	462	129.0	1740	260.7	5578	160.2	280638	146.5
TOTAL	3004	838.4	6028	903.4	32164	924.0	1798051	939.4

* Rate per 100,000 population. **Jefferson County and United States, 1964.
*** Information not available.

The Health Education Division serves the Health Department staff in many ways. Offering educational assistance to Public Health Nurses, and Community Health Specialists, it schedules movies, obtains pamphlets and furnished signs and posters to better inform the public. Public Health personnel do their health education when on home visits, in clinics and while making sanitary inspections.

All of the publicity for the Health Department is handled by this Division. One-hundred and thirty-seven news releases were issued, 34 television appearances and 170 radio-TV announcements were prepared and distributed. These methods have been most effective in informing the public of clinics, sanitary conditions in the community and alerting them to health problems, and encouraging participation in their public health program.

Civic, social, and school organizations have used 150 Public Health movies for their meetings. Attendance at these film showings was 3,819. The division schedules films for the community groups interested in Public Health. Films are obtained from the State or National Libraries.

TAKE IT TO THE PEOPLE

A School Health Committee of the Board of Health was appointed in 1965. The members were Doctors Sydney Phillips, Daniel Sullivan, John Shriner, Eugene deJuan, Edward Crippen, Daniel Burke, Charles M. Gross, Francis Sullivan, Howard Leonard, E. A. Dudley, Jack T. Coleman, Milton Leigh, and Walsh Hill, later replaced by Dr. Graham McClintock. Several meetings were held to evaluate the present School Health program and to recommend new programs such as the tuberculin testing.

The important part of the 1965 School Health program was the initiation of a countywide tuberculin skin testing program on December 1, 1965, available to each and every student in the first and eighth grades in Mobile County to determine their exposure to tuberculosis. The Health Educator assisted with the program by contacting school officials, PTA'S and civic groups to obtain support for this project. A total of 16,000 children are involved in this survey which will help determine areas having a tuberculosis problem.

By providing up-to-date information through pamphlets, films and the news media, this Division keeps the public informed and concerned about health matters in the community.

1,300 Given Preventative

Health Department Heads Project For First, Eighth Graders; Device To Be Used Virtually Painless

By BEN RAPPORT

...ter Reporter

...nd eighth graders in Mobile ...erculosis during a four-month ...at Mt. Vernon. This program ...bile County Health Depart- ...Medical Society of Mobile ...ty, the Parent-Teachers As- ...n, the Mobile County Health Association, the ... Auxiliary of the Med-

South Mobile Area Gets Health

Diphtheria Shots ...r Over 2,500

...dward F. Crippen, Mo- ...unty health officer, re- ...Saturday that mo... ...all fry and teen ...en diphtheria sho... ...ast week by the ... Health.

...iggest clinic for ...nmunization, held ...at Greater Union ...ch, accounted fo... ... week's total ... 1,328.

...ason for the big... ...l Dr. Crippen, ...l appearance by ... of Whistler, a ... player with the ...os.

...ns talked baseball ...agers, many of ... ...h him play on TV ... with the smaller ...

... teams of nurses ...y volunteers from ...h School, worked ...s of parents and chil- ...lerical data was com- ... clerks from the County Department as four lines moved by their tables, accord-

...ing to a description of the event ... by the health officer.

Health Department Sanitarians Surveying Dog River

Written for The Mobile County NEWS by Edward F. Crippen, M.D., Mobile Health Department

There were four more cases of infectious hepatitis reported in Mobile County this week.

This brings the total in Mobile County to 49 for the year. Last year at this same time there were 17 cases reported. The cases reported this week are two from the Cottage Hill area, one from south Mobile and one from Prichard.

Investigation is being carried out as to where these people obtained their infection.

For those people who are living in the Dog River area, our Health Department Sanitarians are doing a survey of the river, looking for unsanitary conditions

Mobile County Health Officer Assumes Post

Dr Edward Filmore Crippen today assumed the duties of health officer of Mobile County.

The 43-year-old Michigan native received the appointment from the Mobile County Personnel Board with the approval of the County Board of Health. The job has a starting salary of $17,500 per year. He succeeds Dr. Otis L. Chason, who retired last year at the Mobile County Health Center, St. Stephens Road and Cox Street.

LOCAL DUTIES

In directing Health Department activities for Mobile County, the new health officer's job will be to plan, initiate and direct a comprehensive county health program. This includes complex programs in all fields of public health. He also confers and advises the Board of Health on the county public health program and its financial and operational needs; plans, assigns and reviews the work of all professional and non-professional personnel; establishes and su-

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 6)

...instrument called the ...gun will be used for ...s because this method ...little or no pain and is ...onomical. Also, it is a ...y of making the tests. ...son can make some 200 ...e tests an hour.

BRANCH LABORATORY
STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Mobile Branch Laboratory is a part of the Alabama State Health Department and is located in the Mobile County Health Center. The work of this laboratory comes from an area consisting of Mobile, Choctaw, Clarke, Baldwin, Monroe, Escambia and Washington Counties.

The primary purpose of the laboratory is to render assistance to private physicians and to various divisions of both the State Health Department and each County Health Department in the area. The total number of specimens examined in 1965 was 53,358 which was an increase of 8,102 over 1964. Of this number, 41,132 were received from the City of Mobile and Mobile County. The majority of the tests made were for syphilis, gonnorrhea, diphtheria, intestinal parasites and rabies. Over thirty-six thousand of these tests were for syphilis, 7,161 were premarital blood tests. Tests were also made for various sanitation purposes, which consisted of over 7,000 examinations on milk and dairy products, over 4,000 examinations of water samples, which included some examinations of swimming pools. Over 300 oyster samples were examined.

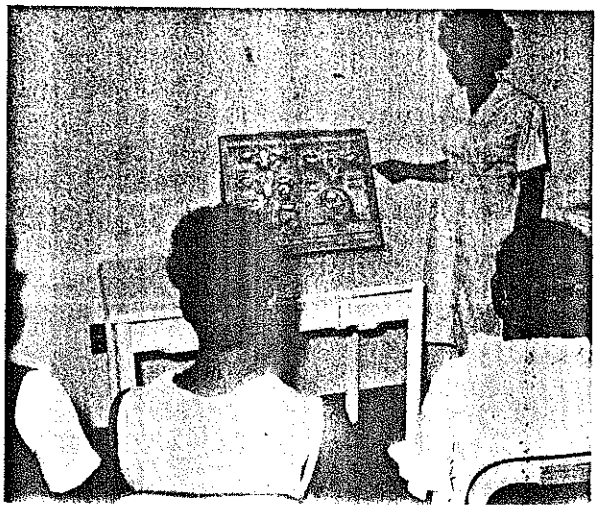
IS IT SAFE?

BUREAU OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

The work of the Bureau of Preventive Medicine centers on the family but reaches out from the home into all parts of the community. The Nursing Division started the year with fifteen nurses. Staff lost during the year, due to illness or transfers, were replaced, so that at the end of 1965, there were still fourteen staff nurses and one nurse-supervisor, Public Health authorities recommend one Public Health Nurse for every 5,000 persons; we have one for every 24,000! Present nursing needs are being less than adequately met. More frequent home visits to investigate and assist tuberculosis cases are urgently needed to reduce the spread of and deaths from tuberculosis.

