

# **MEMORIAL BOOK**

## **The Clarence Phenix Memorial Library**

**Dar es Salaam**

These extracts are taken directly from the text of the Memorial Book that now has a permanent presence within the above library. Copies of the Memorial Book are also held by The International Federation of Environmental Health and by The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in London.

### *INTRODUCTION*

**This book was presented on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2001 to commemorate the official opening of The Clarence Phenix Memorial Library in this place.**

**The book contains greetings and good wishes from environmental health professionals around the world. It also traces the history of the development of the library and a series of significant events and contributions that made it possible.**

**In particular, the book provides a permanent record of all persons and organisations that made cash donations to the library appeal and stands as a testament to their generosity and vision.**

**At the launch of the appeal for funds for this library the President of the International Federation of Environmental Health said:**

*“The gift of information and knowledge is perhaps the most sustainable gift of all”*

**Let this be so and may the persons who benefit from this facility in years to come serve their country and its needs with honor, diligence and compassion.**

**A selection of the contents follows.**

# **“THE TANZANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECT**

## **BACKGROUND**

“In Tanzania in 1999

- Life expectancy at birth was 42.53 years
- Infant mortality rate was 109 deaths/1000 live births
- Cholera, typhoid fever and malaria were rife
- AIDS and TB were on the increase
- Children died from measles, diphtheria and diarrhoea
- Many people had no safe water to drink and no sanitation.”

In 1995 environmental health officers in Northern Ireland became aware that help was needed with the development in Tanzania of environmental health training to degree level. Despite much correspondence it was unclear what the problem really was and how help could best be offered and accepted. Consequently, in 1997, EHOs in Northern Ireland raised money to enable experienced education professionals to travel to Tanzania to make an on the spot assessment of the problems and needs. This visit proved to be the catalyst which kick started the momentum towards third level environmental health education at the university in Dar Es Salaam. A programme and curriculum were put in place over the next three years to ensure that an Environmental Health BSc. degree course began at Dar Es Salaam in September 2001 with the first intake of undergraduates. Further visits were made in 1998 and 1999 and consequently, in 1999/2000, three graduates from Tanzania, sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in London, read for MSc Environmental Health degrees at Manchester Metropolitan University and became fully qualified tutors.

## **WHY NORTHERN IRELAND?**

Northern Ireland had been associated with environmental health education in Tanzania since 1957. That was when Clarence Phenix, an environmental health officer from the province, took up a post in Tanzania which included assisting with the development and delivery of a certificated course in environmental health. Clarence Phenix returned to Northern Ireland in 1963 where he had a distinguished career in local government. He was a co-signatory at the inception of the International Federation of Environmental Health. After he had retired as Chief Environmental Health Officer in County Fermanagh he continued to serve the cause of environmental health as President of the Northern Ireland Centre of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Unfortunately he died during his term as President.

As a memorial to Clarence Phenix, his colleagues in Northern Ireland decided to sponsor Tanzania's membership of the International Federation of Environmental Health. This sponsorship continues and through this a special bond has developed between colleagues in both countries. For these reasons, the Northern Ireland Centre, with the full

support of its parent body, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in London, administered the library appeal on behalf of the International Federation of Environmental Health

"The Clarence Phenix Memorial Library" was officially opened in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 26 October, 2001.

## **THE CLARENCE PHENIX MEMORIAL LIBRARY APPEAL**

In September 1998 the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, on behalf of The International Federation of Environmental Health challenged colleagues and associated organisations to help develop a new library in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania..

This was a major appeal for a donation to purchase new books to provide an environmental health technical and professional resource centre for Tanzania. The aim was to provide over 1000 books to support the new degree course. The appeal asked interested individuals and organisations to sponsor a book by making a cash donation. Some publishers also promised their help. Charitable and professional organisations, and local authority environmental health departments around the world supported this initiative and took up the challenge of developing environmental health training in Africa.

Tanzania, like other developing countries, faced many basic public health challenges and desperately needed good professionals to advise and assist with necessary improvements. In 2001 only a handful of environmental health officers had university degrees. The professionals in Tanzania yearned for these skills so that they could, in turn, provide better leadership and guidance to their people. Donations to the appeal came from far and wide.

**The table below reflects the global spread and sources of donations to the library appeal.**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Canada	£404.91
Cyprus	£100.00
Hong Kong	£150.00
Isle of Man	£240.00
New Zealand	£68.83
Northern Ireland	£7,618.71
Norway	£500.58
Republic of Ireland	£2,651.15
Scotland	£100.00
Singapore	£554.97
England	£14,777.37
USA	£9,221.35
Wales	£350.00

This appeal closed on 31 December 2000. Through this project Environmental Health professionals around the world have helped empower local experts in Tanzania to manage their own future. A degree course in environmental health started in Tanzania in September 2001. In time it will make a difference, it will help tackle the root causes of poverty and ill-health. It is a fact that, in 2001, 600 people died every hour because they had no water or because the little they had was dirty. To put this in perspective, at that time, people in Europe spent more on ice cream each year than it would have cost to provide clean water and sanitation to all people in developing countries.

A major tribute is due to everyone who contributed to the library fund. Through their efforts the fund (including pledged amounts) rose to almost £38,000. The single largest donation came from Rotary International in North Carolina who gave \$US 10,000. In addition Barbour Index, in the United Kingdom, donated full internet access to

its Health and Safety, Food Safety and Environmental Health information systems and British Airways staff made special arrangements to transport the books to Tanzania free of charge.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) provided the new library with a wide range of WHO environmental health publications including a number of titles already published. Included in the publications made available were: WHO Environmental Health Criteria series; Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs); Issues in WHO non-serial publications and Technical Report Series dealing with all aspects of environmental health including water, wastes, urbanisation, air, toxic substances, environmental hazards, occupational health, radiation as well as vector biology and control. The agreement also included back editions of the Environmental Health Criteria Series, issues already published in CICADs and other relevant technical publications. In return the WHO requested that it could refer requests for environmental health information within Tanzania to the Clarence Phenix Memorial Library.

In confirming this decision a WHO representative stated that the Tanzanian initiative was "a very challenging project which will no doubt meet a great need." Responding to the WHO offer John McCandless, the fund co-ordinator, said "This endorsement by WHO greatly embellished everything that had already been achieved. As an official WHO reference library in Tanzania this added status to the whole project and its longer-term objectives. It also guaranteed new WHO titles for the library as they became available and it helped establish the library as a centre of excellence for the region".

**"The Clarence Phenix Memorial Library"** was officially opened in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 26 October, 2001.

This was planned to coincide with the first ever All Africa Environmental Health Educational Conference held at Bagamoyo, Tanzania on 24/25 October 2001. To further celebrate the occasion the International Federation of Environmental Health held its full Council meeting at Bagamoyo on 27/28 October 2001.

The presence of this library and its associated degree course stands as a testimony to the contribution that environmental health professionals have made to the improvement of the global environment and the well-being of the human race.

