



*The Walter F. Snyder Award for 1978 Presented to  
LARRY J. GORDON*

Larry J. Gordon, deputy secretary for the New Mexico Health and Environment department, began his work in the field of public health in 1950 as county sanitarian in Silver City, New Mexico. At mid-century, he was well prepared for the career that lay ahead. He possessed a master of science degree from the University of New Mexico and an MPH from the University of Michigan.

In the 28 years since Silver City he has distinguished himself as an innovative environmentalist with the ability to turn visions and plans into professional realities.

He was responsible for creating and administering the nation's first local comprehensive environmental health department. This department in Albuquerque was later broadened to a city/county environmental health agency. In addition to developing the traditional health programs, Larry Gordon was instrumental in developing a model cities program, an urban renewal program, a housing conservation program and a low-rent/leased housing program.

At the state level, he was the prime mover in creating the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Agency, which is recognized as one of the nation's most comprehensive state environmental health agencies. The E. I. A.'s mandate requires it to administer virtually the entire spectrum of programs in environmental management and consumer protection, and is based on the multiple goals of health, safety, comfort, and social-economic well-being for the citizens of New Mexico.

In 1973, Larry Gordon was instrumental in recreating the state health agency, again with an emphasis on comprehensive programmatic coverage and service. He was also responsible for planning, organizing and administering the nation's only comprehensive scientific laboratory system, which offers service to all tax-supported agencies in New Mexico. Larry Gordon's list of professional contributions and achievements is long and impressive. He has served as assistant editor of the *Journal of Environmental Health* and is a consulting editor of the *Environment News Digest*. For six years he was a member of the Council of Public Health Consultants of the

National Sanitation Foundation and also served as chairman of the NSF joint committee on food service equipment standards. From 1957 to the present he has had various periods of duty as a commissioned officer or consultant to the U.S. Public Health Service.

He is on the executive board of the American Public Health Association. He is a past president of the New Mexico Public Health Association and past president of the New Mexico Environmental Health Association. In addition, Larry Gordon has received honors for distinguished service in public health from many professional organizations including the APHA, NEHA, IAMFES and the New Mexico Public Health Association. The Santa Fe chapter of the National Secretaries Association voted him "Boss of the Year" in 1970.

For almost three decades he has worked brilliantly and tirelessly on behalf of one of the world's most cherished resources, human health. For his creativity, his professionalism and countless accomplishments, Larry J. Gordon has been chosen by a select committee of his peers to be the recipient of the 1978 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

James E. Jump

Charles L. Senn

Charles C. Johnson, Jr.

*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.*