Nursing services for maternity patients include teaching personal and mental hygiene, nutrition, preparation for delivery and general medical supervision. Guidance and supervision is given during the post partum period. This is accomplished through home, office and clinic visits. Public Health Nurses made 2,929 home visits to maternity patients this year. A public health nurse works at the Mobile General Hospital Maternity Clinic and is involved in home visits to many of these patients. Each week, two clinics are held at the Health Center, which served over 7,000 women in 1965.

The Maternal and Child Health Division program was expanded to include Family Planning; 200 women visited this clinic for guidance and assistance. Supervision and teaching of the fourteen licensed midwives in Mobile County is a continuous program. Besides home visits, monthly scheduled classes are held at the Health Center where basic procedures of midwifery are taught.



Child Health Services include guiding and teaching the mothers during the baby's first weeks at home. Periodic assistance is continued, when possible to promote personal hygiene, good nutrition, immunizations, accident prevention and medical care. 2,823 home visits were made for child health services.

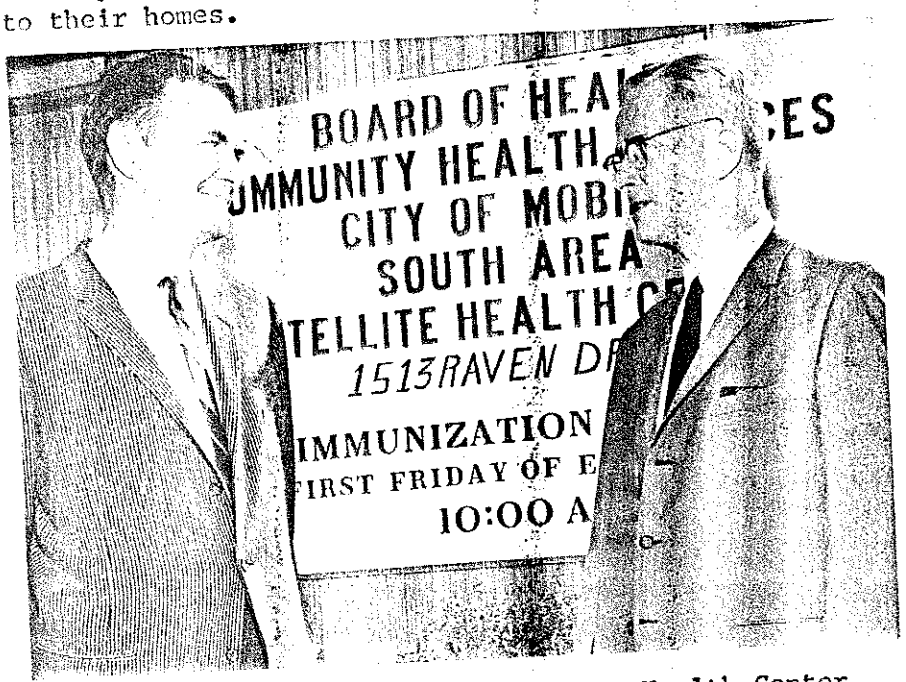
Public Health Nurses spent over 2500 hours in immunizations. Due to the outbreak of diphtheria in Mobile County (over 10% of the Nation's cases.) Additional clinics were held in neighborhood centers, churches and schools. A total of 62,355 immunizations was given which stemmed the diphtheria epidemic!

One specially trained nurse is assigned to epidemiological investigation of all acute communicable diseases in the County. She provides reports, data and information from physicians, hospital laboratories and the home to the Health Officer for evaluation of the disease threat. After a decision is made, she instructs the family on the cause of illness and how to prevent it. She provides what other services she can to the family at the request of the personal physician or health officer. Home visits for investigation of communicable diseases numbered 571.

Tuberculosis Control consists of home visits as well as weekly contact clinics held at the Health Center. Home visits are made to cases, as well as suspects and contacts for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of family contacts. The nurse is responsible for obtaining information for admission applications for patients to the State Tuberculosis Hospitals. Active cases, living at home, receive patient education, with emphasis on prevention of contamination of the family. Prophylactic treatment of the patient's family contacts is an additional service which was started in 1965. Drugs were given to 284 family contacts on monthly basis.

The chest x-ray unit at the Health Center x-rayed 8,952 persons during the year. While the majority were referred by private physicians as tuberculosis contacts, special groups availed themselves of this service also. Maternity patients from Mobile General Hospital, nursing staff at Mobile Infirmary, beauticians and barbers are but a few examples. Many places of employment require a chest x-ray be taken by prospective personnel; the Health Center administers it for the Mobile County Personnel Board.

A new program using the State Health Department X-Ray Bus at Citronelle and the Satellite Health Center on Raven Drive was initiated. Tuberculosis patients and their contacts had this service made available closer to their homes.



Dedication Ceremonies at Satellite Health Center

Tuberculin testing of first and eighth graders, as well as special education students, was the first county-wide program of this kind. The goal was to Heaf test approximately 16,000 children. Positive reactors were given further tests, such as PPD-S, PPD-G, PPD-B to verify the results. The program was designed to uncover respiratory conditions, such as for atypical tuberculosis called Battey's, which are known to be present in the area, and for tuberculosis case finding.

Due to the nature of the transmission of venereal disease with its moral and sociological implications, there are many obstacles to overcome in order to obtain complete and accurate case reporting and case finding. It is necessary to have personnel trained in the techniques of interviewing and contact tracing, and they must also be able to stimulate participation by private physicians and laboratories.

Following a national trend, Mobile County has experienced increases in reported infectious syphilis cases since 1957. The County ranked third nationally in cases of primary and secondary syphilis per 100,000 population.

Clinics were held four evenings each week at the Health Center for venereal disease patients, contacts and suspects. Manned by leading physicians in Mobile, Public Health Nurses and three venereal disease investigators, this facility provided the necessary follow-up on cases to prevent further spread. Each case of infectious syphilis that is not identified, reported and processed epidemiologically does four things to the community: (1) it contributes to the spread of the disease, (2) it increases the existing infectious syphilis reservoir, (3) it eventually results in a higher attack rate in the population and (4) it positively prevents any possibility for control of syphilis. During 1965, over 4,000 patients and contacts were seen at this clinic for diagnosis and/or treatment.