The template of developments and procedures from this educational initiative in Tanzania have been designed to be capable of replication elsewhere. The essential ingredients are (a) a strong and committed local professional body (b) a supportive government, educational establishment and other related disciplines, (c) some special educational knowledge and skills to encourage and support the processes and (d) strong international backing.

This project was designed to be sustainable. That is now the ongoing challenge.

**The Tanzanian Environmental Health Library Appeal was adopted by the International Federation of Environmental Health at Stockholm in June 1998 and officially launched by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in London in September 1998.**

**Every contribution was invaluable to the success of this project and so (as far as is possible) every donor to the Library Appeal is listed below by way of permanent acknowledgement and as a testament to their vision and generosity. Under the terms of the Appeal many of these names can be found within individual book covers in the library.**

<b>Donor Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
Anderson, G.A.L. (Miss)	Northern Ireland
Andrews, D.J. (Mrs)	England
Armagh District Council	Northern Ireland
Association of Public Health Inspectors, Cyprus	Cyprus
Banbridge District Council	Northern Ireland
Banbridge District Council (Environmental Health Dept.)	Northern Ireland
Barlow, Jill	England
Barnes, A.	England
Basildon District Council	England
Bath and North East Somerset Council	England
Belfast City Council (Health & Environment Service)	Northern Ireland
Birmingham City Council (Env. Services Dept.)	England
Bolsover District Council (Env. Health Staff)	England
Boyd, David and Deveaux, Tim	England
Bridgend C.B.Council	England
Bristol City Health & Environment Service	England
Bull, David E.	England
California Directors of Environmental Health	USA
California Environmental Health Assoc. (Citrus Chapter)	USA
Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors	Canada
Castlereagh Borough Council Environmental Health Department	Northern Ireland
Chadwick House Group Limited	United Kingdom
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	United Kingdom
Chesterfield Borough Council	England
CIEH Welsh Council-All Wales Study Course	Wales
CIEH Western Centre 1999 Weekend School	England
CIEH Association of London EHOs	England
CIEH Bradford and Craven Branch	England
CIEH Cambridge Branch	England
CIEH Cambridgeshire Branch	England
CIEH Centre of England Branch	England
CIEH Commercial and Industrial Centre	United Kingdom
CIEH Congress 2000	United Kingdom
CIEH Derbyshire Branch	England

CIEH Derbyshire Branch	England
CIEH East Midland Centre	England
CIEH Eastern Centre	England
CIEH Gr. London Centre Food Study Group	England
CIEH Greater London Centre	England
CIEH Gwent Branch	Wales
CIEH Health Symposium	England
CIEH Hereford and Worcester Branch	England
CIEH Herts. & Beds. Branch	England
CIEH Herts. and Beds. Branch	England
CIEH Joint Centres Committee	England
CIEH Lake District Branch	England
CIEH Lakes Branch	England
CIEH Leicestershire Branch	England
CIEH Norfolk Branch	England
CIEH North East Wales Branch	England
CIEH Northamptonshire Branch	England
CIEH Northern Centre	England
CIEH Northern Ireland Centre	Northern Ireland
CIEH Port Health Centre	England
CIEH PORT HEALTH CENTRE -in memory of John Bryning	
CIEH Shropshire Branch	England
CIEH South Eastern Centre	England
CIEH South Western Centre	England
CIEH Suffolk Branch	England
CIEH Sussex Branch	England
CIEH Teeside Branch	England
CIEH Western Centre	England
CIEH Western Centre Weekend School 1999	England
CIEH Yorkshire and Humberside Centre	England
Clegg, J. D.	England
Coca Cola	Northern Ireland
Coleman, Dora May	USA
Coleman, L.H. and S.H.	England
Coleraine Environmental Health Department	Northern Ireland
Collier, Jill	England
Compass Group (UK)	England
Cooke, M.E.	England
Cookstown District Council	Northern Ireland
Corbett, J.E.	Northern Ireland
Cousins, Suzanne	England
Crawford, C.H.	England
Davies, Jim	England
Derbyshire Dales Environmental Health Staff	England
Deveaux, T.J.	England
Dobson, S.A.	England
Dove, Malcolm J.	England
Down District Council	Northern Ireland
Down District Council Environmental Health Dept.	Northern Ireland

Eastman, Diane	USA
Edwards, T.G.	Northern Ireland
EHOA Eastern Health Board	Republic of Ireland
EHOA Western Branch	Republic of Ireland
Emerson, Roy	England
England, E A (Mrs)	England
Environmental Health Officers Association of Ireland	Republic Of Ireland
Evans, Diane	USA
Fermanagh District Council	Northern Ireland
Fermanagh District Council members	Northern Ireland
Fermanagh District Council Staff	Northern Ireland
Forbes, M.F. (Miss)	England
Fosse, Arne Marius	Norway
Garrity, C.	England
Gibling, R.W.	England
Glasgow City Council Env. Health Staff	Scotland
Gloucester City Council Environmental Health Dept.	England
Graham, Angela	Northern Ireland
Halls, Michael	Scotland
Hamer, E.L. (Mrs)	England
Hanna, B.P.	Northern Ireland
Harries, H.M.	England
Hatchett, Will	England
Hawes, LiZ.	England
Herefordshire Council Env. Health & Trading Standards	England
Holland, E.J. (Mrs)	England
Hong Kong Public Health Inspectors Association	Hong Kong
Hughes, R. M.	England
Hughes, RM	England
Hughes, Rowan M.	England
Hygiene Monitoring Services Limited	England
IFEH Congress 2000, Norway	Norway
Institute Of Surveyors and Valuers Association	England
Isle of Man Environmental Health Officers	Isle of Man
Islington Environmental Health & Comm. Services Staff	England
James, Kevin	England
Johnson, Alan M. T.	England
Jones, Chris	England
Jones, Chris	England
Kane, U	England
Keogh Software	Rep. of Ireland
Kerrier D. C. Environmental Services Committee	England
Killgerm Limited -J.I.Peck,	England
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk EHOs	England
Kirklees Environmental Services	England
Kirklees M.B.C. Env. Health staff	England
Kurlak, I. (Mrs)	England
Lewisham Environmental Health Staff	England
Lisburn Borough Council Environmental Health Dept.	Northern Ireland

London Borough of Redbridge (Public Protection Dept.)	England
Magherafelt District Council Environmental Health Dept.	Northern Ireland
Martin, B.E.	England
Martin, Jack	England
McAlister, Karen	Northern Ireland
McCandless, Carol	Northern Ireland
McCandless, John	Northern Ireland
McFarlane, Gary	Northern Ireland
Medlock Charitable Trust	England
Mercer, B.P.	England
Mitchard, Robert	England
Mole Valley Environmental Health Dept.	England
Monroe Union Rotary Club, North Carolina, USA	USA
Moody, Terence	New Zealand
Musoma Travel Fund, Calderdale	England
NEHA 1999 AEC International Environmental Health Section	USA
NEHA, The membership	USA
New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health	New Zealand
Nicholls, Roger	England
NIVAN Limited	Northern Ireland
North Down Borough Council	Northern Ireland
Northern Group Systems	Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Food Liaison Group –in memory of Michael Cole	Northern Ireland
NSF International	USA
Old Bushmills Distillery Co. Ltd	Northern Ireland
Olsen, Lars	Norway
Omagh Academy Pupils	Northern Ireland
Omagh District Council	Northern Ireland
Omagh District Council Environmental Health Dept.	Northern Ireland
Perry, Derek J.	England
Petrie, Stewart	England
Phenix Family	Northern Ireland
Picone-Chiodo, Wendy (Mrs)	England
Preston Borough Council	England
Raven, E.F.	England
Read, H.	England
Regan Family (2)	Northern Ireland
Regan Family, Omagh (1)	Northern Ireland
Reigate & Banstead B.C. Environmental Health Services	England
Rotary International	USA
Rye, David A.	England
Saffin, Gifford	England
Scott, Neil	England
Seall, Ann	England
Shankster, Alan	England
Shaw, Alan	Northern Ireland
Silvester, Eric and Molly	England
Sleith, John W	Scotland
Smith C.P.	England



