

PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEY

and

BRIEF HISTORY

1936

SURRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Addenda - October 1967

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PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEY
MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA
and
SURRY COUNTY

Introduction

Brief Description of the Town

Mount Airy is a thriving little town of approximately 6500 population located at the foot hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the northwest corner of the state of North Carolina about five miles from the Virginia line. The town was first settled in the latter half of the seventeenth century, but was not incorporated until 1885. It now has a commission form of government. Its assessed property valuation is \$6,000,000.00, which is about 75 per cent of true valuation. The climate is ideal having an average temperature of 56.2. The winters are not extremely long or cold and the summers are always comfortable with cool nights.

Early in the nineteenth century the "White Sulphur Springs", four miles northeast of Mount Airy, began operations as a health resort and because of this many people were first attracted to Mount Airy as a health resort. Soon after the war between the states the Siamese twins located in this community because of the delightful climate and fertile soil, after having traveled over nearly the entire world with various shows and circuses. They married sisters from Wilkes County after locating here.

Mount Airy can probably trace its first real growth to the opening of the granite quarry. This is located about two

miles east of the city. With the opening of the quarry in 1889 and the incoming of the railroad in 1890 the town became a real industrial center almost over night. The only means of transportation prior to this had been the stage coach and wagon. This project is still in operation and usually it furnishes employment to 700 people in and around Mount Airy. It is the largest open quarry in the world and its supply is considered inexhaustable.

The only other industries in Mount Airy prior to this were two tobacco factories. In 1896 the first furniture factory was built. There are now five furniture factories operating in Mount Airy and under normal conditions these factories employ about 1300 people. Soon after the opening of the furniture factories in Mount Airy a narrow gauge railroad was built from Mount Airy into the mountains of Virginia, which was used almost exclusively for hauling lumber to this point. This railroad was abandoned about fifteen years ago because of improved highways.

The only market the town has is that for the sale of tobacco, which is the principal crop grown. The soil and climate is well suited for this crop and it has been grown extensively. Two tobacco markets were opened in Mount Airy in 1872. At the present time there are four markets here, which sell five and a half million pounds of tobacco annually.

Peaches and apples have also been raised extensively in this section for the past twenty years or more.

Mount Airy has fast become an industrial center. Besides the quarry and furniture factories there are several large hosiery mills, sweater factories, underwear factories, a bone button factory and numerous other smaller manufacturing plants.

Medical Service

There is one hospital in Mount Airy. This hospital has two surgeons, five graduate nurses and twenty four student nurses. There are ten general practitioners and one surgeon in Mount Airy outside of the hospital. Two of the general practitioners have specialized in eye, ear, nose and throat. There is no public health nursing service available except through the Health Department, which serves the whole county. The local Red Cross Chapter employs a nurse to conduct classes on "Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick".

Health Administration

The Surry County Health Department was organized in 1920. Dr. L. L. Williams was the first Health Officer. The staff was then composed of Health Officer and Secretary. The following year a nurse was added. This office has been located in the City Hall of Mount Airy from the beginning. The personnel now consists of: Health Officer, Nurse, Sanitary Inspector and Secretary. The town appropriates \$900.00 annually to the

Health Department work. It also furnishes quarters, fuel, light, water, janitor services, etc. This would make the appropriation run between \$1500.00 and \$1800.00 per year. Other appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Town of Mount Airy were as follows:

Administration	\$12,090.00
Fire Department	\$13,562.00
Police Department	\$13,775.00
Street Department	\$18,480.00
Recorders Court	\$ 1,450.00

The appropriation for the Health Department comes out of the Administration Fund. Lights from the Street Fund. As the schools are supported entirely by the state no appropriations are made for that purpose. The water department is self supporting and no appropriations are made for that purpose. Last year it cost \$14,883.32 to operate the water system and about \$36,000.00 was collected from water revenues. The difference of these sums was applied to water bonds.

Cooperating Agencies

There are registered with the Health Department 105 cases of pellegra. Most of these live either in or around Mount Airy. The local Red Cross Chapter furnishes yeast to these patients, which is distributed by the Health Department. The Kiwanis Club have also been active in health work in this town. They sponsor cripple clinics in the Health Department offices. They contribute \$1.00 for each patient attending clinic. The Parent

Teacher Associations are also active in health work in the schools. They furnish milk to the under privileged children in school. The Tuberculosis Seal Sale is conducted under the joint sponsorship of the Health Department and the Woman's Club. These funds are spent by the Health Department for tubercular work. All civic organizations in Mount Airy show splendid cooperation with the Health Department.

Hygiene

Vital Statistics

There are no organized agencies for collection of vital statistics, communicable disease control, prenatal service, infant welfare, preschool service, or school medical service. This work is done by the Health Department.

All births and deaths are reported by to the Health Department by local registrars. The Health Department keeps this record for the county as a whole. Graphs of leading causes of deaths are kept. The death rate for Mount Airy for infant mortality for the year 1931 was 2.7, 1932 rate 3.5, 1933 rate 3.4, 1934 rate 5.2, and 1935 the rate was 5.6 per 1,000 population. This is considerably lower than rates reported by larger cities in the United States for same period. Queensborough, New York gives lowest death rate among infants, their rate being 5.5. Memphis, Tennessee rate being 17.6, Nashville, Tennessee rate 16.7, and Richmond, Virginia 17.2.