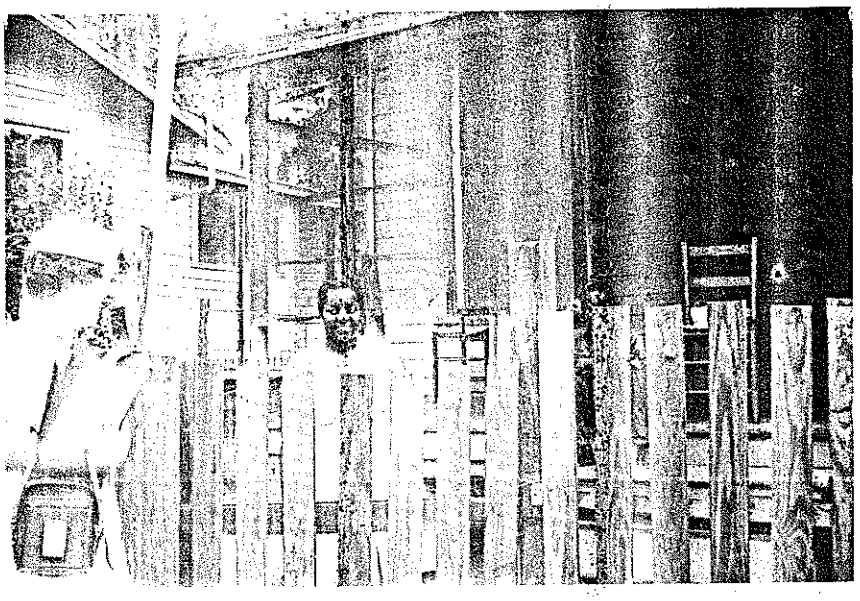
The Mobile County Health Department is interested in animal diseases that present a potential threat to the health of man. Programs and activities designed to provide protection against animal-borne diseases were promulgated. In addition, public knowledge of the cause and control of zoonotic diseases is a very important step in reducing them in the public health picture.

A number of such diseases prevalent in Mobile County are: brucellosis, leptospirosis, salmonellosis, larva migrans, tetanus and probably tularemia. This situation adds greatly to the need for further public health investigations and compilation of animal morbidity reports.

Rabies is not prevalent in our area. Approximately 200 animal bite cases were investigated during the period. Monthly immunization clinics were conducted by the County Rabies Inspector which resulted in 14,341 dogs being vaccinated against rabies.

Inservice training was given to 13 members of the Public Health Nursing Staff, the Visiting Nurses Association, and the School Nurses to

more effectively carry out the Mental Health program. Leading authorities in this field came to the Health Center and provided training. Three group discussions and lectures were held. A total of 12 hours were spent in four educational programs.

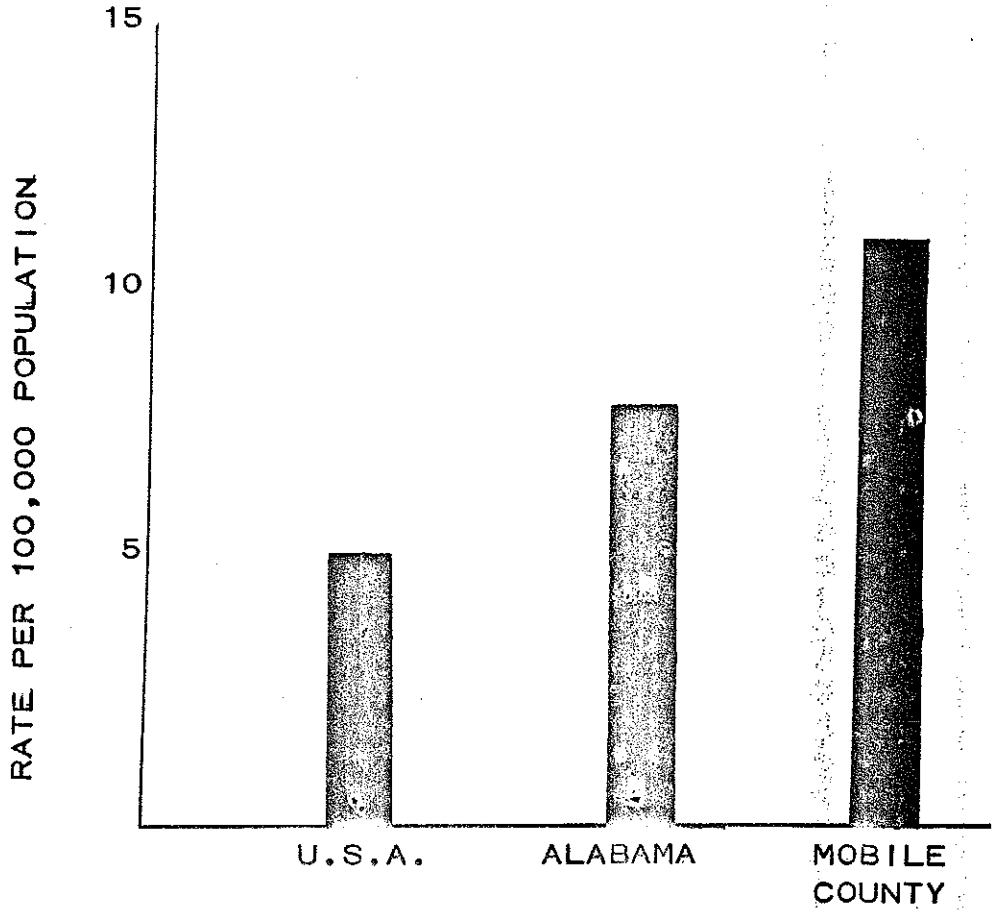


SERVING ALL TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY'S HEALTH

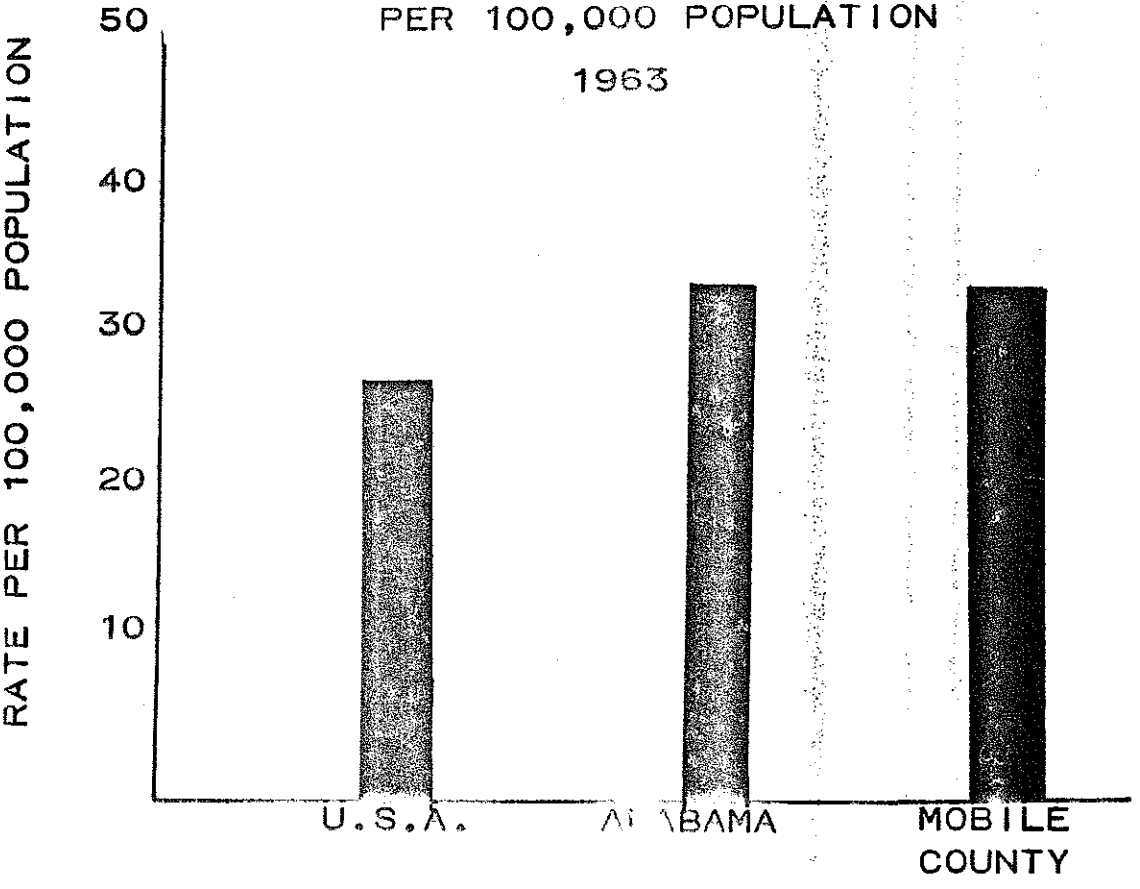
The Health Department is notified by the Probate Judge of all patients hospitalized for mental illness. When the patient is discharged, the Health Center is informed of his return. He is visited by a Public Health Nurse and is given assistance in adjusting to home conditions. This continuous care program for the psychiatric patient was a new program initiated in 1965. Perhaps the most important aspects are to urge the patient to continue medication and helping the family to understand and accept mental illness. This program accounted for 184 home visits by the staff.