Smith, Mr and Mrs H	England
Smith, Paul M.	England
Society of Environmental Health, Singapore	Singapore
Solevag, Oustein Peder	Norway
South Oxford D.C. Environmental Health Staff	England
Southern Group Environmental Health Staff	Northern Ireland
Spear, S.G.	England
Sulway, Karen	England
Tees, E J (Mrs)	Northern Ireland
Terry , Dawn (Ms.)	England
Tiffney, John	England
Torgersen, Tone Poulsson	Norway
Ulster Carpet Mills (Holdings) Limited	Northern Ireland
University of Birmingham	England
University of Ulster Environmental Health Students	Northern Ireland
Vale of Glamorgan Council	Wales
Waveney District Council (Housing and Environment)	England
Western Group Env. Health Staff	Northern Ireland
Whitley, Nigel	England
Whitely, W.N.	England
Williams, Bruce	England
Woking Borough Council Community Services Staff	England
Wycombe District Council Environmental Services Staff	England
Young, S.E.	England
Wood, Martin	England

The practical assistance and contributions in kind from the following persons and organizations are also gratefully acknowledged.

The World Health Organisation

Barbour Index

British Airways

Highfield Publications

Mr Tom Ward, North Carolina, whose personal input resulted in the largest single cash gift to the Library Appeal.

EHOverseas

Special reference needs to be made of Mr Stewart Petrie, whose personal commitment to this entire project was the key to its success.

The following appendices contain reports and correspondence generated during the evolution of the degree and library. They also contain some background papers from environmental health professionals and the Phenix family on environmental health in East Africa in the 1950's and 60's.

## ***APPENDIX (a)***

# **THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN EAST AFRICA**

Contributed by Leslie Lewis

*Leslie Lewis joined the British Colonial Service as a Health Inspector in 1944. He served in Kenya for 13 years and in Uganda for 6 years. He was appointed Chief Health Inspector in Uganda in May 1959. At the same time he became Hon. Secretary of the Royal Society of Health Examination Board (East Africa).*

## **FOREWORD**

The first training courses, for Assistant Health Inspectors were started in Uganda in 1936. The Royal Society Of Health in London approved the Syllabus and the examination was conducted in accordance with their requirements. These were similar to those in force, at the time in the United Kingdom, including the appointment of not less than three Medical Officers as examiners. In addition not more than two examiners were Health Inspectors. The first courses having been started in Uganda, it was logical that the Chief Health Inspector (Uganda) should be appointed Secretary of the East African Examination Board. Initially the training was available only in Uganda but was open to students from the other countries in East Africa.

The most well known student who trained and qualified in Uganda was Mr. Tom Mboya. He was employed by the Nairobi Municipal Council (now City).

As students of School Certificate standard became available, the local Examination Board made application for such students to be trained for the Overseas Examination of the Royal Society of Health. Following a visit by their Vice President and the General Secretary in 1960 approval was given for students trained in East Africa to qualify as Health Inspectors (Overseas)

Health Inspectors with this qualification were eligible for appointment in any country. Until this was agreed it was necessary to go to the UK for such training and examination.

This was the position in until 1962 when the East African Federation was dissolved and each country made its own arrangements and the Examination Board was disbanded.

Mr Lewis was an Examiner in 1959 at Kongwa where he first met Clarence Phenix. He, in the same way as Clarence would have been, is delighted that after 40 years, students with graduate standards of education are now available to enter the profession.

#### **“Slaves and the Sultan’s Empire:**

One hundred years ago Mombasa and Dar Es Salaam, two old Arab ports had become very important in the slave trade. It had been *‘snuffed out in West Africa but was alive and well in East Africa. Now organised by the Arab and Swahili people in the East, it was spreading like a cancer across the whole of Central Africa’*.

(See ‘The Scramble for Africa’ by Thomas Pakenham for an up to date and fascinating account of the history which led in 1886 to the Anglo-German Agreement). The empire of the Sultan of Zanzibar was *amicably* divided whereby the Germans took over the bottom half based on Dar Es Salaam and the British took the top half based on Mombasa with a dividing line from the coast to Lake Victoria.

#### **The railways influence on environmental health**

An appreciation of the vital part played by the construction of railways in the development of any country is important, e.g. in India, in America and no less in Africa. In East Africa following the Agreement the Germans were first off the mark when in 1893 the (O.A.E.G.) Ostafrikanische Eisenbahngesellschaft set off from Dar Es Salaam for Tabora on Lake Tanganyika which they reached in 1914.

The construction of the Uganda Railway started from Mombasa in 1896 and three years later on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1899, had reached Mile 327 at a place called Nyrobi. Most local tribesmen were unaccustomed to manual labour although 2000 found other employment. Asian contractors recruited 16000 ‘coolies’ from India and many eventually settled in the country. Thus far the work had been relatively straight forward, interrupted for a short time only by some man-eating lions at Tsavo. Ahead lay the Mau Escarpment requiring heavy earthworks and large workshops and a major storage depot. The black cotton soil on which they had constructed their buildings became notoriously swampy in the rains and was most unsuitable for any development. The authorities were undecided and for a long time a debate raged as to whether or not they should move their operations up the hill. Doctors pressed for the move as plague outbreaks were occurring annually. The Railway Administration carried on their development. They stayed put and ‘sanitary staff’ were recruited to tackle the plague problem. Now the City of Nairobi, with a population of 1.4 million people, occupies this site. In 1903 a most appropriately named Mr P Watcham was one of the Pied Pipers at work and he was almost certainly employed by the Railway Administration. He received 100 Rupees per month and a housing allowance of 25 rupees per month. Relations between the Government and the Railway were and for many years continued to be strained. In 1905 the Government asserted its full authority and transferred its Headquarters from Mombasa to Nairobi. The first record of colleagues show Messrs W H Wood and E E Williams working in Mombasa in 1913, followed a year later by a Mr F Strawbridge. In the same year a Mr B E F Wetkin was working at Port Florence (Kisumu) then the end of the line, which had been reached on 19 December 1901. The journey on to Uganda was by boat. Major construction of a Railway and Marine Depot with a dry dock and a quayside continued until completed - 587 miles from sea.....

