

Kansas Public Health Association

**SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE  
BANQUET**



**HONORING**

**W. FRED MAYES, M.D., M.P.H.**

Wednesday, March 29, 1967

Broadview Hotel, Wichita, Kansas

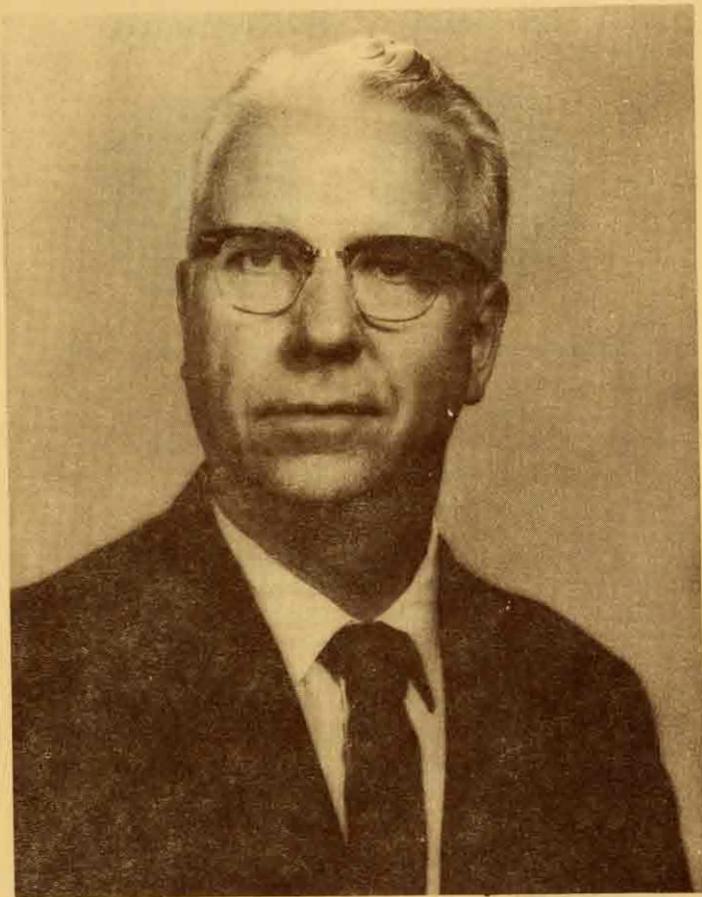
## THE SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE MEDAL



Presented for outstanding service in public health

- 1946—Samuel J. Crumbine, M.D.\*
- 1947—Clarence H. Kinnaman, M.D.\*
- 1948—Charles H. Lerrigo, M.D.\*
- 1951—Earnest Boyce, C.E.
- 1952—E. V. McCollum, Ph.D.
- 1954—Earle G. Brown, M.D.\*
- 1955—Karl A. Menninger, M.D., and  
William C. Menninger, M.D.
- 1956—Ralph I. Canuteson, M.D.
- 1958—Vernon M. Winkle, M.D.\*
- 1961—Franklin D. Murphy, M.D.
- 1962—Leona Baumgartner, M.D.
- 1963—Charles A. Hunter, Ph.D.
- 1964—Fred Lowe Soper, M.D.
- 1965—Dwight F. Metzler, C.E., M.P.H.
- 1966—Geoffrey M. Martin, M.D., M.P.H.\*

\*Deceased



## W. FRED MAYES, M.D., M.P.H.

"If we accept the premise that humility is a mark of greatness, Fred Mayes is the greatest." So says one of his former proteges. "I have never heard Fred refer to an achievement of any kind as 'mine' or 'I did this.' It has always been 'ours' or 'we did this'."

All who have come in contact with Dr. Mayes echo this sentiment and enthusiastically endorse him for the 1967 Samuel Crumbine Medal.

William Fred Mayes was born February 25, 1908, in Jackson County, Missouri. His parents were hill people, from the mountains of Tennessee. There were seven children, five boys and two girls. His brother, Lee, is director of Environmental Health Services of the Kansas State Department of Health. His oldest brother died at the age of 17. His father died in 1941, his mother in 1957.

One childhood trait still exists today. Fred Mayes insists on finding out things for himself. When he was just a tiny tot, he was warned that the stove was hot. Even then, Fred had to convince himself. Impulsively he stuck his tongue on the hot stove! Even that didn't cure him of what might be called his stubborn streak. Today he listens a lot and tries to profit from what he hears. But he reserves judgment until he has had a chance to check out all the facts.