Birth rate for 1931 was 27.2, 1932 rate 35.0, 1933 rate

52.0, 1934 rate 46.5, and 1935 rate 23.8.

There are a large number of births that are never reported to registrars, due to the fact that many babies are born without either physician or midwife. Especially is this so among the colored race.

Leading Causes of Death Per 1,000 Population

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Diphtheria	.0	.18	.0	.18	.36
Tuberculosis	.9	.9	1.6	1.8	1.45
Typhoid	.18	.0	.18	.0	.0
Diseases of the Heart	1.2	2.0	1.6	2.0	1.2
Cancer	1.45	.9	1.6	1.09	1.09
Nephritis	.0	1.09	1.09	.72	2.0
Infantile Paralysis	.0	.18	.0	.0	.0
Pneumonia	.54	2.7	1.8	4.3	2.7
Pellegra	.0	.0	.36	.18	.54
Scarlet Fever	.18	.0	.0	.18	.18
Whooping Cough	.18	.0	.0	.18	.18
Measles	.0	.0	.0	.72	.0

Communicable Diseases

All cases of communicable diseases are reported to the Health Department by physicians; very few cases are reported by others. All cases requiring quarantine are reported promptly by attending physician. Such cases as chicken-pox, influenza, pneumonia, pellegra, tuberculosis and venereal diseases are not reported as they should be. For some reason physicians are lax in reporting these diseases. So many of these cases, however,

do not have a physician, that the fault is not entirely with the physician that the case is not reported.

	Cases Reported				
	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Diphtheria	5	5	5	9	10
Tuberculosis	3	1	0	2	3
Typhoid	4	0	1	0	1
Scarlet Fever	20	25	9	14	17
Measles	5	20	65	589	10
Whooping Cough	37	30	27	25	81

Control Measures

The Health Department conducts immunization clinics at regular periods for diphtheria, typhoid, and smallpox. All children entering school are either vaccinated for smallpox or soon after. All mothers are sent notices urging that their babies be given toxoid when they are six months old.

The Health Department does not practice any control measures with scarlet fever except, as in all other contagious diseases, the contacts are watched and in some cases excluded from school, work, etc. to avoid the spread of the disease.

There are no hospital facilities available for communicable diseases. All diagnostic laboratory work is done by State Board of Health.

Venereal Disease Control

Clinics for the control of venereal diseases were started

by the Health Department in 1931. Since that time the number of patients have increased until in the past year the number of treatments have more than tripled the number for the year before. These clinics are held twice each week at the Health Department in Mount Airy. An average of fifty nine patients are treated for syphilis each month. These patients are all referred for treatment by their family physician or the Welfare agency. Three courses of neoarsphenamine and three of bismuth are given and then if necessary further treatment until two negative Wassermann reports are received. After this treatment the patients are required to return every three months for a year to check up on their blood test. Those patients that refuse treatment during the contagious stage are placed in the county jail and given treatment for at least thirty days. All food handlers are required to have a blood test and in case they need treatment are allowed to continue working as long as they take treatment regularly. Very few treatments for gonorrhea are given due to lack of equipment and medicine.

The only hospital beds available for venereal disease patients are in the local hospital and very few patients with venereal disease are financially able to be hospitalized.

As in other communicable diseases all examinations of Wasserman, Darkfield examinations, smears for gonorrhea are made by State Laboratory.

Tuberculosis Control

There are thirty eight cases of tuberculosis in Mount Airy. Some of these are arrested cases but a number are bed patients. Most of them have poor nursing care. There is no sanatorium in the city or county therefore we depend entirely upon the State Sanatorium. Due to lack of space it is very hard to get a patient in there. Each year there is a two weeks clinic for tuberculosis held by a state clinician. During this time an average of fifteen patients are examined each day and a number of tuberculin tests are given to contacts. Applications are sent in at once to the State Sanatorium for all suitable patients. As soon as a case of tuberculosis is reported the nurse in the Health Department visits the home giving instructions as to the care of the patient and how to prevent it's spread. Sputum cups and holders are furnished by the Christmas Seal Fund, and in some cases milk is furnished. An effort is being made to prevent tuberculosis by weighing the school children every month and urging proper nourishment for those who are underweight.

The Department of Health is hoping that in the near future they may be able to Schick and Tuberculin Test all school children. This is not being done at the present time due to the absence of Health Officer and lack of sufficient nursing service.

Prenatal Care

Prenatal cases are reported by a number of the physicians and by all of the licensed midwives. Each case is visited by

the nurse and instructions and literature are given them. The cases are visited once each month and any unfavorable symptoms reported to the physician. These cases are followed up until after delivery. At the present there are no pre-natal clinics but plans are being made to start them in the near future.

Pre-School Hygiene

Pre-school clinics are held in each of the grammar schools just before school closes in the spring. At this time all children expecting to enter school the following fall are given a thorough examination and immunized against smallpox and diphtheria if they have not already had the vaccines.

There are no infant clinics but all babies registered at the Health Department are visited regularly by the nurse. Their weight is checked once each month and instructions and literature given the mother as to the care of the child.

