

County Health Department Grows From 1921 Start

The goal of the Klamath County Health Department has been to provide the people of the Klamath country with the best health services possible. These services have increased through the years the continuing year by year from the time that addition of services to benefit the Lydia Fricke herded a Model T



WHOA! NOT TOO DEEP there, Doc. Dr. Seth Kerron, Klamath County Health Officer, has given many shots to youth and their elders in the health department's never-ending fight against communicable diseases. This young lad was being immunized against polio at county health department.



MOUSE DAMAGE to crops that cost Klamath Basin ranchers hundreds of thousands of dollars in 1957 was studied by Dr. Seth Kerron, right, Klamath County Health Officer, and Dr. M. A. Holmes, public health veterinarian for the Oregon State Board of Health. Health departments made a study to see if mice were diseased. This is phase of health officer's work.

Ford through hub deep mud to administer as the first county health nurse to loggers in lumber camps, poked needles into arms to fight diphtheria, advised young mothers and comforted the aged as a one-woman health department.

That was in 1921. The late Dr. George Merryman had just set up the county's first public health unit and served for four years as county health officer on a part time basis. Dr. G. S. Newsom was the first full time health officer.

Today, with many years gone by since then, Dr. Seth M. Kerron, veteran of 14 years in an expanded field of service in the county, looks forward to providing expanded health aid to the aged, both physically and mentally.

Referrals are made to the clinic by the schools, physicians, parents, and juvenile department. An advisory board of 21 members representing county institutions, organizations and other groups confer on policy with health officers.

Until 1960 the county employed only one full-time sanitarian.

The two now on the county payroll have full schedules of inspection of restaurants, hotels, motels, sewage disposals and general nuisance complaints.

Seven nurses, increased from two in 1936, are on call to schools and homes, each nurse in a specified district where they check on absenteeism in schools, give nursing bedside demonstrations, aid

needy home patients, and give moral support to those who need it.

The health department offers immunization to every student in every school, every year. The cycle is completed every third

year. In announcing this service, Dr. Kerron said that the general health of every student could be protected if parents will take advantage of the program.

Lake County, Dr. Kerron states, health department would be impressed with the success of the child guidance clinic in Klamath County, has asked to make referrals to the child guidance clinic. The plan if accepted by the local health department would be to benefit increasing numbers of men, women and children.

nanced by appropriations from the Lake County Court. This is one of the most recent developments in the health service to benefit increasing numbers of men, women and children.

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THE PRESENT HEADQUARTERS of the Klamath County Health Department at 1949 Main Street was purchased in 1949 after original headquarters at Eighth and Pine Streets became inadequate. All county health services are handled from this building. Second floor is occupied by county juvenile home.



DR. SETH M. KERRON, Klamath County health officer, has seen vast improvement in the services of the county health unit since he took over the office nearly 14 years ago. He heads a staff of seven nurses, two sanitarians, a full-time psychiatric worker and clerical staff of one half-time and two full-time employees.

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KPCA PROGRESS REPORT As of December 31st

NUMBER OF MEMBERS—
1934-104 members; 1947-470 members; 1960-607 members

VOLUME OF LOANS CLOSED—
1934-\$450,902; 1947-\$3,543,000; 1960-\$6,535,000

STOCK OWNED BY MEMBERS—
1934-\$19,965; 1947-\$191,415; 1960-\$362,335

RESERVES TO PROTECT MEMBERS' INVESTMENT—
1934-0; 1947-\$239,811; 1960-\$482,972

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at all times. The Intermediate Credit Bank gets its money by selling debenture bonds to investors throughout the country. The money loaned by Klamath Production Credit Association is private capital.

Klamath Production Credit Association, 9th & Klamath Ave., Klamath Falls