Another carry-over from childhood is his storytelling. In those days, he made them up as he went along. His brother, Lee, says he always enjoyed Fred's stories just as much as the younger kids.

Fred was a farm boy. He has often remarked that they will never take the country boy out of him. A friend says, "Having personally observed his favorite hobby of farming carried out on a city lot, I believe him."

### His Education

The family moved to Kansas City where Fred attended Central Junior High, Wyandotte High School, and Kansas City Junior College.

It was during his junior high years that he became interested in the well-being of people, especially children and youth. This concern has been a thread running through his entire career.

While he was still in high school, he worked part time assisting with boys' work at the Y at Kansas City, Kansas. In the summer he helped with full time programs, the community clubs. Al Hammersmith, now a sanitarian at the Kansas City-Wyandotte County Health Department was one of his "boys."

Fred became interested in medicine while he was in high school. He joined the Hemostats Club, a group of young fellows wanting medical careers.

In 1936, Fred received his B.S. degree from the University of Kansas. His wife, the former Dorothy Lee Reavis, worked as a secretary to help him through medical school. He received his M.D. from K.U. Medical Center in 1938.

His rotating internship was at Trinity Lutheran Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri. His pediatrics residency was at University of Kansas Hospital, Kansas City, Kansas, Henry Ford Hospital and Herman Kiefer Con-

tagious Disease Hospital, Detroit. This training was from 1938 through 1941.

In 1948, he earned his M.P.H. at Harvard School of Public Health.

### His Career

The spirit and posture of Fred Mayes as a public health worker in Kansas did a great deal to maintain the morale and improve the performance of all other public health personnel with whom he came in contact. It was quite obvious that his love of public health led him to accept the monetary sacrifices that go with a public health career. It was remarkable that he did so in spite of remaining school debts and the necessity to support aging parents.

His career in public health began in 1941. He was director of a model child health demonstration project carried out in western Kansas. It involved a four-county area with offices at Quinter. This demonstration made a distinct contribution to the development of child health centers in other areas of the state.

In 1942, he became director of the Division of Maternal and Child Health. After serving for a year as Regional Medical Consultant at the Atlanta office of the U.S. Children's Bureau, he came back to Kansas. In 1944 he became Deputy State Health Officer and Director of Local Health Administration for the State Department of Health.

It is estimated that he covered more miles than any other director of Local Health Services, driving early and late to work with local units. As has been true dur-

ing all of Fred's public health career, he was not only a "planner" but a "doer." While he was with the State Health Department, Kansas had more local health departments staffed by full time physicians than ever before — or after.

Fred had, and still has, a very strong belief that public health physicians should be active members of their local medical societies. He is firmly dedicated to the principle that the cooperation and understanding of local private practitioners is necessary for a public health program.

He was instrumental in developing a cooperative teamwork relationship with state and local medical societies. This was based on the premise that a partnership is essential between the private physician (and his private patient) and the public health physician who has the community as his patient.

Fred served as director of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Health Department in 1948-1950. He was instrumental in bringing a city health department, a county health department, a visiting nurses' association, and the local voluntary health associations together in a true community approach to public health which gained national recognition.

After leaving Wichita in 1950 he embarked on another aspect of his public health career, that of an educator. He worked part time on the faculty of the Harvard School of Public Health while serving as Health officer in Brookline, Mass.

Fred has had considerable teaching experience. He has been Instructor in Preventive pediatrics and Vis-

iting Lecturer in Public Health, University of Kansas Medical School; Visiting Lecturer in Community Health, University of Wichita; Assistant Professor and Acting Head of the Department of Public Health Practice, Harvard School of Public Health; Visiting Lecturer in Public Health Administration, Simmons College Nursing School, Boston. He is now Dean of the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

While on the Harvard faculty he became aware of the importance, and believed it was a responsibility, to provide educational experiences to public health leaders in foreign countries. He believed it so strongly that he accepted a two-year assignment as Public Health Consultant to the Minister of Health for Pakistan in Karachi.

When he arrived there, his counterpart asked, "What are your plans, Dr. Mayes?"

Fred replied, "Are you kidding? I won't be able to make a plan until I've been here at least six months to learn the problems." Then the Pakistani said, "Are you kidding?"

The Mayes family associated with the people of Pakistan as much as possible. They sent their children (at least the youngest) to a native school.

There is no doubt that Fred made a great contribution to the health of Pakistan. One of his outstanding qualities is compassion for others. A friend says he was particularly impressed with this as he watched Fred show slides picturing conditions over there.