Public Health Nurses participated in the initial Project Headstart program. They conducted blood, urine, vision and hearing screening, as well as the immunization and tuberculin testing activities. More than 1500 pre-school children received public health services thru the staff's efforts.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION
1963



NEW ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS CASE RATE
PER 100,000 POPULATION
1963



The Board of Health of the State of Alabama received a Vaccination Assistance Grant to achieve the following:

To locate susceptibles to diseases of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and polio and to raise their levels of immunity, to provide the establishment and maintenance of a system to insure immunization for newborns. In June of 1965 the Mobile County Board of Health obtained a grant from the State Health Department for an Immunization Project under the Vaccination Assistance Act of 1962.

During the summer of 1965 a survey of the immunization levels was carried out throughout Mobile primarily for preschool children. The survey showed low immunization levels in low income non-white groups.

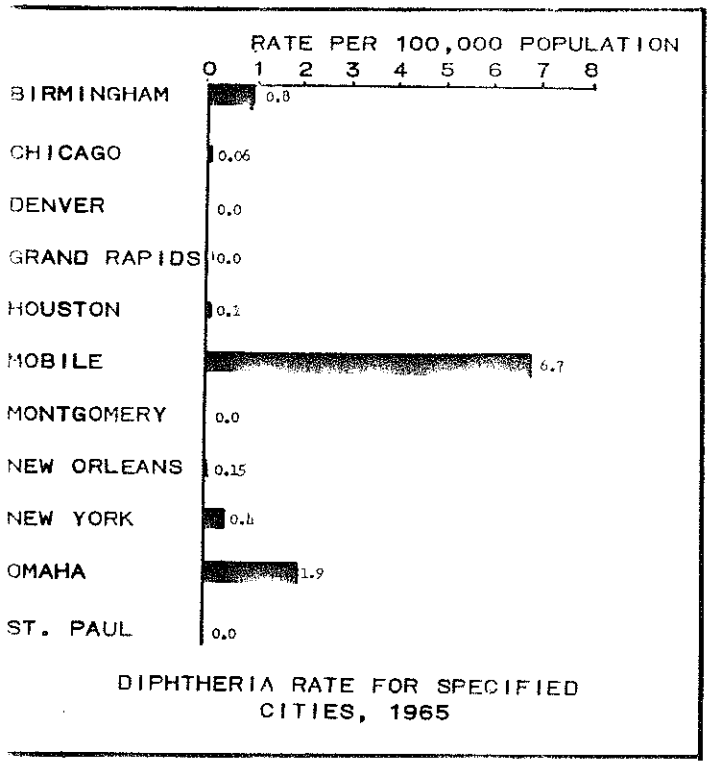
The diphtheria outbreak in 1965 was primarily in the low income non-white groups and the program gave tremendous assistance to improving the immunization levels in those groups.

The clinics were taken to the people. Immunizations were given in churches, schools and recreational centers in those areas. Not only were diphtheria immunizations given but children were also immunized against tetanus, smallpox, polio and where indicated, whooping cough. In all 64,114 immunizations were given in 1965 by the Health Department. Alerted by the situation in their community, hundreds of other parents went to their private physicians for their children's shots.

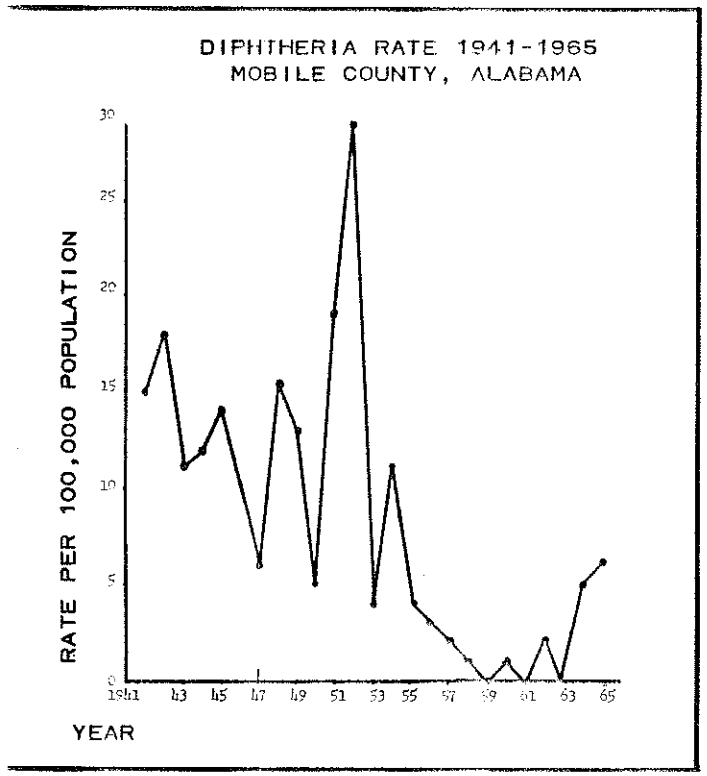
Starting at the end of the year, the immunization project expanded to include the Infant Immunization Maintenance Control Program. Immunization reminder cards are mailed to Mobile County parents when their newborns reach three months of age. Non-respondents to the cards are telephoned and visited for referral to their private physicians or Health Department Clinics.

