It was early in this century, and in the Western Hemisphere, that the world’s first, and today the oldest existing, multi-national health agency came into being.

Created in Mexico City in 1901, it was formally constituted here, in Washington, D.C., on December 2, 1902.

The Western Hemisphere statesmen who gave it life, also gave it a budget of $5,000, and a staff of six part-time officers, two full-time clerks, who set up offices in a corner of the Pan American Union.

That was the modest beginning of what is today the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Much has changed however, in the 63 years since then.

It is now the general secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization, since 1947, and the regional office for the World Health Organization, a U.N. specialized agency, since 1949.

And in 1950, it won recognition as a specialized agency as well of the Organization of American States.

This year it spends more than $17 million, in its own name and for regional WHO programs, on over 400 health projects throughout the hemisphere. And the mission is no longer simply that of a few quarantine activities. Instead, it is one dedicated to the concept of health as a state of physical as well as mental well-being.

Its staff of public health experts and other international civil servants number close to 1,000, of whom 700 are in Latin America, and 300 here—the latter housed for the first time under a single roof in a permanent headquarters.

The design of Uruguayan architect, Roman Fresneda Siri, the new headquarters consists of two main units:

—A slender, crescent-shaped secretariat, providing nine floors in office space, perched on concrete white columns. Approximately 13 feet above street level, the secretariat forms a roof over two open-air, flagstone courtyards.

—A 300 seat council chamber three-floors tall whose lower floor is the headquarters main entrance. Not only will health meetings be held in the chamber but other events, similar to this one, as well.

Milestones in the building’s development are these:

—President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill March 1960 donating the site, valued then at $1.1 million, as a U.S. gift.

—The W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan awarded grants, in May 1961 and October 1962, totalling $5 million for construction costs.

Twenty-six member nations will repay the grant money, as stipulated by the Kellogg Foundation, by financing education and training, nutrition and water programs over the next 20 years.

—Dr. Emory W. Morris, Kellogg Foundation president, broke ground here September 1963.
Winning the coveted Queen Elizabeth of Belgium Music Competition in 1959 brought Jaime Laredo at 18 honor and international fame.

His native Bolivia hailed his success by bestowing on him high honors; even issuing commemorative stamps. And last year his adopted country honored him also when the First Lady asked that he represent the United States in a tour of Europe as a Jeunesses Musicales Award Artist.

At least three times before this evening has the 24-year-old Cochabamba-born violinist performed in Washington, D.C.—as a soloist with Leopold Stokowski last year, and under the auspices of the Pan American Union in 1954, and 1959.

He comes this time fresh from the 14th annual Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont, where he played this July under the baton of the 89-year-old master, Pablo Casals.

In performances here, in Latin America, and in Europe, he has time and again shown the artistry, critics have said, that is sure to make him one of the great names in his profession.

Laredo came to San Francisco at age 7, in 1948. He made his first public performance the following year in Sacramento, giving a full recital that included the Mendelssohn Concerto. Three years later, at age 11, in a summer series concert, he played with the San Francisco Symphony under Arthur Fiedler.

In 1960 he married a fellow student of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, a brilliant American pianist, the former Ruth Meckler. She appears with him tonight in this program commemorating the dedication in Washington, D.C. of a new headquarters building for Western Hemisphere health.

Ruth Laredo, of Detroit, is living evidence that business and pleasure do combine.

In making for herself a career, she has had the good fortune of a talented violinist husband as a regular travelling companion. It was with him that she toured three continents to establish in her own right a reputation as one of the U.S.’s outstanding young pianists.

She too participated this summer in the annual Vermont festival, performing Bach’s Concerto for Three Pianos in D minor along with Mieczyslaw Horszowski, and Rudolf Serkin.

She appeared in Carnegie Hall, as a soloist with the American Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski. And she represented the United States in the Jeunesses Musicales annual program.

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau, regional office of the World Health Organization and the Staff Association present

Jaime Laredo Violinist

Sonata in G major, Op. 30, No. 3

Beethoven

Allegro assai
Tempo di minuetto, ma molto moderato e grazioso
Allegro vivace

The sonata is a pastoral symphony in which Beethoven’s love of nature expresses itself in rustic impressions and the bucolic spirit of the country dance.

The first movement, Allegro assai, opens with a brisk, fast-stepping theme. The second, a Minuet in form and tempo, has the mood and accent of a genuine slow movement. Its thematic material is of exceptional beauty. The finale is a simple Rondo with a long, free fantasia in the center.

Sonata Concertante

Leon Kirchner
Two Movements played without pause

(1919–)

Among American composers of chamber music, Leon Kirchner is rated one of the strongest talents. He writes in an uncompromisingly intellectual way, but achieves a curiously romantic effect in his projection of emotion.

Born in Brooklyn, educated in California, Kirchner is, since July 1, 1961, Professor of Music at Harvard University.

INTERMISSION

Fantasie in C major, Op. 159

Schubert

Andante molto – Allegretto
Andantino
Allegro

A work of the ripest and maturest period of the great lyric genius, it is rarely performed because of the tremendous difficulties for both instruments.

A short introduction leads into a delightfully gay Allegretto, where an extended canon is the main feature. After development of this episode, a slow theme and variations of inexpressible beauty enter. The Fantasie closes with a triumphant Allegro in C major.
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RENE JULES DUBOS

PROFESSOR

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

Known widely for his thought-provoking insights, Professor Dubos is first speaker in a new PAHO/WHO Lecture Series in Biomedical Sciences. His lecture opening the series is also part of official ceremonies to commemorate the inauguration of a new headquarters building in Washington, D. C.

The forces which environment exerts on man are of vital concern to Professor Dubos. A many-time honored medical scientist, a philosopher of science and human affairs, Professor Dubos is also eminently a keen student of the ecology of disease. And his recent experiments have cast fresh light on the interplay between man and the environment.

Professor Dubos is a member of the Rockefeller University in New York City, joining the faculty of the graduate university and scientific research center almost 40 years ago. An innovator of experimental techniques in microbiology, he was first to demonstrate, two decades back, the feasibility of obtaining antibiotic drugs from microbes.

Professor Dubos has been a member of the Pan American Health Organization’s Advisory Committee on Medical Research since the committee’s establishment in 1962.