School Hygiene

As soon as the schools open in the fall they are visited and all pupils vaccinated for smallpox who have not already been immunized. The Health Officer then carries on a routine examination of the school children. They are examined for diseased tonsils, adenoids, defective teeth, defective vision, defective heart or lungs, and orthopedic defects. Notices are sent to the parents advising them of any defects found

and urging them to see their family physicians. The pupils through the fifth grade are weighed and their weight recorded each month. Notices are sent to parents of those ten per cent under weight. A half pint of milk is furnished by the Red Cross, Kiwanis Club and Parent Teacher Association morning and afternoon to those underweight children who cannot pay for it.

The nursing service in the schools include inspection for skin diseases, pediculosis, weighing the children, investigation of communicable diseases and routine examination of vision and teeth.

There are no dental or tonsil clinics at the present time. Correction of defects are left entirely to the parents, and in a large majority of the cases nothing is done because of lack of funds.

Industrial Hygiene

Medical care and hygiene in industrial plants in Mount Airy is entirely under the supervision of each individual plant. While this should come under the supervision of the Health Department it has been impossible to go into this field because of insufficient personnel. With just a general inspection of working conditions I find that these plants are well equipped and general hygienic conditions are splendid. Practically every industry employs a doctor who is subject to call at any time. Each employee pays approximately fifty cents per month for this service and in case of illness there is no extra fee.

No nurses are employed at any of these plants.

Health Education

Health education program is carried on jointly by the entire personnel of the Health Department by personal contact, talks before civic clubs, schools, and the distribution of health literature. The Department carries a weekly column in both the local newspapers on timely and seasonable subjects relating to Public Health with emphasis on the control of communicable diseases.

Sanitation

Milk

Mount Airy can boast of its milk supply, for in no other city in the state is there found a city milk supply with an average bacteria count so consistently low. The town has a daily consumption of 250 gallons of Grade A raw milk per day, or an average of one gallon per day for every twenty six people. This is an astonishingly low consumption, however, it is accounted for by the fact that there are approximately 150 individual and family cows within the corporate limits. It is estimated that these 150 cows will normally produce about 250 gallons daily which would make the estimated consumption about one gallon to thirteen people, or in other words about three fourths pint per capita. According to information and figures procured from the wholesale merchants in Mount Airy it is estimated that there is about 10,000 gallons of canned or condensed milk

sold here annually, which is about 27 1/3 gallons per day. This still leaves the per capita consumption at less than one pint per day.

There are eight Grade A retail raw milk producers that sell milk here. There is one pasteurization plant that is supplied by five Grade B dairies. The pasteurization plant and the eight Grade A raw retail dairies all operate under the United States Public Health Service Milk Ordinance.

The Grade A raw retail dairies are all equipped with concrete floors, stanchions, steam pressure sterilization equipment, fish mouth buckets, sanitary type bottling and capping machines, approved tubalan aerator, refrigerators, covered trucks, two and three compartment wash vats and all other equipment required by the ordinance. All the cows are annually tested for tuberculosis and Bang's disease by a reputable veterinarian. All employees in the dairies are examined annually by the Health Officer for contagious disease carriers.

In addition to steam sterilization a bactericidal of chlorinated lime 50 P.P.M. is also employed prior to the steam. This gives double sterilization and its sanitary effect is noticed in the low bacteria count. The average of which for the past year is about 5,600, and in no case has the bacteria count average for any one dairy exceeded 17,500 for any one grading period. The highest count for an individual dairy for the last grading period was 4,750. The grades are announced in local newspapers every four months. The compliance is rated

by United States Public Health Service officials as being 97 per cent efficient.

The retail dairies are inspected on an average of about three times per month by the County Sanitary Inspector and under the direction of the Health Officer. No degrading, revoking of permits or persecutions have been necessary within the past three years.

The pasteurization plant was promoted at the instance or suggestion of the Health Department. The plant is equipped with the latest approved machinery. As was stated above this supply is from Grade B dairies which comply with all the items of Grade A except cooling to 50 degrees, they being allowed to cool to 60 degrees, and steam pressure sterilization. The milk is received at the plant through self closing screen doors. It is poured from a can into a sanitary type dump vat. From there it runs by gravity through sanitary pipe equipped with leak protector, plug type valves into a modern spray type pasteurizer. This pasteurizer is equipped with foam heater, leak protector, plug type valve, recording thermometer and two indicating thermometers. Before the milk is allowed to enter the pasteurizer, it (the pasteurizer) is rinsed with a solution of chlorinated lime of at least 50 P.P.M., then drained and raw steam turned on until temperature reaches 190 degrees. This steam is also run through the pump and pipe, cooler, bottling and capping machine. After the equipment

has been thoroughly sterilized the milk is turned in and the pasteurization process begun. This consists of heating the milk to exactly $143\frac{1}{2}$ degrees and holding at that temperature for exactly thirty minutes. The milk is then cooled in the pasteurizer to about 90 degrees by circulating cold water through the jacket. This takes about twenty minutes. The milk is then pumped (by means of a sanitary centrifugal pump) through sanitary pipe to the aerator, over which it is cooled to 50 degrees or below. The cooler is of the combination type using circulating water through the top section and circulating brine through lower section. After coming over the cooler the milk runs into a bottling and capping machine where it is bottled and capped and then placed in refrigeration and held at least 50 degrees or below until delivered. In the summer it is necessary that all dairies use quantities of cracked ice over the bottles in the truck in order to maintain a low bacteria count. This pasteurization plant has not been in operation but six months and the operator being unfamiliar with plant operation, and being handicapped for funds to purchase equipment, experienced some difficulty for the first four months in keeping the bacteria count within reasonable bounds, however, the last two samples have each been 1,000 and it is evident from this and certain changes in methods of sterilization that the bacteria count can be kept under 10,000 per cubic centimeter. Only 16 per cent of milk consumed here is pasteurized. There is no certified milk produced here.

