

WALTER F. SNYDER

*Executive Director of the
National Sanitation Foundation—
1944-1965*



Men and women who find careers in the fields of environmental health share certain interests, problems, convictions and aspirations which place them in a professional situation that is decidedly their own. They dedicate their lives to the service of their fellow men. They are deeply committed to the belief that this

world, this nation, this state, this district or town can, and must, be made a better, safer place in which to live. They are a realistic amalgam of exact science and boundless optimism, and their zeal is never dimmed.

Walter F. Snyder was one of these people. He learned from his colleagues

and taught others what he learned. Almost everyone who encountered him in a classroom, meeting or conference knew they were in the presence of an evangelist of environmental health. Many who met him realized that this friendly yet outspoken man possessed remarkable powers of insight, organizational creativity and leadership. These gifts, combined with his desire to work with and through people, were ultimately to establish him as a leader among those who seek to attain environmental quality.

For 10 years, he directed the environmental health program for the City of Toledo, Ohio. Even as he worked to improve an urban environment he was extending his own frontiers with graduate work at the University of Toledo as well as the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Through his studies and first-hand observation of events, he was convinced that progress on countless vital problems of public health could best be resolved by bringing representatives of government, industry and user groups together on neutral ground where they could discuss their differences and reconcile their viewpoints.

In 1944, Walter Snyder resigned from his position in Toledo and returned to Ann Arbor. His belief that environmental quality could best be achieved through deliberation, harmony and accord attracted interest and support among highly placed members of the U of M faculty. As a result, the National Sanitation Foundation was established at the School of Public Health in that year. He served as its Executive Director until his death in 1965.

The new Foundation had marked success in providing a mechanism for bringing new standards of

sanitation to industry, and in conducting supportive research. Today, the National Sanitation Foundation, an independent, non-profit organization with a large professional staff and testing laboratory of its own, is an ever-widening influence in the field of environmental quality. This influence is due today, as it was in the very beginning, to the principle of inter-group communication and cooperation pioneered by Walter F. Snyder.

The 1972 Walter F. Snyder Award presented to RALPH C. PICKARD

The career of Ralph Pickard is an inspiration to every man and woman who is concerned at a professional level with the quality of our environment. For nineteen of his twenty-five professional years he has centered his remarkable energies in the state of Kentucky, demonstrating how much can be accomplished on behalf of the environment, at a chosen level of government, through personal devotion and leadership.

He has gained recognition for his work on national committees such as the Council of Public Health Consultants of the National Sanitation Foundation and the Technical Transfer Committee of the Environmental Protection Agency. But his monumental attainment—truly an exemplar to the nation and the world—is what one dedicated and determined official can achieve within the jurisdictional boundaries of a single commonwealth.

His career as an environmentalist began with his graduation with a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Michigan in 1947. He first worked as a sanitary engineer in Calhoun County (Michigan) and later in the Wayne County (Michigan) Health Department. As he gained experience he moved to larger responsibilities. In 1949 he became director of public health engineering in the Evansville-Vanderburgh (Indiana) County Health Department, and in 1953 he came to the Kentucky Department of Health as



assistant director, Division of Public Health Engineering.

Before the year had ended he succeeded to the directorship of the division and assumed supervision of statewide programs dealing with water supplies, water pollution, swimming pools, occupational health, and plumbing.

In 1959 all environmental programs of the Kentucky Health Department were combined into the Division of Environmental Health with Pickard as

director. In this broader arena of public service he developed his strategic, two-pronged drive to defend and improve the environment of Kentucky. On one hand, he utilized the due processes of law to strengthen safeguards for the environment. On the other he implemented programs of education aimed at a better understanding of environmental problems and a desire for voluntary compliance.

