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## ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

An individual who began his public service career 41 years ago in rural Hancock county is the subject of our biographic sketch this month. The individual is Fred Huls, who has been serving as supervisor of Wilcox township since 1960 when he was appointed. He was elected to the office in 1961 and reelected in 1965. He is a director of the Township Officials of Illinois.



Fred Huls

Fred Huls was born Feb. 26, 1895, in Bear Creek township, Hancock county. He attended area grade schools and then engaged in farming. He is married and the father of a son and a daughter.

In 1925, Huls was elected a director of a rural school board and served as the board's president for 15 years. Subsequently Huls was elected a director of the high school board of education and served as chairman of the Bus Transportation committee as well as other committees.

In conjunction with his vocation of farming, Huls was elected president of the United Farmers of Illinois, an affiliate of the National Farmers Union. He also served 14 years as a director, four years as vice president and currently is serving as president of the Wythe Township Mutual Fire Insurance Co. He has been active in numerous other community affairs and organizations.

In his association with the Hancock county board of supervisors, Huls served as chairman of the board in 1963 and also of the tax board of review. In 1965, Huls was named a member of the board of review. In his association with the board of supervisors, Huls has served as a member of various committees.

It is interesting to note that despite the fact Huls had only a grade school education he has served not only on a rural school but also as a member of the high school board of education. It is further enlightening that he was selected to head the United Farmers organization and has served as an official of a fire insurance company.

Huls' understanding of the needs and requirements of his county is indicated by the fact he has served not only his township but his county

COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL

# Illinois COUNTY and TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL

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### ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

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- ☆
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- ☆
- Illinois Association of County Superintendents of Highways
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- ☆
- Illinois Association of County Superintendents of Schools
- ☆
- Illinois Associate Judges Association
- ☆
- County Assessment Officers Association
- ☆
- Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs

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as chairman of the county board and the board of review.

The solid thinking of such individuals as Fred Huls has been highly beneficial to his township and community. It is a tribute to his, and

his confreres' thinking, that Hancock county has maintained a solid position over the years. We commend the citizens of Huls' community for their foresight in naming such a high-minded individual to public office.

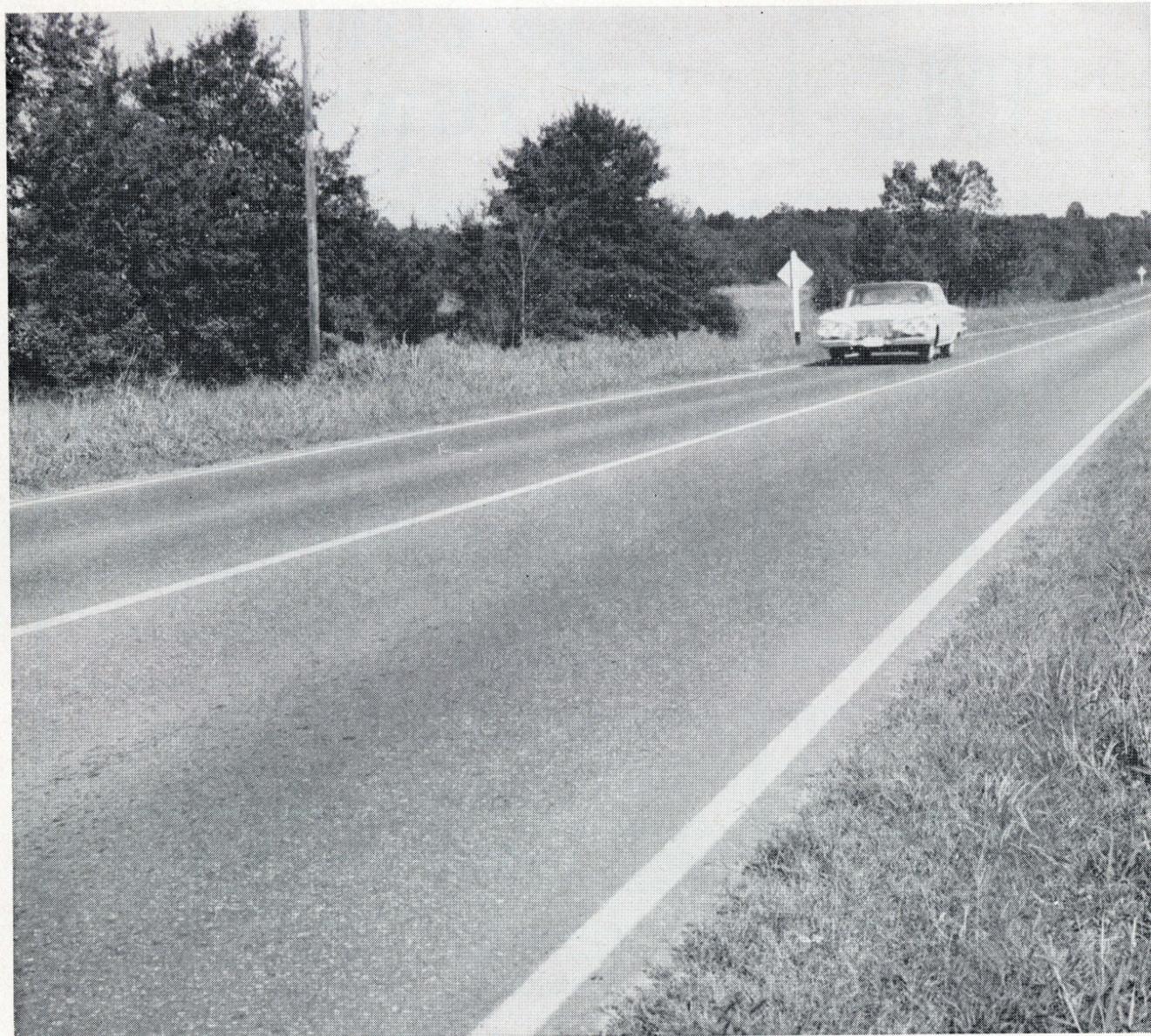
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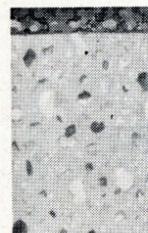
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## Public Health Horizons