#### **The Training of Health Inspectors in East Africa:**

I was not a little surprised in 1960 as Secretary of the E.A. Examination Board to be visited by the Regional Advisor (Environmental Sanitation) for WHO in Africa. Louis Orihuela was a Peruvian based at their headquarters in Brazzaville. Trained in the USA his mission was to assess the various training programs in his region and to recommend which he thought was the most suitable to promote in the African Region generally.

We were well ahead in East Africa, with long established Schools of Hygiene in Uganda (1936), Kenya (1947) and Tanganyika as it then was called (1952). He was impressed with our courses and the standard of our syllabi and our system was highly recommended for adoption throughout the region.

Originally educational standards were not high as students with any basic general education were at a premium and in great demand for all careers. In 1936 Fred Jordan had been obliged to start with a low educational and realistic entry level. The training was geared to a short course for Health Assistants selected from existing staff at the end of which they took a largely practical examination. He started from scratch and wrote the EA equivalent of Clay’s

Handbook. At the same time a two-year course was started for students of Junior Secondary educational level, which gradually progressed until a syllabus was adopted leading to an examination for Assistant Health Inspectors.

## ***APPENDIX (b)***

### **Margaret and Clarence Phenix – East Africa 1951-63**

**SALAAM!**

Early in the year of 1951 Clarence made application to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, London for a post that was advertised for a Health Inspector in the territory of Tanganyika (now Tanzania), East Africa.

He was called for interview to London on 15th March 1951 and was successful in being appointed.

We were told that we would be traveling to Tanganyika in the summer of 1951.

Tanganyika was little known to our family and friends in Northern Ireland and it was with some misgivings that they bade us farewell on Thursday, 27th June 1951. On Friday 29th June we left Liverpool Street Station and sailed on the Llangibby Castle Liner (Union Castle Line). We traveled via West Coast of Africa calling at Las Palmas Ascension Island, St Helena arriving in Table Bay on 19th July.

We continued to travel up the East Coast visiting Parts of East London, Port Elizabeth, Durban. We finally arrived in the beautiful Crescent Beach, Natural Harbour at Dar-Es-Salaam on Monday 13th August 1951. The journey taking 6 weeks and 3 days. We arrived in Dar-Es-Salaam with 2 ½?????

We were welcomed ashore by the local medical officer who informed us that we were being sent to Arusha in Northern Province. We then joined the Llangibby Castle again and travelled north to Tanga, calling at Zanzibar.

We then travelled to Arusha by train and were accompanied by Dr Charles & Ruth Michie who were going to the Kilimanjaro Hospital, Moshi. Dr Michie specialized in TB. He later joined the staff at the Health Training Centre, Kongwa.

In Arusha we were accommodated at the Safari House Hotel until a house became available which proved to be a house-warming arrangement for the Dauber family who were on leave in UK.

We spent our 1st Wedding Anniversary in the exotic setting of the Safari House Hotel. We also purchased our first car - a Vauxhall (AR2700). Shortly after arriving in Arusha we were told that Clarence would be going to Kongwa (Central Province) to the Health Training School where a course was being set up to train Health Inspectors. Kongwa was the centre of the Ground Hut Scheme run by the Overseas Food Corporation (OFC) and this was a most interesting station. OFC personnel were preparing to leave, the Ground Hut Scheme having failed, and Government Officials were moving in. OFC left a great legacy to the Wagogo tribe - a well-equipped hospital, building and accommodation for a training school, an air strip and railway station, a very competitive and successful boarding school, good housing with electricity and water supply, a Club House and swimming pool.

However, when we were preparing to leave for Kongwa news came through to Arusha of an outbreak of Bubonic Plague in the Singida area. Immediately Dr Kendrick, the local Medical Officer and Clarence, equipped with medical supplies and safari gear left for Mbulu on 5th December to join Dr Meek the MO at Mbulu and Dr Schupler at Singida and traveled to Basotu.

They stayed in the Rest House at Basotu. This was a tough safari and entailed walking approximately 20 miles each day with a team of 13 carriers with supplies to vaccinate and disinfect huts. Due to heavy rains and road conditions it was impossible to travel by vehicle.

On occasions when they were unable to return to base they pitched a tent. Wildlife was always evident, especially with lion, leopard and hyena nearby. Clarence's diary records many events on this plague safari which space does not permit to record.

Clarence returned to Arusha on 23rd December to spend Christmas with Margaret, but returned to plague duty again on 27th December. While Clarence was on plague duty Margaret remained in Arusha living at Safari House Hotel. She also took up employment in the "Boma" (local government offices) and enjoyed meeting friends who would be passing through Arusha.

Clarence records in his diary:

"Tuesday 1st January 1952 - At Basutu on plague duty - very few new cases, celebrated new year with guinea fowl for dinner, apricots and a tin of cream!"

Dr Kendrick and Clarence finally left the plague area on 10th January 1952 at 9.30am arriving Arusha 6.15pm. Road conditions were extremely bad due to heavy rain.

On 16th January we left Arusha for the Training School, Kongwa. We arrived in Kongwa on 18th January and were welcomed by Brig. Moore Cameron, Chief Health Officer, Kongwa, Urambo, Nachingwea 1948-1952, also Dr Victor Blackman Officer in charge of the Training School. Other Health Inspectors at the Training School for periods were Bill Kerswell (ex OFC), Bob Mullin, Norman Lloyd and Andrew McKay. Mrs Vera Lentle was the Sister Tutor.

On 1st February the first three students arrived from Moshi and lecturers commenced on 18th February. The official opening was 17th March 1952.

Margaret also worked in the Training School typing lectures on an "ink pad" typewriter and using carbon paper for duplicates - no photocopier or word processors!

Life in Kongwa was most enjoyable and all communities lived peacefully together. A train arrived once a week bringing mail and fresh food supplies - we all went to the station to meet the train! The airstrip was also used by light aircraft. Shopping was restricted to one local "duka" (general store) owned by an Indian family called Harman. It was possible to purchase a wide range of goods - anything from freshly laid eggs, homemade breads, material for dress and shirt making and even spare parts for our Peugeot car which we had purchased!

Whilst in Kongwa our daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was born on 10th August 1952. This was a very happy event for Clarence and Margaret and indeed the whole community celebrated.

In October 1952 we went for a short period of leave to Shinyanga to replace a local Health Inspector. Whilst in Shinyanga there was an outbreak of smallpox at Madui and again the local Medical Officer, Dr Bill Smartt and Clarence went on day safari to do vaccinations. Margaret and Mary accompanied them on these safaris as the "**mama na mtoto**" attracted the natives to the vaccinating area.

Our luggage was lost on the way to Shinyanga and we were accommodated in the local Diamonds Fields Hotel and received gifts of clothing and household items.

It was when in Shinyanga that Clarence had a serious accident on 21 March. A can of meths. exploded when he was dealing with an infestation of bats in a roof space. This resulted in 3rd degree burns to his body and falling through the roof he sustained broken bones in his left leg. He was badly injured. He was immediately taken to Leprosy Mission Hospital at Nkolondoto where he received life saving emergency treatment before traveling by specially improvised transport to hospital in Mwanza. Clarence was critically ill on admission.