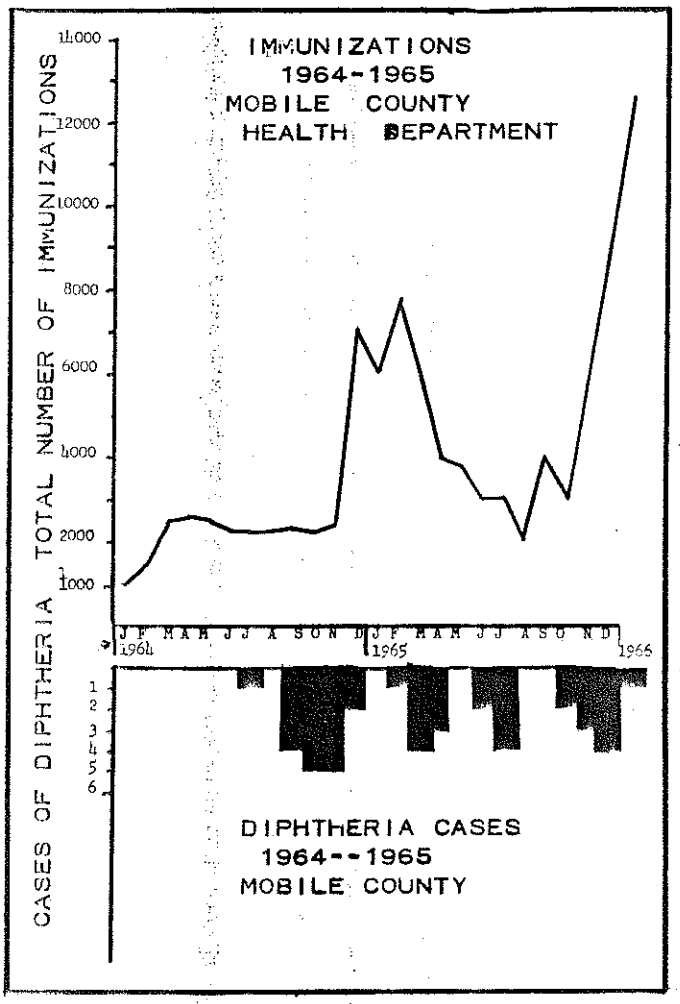
Accompanying charts illustrate the immunization problem in Mobile County and what steps were taken to solve it in 1965.

Because Mobile is a port and because of the ever present threat of smallpox that is so rampant in eastern countries, the U.S. Public Health Service and the Mobile County Board of Health joined in a smallpox vaccination program to protect longshoremen who have the first contact with imported cases. As a result of cooperation with the International Longshoremen's Association and the Public Health Department, 915 of 925 longshoremen's union members were vaccinated in September, 1965.

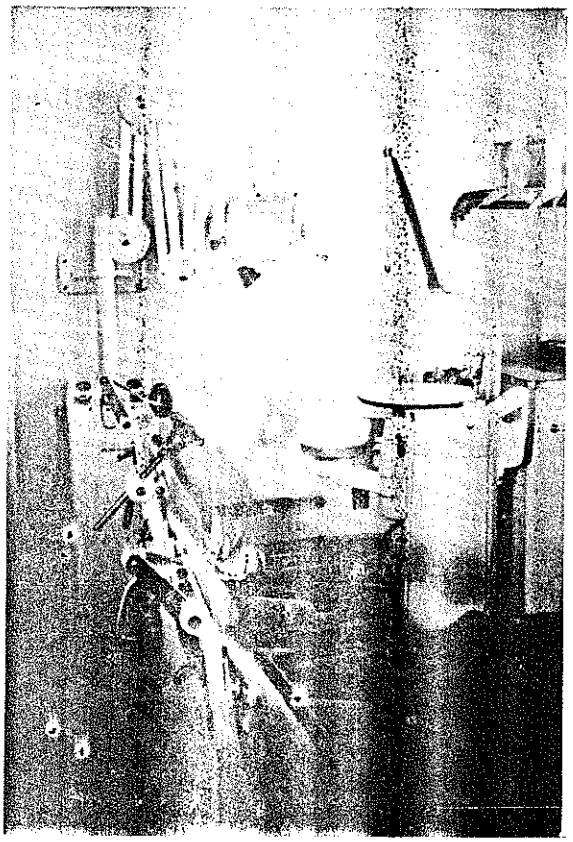


DIPHTHERIA RATE FOR SPECIFIED CITIES, 1965





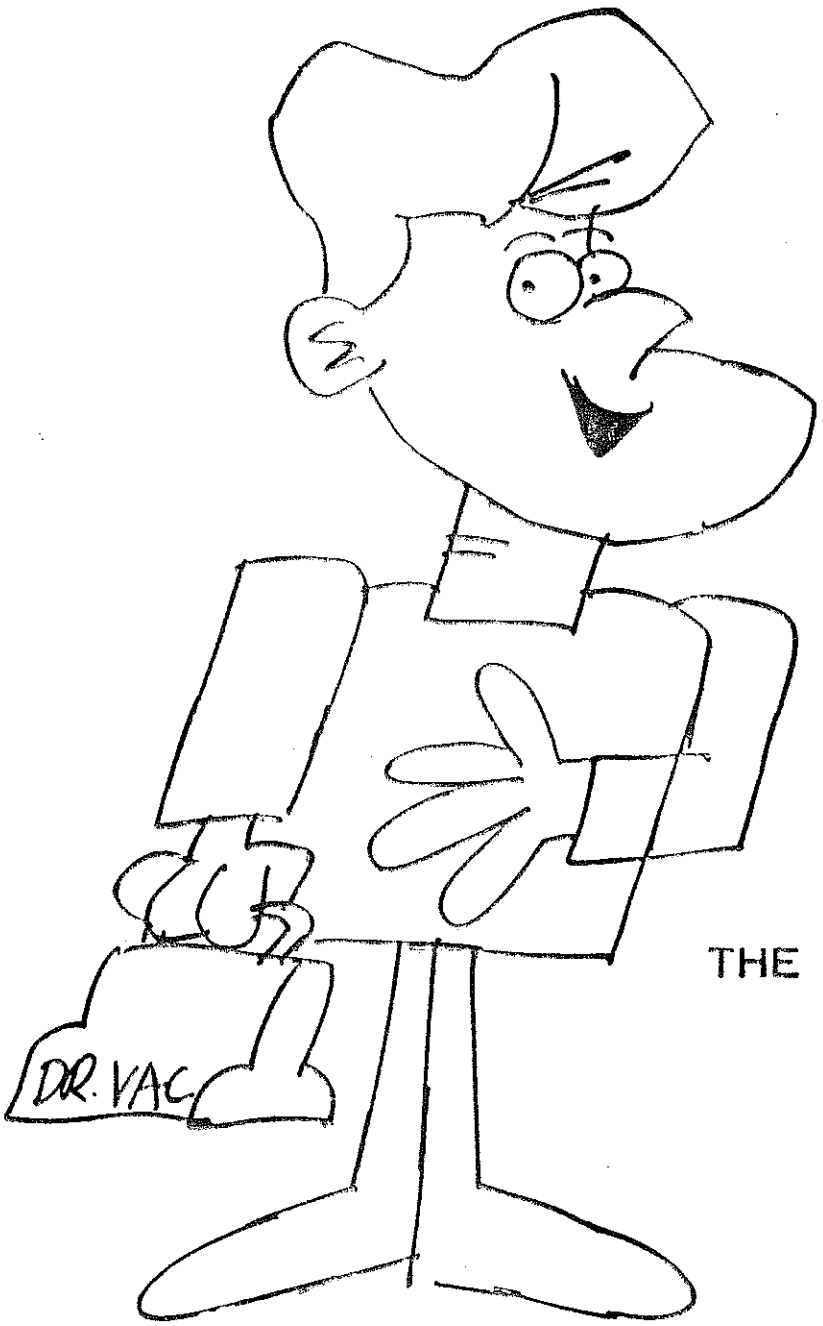
DIVISION OF DENTAL HEALTH



Unused since 1958----

"...As to dental care, only 30% of the six year olds were free of cavities and of the total, there were 3.4 cavities per student. Only 10% had ever been to a dentist in their six years. There were almost twice as many cavities per child in rural students than the City of Mobile. Thirty-seven per cent of the residents of Mobile were without cavities; 19% urban and 6% of the rural..."