When the Mayes family returned to America, a big welcoming party was planned for them at the home of

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wilmore in Topeka. The family had made two safe ocean journeys and a drive from California but their car collided with another on a Topeka street. Fred sustained a skull fracture. The party was cancelled and there were many anxious moments before his recovery.

Fred rejoined the faculty at Harvard on a full time basis. He made a major contribution to the education of public health leaders in this country and abroad.

While at Harvard, he became interested in the problem of applied research. Many excellent research discoveries were being made at the National Institutes of Health. The problem was in getting this research applied to a state or local program. Also, there was an evident need for the development of new methods and techniques in the field of Public Health Administration.

Fred accepted an assignment with the U. S. Public Health Service as head of the newly established applied research program. Through his efforts we have seen basic research applied at a state and local level. We have also seen the development of new methodology in Public Health Administration. This is evidenced by the outstanding job he is doing as Dean of the School of Public Health in North Carolina.

### **His Affiliations**

Fred Mayes is a Fellow of the American Public Health Association. He was instrumental in establishing the Conference of State Directors of Local Health Services. The first meeting was held in Kansas and was considered a great success.

He is a life member, Committee on Professional Education, APHA; chairman, subcommittee on Accrediting Schools of Public Health; member of American Medical Association, World Medical Association, American Committee; Health Services Research Study Section, Regular Corps (Medical Director, Inactive) U. S. Public Health Service, and Commissioned Officers Association; Consultant on International Health Programs, U. S. Agency for International Development; American College of Preventive Medicine; and Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine.

Other affiliations include Phi Chi Medical Fraternity and Delta Omega, honorary public health fraternity.

He is a loyal church member. One friend says, "I believe a large part of his ability to relax is due to his deep religious faith. Although it is not as evident as being worn on his shirt sleeve, it has been a guide and provided the direction to Fred throughout his life."

### **His Family**

The Mayes family is close-knit with a lot of mutual respect for each other. In fact, Fred's family has been foremost in his life. Many of his old friends say it was an enjoyable experience to spend an evening with the Mayes family when the kids were all home.

The family enjoyed many weekend camping trips to Colorado.

One time Fred was having a talk with his teenage son. He said, "I know it's hard for you to be an adolescent because you've never been one before. But just

remember, I've never been the father of an adolescent before, either."

The last few years have seen Alvin, Carol and Jeanne marry. They now have families of their own. Even though the Mayes family may be separated geographically, there continues to be a family closeness that binds them together.

Fred has had his ups and downs. He would be the first to say that in his successes and his disappointments he has had the encouragement, companionship, and love of his children and his wife, Dorothy.

## His Tributes

Fred Mayes has always had a great love for people regardless of their stations in life. He never lost that humility. A graduate from the North Carolina School of Public Health tells this story. There was a school function that he and his wife very much wanted to attend. They were unable to find a baby sitter anywhere. Guess who volunteered to baby sit? The Dean of the School and his wife!

A Senior Public Health Advisor received training and help from Dr. Mayes. He writes, "Fred has always had a sensitive conscience to the needs, interests, abilities, and limitations of others. He has the rare ability of being forceful without appearing to be direct, of making a point without belaboring it and of making you realize you have erred without directly telling you of your error. . . . I can honestly say that what success I have achieved in public health has been due to the ex-

cellent 'tutoring,' training, and consultation he has given me."

A former co-worker describes Dr. Mayes as a friendly, outgoing person, achieving his goals through mediation, cooperation, and enthusiasm — progressing with ease from local and state to national and international levels of service in public health.

An APHA official and former State Health Officer has this to say:

"Fred Mayes exemplifies the entrepreneur in public health since he was willing to forego continuing employment in any single large agency for the enrichment of experience which he could obtain only by acceptance of a wide variety of positions and job responsibilities in numerous different health agencies. Undoubtedly his Kansas experience in each of several capacities helped a great deal in achieving his professional enrichment. At the same time he also helped those around him to take the positive view, assisting them to create new opportunities for public health in Kansas and helping them constructively use the opportunities which appeared or were created.

"All this was done with optimistic, bounding energy and with help to those around him in developing their own public health capacities and careers.

"It is indeed appropriate that the Association is conferring its top award on Dr. Mayes for his accomplishments both within and outside of the State of Kansas."

The career of Fred Mayes can be summarized in a quotation from Lao-Tsze: "I have three precious things

which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness, the second is frugality, the third is humility which keeps me from putting myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can become a leader among men."

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1966-1967

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