Food

There are no laws or ordinances other than meat and markets regulating the handling of food in Mount Airy. These matters are all handled by the County Health Department operating under the state laws.

The meat inspection ordinance as enacted in 1919 and amended in 1935 is brief but gives unlimited power to the meat inspector and requires that a post mortem inspection be made of all carcasses before being offered for sale. The methods of slaughter and handling are left to the inspector. There is one privately owned approved slaughter house and the inspector requires all beef, veal, and mutton to be slaughtered and dressed in a sanitary manner there. This eliminates the possibility of farmers selling carcasses that have died from natural causes. The slaughter house is not modern and due to small volume of business it serves the purpose very well. After the carcasses have been dressed and delivered to the markets they are allowed to hang in the refrigerator until seen by the inspector. The inspection service is for tuberculosis, anthrax, black leg, bob veal, actinomycosis, hemorrhagic septicemia, hog cholera and nutrition.

The markets are all required to have mechanical refrigeration for storage and display. They are also required to have running water, wear white aprons and coats, keep equipment and tools clean and sanitary at all times. The county sanitary inspector acts as inspector and at present this method of meat

and market sanitation is very satisfactory.

The hotels, cafes, and soda fountains are likewise under the supervision of the County Health Department and state laws. The cafes are periodically and spasmodically inspected, the frequency of which is governed by the condition and reputation for cleanliness. Very little difficulty is experienced in maintaining sanitation in the dining rooms or front part. This is of course subject to scrutiny of the patrons and customers and is almost always kept in a reasonably sanitary condition. The kitchen, where the food is kept, prepared and handled is usually the most insanitary place about the cafes, and for that reason a frequent inspection of the kitchen is often necessary. These cafes and hotels employ a low class of white and colored help and wherever you find this class you will also find carelessness and insanitary conditions. However, from my observation the cafes in Mount Airy are a little better than the usual run of small town cafes.

All employees in the cafes and hotels are required to hold a health certificate from the Health Officer showing he or she is free from communicable diseases. All the cafes and hotels have practically the same method of washing, rinsing and sterilizing dishes. Some are equipped with three compartment wash vats and drain boards. This allows the dishes to be washed in warm water with soap suds, rinsed and then scalded in hot water or a bactericidal in the third vat. The dishes are then placed on the drain board to cool and dry. One of the hardest

things for the operators to get away from is to keep from wiping or mopping the dishes with a common towel after the dishes have been scalded. This is a practice that spreads contamination and bacteria from one dish to another, but as it is practiced in 98 per cent of our American homes it is a hard one to eliminate.

The soda fountains employ a better or higher class of young men and my inspection reveals that they are kept clean and shining. The dishes and glasses are washed once a day with soap and rinsed. They appear to be clean, however, I am of the opinion a more thorough method of sterilization should be used.

Water

The town is supplied by a full surface water system, consisting of two water sheds. One is used for a regular supply and the other for emergency in dry weather. The first intake from which the town gets its supply is located four miles north of the town on Lovill's Creek and covers an area of twenty two square miles. This area is about 60 per cent wooded and is sparsely settled. The general lay of the land is mountainous to rolling. There are a few pasture fields on this water shed which is a possible source for colon bacillus in the raw water as it is received at the filter plant. The geology of the land in this area is composed of feldspar clay, hematite clay, limonite clay, biotite clay, granite, quartz, steatite and micaceous schist. The sources

of pollution on this water shed are highways and byways, trespassers, residences, domestic and wild animals. The second, or emergency shed is a small impounded stream with an impounding capacity of 8,000,000 gallons, and is located about one and one half miles northwest of Mount Airy and is about 70 per cent wooded. It is also sparsely settled and has a few domestic animals and one road and many trespassers. The geology of the land is the same as the other shed.

The water is brought to the filter plant in town by means of gravity in a fourteen inch main for the regular supply and in a ten inch main from the emergency supply.

The method of treatment is rapid sand filters, coagulated with lime and alum and chlorination. From there the water runs by gravity into two treated reservoirs with a total capacity of 660,000 gallons, from this it is pumped to a 200,000 standpipe at the highest point in town and also to a 150,000 gallon water tower.

There are no public wells in Mount Airy, however, there are about twenty private wells but their use is discouraged by the Health Department.

The sanitary control of the water is under the supervision of two highly competent municipal engineers and its consistent purity and gravity is attested to by State Board of Health Authorities. Daily samples are run in the plant laboratory for B.coli, aerogenes, turbidity on both raw and treated water.

Sewage

The sewer system consists of about twenty five miles of sewer pipe ranging in size from ten inches to three feet so distributed that about 90 per cent of the homes have available sewer. These sewer lines are separate domestic and do not carry the storm water. They, the sewer lines, empty into three large septic tanks and after going through a fermentation process the effluent discharges into nearby creeks. The accumulation of digested sludge is pumped into the streams at high water levels.