Clarence was not discharged from hospital until 25 May. He was in a wheelchair for a period and could not walk. We returned to Shinyanga for a long period of convalescence. However, at that time preparations were afoot for Coronation Day celebrations on 2nd June and Clarence soon became interested in the preparations and helping where possible. On Thursday 10th December, when Clarence had made good recovery, we left Shinyanga to return to UK for leave, arriving in London on 14 December.

On Saturday 3rd April 1954 our son William Jonathon was born in Belfast. We returned to Kongwa and Clarence continued lectures at the Training School.

In December 1956, Clarence traveled to Dar-Es-Salaam for the official opening by HRH Princess Margaret of the new Hospital and Training Centre.

We officially left Kongwa on 29th December 1958 when Clarence commenced in the Training School, Dar-Es-Salaam. Life in Dar-Es-Salaam was very pleasant and living conditions and housing accommodation were excellent. We had many friends in all sections of the community.

Clarence always had a great interest in athletics and in March 1961 he was elected chairman of the Tanganyika Amateur Athletic Association (TAAA). The students at the Training Centre were very keen and proved to be great athletes. Education for our children was also good and Mary and Jonathon attended the local primary school at Oyster Bay.

In December 1961, Tanganyika became Independent and Prince Phillip arrived in Dar-Es-Salaam. Saturday 9th December 1961 was Independence Day (UHURU). It was time to remember, with celebrations going on for days. We had the privilege to meet many of the VIPs at the garden party. Prince Phillip, President Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Jomo Kenyatta, Tom Mboya and many African tribal chiefs.

Following, Independence training was taken over by African Health Inspectors.

We eventually left Dar-Es-Salaam on 16th March 1963 traveling to UK on S.S. Uganda we arrived in London on 11th April. We returned to live in Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland where Clarence took up employment as an Environmental Health Officer. He retired as Chief Environmental Health Officer in Co Fermanagh but continued to serve the cause of Environmental Health as President of the Northern Ireland Centre of the Institute of Environmental Health .

Clarence died suddenly at his home in Co Fermanagh on 24 June 1992. Margaret still lives in Fermanagh.

Salaam!!

Margaret Phenix  
September 2001

## **APPENDIX (c)**

### **HEALTH INSPECTION IN TANGANYIKA – 1958-1961**

*These notes have been provided by Neil Scott who served as a Health Inspector in Tanganyika from 1958 to 1961. He was a tutor at the Health Training School in Kongwa and later worked in Singida and Morogoro. This article paints a good picture of the life of a health Inspector and his family at that time.*

#### **Dar es Salaam**

In May 1958, we sailed, on board s.s. Kenya Castle, into Dar es Salaam harbour, and, before the anchor had been dropped, this dapper little chap, in immaculate “whites”, climbed aboard from the Port Health launch. Soon afterwards I was called, over the “tannoy”, to go to the Purser’s office, where this same fellow was introduced to me , as Bill Kerswell, Port Health Inspector. Such was his obvious status, that I felt quite privileged to meet him - relieved, too, because, until that moment, I wasn’t quite sure, after four weeks at sea, what we did next!

With Bill in charge, we were in good hands, and soon were safely installed in the New Africa Hotel, where we were to spend the next week. In due course, I met Brian Richards, Chief Health Inspector in the Tanganyika Government’s Medical Department; and I learned that, after a “crash course” introduction to Tanganyika, we were bound for Kongwa.

#### **Health Training School, Kongwa**

So it was, that at the end of an interesting and enlightening week, we boarded the night train and set off on the next stage of our African adventure; and, of course, only a few minutes after leaving Dar es Salaam, the views from our carriage window were of the Africa, which, until then, we had only imagined, but which would be our environment for the next three years. [Incidentally, the only practical skill acquired, during that week in Dar es Salaam, was how to vaccinate - against Smallpox. Oh, those poor innocents, on whom I practiced!]

It's only a little over 200 miles to Dodoma, but it seemed further on that train journey; and when we alighted, at dawn the next day, the terrain seemed very different to that of the previous evening - Dodoma looked a very dry and dusty place.

We were met by Alf Salter, a Health Inspector on the staff at the Health Training School, in Kongwa - about 30 miles from Dodoma. Alf, and his wife Lesley, put us up in their house [in Millionaire's Row] and looked after us wonderfully until our household effects caught up with us, and we were able to move into the house next door. Of course, setting up house in such an unfamiliar environment and preparing for a life-style of which we had no experience was far from easy; and we shall be forever grateful for the kindness shown to us by Alf and Lesley, and by Clarence and Margaret Phenix, who lived next-door but one. Without the help of these two couples, how we would have coped with routine matters, such as the recruitment of houseboys, is hard to imagine. With so much help in organising our domestic arrangements, I was able to settle into my work situation with relative ease - and the staff and students, at the Health Training School, made me very welcome.

It had become the custom to send newcomers to the territory to the school - and it was a relief to know that I wasn't the first greenhorn to present myself there. The intention was that, during a few months at the school you would "acclimatise", gain an insight into the role of a "Bwana Afya" and become acquainted with the African students, thereby developing an understanding of those problems, which they knew to exist in their various communities. In return, as it were, you would serve as junior lecturer, occasional librarian and part-time storeman. Additionally, since this was a boarding school, some provision had to be made for the students' leisure-time, and I remember the enjoyment I derived from my only experience as a hockey coach - to the Jenner House team. Fortunately, thanks to my National Service days, I had some previous experience in lecturing, and I feel that I was able to make a worthwhile contribution to the school in that regard, even if my specialist subject - Building Construction - was not what I would have chosen. It would certainly have amazed my lecturers back at Heriot-Watt College, in Edinburgh!

Kongwa had been the centre of the infamous Groundnut Scheme, which employed a large number of Europeans. A hospital and a school had been built to provide for the needs of their families; and it was this school which now served as the Health Training School - where young men, with the necessary academic qualifications, came to study for three years, to train as Assistant Health Inspectors. The young men, at the school during my time there, impressed me tremendously. They were cheerful, enthusiastic, hard-working, friendly and spoke excellent English. A number of them were extremely able sportsmen, including one who was the pole-vault champion of Tanganyika! While I was there, the staff included: Clarence Phenix, Alf Salter, Andrew McKay and, when he went on leave, Bob Mullin. The students, it seemed to me were fortunate to be in the care of such a dedicated team, and I felt privileged to be part of it - even if only for a short time.

The hospital was located immediately alongside the school, and we regarded the hospital staff as colleagues, which was good because Helen was expecting our first baby, in September, and it had been established that I would not be posted until after the birth. Josephine duly arrived, safely, on 1st September, and very soon afterwards [it was as if they had been waiting for the news in Dar es Salaam!] word came through of my posting to Singida.

### **Singida**

By this time I had acquired a car [my first, ever] and I had passed my driving test - thanks to a benevolent District Officer, and to having the whole of Africa into which to reverse! Anyway, come October, we set off on our longest safari to date; and we were mightily relieved to arrive safely in Singida - the only real scare being when Josephine fell out of her carry-cot, during a pit-stop, in Dodoma!