"Report on Health Aspects of Project Headstart, Summer 1965" by Edward F. Crippen, M.D., M.P.H.

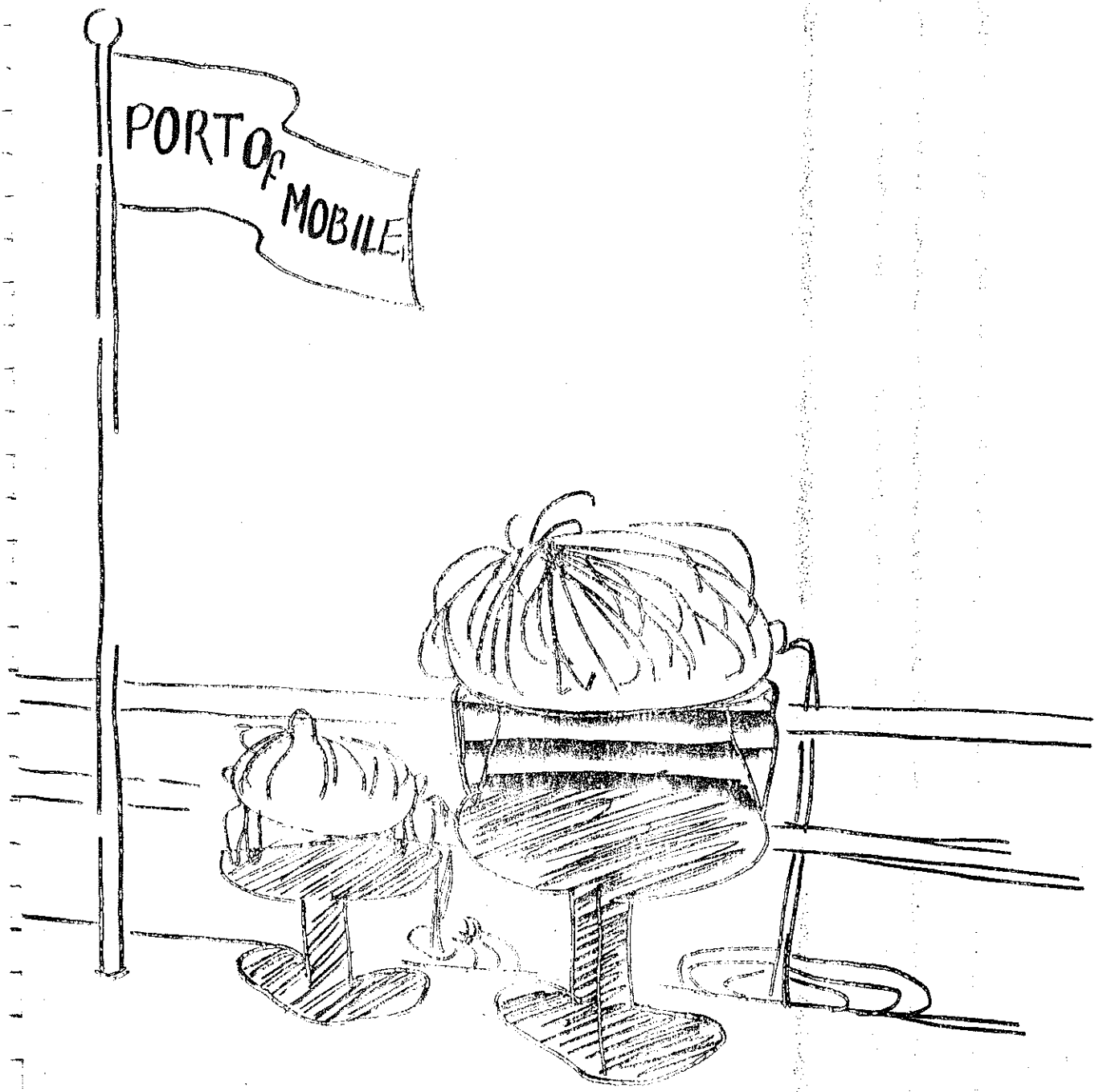


THE CHALLENGES

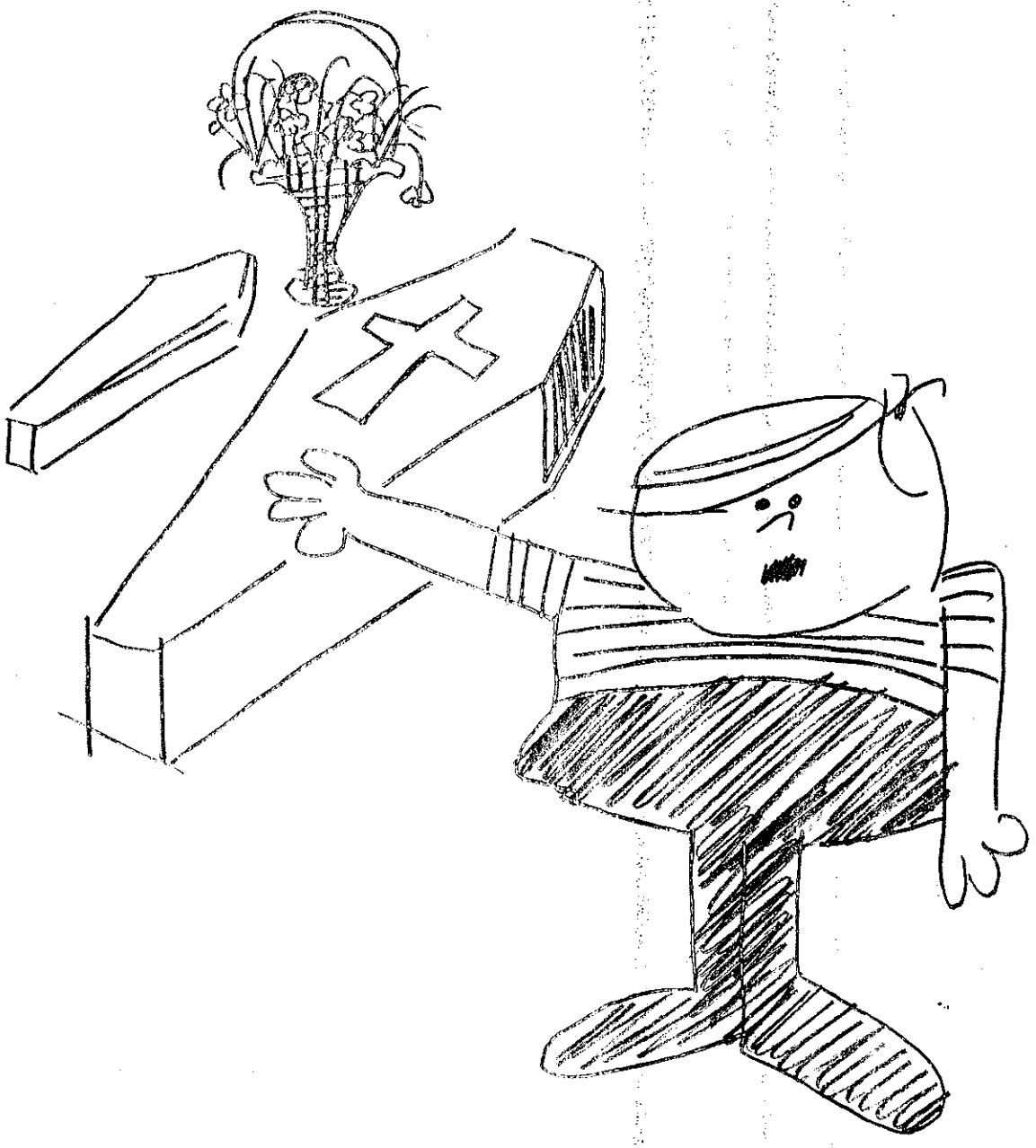
FOR

