



*The Walter F. Snyder Award for 1980
Presented to
JOHN G. TODD*

In 1954, as a trainee sanitarian, John Grey Todd attended a meeting of environmentalists in Toledo, there to become a friend and lifelong admirer of Walter F. Snyder. In the following year, as chief sanitarian of Fayette County, Ohio he continued his acquaintance during visits with Walter Snyder in Ann Arbor while NSF was still housed in the School of Public Health of the University of Michigan. These early contacts with the dynamic executive from NSF contained the origins of Todd's ongoing philosophy that environmentalists should be strongly involved in the application of voluntary standards.

For five years in Washington Court House, Ohio, and along the back roads of Fayette County, John Todd labored mightily with the traditional concerns of the rural sanitarian. He was the champion of water quality at thousands of village faucets and country wells. He was the tireless inspector of challenges in waste disposal, ground pollution and stream

pollution. He was the case-by-case investigator of situations involving milk, meat and food sanitation, of industrial hygiene, of rodent control, rabies control and air quality surveillance. What is more: He was not just the chief sanitarian; he was the *only* sanitarian. His accomplishments and professional diligence led to the award of a scholarship from the Ohio Department of Health which enabled him to earn his MPH at the University of North Carolina.

In 1959 he was selected for responsibilities as a district sanitarian where he served as consultant on all environmental health matters in a nine-county area. This broadening experience led to his appointment as supervisory sanitarian in the Jackson-Vinton County health departments where his administration became a model in the training program for sanitarians of the Ohio Department of Health.

Since 1957 John Todd had held a reserve commission as an officer of the

U.S. Public Health Service. In 1962 he was called to active duty as a field sanitarian in the division of Indian Health at Winslow, Arizona. It was in this capacity that he developed his aptitude for finding solutions to the special problems of underprivileged cultural groups. Recognizing these capabilities, the PHS moved him to a larger command in 1964, appointing him chief of environmental health services in the Oklahoma City area.

With the exception of five months duty on detached service in New Mexico where he directed a Peace Corps Korean training project, Todd centered his health service career for eight years in the Oklahoma area. During this time he managed to include intensive studies which resulted in a doctor of public health degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Health.

In 1970 Dr. Todd was appointed assistant to the director of the Indian Health Service and in December 1973 was appointed to his present post as director, division of program operations, Indian Health Service. In this position he is responsible for the total health program administered on behalf of 750,000 Indian and Alaskan native citizens. This program is provided through 51 hospitals ranging in capacity from 10 to 307 beds. Further services are provided through 74 full-time outpatient clinics and more than 300 part-time facilities. The program requires the services of 10,000 employees in all health disciplines, including 450 professional and technical environmentalists. The

annual budget is \$700 million.

Dr. Todd's remarkable ability to empathize with all people has created strong sense of unity among member of the various professional categories who make up the Indian Health team

Since 1974, Dr. Todd has also functioned as Chief Sanitarian of the U.S. Public Health Service, and in August 1977 was promoted to the rank of Assistant Surgeon General. Commissioned officers of the PHS wear uniforms similar to naval uniforms and Dr. Todd's rank is equivalent to that of a rear admiral.

Dr. Todd is a lifetime member and former president of the National Environmental Health Association as well as the Ohio Association of Sanitarians. He served for five years chairman of the American Intersocietal Academy for Certification of Sanitarians and twice has headed the PHS sanitarian career development committee.

He is a lecturer in public health with teaching affiliations in four universities, and is the first sanitarian to attain the rank of Assistant Surgeon General in the PHS. He was presented with the 1970 Walter S. Mangold Award by NEHA and in 1974 received the distinguished service award of the U.S. Public Health Service.

In recognition of more than a quarter century of dedicated service to the health of fellow Americans, and for a lifetime of achievement in attaining environmental quality, John G. Todd has been selected by a committee of his peers to receive the Walter F. Snyder Award for 1980.

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

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