This is a very satisfactory method of disposal at the present time. No other towns below here being affected.

Housing

Housing conditions here are very good. About 70 per cent of all homes are owned by the individual occupying the home and all homes within the city limits are required to have running water. No homes are allowed to have outside toilets or privies, pig pens, or cow stables within three hundred feet of any residence, therefore there are practically none within the city limits. All homes on the outskirts of the city are required to have approved privies. General sanitary conditions in and around Mount Airy are good.

Recreational Facilities

There are no recreational facilities within the corporate limits. Two swimming pools just outside the city limits are inspected for general sanitary conditions during period of

operations. Samples of water together with those from "swimming holes" in surrounding creeks are analyzed for B.coli periodically.

Miscellaneous

There are no animal or insect pests in this city except the rat, which has not reached the nuisance stage. During the summer of 1935 traps were placed two to a city block to determine whether or not the Japanese beetle had invaded this section but none were found. Garbage and refuse is hauled away for burning by city trucks. This is collected once each week in the residential sections and twice each week in the business sections.

Summary

Mount Airy in my opinion would compare favorably with the average town in sanitation. Its communicable disease control is apparently very proficient. Its venereal disease service is being competed with very successfully. The tubercular situation is neglected, there being no efficient way to prevent the spread of the disease. The child hygiene program is extremely limited because of personnel. With the present plan the Health Department now has this program should be improved considerably in the future. The control of food and milk is far superior to the average town. The garbage collection service is not as satisfactory as it may be, possibly due to neglect. The water supply is quite efficient, but more protection should be given the water shed. The present slaughter house is not as proficient as it may be.

Recommendations

Improved method of tubercular control.

Improved method of protection of water shed.

More satisfactory method of collection of garbage and refuse.

Improved programs on prenatal and child hygiene with special emphasis on increasing the personnel for this work.

Improved municipally owned slaughter house.

October 1967

Mount Airy is the principal town, or largest town, in Surry County.

Surry County has a population of 49,836, the following towns are located in the county:

Mount Airy	Population	7900
Elkin	"	3100
Pilot Mountain	"	1500
Dobson	"	775

There are several smaller towns in the county.

The entire county has kept pace with other counties of comparable size. Its industrial growth has developed until it can probably be classified as an industrial county, there are over 13,000 people employed in manufacturing plants in the county. Tobacco is still the chief crop.

Transportation: The railroad still serves the county for freight but no passenger service is available in the county. The private automobile and bus lines connect comfortably with airports and railroads in nearby cities. There are two airports in the county, neither of which accomodate large commercial planes.

Medical Services: There are two hospitals within the county with approximately one hundred or more beds each. One is located in Mount Airy and one in Elkin. The old Martin Memorial Hospital in Mt. Airy burned in 1953 and a new hospital was built on another location and was opened in 1957. This is the Northern Hospital of Surry County. The Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital in Elkin has been built for a number of years. This hospital has been improved and additions built thereby modernizing it.

North Carolina Baptist Hospital and Bowman Gray School of Medicine are located in Winston-Salem, 38 miles from Mt. Airy.

We never want for medical out-patient service as they are most cooperative and assist us in all our medical problems. All of our prenatal clinic patients are eligible for delivery as service patients at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

The most pressing medical problem at present is need for county physician and county medical examiner. Patients who need medical assistance often suffer for the lack of this type service.

October 1967-Staff

The Surry County Health Department has grown from a skeleton staff of two in 1920 when it was organized to a staff of eighteen.

The present staff consists of: (Date employed also listed)

Dr. Robert M. Caldwell	Health Director	1961
Mrs. Bernice H. Midkiff	Supervising Nurse	1946
Mrs. Jo Anne W. Brannock	Public Health Nurse	1959
Mrs. Claudia M. Bryant	Public Health Nurse	1955
Mrs. Daisy H. Crouse	Public Health Nurse (last)	1963
Mrs. Laura S. Hayes	Public Health Nurse	1955
Mrs. Iris S. Horton	Public Health Nurse (last)	1963
Mrs. Carolyn O. Wagoner	Public Health Nurse	1967
Mr. John R. Cruse	Sanitarian	1946
Mr. Robert Bruce Lewis	Sanitarian	1965
Mr. William W. Wilkins	Registered X-ray Technician	1956
Mrs. Judy B. Angel	Clerical	1958
Miss Louise G. Bailey	Clerical	1935

Staff, continued:

Mrs. Margaret T. King	Clerical	1962
Mrs. Patricia R. Williams	Home Health Aide	1967
Mrs. Betty F. Cruse	Practical Nurse	1941
Mr. Joseph A. Puckett	Custodian	1956
Mrs. Nancy S. Minor	Tuberculosis Clerk	1963

The Surry County Health Department has branch offices in Elkin, Dobson and Pilot Mountain. At the time the department was organized our offices were located in Mt. Airy and consisted of two or three rooms, one being a hallway. The following men have served as Health Directors. In the earlier years following Dr. L. L. Williams were: Dr. Johnson, Dr. Lancaster, Dr. M. T. Foster, now Health Director of Cumberland County; Dr. N. Thomas Ennett, deceased; Dr. T. C. Britt, Jr., deceased; Dr. Allen Whitaker, pediatrician now in private practice in Rocky Mount, N. C.; Dr. Ralph J. Sykes, Health Director 1936-1939, now in general private practice in Mt. Airy; Dr. R. B. C. Franklin, Health Director from 1939 to 1961, now retired and living in Florida. The attached letters of commendation of Dr. Franklin give a small idea of Dr. Franklin's work and leadership in the county.