In 1970 Ralph Pickard was

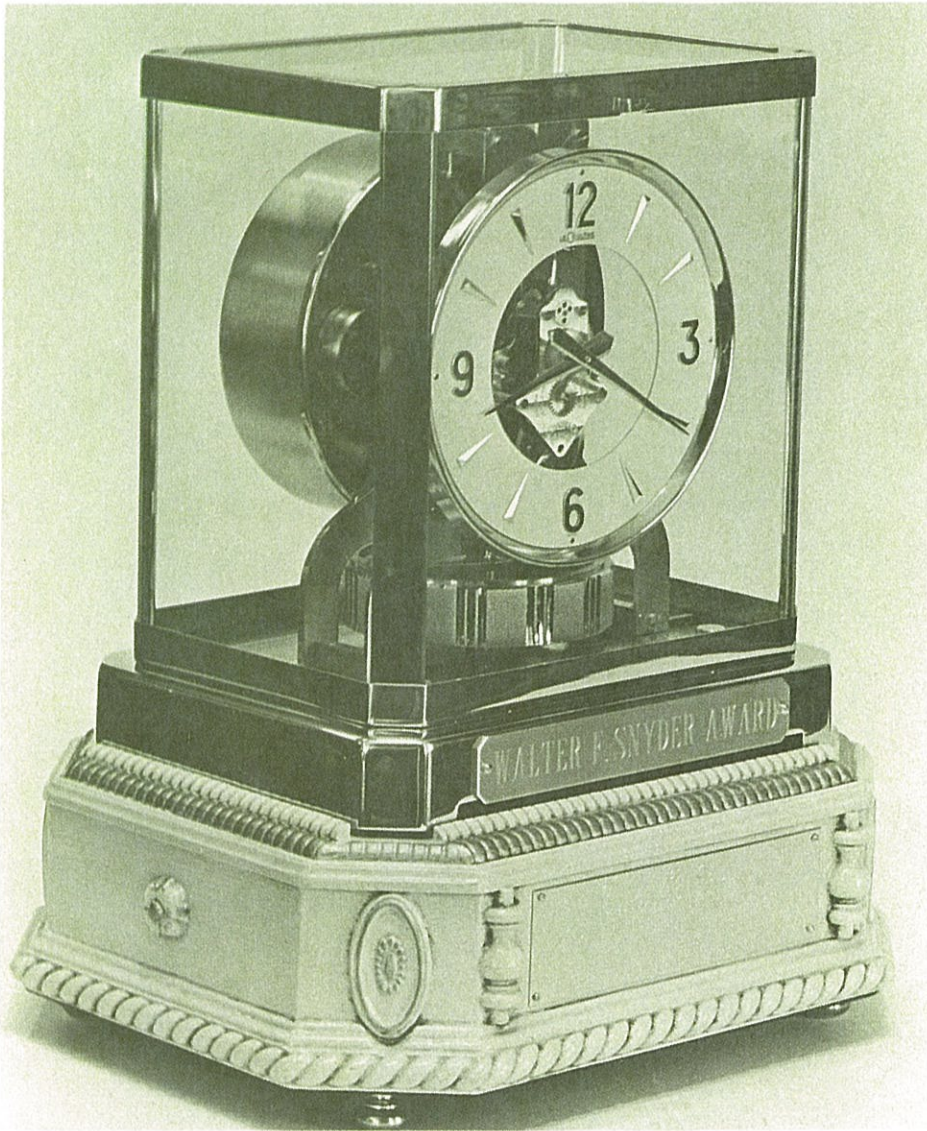
appointed the state's first Deputy Commissioner for Environment and his state programs continue to grow.

Under his leadership the first modern environmental laws and regulations have been passed in Kentucky in the fields of air pollution, solid waste, foods, drugs, cosmetics, hazardous substances, radiation control, plumbing installations and occupational health. Bills introduced under Pickard's guidance in 1972 deal with hotels, motels, food service establishments, mobile homes, recreational parks, milk control, noise control and electronic product radiation.

He was instrumental in obtaining the passage of the Kentucky Registered Sanitarian Act in 1960. In the years since his appointment as director of environmental health his staff has increased from a handful of people to a highly qualified organization of 235, and state expenditures on behalf of the environment have increased fourfold.

In 1970 Ralph Pickard was honored with the Man-of-the-Year Award of the American Public Works Association.

Today, this outstanding and dedicated man is honored with the 1972 Walter F. Snyder Award for achievement in attaining environmental quality.



The Walter F. Snyder Award is presented annually by the National Environmental Health Association and the National Sanitation Foundation to a recipient who has achieved peer recognition for outstanding accomplishment in the field of environment . . . for notable contributions to public health and the quality of life, for demonstrated capacity to work with all interests in solving environmental problems, for knowledge and proficiency in utilizing voluntary standards to obtain environmental objectives, and for leadership in securing action on behalf of environmental goals.

Presented at the Thirty-Sixth Annual Education Conference of the National Environmental Health Association on July Sixth, 1972.