1966

ARE.....



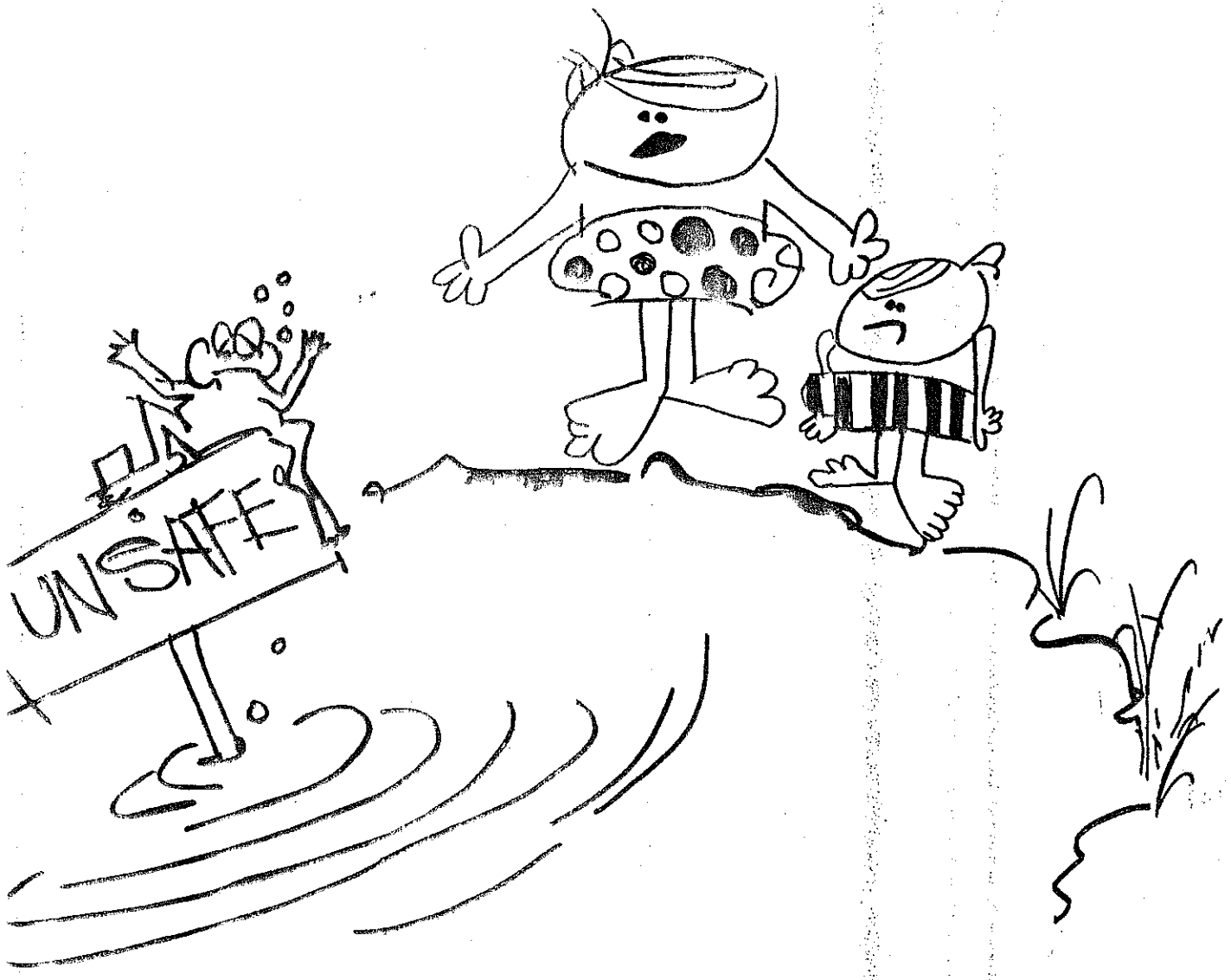
"EVERYBODY POLLUTES THE MOBILE RIVER..... WHY NOT US?!



A "GOOD MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM PREVENTS THE LITTLE ONE."