Dr. Robert M. Caldwell is presently Health Director. He was Chairman of the Board of Health for a number of years and upon Dr. Franklin's resignation he began his duties as Health Director in July 1961.

From the two or three rooms we had upstairs over the city jail we have grown until we are now located (since 1956) in a large granite building, which at one time was the nurses home for Martin Memorial Hospital. It was the wish of Dr. Moir S. Martin that this building be used for some form of medical service to the community. It was due to his interest in Public Health that it was acquired for the use of the Surry County Health Department. The Martin Memorial Hospital and Nurses Home was owned by Dr. Moir S. Martin. This building is owned now jointly by Surry County and Town of Mt. Airy.

To give an idea of the growth of the department the following figures will be of interest.

<u>Budgets-year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1934-1935	\$ 6,216.18
1933-1936	8,165.89
1937-1938	10,981.37
1938-1939	13,103.73
1939-1940	14,763.50
1949-1950	42,328.00
1959-1960	74,000.00
1965-1966	141,695.00
1967-1968	\$ 182,258.11

Note:

Salaries 1934-1935

Health Director	per month	\$250.00	raised to \$300.00, July 1935
Public Health Nurse	"	100.00	
Sanitarian	"	125.00	
Clerk	"	50.00	raised to \$75.00 in July 1935

The building occupied by Surry County Health Department is situated on a beautiful lot, well landscaped with azaleas, dogwood trees and other flowering shrubs and evergreens. There are twenty six rooms, all in daily use. Currently plans are being considered for enlarging the building. A minimum of ten additional rooms are needed. Plans are also underway to purchase a nearby lot to be used at the present time as parking lot, this property adjoins ours.

Vital Statistics:

There are no midwives in Surry County and practically all births occur in the hospitals. The physicians in the county make no home deliveries at this time.

All birth and death certificates are processed through the Health Department, Dr. Robert M. Caldwell, being Registrar. Township Registrars were discontinued in 1950.

Communicable Disease:

Practically no communicable diseases outside of gonorrhea and tuberculosis are reported. A sporadic case of scarlet fever, meningitis, or measles are reported. The tuberculosis case rate has dropped considerably. For the past five years a total of nine deaths from tuberculosis was recorded. Only 73 new active cases were reported for this same five year period, with only four new cases last year (1966).

The Health Department purchased its first X-ray equipment in 1941 and PFX unit in 1946. X-ray equipment for the Elkin office was purchased in about 1948, this was later sold another PFX unit for that office was secured in 1966. Fluoroscopic unit with picture taking device was secured for the Pilot Mountain office in the late forties, but this proved impractical and this was sold also.

There are 344 cases of diagnosed tuberculosis in the Case Register currently.

Prenatal, OB-Gyn, Family Planning clinics:

These clinics are very active and have been manned for a number of years by Bowman Gray School of Medicine staff. The clinics are well attended and show good results. The family planning clinic is apparently paying off. We note an approximate decrease in live births of about 10 per cent for the two preceding years.

Sanitation:

Over the period of years the sanitation conditions in Surry County have shown much improvement. Many ordinances have been passed and put into operation. There are practically no out door privies. Sewerage disposal plants in each town in the county are taking care of this problem nicely. Most homes not reached by city sewer have septic tanks (the county ordinance requires this before a permit is issued). Due to these improved sanitation conditions typhoid is practically a thing of the past.

At the time the Surry County Health Department was first set up typhoid was a frequent occurrence. There are two typhoid carriers in the county, both of these are watched carefully, and contacts are checked at intervals. There were a few cases of smallpox in the teens but of course this is a thing of the past.

Progress: Past.....Present....Future

Progress marches on and Surry County Health Department is keeping pace in all field of activity, participating and expanding the services to meet the needs of the community.

At no time in the past 35 years has the service lagged or fallen below standards.

The services increase each year and as the need arises The Surry County Health Department and its staff and governing board will be there ready to meet it.

There have been many difficult times as in all worthwhile endeavors, but these difficult times have better fitted us to go for bigger and better things for the future. We have a dedicated staff, as reflects in the number of years the majority has been working.

May 1, 1961

Dr. E. G. McGavran, M. P. H.
Dean of School of Public Health
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear Dr. McGavran:

As an employee and co-worker for over 22½ years under Dr. R. B. C. Franklin I would like very much to make a most sincere recommendation that he be considered for the Watson S. Rankin award.

I have worked side by side with him and I know how hard he has striven for public health standards and improvements in our county and adjoining counties.

He has won the love, affection and respect of all the people in the community, both professionally and individually.

Since he plans to leave public health for reasons beyond his control I feel that it would be very fitting if he could be so honored at this time.

We feel that we have one of the most outstanding local health units in the state in many ways, and that this is due to his untiring efforts.

Sincerely,

Louise G. Bailey, Secretary

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Mount Airy, N. C.