# Illinois Public Health Department To Implement Medicare Activation

By FRANKLIN D. YODER, M.D.  
Director, Department of Public Health

The Illinois Department of Public Health has been designated by Gov. Otto Kerner as the state agency responsible for implementing two sections of Public Law 89-97, of which Medicare, or health insurance for the aged, is a part. Implementation involves two related responsibilities.

The department must certify all providers of service under the law.



Dr. Franklin D. Yoder

This relates to hospitals, laboratories, and home health agencies. That includes providing consultation to agencies in working toward certification, and coordinating these activities with other state agencies and with local agencies. Nursing homes, as extended care facilities, must also be certified by next January.

The second responsibility concerns developing home health services throughout the state. The primary functions of the home health agency include the provision of skilled nursing services and other therapeutic services on a visiting basis in a place of residence used as the individual's home. The patient's need determines where he receives the care, preferably in his home but if necessary, in a hospital or nursing home.

The law specifies that the services must be available by July 1 for those over age 65 and enrolled in the Medicare Program.

### Local Level Services

The Medicare Program is a mechanism for paying for such care—it does not provide the services. The state department of public health is responsible for certifying that all providers of services under the program meet statutory requirements—it is not responsible for providing the services. Services must be provided on a local level where Medicare pays for them.

It is the department's responsibility and obligation to encourage, promote and assist in formulating plans for services on a local level. In the knowledge that town-by-town or vil-

lage-by-village organization of services would prove to be chaotic, unwieldy, and result in splintering of service to the detriment of the care of the patient, the department advocated organization on a county level as the most practical and utilitarian.

To plan and develop the organizational structure to provide home health services took the coordinated interest and efforts of local government, medical societies, community leaders and state and local health departments.

### County Aid

Every county which had a health department was encouraged to develop home health services within its own agency, if these services were not already available, and to work cooperatively with agencies which already provided such services.

It was recognized that, in some counties, agencies had been formed to make available one or more services in a part of the area or on a county-wide basis. In such cases, county health departments were urged to assess the services, to foster the analyses by community leaders of community problems and needs, and to arrive at a plan for coordinating services, of developing within a

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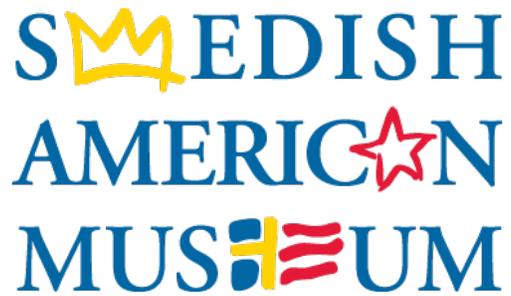
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