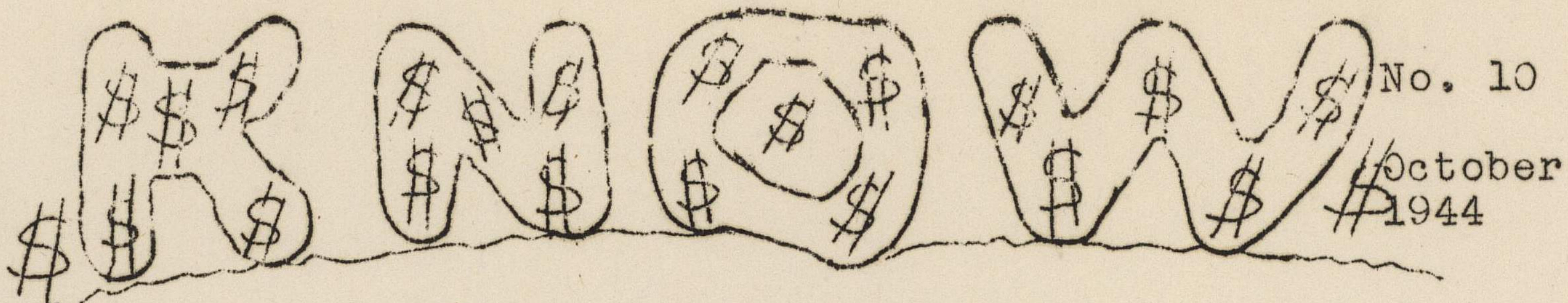


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A B O U T H E A L T H

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH UNIT, City Hall, Massachusetts Street, at 11th, functions daily from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Come in and tell us your troubles.

ANENT STATISTICS

STATISTICS are always dry--and should be. They are dead, finished, crystallized--and should be. We need a few stabilized statements of facts and collections of such statements for study and comparison. Any change, forward or backward from such statements would be other Statistics.

Let me hope you are interested in knowing that 74 persons died in Douglas County during the first half of 1944. In the same period 105 people died in the city of Lawrence. Births were respectively 96 and 153--one woman lost her life in her effort for motherhood. Five babies were stillborn--2 in the county and 3 in Lawrence. There were 16 deaths from cancer of which probably more than half might have been prevented. In the county, 1 died of tuberculosis and in the city 11. All of these should have been prevented. There were 10 fatal accidents in the county and 9 in the city--19 in all. At least 10 of these should have been prevented or avoided.

Summarizing to this point, there were at least 30 preventable deaths in this county the first half of this year. If the average age was 40 and the average expectancy was 25 years when they died, we lost 750 years of human life, well up to the life of the man who made the record for longevity.

Suppose these people worked 300 days a year (which they probably would not) their untimely deaths mean a loss to us of 225,000 labor days. Say the average work day will be 6 hours, this means a loss of 1,350,000 hours of more or less productive labor. Computed on present price of 3 hours for \$2.00 this means a financial loss of \$900,000.00. Add to this the \$7500.00 or so that their funerals cost and we conclude that if we could save only a quarter of this loss a \$15000.00 annual budget for health would show an interest return that would make any Shylock's voice tremble and his eyes snap.

RATS

Speaking of money and thinking of rats reminds me that our sanitarian, Howard Weindel, who recently did some special work on rat control in Denver, knows a lot of interesting things about rats. When he has time he tells things about them. He says they have something like a symbiosis with human kind, i.e. in general they live only where people do, make their nests or houses almost entirely of materials that have been handled by humans and like to live in places in or near where people visit frequently.