May 1, 1961

Dr. E. G. McGavran
Dean of School of Public Health
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Dear Dr. McGavran:

It has been brought to our attention that Dr. R. B. C. Franklin, who has been head of the Health Department of Surry County for the past twenty years is to retire in August of this year. We feel that under his leadership our local Health Department has grown from a mediocre one to one that will compare favorably with similar Departments in the state. Those that know him well are anxious that his long and faithful work here be recognized. He had endeared himself to all of the folks in Surry County with whom he has had an contact, and all of us are keenly aware of the loss we stand to suffer with his leaving.

Dr. Franklin has been active in a number of other fields than his profession. He has served as President of the Surry Shrine Club, as Chairman of the Surry County T. B. Association, as Chairman of the March of Dimes and was instrumental in helping to establish the first Junior of Commerce in the County. He has done an outstanding job in every capacity in which he has served.

In view of his devoted service to his community and to his profession we respectfully ask that you, as Chairman of the Awards Committee carefully consider him as an applicant for the Rankin Award. We are sure that Dr. Franklin has some connection with this committee and that he would never consider offering himself as a candidate for this honor; consequently we are taking it upon ourselves to present his name to you.

Yours very truly,

G. Thomas Fawcett
Vice President and Cashier

D. C. Rector
President
and Treasurer Surry County T. B. Assn.

ROBERT M. CALDWELL, M. D.
A. C. G. P.

May 1, 1961

E. G. McGavran, M.D., M. P. H.
Dean of School of Public Health
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear Dr. McGavran:

As chairman of the Surry County Board of Health for the past fifteen years, I feel that I should make some effort to remind the citizens of Surry County and the associates of Dr. R. B. C. Franklin, and bring to the attention of others, the achievements and contributions to Public Health made by Dr. Franklin, as our health director, during the past twenty-two years.

Dr. Franklin is resigning this year, before his twenty five years of service has been completed, primarily as the result of injuries and illness sustained during his tour of duty with the Armed Forces in World War II, while on leave of absence from the department. Bob Franklin has done an excellent job in Surry County. Under his direction Surry County, with the aid of the County Board of Health, purchased a good building, conveniently located, with ample space for the department needs. He has created and maintained good relations with the medical profession and the public through his work with the local medical society and civic groups. He has been very active in the work of the Cancer Society, with crippled children, the blind, T. B. Association, and many other projects for better health and welfare of the public.

The record which Dr. Franklin leaves with this Health Department is certainly a challenge to the person who must replace him. If there is an award or other means of recognizing a man for his efforts in this field of endeavor, beyond the call of duty, it certainly would be in order to confer such an honor upon Dr. R. B. C. Franklin of Mount Airy, North Carolina.

Respectfully,

Robert M. (Box) Caldwell

RMC/bdd/p

H. O. Woltz, Attorney
Mt. Airy, N. C.

May 1, 1961

Dr. E. G. McGavran, M. P. H.
School of Public Health
Office of the Dean
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Dear Dr/ McGavran:

It has come to my attention as a citizen of Mount Airy and Chairman of the Planning Board of the Town of Mount Airy, that on May 2, 1961, you will have meeting of the members of the Award Committee of the North Carolina Public Health Association in your office. I also understand that Dr. R. B. C. Franklin of Surry County is a member of this committee.

This letter is written to you recommending that Dr. Franklin be considered for the Rankin Award which I understand is given to individuals in recognition of outstanding contribution to public health in North Carolina over a period of several years.

I am satisfied that I speak the opinion of the majority of the doctors, manufacturers, merchants and citizens in Surry County in saying to you that the work that Dr. Franklin has done in the county over the past 22½ years has been most outstanding. He has made sacrifices and been most unselfish in his work and care of the people in this county far beyond the call of duty. Members of the Committee here in this county working for this award for Dr. Franklin have been associated with him over the years and have observed the fine work performed and the fine health department he has made for this county. He is a true public servant and he has devoted many years of his time and energy in the development of one of the best health departments in the state in my opinion. If a man has ever deserved an award for something done in recognition of his outstanding services to public health and to the health of the entire state in general, it is my opinion that Dr. R. B. C. Franklin is one of these persons.

If this expression from me at the request of the committee here in Surry County is not sufficient to call Dr. Franklin's name before the committee before action is taken, I certainly hope you will let me hear from you in regard to may further information you need in considering this award.

-D- continued

Dr. E. G. McGavran
May 1, 1961
Page -2-

Re: Dr. R. B. C. Franklin

For your information, the reason we feel that this award is so worthy for Dr. Franklin at this time is that Dr. Franklin is leaving the health department and going to Florida to live for his health. From his health standpoint, he should have done this five years ago. When he came out of the army, (O. S. S.) he was given only 10 years to live and I know personally he has cut his life many years shorter from his untiring devotion to his work.

I trust that you and your committee will give Dr. Franklin due consideration for this award as we believe the recognition is well deserved.

With highest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

H. O. Woltz

HOW/bsc

WORKMANS FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
Mt. Airy, N. C.

May 1, 1961

Dr. E. G. McGavran, M. P. H.
The University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear Dr. McGavran:

I understand that at the Committee Meeting of the School of Public Health awards will be given in various fields for outstanding work in the field of medicine.

In my opinion there is no doctor in North Carolina who could better qualify for the Watson S. Rankin Award than Dr. R. B. C. Franklin of the Surry County Health Department.