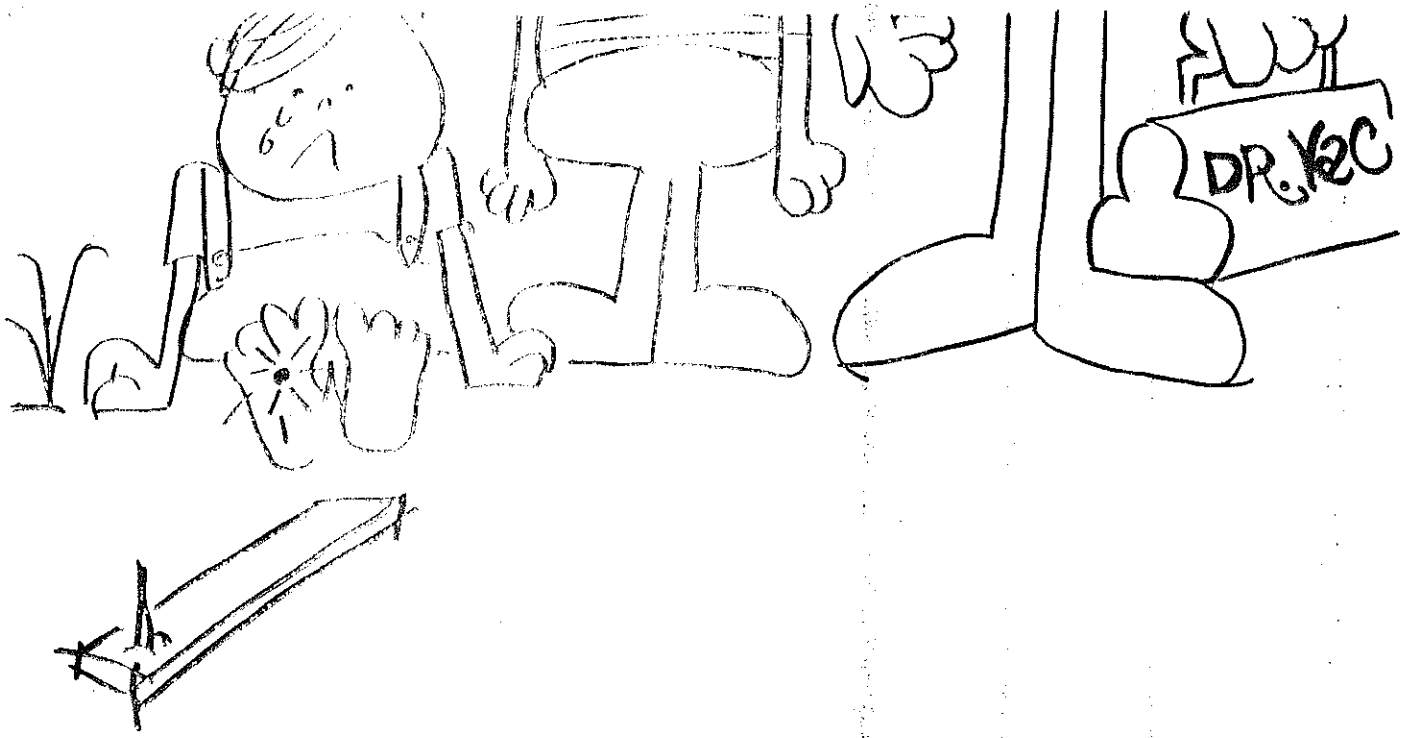
WE'RE GOING TO
WHERE THERE IS
MOSQUITO CONTROL
MOBILE

"I'D RATHER FIGHT THAN FLEE - HELP ME, SUPPORT THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND THE DAUPHIN ISLAND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOC."

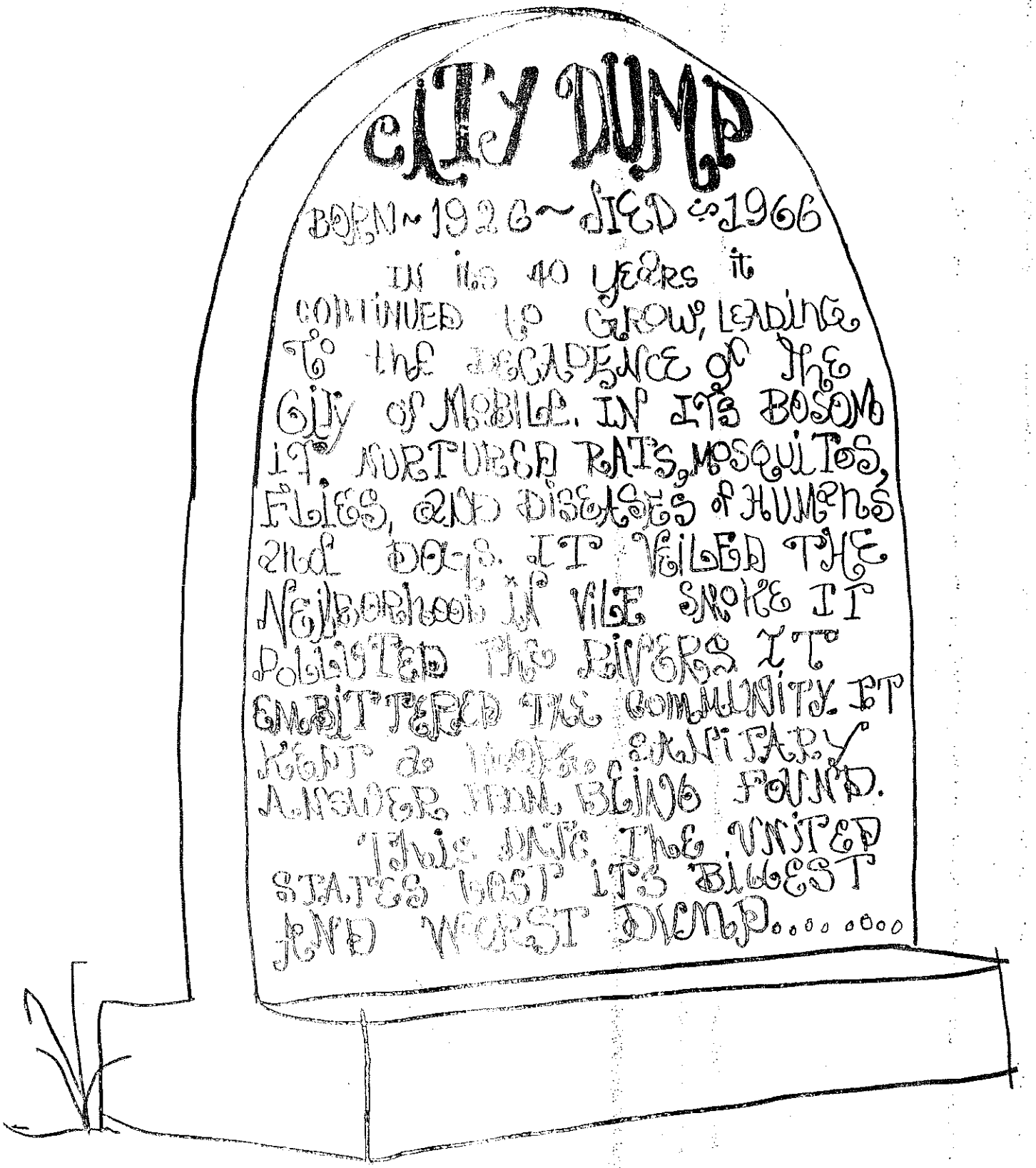


"IS THERE ANY PLACE SAFE FOR SWIMMING IN MOBILE COUNTY?"
WHO KNOWS?

SHIP POSITION
"IS THIS TRIP NECESSARY?"



"DR. VAC SAYS YOU NEED A TETANUS BOOSTER, TOO!"


CITY DUMP
BORN ~ 1926 ~ DIED ~ 1966
IN its 40 years it
CONTINUED TO GROW, LEADING
TO THE DECADENCE OF THE
CITY OF MOBILE. IN ITS BOSOM
IT NURTURED RATS, MOSQUITOS,
FLIES, AND DISEASES OF HUMANS
AND DOGS. IT VEILED THE
NEIGHBORHOOD IN VILE SMOKE IT
POLLUTED THE RIVERS IT
EMBITTERED THE COMMUNITY IT
KEPT A WHOLE SANITARY
ANSWER FROM BEING FOUND.
THIS DAY THE UNITED
STATES LOST ITS BIGGEST
AND WORST DUMP.....