On arriving in Singida, we were struck by the lunar-like landscape - great piles of boulders everywhere; and, at an altitude of over 5000 feet, the air seemed fresh, if a bit thin. The short strip of tarmac road, in the centre of the township, was a welcome relief, too, after the corrugated roads we had endured on the journey. We were soon to get used to these, however.

Our first few days were spent with Dr Robin Markham [District Medical Officer] and his wife Joan - whilst our boxes caught up with us. There was some doubt about where we were going to live because the property assigned to us had been taken over by an officer whose seniority allowed him to get away with it! Anyway, it was decided that we should move into the Judge's Rest House, on a lovely site overlooking the lake. This was a comfortable little unit of accommodation - although, like all the other houses in Singida, it was equipped with neither gas nor electricity. Welcome to Africa!

Domestic arrangements settled [for the moment!], it was time to get down to some work. My office was easily found - between the Boma and the gaol. It was simply furnished, but, really, it was little more than a base. There was no equipment to speak of, no records and very few books; any admin support I required was at the hospital office. What there WAS, however, was a plague store. Smallpox I was prepared for, but plague..... I was apprehensive! It was with relief, therefore, when I learned from my assistants, that it was many years since the last outbreak of plague.

My assistants! One Assistant Health Inspector and one Sanitary Assistant. The former was engaged mainly on duties in and around the township; the latter, who I saw only infrequently, spent much of his time on smallpox vaccination safaris.

Hardly had we settled into our new home than we received a message that we would have to move out, temporarily - the Judge was coming! So, we had to pack up and travel to a Water Department rest-house, beside a lake, in the bush, miles from anywhere. The joys of being the most junior officer on the station! In fairness, however, we enjoyed our two weeks in the bush, and it was not wasted because I was able to visit a number of schools and mission stations, in the area. These resulted in an invitation to lunch, for me and my family, from one of the mission hospitals. This turned out to be one of the most memorable occasions of our time in and around Singida; I shall never forget being the only male, at lunch with fourteen females - including twelve Nuns!

Back in Singida, in our original rest- house, my first major safari was to Kiomboi. Having been told that there was a nice rest-house there, I took the family with me. Sharing the accommodation with a colony of large spiders [ a jumping variety!] meant that this was the last safari on which I had Helen's company, for some time! I had a scary experience, myself, on this safari.

Twenty miles or so from Kiomboi, was a mission station which I elected to visit. To get to it, I had driven down a steep escarpment road. After I had completed my visit, and not relishing the prospect of the return trip up this steep and rough escarpment road, I learned of an alternative route which, I was assured by a young teacher, was suitable for my car. Soon after I embarked on this journey, I realised that this road was only a track, that it was steeper, narrower and rougher than the road I was avoiding, that it certainly was not suitable for my car, but that I could not turn back! Half-way up the escarpment, I had to stop because the radiator was boiling. Would the brakes hold? Still, this is what I had always wanted to do ! When I eventually got to the top, I thought that my troubles were over, but not so. After half an hour or so, I seemed to run out of road, and, really, I had little idea where I was; neither had I seen anyone since I left the Mission. It was with relief, therefore, that I spotted a wood-carrying individual approaching; surely he would be able to help. To my dismay, he was able to speak neither English nor Kiswahili! But eventually he understood my problem and I accepted his assurance that, despite the absence of a clear track, I was still headed for Kiomboi; and when, eventually, I arrived there, I resolved that never again would I embark alone on a safari of this nature. [A year later, by chance, in Morogoro, I met a missionary from the above station. He could not believe that I had climbed that track in a saloon car! It was only used, very occasionally, by a 4-wheel drive jeep!]

During the next nine months, work proceeded satisfyingly. I visited many villages and the welcome I received at schools was always warm and enthusiastic. Frequently, the welcome was in song - a joyful experience indeed. These school visits were always an opportunity to deliver an educational health talk - on sanitation, preventive medicine measures such as vaccination and the desirability of wearing sandals as protection against worm diseases and, of course, personal hygiene.

My arrival in the village trading centre was not always greeted quite so warmly. My inspections usually resulted in "requests" for improvements in hygiene, and the Arab or Asian traders found it hard to understand why these were necessary. But, of course, it was their intention to comply; anything to see me on my way!

In Singida township, I became well known, and one visit would be quickly followed up by another - when unsatisfactory conditions had been found. The stalls in the meat market were particularly deserving of my attention -



food hygiene was not a priority, it seemed. The butchers seemed non-plussed by my persistence and, although I never discovered which, one of them decided that the answer was to give me a present. So it was that, one Saturday afternoon, our houseboy announced that a live goat had been left for us! Fortunately, a friend in the Veterinary Dept came to our rescue; and Monday morning saw all the Health Dept. staff at the meat market, demonstrating our non-corruptibility! On one occasion, I applied to the Resident Magistrate for the prosecution of a trader. All seemed to be proceeding smoothly, until the District Commissioner intervened. It seemed that he did not consider a prosecution appropriate.

After two more house moves, we were, at last, settling into the house which, originally, had been assigned to us. As luck would have it, however, it was then that I received notice of being transferred to Morogoro, in Eastern Province. So, it was time to start packing again, just when we were beginning to feel settled, both domestically and from a work point of view.

### **Morogoro**

Much more experienced now, we were not daunted by the drive to Morogoro; and we had time to stop off at Kongwa, to see the nursing sisters in the hospital. By now, however, the Health Training School had been moved to Dar es Salaam.

Morogoro was a relatively large town, with a first-class hotel, where we stayed for a week, while our accommodation was got ready and our boxes caught up with us. We found it much hotter here - much lower altitude - but everything seemed very green and, with the Uluguru Mountains forming a splendid background, the whole place looked very attractive.

My transfer to Morogoro was on the basis of a 50% secondment to Morogoro Town Council. As part of this arrangement, I was based in the Town Hall, a fine modern building, with comfortable offices and an impressive council chamber. I was the only government officer in the building, the other personnel - the Town Clerk, Engineer and Treasurer - being Town Council officials.

My duties in the town included -

- Food hygiene inspections in the markets and commercial area
- Control of hygiene standards throughout the town
- Oversight of anti-malarial measures
- Health education
- Inspection of plans submitted for building approval; drawing attention to "health" shortcomings
- Attending Town Council meetings and advising on health matters, as appropriate
- Licensing of street traders

Hygiene standards, in the town, were low, and 50% of my time, even with the help of assistants, was hardly sufficient to achieve a rapid improvement. Gradually, however, there developed an understanding of what was expected, and, occasionally, improvement would be sudden and dramatic. The transformation, in a certain butcher's shop, which I encountered one morning - in terms of the shop's decorative state and the staff's protective clothing - left me, most unusually, speechless.

My requests for improvement did not always meet with an adequate response, and it was necessary on a number of occasions to resort to prosecution. Generally, this was in respect of insanitary conditions but, on at least one occasion, the proceedings were against a trader who persistently was found to be selling weevil-infested beans. Unlike in Singida, there was no dissent from the Administration; and just a few convictions had a salutary effect on traders still inclined to question the need for the most fundamental improvements.

