

Daniel Hale



Daniel Hale, M.D., was a unique individual who combined his talents to work for the improvement on the health of the individual person as well as the health and environment of all people of Southern West Virginia.

He was best known for his community leadership in the Brush Creek Watershed Project which attained national recognition and for his continuing efforts in community development and soil and water conservation. As a result of his efforts, two-thirds of the people of Mercer County now have adequate water supplied from watershed impoundments and sewage lagoons which provide clean, safe sewage disposal.

A list of the honors he received is indicative of the leadership he provided the people of West Virginia. In 1966, he was named the "State Conservationist of the Year." In 1969, he was named the "Outstanding District Supervisor" by the West Virginia Supervisors' Association. Also, in 1969, he was named "Conservation Man of the Year" by the Southern Soil Conservation District. The Charleston Gazette-Mail named Dr. Hale as the "West Virginian of the Year" in 1969. In 1974, "his efforts to improve the health and environment for the people of Southern West Virginia," was recognized by the Southern West Virginia regional health council and U.S. Senator Robert Byrd. At the national level he was named "Watershed Man of the Year" at the 1970 National Watershed Congress. In the July 1967 U.S. Senate Congressional Record, Senator Byrd commended Dr. Hale for community leadership and community development." In 1974, Senator Byrd presented a plaque containing the U.S. Senate emblem as a personal presentation to Dr. Hale for his efforts to improve the environment.

Because of Dr. Hale's untiring efforts, the City of Princeton has an adequate water supply from the "Dr. Dan Hale Reservoir," named in his honor. Another watershed dam provides a recreational facility for the citizens of Mercer County. Economic growth has taken place in Princeton since the construction of the watershed dams because industry is now able to locate in areas previously plagued with floods. Adequate sewer facilities for many families have resulted from the construction of the sewage lagoons.

Dr. Hale combined his knowledge and practice of medicine with his enthusiasm for environmental improvement. He was chairman of the Mercer County Board of Health and Chairman of the Southern West Virginia Regional Health Council. He was a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee and the Southern Soil Conservation District Committee. He was chairman of the Mountain Dominion Resource Community Development Steering Committee, and President of the Brush Creek Watershed Association.

He was named outstanding Citizen by the Princeton Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1965 and received the Citizen's Award at the 1967 Health Conference. He also received the Gamma Gamma Delta Award for his contributions to human and natural resource conservation.

Dr. Hale practiced self-sacrifice in behalf of resource conservation and the well-being of his fellow man. The magnitude of a problem only strengthened his determination to see it solved.