Since coming to Surry County, Dr. Franklin has done an outstanding job with the Health Department and I believe that the records will bear me out, that he has one of the best departments in the State. His work in the field of polio, to my certain knowledge as I am Committee Chairman, has been outstanding.

In addition to the above, I feel that he is one of the outstanding physicians of the State, a great humanitarian and one of the most public spirited men it has ever been my privilege to know. This award could not be given to a finer gentleman or a more deserving person.

His great throng of friends and patients, as well as myself, would greatly appreciate the consideration that you and your committee could give Dr. Franklin.

Yours very truly,

A. B. Carter, President

ABC:fcs

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
Chapel Hill

School of Public Health
Office of the Dean

June 6, 1961

Miss Louise G. Bailey
Secretary
Surry County Health Department
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Dear Miss Bailey:

The Awards Committee of the North Carolina Public Health Association wishes to thank you personally for your fine and thoughtful letter of recommendation. Unfortunately, Dr. Franklin is a member of the Awards Committee, and the Committee regretfully voted, upon Dr. Franklin's insistence, that his recommendation be withdrawn from the nominations in view of his committee activities. We hope that this will not discourage you from resubmitting Dr. Franklin's name for consideration at a future date when he is not upon the committee.

Sincerely,

E. G. McGavran, M.D., M.P.H.
Chairman, Awards Committee
N. C. Public Health Association

EGM:raf

Note:

I have been informed that each person submitting letters concerning Dr. Franklin were sent a copy of this same letter.

Dr. Franklin's name was not submitted the following year because he was leaving the state and he felt that someone else active in Public Health should be considered.

L. G. B.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF EMPLOYEES

Health Directors:

Williams, Dr. L. L.	1920	First Health Director
Lancaster, Dr.		
Johnson, Dr.		
Foster, Dr. M. T.	1929-1931	
Britt, Dr. T. C., Sr.	1931-1933	
Ennett, Dr. N. Thomas	1933-1934	
Whitaker, Dr. Allen W.	1934-1935	
Sykes, Dr. R. J. S	1936-1939	
Franklin, Dr. R. B. C.	1939-1961	
Caldwell, Dr. Robert M.	1961	Still Employed

Public Health Nurses:

Beamer, Mary B.	1927	
Oliver, Harte	1928	
Joyce, Eva	1929	
Shelton, Ada	1929	
Parsons, Irene	1929	
Irwin, Pauline	1930-1933	
Reeves, Nellie H.	1933-1934	
Taylor, Mary	1935-1940	
Taylor, Grace	1936	
Reid, Viola S.	1936-1941	
Simpson, Lettie G.	1939-1946	
Collins, Ola M.	1940	
Breece, Mary Belle	1940	
Hudson, Mildred	1940	
Lunsford, Dorothy	1941	
Cornell, Geraldine	1942	
Johnson, Nancy Lee	1943	
Harris, Edith Mae	1944	
Irwin, Pauline	1945	
Gwyn, Ruth A.	1945	
Smith, Maybelle	1946-1956	
Harris, Bernice M. (Midkiff now)	1946	Still Employed
Crouse, Daisy H.	1946-1954 & 1963	Still employed
Hodges, Alice H.	1946	
McMillian, Mildred	1947	
Johnson, Ruby Mills	1947-1949	
Tilley Annie Lee	1949	
Horton, Iris S.	1950-1956 & 1963	Still employed
Edwards, Donna	1950-1951	
Crews, Alice	1953-1955	
Bryant, Caludia M.	1955	Still employed
Hayes, Laura S.	1955	Still Employed
Katherine M. Brown	1959-1963	
Brannock, Jo Anne	1959	Still employed
Hill, Rachel P.	1964-1967	
Forkner, Helen F.	1965-1967	
Wagoner, Carolyn O.	1967	still employed

Sanitarians:

Batts, T. P.	1931	
Battle, Gordon	1932	
Hale, Edwin P.	1933-1937	
Hinton, E. L.	1937	
Butler, Charles L.	1937-1941	
Cain, P. D.	1941	
Johnson, Clifton	1944	
Cruse, John R.	1946	Still employed
Kaye, Arthur	1949	U. S. P. H. S.
Braugher, Owen	1949	
Walker, Robert W.	1954-1958	
Webb, William Archer	1962-1955	
Lewis, Robert Bruce	1965	Still employed

Clerical:

Leitch, Margaret	1927	
Atkins, Della	1927	
Mitchell, Bessie Rae	1928-1935	
Bailey, Louise G.	1935	Still employed
Badget, Virginia	1940	
Kingsbury, Freeda	1943-1947	
Monroe, Violet W.	1948-1955	
Angel, Judy B.	1958	Still employed
King, Margaret T.	1962	Still employed

V. D. Investigator:

Haynes, Charles D.	1942-1946
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Health Educator:

Jones, Mazie Jean	1947-1948
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Practical Nurse:

Cruse, Betty F.	1941	Still employed
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X-ray Technicians:

Benbow, Loal A.	1947	
Sells, C. Harold	1948-1949 & 1952-1954	
Abernathy, Charles	1954	
Hamilton, James R.	1955-1956	
Wilkins, William W.	1956	Still employed

Custodian:

Puckett, Joseph A.	1956	Still employed
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Home Health Aide

Moorefield, Mary Pauline	1967	
Williams, Patricia R.	1967	Still employed

Note: Part Time employees not listed.