The other 50% of my time was devoted to Eastern Province. I was the only Health Inspector in the province - rather a large area. I had two assistants, but they, too, had duties in the town; so, during my time there, I was able to make more than one visit to only a handful of places. It was difficult, therefore, to assess what one had achieved.

One place which I did visit more frequently was Bagamoyo. Since we could not afford to go on leave, the thought of a breath of sea air was tempting, and the idea of a couple of days in a rest-house, on the shore of the Indian Ocean, had a certain appeal. So the area in and around Bagamoyo received a level of inspection more in keeping with what should have been the general rule.

My work in the rural areas was not dissimilar to that around Singida - focussing largely on schools, mission stations and trading centres. There was one significant difference, however. The sisal estates which had been developed in the area, had led to the recruitment of large work-forces which were housed on the estates. Not all of the accommodation was well maintained and a willingness, on the part of the estate managers, to effect improvements was not always readily forthcoming. Return visits, in such circumstances, were essential.

Smallpox, of course, was endemic in the area; and we endeavoured to work our way through the district, with a vaccination programme. We enlisted the help of local chiefs, in "rounding-up" their people, but our strike-rate was low. There was a fear of and a resistance to vaccination, which was difficult to overcome - without much greater resources being made available. Nevertheless, it was good to realize that considerable numbers were being protected from this terrible disease.

The most memorable safari from Morogoro was a 2-day trip to Mafia Island - south of Zanzibar. Three of us - a Medical Officer, a Malaria Field Officer and myself - flew there, from Dar es Salaam, in a small plane. It is difficult to know what we hoped to achieve there, in such a short visit, but perhaps it was good for the morale of the staff at the small hospital, on the island. I suspect that I was the first, and possibly the last, expatriate Health Inspector to visit the island!

The response to Health Education work in Morogoro was encouraging. So much so, that I contacted the Health Education Unit which had been established in Dar es Salaam, seeking their views on a possible Health Week in the town. They were very supportive and I received a visit from Colin Urquhart [Health Inspector] and a doctor colleague. They took a number of photographs depicting "good" and "bad" practice, in the town; and I was able to use these, subsequently, in exhibitions which we staged.

The Health Week took place towards the end of 1960. It comprised -

- A daily procession, through the town, by all of the local schools, in turn - carrying banners, which they had made, bearing health slogans. {Prizes for the best banners }
- Exhibitions in the town centre, including [a] a rodent control "coconut shy" and [b] an unhygienic cafe {run by Health Dept! }
- Procession and judging of street traders {food carts }
- 5-aside football competition
- Baby Show { Each mother and baby had a meeting with the District Nurse }
- Schools Public Speaking Competition { on a health topic }
- Half Marathon

The event was well supported by the local community and sponsorship was generous - with no question of pressure being exerted by Health Dept personnel! Perhaps it has become an annual event.

My assistants in Morogoro included Boniface and Wabu, both of whom had been students at the Health Training School, during my time there. As it was with all my Tanganyikan staff, throughout my three years, it was a pleasure to work with them. All credit to Clarence Phenix & co, for a job well done.

### **Farewell**

As the end of my tour of duty approached, it was with sadness that I realised that, realistically, this would be both my first and last tour. I could have returned for another tour but, with independence looming, that would have been the last and then it would be necessary to resume my career in UK. Better, therefore, to get back on the ladder sooner rather than later. As we re-joined the SS Kenya Castle, in May 1961, I had the feeling that I had served my apprenticeship and become reasonably proficient in Kiswahili, so that I was now in a position to make a real contribution to the promotion of a healthier environment in Tanganyika. Yet, here I was, returning to the UK! I hoped that my three years had been well spent; certainly, I did not regret them and would always be grateful that I had had the experience. As we sailed out of Dar es Salaam harbour, I was confident that, in the hands of these fine young men, emerging from the Health Training School, the service had a good future.

## **APPENDIX (d)**

# **The Evolution of The Clarence Phenix Memorial Library**

**By John McCandless**

*John McCandless worked as an environmental health officer in Northern Ireland from 1962 to 2001 when he took early retirement from his post as Group Chief Environmental Health Officer. He served the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health for 10 years as a Northern Ireland representative and was elected its UK Chairman in 1999. Also in 1999, he was elected as an honorary member of the Tanzania Health Officers' Association (CHAMATA) "in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding contribution to the development of CHAMATA and the Environmental Health profession in Tanzania."*

As I look back I feel that the manner in which I have been privileged to assist with this project was predestined.

In 1964 I was appointed as a District Environmental Health Officer in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. At the same time Clarence Phenix was appointed to a similar post in neighboring County Fermanagh.

In 1966 I was elected to represent my colleagues on the Northern Ireland Centre Council of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). Another new appointee at that time was Clarence Phenix! The Centre Council met about six times per year and so, through these meetings, I got to know Clarence quite well.

In 1967, I was appointed Specialist Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety) in Co. Tyrone. In 1968 Clarence Phenix was appointed to a similar post in Co. Fermanagh. Through a quite radical process, for that time, the Food Specialists from each of the six counties in Northern Ireland arranged to meet, share common problems, co-ordinate services and develop joint work programmes. These meetings were convened every two months and so I had a further six opportunities every year to meet with Clarence.

In 1973, Local Government in Northern Ireland was reorganized. The outcome of this was that Clarence and myself ended up working side by side from the same offices in Omagh. During the next decade we often traveled together to CIEH meetings and Clarence often talked about his work and life in Tanzania. He named his home in Co. Fermanagh "Dar es Salaam". Also, around that time, he went to Edinburgh in Scotland to the Commonwealth Games where some of his former athletic students were competing. On his return he spoke of his great joy in meeting old friends again.

For five years in the 80's Clarence was elected to represent Northern Ireland on the CIEH Council in London. It was during this time that the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) was "born". There were six cosignatories to its formation. One of those was William Clarence Phenix from Northern Ireland. He was very proud of that and, although I cannot be certain, I believe that it was through his remaining contacts in Tanzania that CHAMATA became one of the early members to join the Federation.

Clarence Phenix ended his career in local government as Chief Environmental Health Officer in his native Co. Fermanagh. After retirement in 1990 he retained an active interest in environmental health and was President of the Northern Ireland Centre of CIEH when he died in 1992.

It was in 1990 that I was first elected to represent Northern Ireland on the CIEH Council, following somewhat in Clarence's footsteps. In 1993 I was elected to represent CIEH on the Council of IFEH. At my first meeting of IFEH I noted in the financial report that the subscription for CHAMATA was not being paid. This was soon after Clarence's death and at a time when his colleagues in Northern Ireland were trying to think of a suitable way to commemorate his contribution to our profession.

I returned to my colleagues and suggested that we should seek CHAMATA's permission to pay its annual subscription to IFEH in memory of Clarence Phenix. This was enthusiastically agreed. We then had to seek the agreement of CHAMATA to this proposal. Correspondence was slow and so the process of sealing this agreement took about two years.

