

WORLD HEALTH DAY—7 APRIL 1956 “DESTROY DISEASE-CARRYING INSECTS!”

From a message from Dr. Fred L. Soper, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau Regional Office of the World Health Organization: For ages man has accepted insects as an unavoidable curse and many people still think of them more as a nuisance than as one of man's deadliest enemies. Only within the past half century has their rôle as disease carriers been firmly established. Until recent years their control was costly, geographically restricted—and not too effective.

Today the picture has changed radically, with the development of residual insecticides such as DDT, which remains effective for at least six months. This has made possible the concept of *eradication*, one of the most important developments in public health history. . . .

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau has taken the lead in this Hemisphere in promoting eradication, rather than mere control, of those diseases, or insect vectors which are amenable to eradication. We have already seen most encouraging results: the urban yellow fever mosquito, once a grave threat in Brazil, has been eradicated from that largest of all countries in the Americas, and has either been eradicated or is in process of eradication in nearly every other country in the American Continent.

World attention is today focused on malaria, still one of the most widespread killers in many countries. The Pan American Sanitary Organization has launched, here in America, a Continent-wide program to wipe out malaria. We shall not be satisfied until it is accomplished.

Public understanding and cooperation are essential for success in the struggle to *destroy disease-carrying insects*. Everyone can take part in this great crusade by helping to increase awareness of the insect's rôle in the dissemination of disease.

JOSEPH A. LE PRINCE

As the *News* was going to press, word was received of the death of Colonel Joseph A. LePrince. The first information reached the *News* from Miss Annekay Tharp, Sponsor of the Howard-Krauss Society of the South Side High School, Memphis, Tennessee. We reprint, herewith, excerpts from the article which appeared in the “Triple S,” (South Side High School paper), Vol. 33, for February 29, 1956.

“The Howard-Krauss Society deeply regrets the death of its founder, Colonel Joseph A. LePrince, on February 10, 1956, and also the death of its honorary member, Sir Malcolm Watson, on December 28, 1955.

“In 1936 Colonel LePrince organized the Howard-Krauss Society with Miss Annekay Tharp as sponsor. The club, under his direction, worked out an inexpensive type of malaria education for the masses. It used student talent for original posters, stories, radio programs, exhibits, skits and one-act plays, songs, essays, mosquito dances—all these before commercial artists and writers in America had entered the field of insect-transmitted disease control. . . .

“The T.V.A., when undertaking its malaria-education program, sent its director of malaria education to observe the Howard-Krauss Society at work. At the T.V.A.'s request all the society's original posters were sent to Chattanooga for study by T.V.A. personnel.

“Malaria specialists from Colombia, Peru, and Mexico came to the society to observe its methods.

“It was Colonel LePrince who interested Sir Malcolm Watson, then Dean of the Ross Institute of the London School of Tropical Medicine, in the Society.”