



The Walter F. Snyder Award for 1979
Presented to
RAY B. WATTS

There are no columns of statistics listing the number of humans protected from suffering and death by environmental health specialists; but if there were, the numbers would be in the tens of thousands beside the name of Ray B. Watts.

Starting with a B.S. degree from William and Mary College, he began his career in 1935 as a microbiological technician at an experiment station of Connecticut State University. From 1939 to 1943 he labored as a sanitarian for a board of health in Southeastern Ohio, mostly in milk inspections. In World War II he served with a malaria control detachment of the U.S. Army and then returned to civilian life as chief sanitarian of the Wood County, Ohio health department. Problems he encountered in the field convinced him of the need for graduate education. He resigned his post and moved to Ann Arbor where, in 1951, he received his master's degree from the School of Public Health of the University of Michigan.

These were the bedrock years in the career of Ray B. Watts. With such a foundation of experience, with added knowledge from the university, plus a head bursting with new ideas, he returned to the Buckeye State to join the Ohio Department of Health. There he remained for 26 eventful years until his retirement in 1978 as chief of the Bureau of Environmental Health.

His innovative accomplishments are too numerous to list here, but we shall mention a few, any one of which might be regarded by his peers as a lifetime achievement. During more than a quarter of a century, Ray B. Watts used his leadership and administrative abilities to maintain a high quality of basic health protection for Ohioans in such areas as water quality, waste disposal, food, shelter and radiation protection.

He was the prime motivator of statewide sanitation programs for Grade A milk, food service and food vending operations.

Ray Watts established the first

certification programs for food service managers and also played a major role in upgrading the professional competence of sanitarians. Ultimately these efforts led to statutory provisions for the registration of environmental health specialists.

His leadership, backed by sound planning and organizational follow-through, led to:

- * Development of standards for solid waste disposal
- * Environmental quality in public schools, mobile home parks and migrant workers' camps.
- * An active rodent control program for metropolitan areas
- * Improvement of plumbing standards for public buildings
- * Surveillance of very hazardous substances
- * Registration of radiation sources relating to nuclear energy operations and radiation devices used in the healing arts
- * Noise control and accident prevention

Ray Watts is far less interested in

the limelight than he is in getting things done. Nevertheless, he has been honored with key positions and has received numerous awards from such organizations as the APHA, the National Automatic Merchandising Association, the Ohio Environmental Health Association and the American Academy of Sanitarians. He was a friend and professional colleague of Walter F. Snyder ever since his graduate days in Ann Arbor.

He has held numerous posts with NEHA and is currently consulting editor of the *Journal of Environmental Health*. With NSF, he has aided in the development of many standards and is a member of the NSF Council of Public Health Consultants. He is also chairman of the NSF Joint Committee on Food Service Equipment.

Far from being a retiree, Ray Watts is active today as a public health consultant. It is a pleasure, at the apex of an outstanding career, to present to Ray B. Watts the Walter F. Snyder Award for Achievement in Attaining Environmental Quality.

**PAST RECIPIENTS OF
THE WALTER F. SNYDER AWARD**

Callis F. Atkins
Ralph C. Pickard
William A. Broadway, Jr.
James E. Jump
Charles L. Senn
Charles C. Johnson, Jr.
Larry J. Gordon



THE HOPE OF MANKIND rests in the ability of man to define and seek out the environment which will permit him to live with fellow creatures of the earth, in health, in peace and in mutual respect.