Through those contacts we learned that, although CHAMATA recognized the need to develop environmental health education in Tanzania there was still only a few degree qualified environmental health officers (EHO's). A degree proposal had been with the university for some time but no further progress had been made. CHAMATA asked for help and advice from Northern Ireland. We talked to some educationalists and some funding organizations without making much progress. Then in September 1997 I met an EHO from Yorkshire at the CIEH Annual Congress. His name was Stewart Petrie and he professed to having had some experience in Africa and of its education problems. The outcome of this chance encounter was that the Northern Ireland Centre set about raising money to send Stewart Petrie to Tanzania on a fact finding mission.

This proved to be an enlightened decision because, during a mission lasting 10 days in November 1997, Stewart Petrie was able to discuss the issues face to face with many of the key organizations in Dar es Salaam including CHAMATA, the Ministry of Health, the university and the World Health Organisation. All agreed that an environmental health degree should be made available, the necessary plans were put in place and a date (September 2000) was set for the first intake of undergraduates. Through this agreement came a challenge – that was for the Northern Ireland Centre to provide a Technical Reference Library to support the proposed degree course. The “carrot” for this was an indication that, if successful, the library would be named “The Clarence Phenix Memorial Library”.

This challenge was accepted but help was sought from CIEH and IFEH. Help was readily forthcoming from both these organizations and eventually the “Library Appeal” was adopted by IFEH at Stockholm in June 1998. CIEH produced some appeal literature and the Library Appeal was officially launched in September 1998 at Chadwick Court, London.

The Appeal was only four months old when I was honored by being elected Chairman of CIEH. This gave me a privileged platform from which to promote the Library Appeal within CIEH as well as through my continuing membership on the IFEH Council. I was glad of these special opportunities but once more I cannot help reflecting that the hand of destiny was playing its full role in the whole affair.

As Chairman of CIEH I took a fact finding mission to Tanzania in May 1999. I was accompanied by Stewart Petrie, who had already returned several times, and Mr Michael Cooke, the then Chief Executive of CIEH. At that time we were able to meet the members of CHAMATA and key people at the University of Muhimbili. We also met the Minister of Health who gave us great encouragement to continue the progress towards the degree programme and the library development. My report to the CIEH Council follows these notes.

One problem at that time was the lack of suitably qualified lecturers within Tanzania to undertake tuition within such a degree course. Through our mission and by agreement with CHAMATA we were able to facilitate the attendance at Manchester Metropolitan University in England of three prospective lecturers for the degree course. Dennis Mazali, Renuk Mashauri and Clement Mung'aho subsequently read for their M.Sc. degrees in Environmental Health at Manchester in 1999/2000 and I am delighted to acknowledge their successes.

CIEH was pleased to provide funding for these degrees as part of its overall commitment to the education initiative. The success of these three people was the final piece of jigsaw required to enable the university's senate to officially approve the start of a B.Sc. degree course in Environmental Health in September 2001.

As stated elsewhere, the Tanzanian Library Appeal raised almost £40,000 stg. This money has been used to purchase books for a brand new library. Members of the Northern Ireland Centre administered the purchase and dispatch of the books and British Airways transported them free of charge. The books will be updated and added to through time. This provides a new challenge and I know in my heart that it will be taken up. The library project was strongly endorsed when, in 2000, the World Health Organisation recognized it as a GELNET library for environment and health information.

This has been a long journey and credit must go to those in Tanzania who had the early vision and the subsequent courage and determination to see it through. My heartiest congratulations go to everyone associated with its success. I am confident that, as new graduates emerge and take up positions of responsibility in your country, the health and environmental circumstances will improve with huge benefit for your entire population.

This initiative is designed to be sustainable. It is now the responsibility of CHAMATA, the university, the Ministry of Health and the new graduates to ensure that it is indeed sustained.

*The note below was prepared by John McCandless and presented to the Council of CIEH in June 1999.*

## ***“Report by the Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health on a visit to TANZANIA in May 1999***

*The international environmental health assistance given to our colleagues CHAMATA (The Environmental Health Association in Tanzania) towards their professional development has been an outstanding success. A B.Sc. (Environmental Health) degree course at the University of Dar es Salaam will start in September 2001. It is planned that a library in memory of the late Clarence Phenix, a former trustee of CIEH and a co-signatory at the formation of IFEH, will also be opened in support of the degree course.*

*Tanzania has a population of approximately 25 million people. The average life expectancy at birth is 42 years for females and only 41 for males. Cholera Typhoid and Malaria are rife. TB cases are on the increase, children still die from childhood diseases such as measles and diphtheria and HIV/ AIDS is a growing problem. All of these are exacerbated by the rainy season, by the very poor road systems and drainage and by the high humidity throughout the year which is ideal for fostering breeding grounds for bacteria and for mosquitoes which carry malaria. The influx of many thousands of refugees has brought new epidemics and added more pressure to an already overloaded system.*

*A major effort to improve the infrastructure of Tanzania in relation to better roads, safer water supplies and better sewerage systems is necessary and would make a giant contribution to the improvement of circumstances for all. It is to this end that the development of an Environmental Health degree course is vital. Better Environmental Health managers would, in the long term, result in a better and more sophisticated infrastructure from which the entire population of Tanzania could benefit.*

*During my recent visit it was not possible to listen to my colleagues in Tanzania expressing their views and aspirations and their appreciation of what the International Environmental Health Community was doing without being deeply touched by the intensity, sincerity and determination of those present. There is a clear sense of direction among their leadership in where the profession should and could go. There is also an opportunity to support this and in doing so set a number of criteria and standards which can form a template for similar developments throughout other African countries.*

**One morning, while in Dar es Salaam we visited the village of Kiwalani in the Ward of Kipawa. This District is home to approximately 90,000 people and we were shown that there are six safe water supply points for this population. Anyone who collects a bucket of water from one of these six supplies is required to pay fifty shillings (the equivalent to 5p in the UK). Despite the apparently low cost water, it would appear that many people are either reluctant or unable to pay for a safe water supply for drinking purposes. Unfortunately if they cannot afford the purchase of water in the first place they are also unlikely to be able to afford the cost of fuel to light a fire to boil the contaminated water to make it safe.**

**This visit was a very emotional experience. It underlined the need for more Environmental Health management and influence in these types of areas that are replicated throughout Tanzania and other African countries. If the basic needs of clean and safe water supplies and safe disposal of faecal matter cannot be met then the whole life cycle and safety of large communities is at risk. Nothing in all of my forty years experience in Environmental has convinced me more of the need for Environmental Health presence and input into the improvement of circumstances in third world countries.**

***It is difficult for me as an Environmental Health professional to think of any other project in which I have ever been involved, where such vast potential for the improvement of human health will be the ultimate prize. It is now achievable.***

If, through this project, the average life expectancy at birth in Tanzania is, in time, raised to only 46 years then we, with others, will have contributed to an astonishing 125 million years of life gain for its people. This project can be replicated in many other countries. The contribution that environmental health education and professional development can make to mankind in the developing world is quite simply staggering.”

John McCandless  
Chairman of Council  
24 June 1999”