

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
Portland, Maine 04102

March 6, 1985

Vol. 16, No. 32

MMC will apply for membership in VHA

Maine Medical Center has accepted an invitation to apply for membership in the Voluntary Hospitals of America, Inc. The VHA is a nationwide cooperative of voluntary, non-profit hospitals, dedicated to providing its members with the advantages of a national multi-hospital system while monitoring community ownership and control.

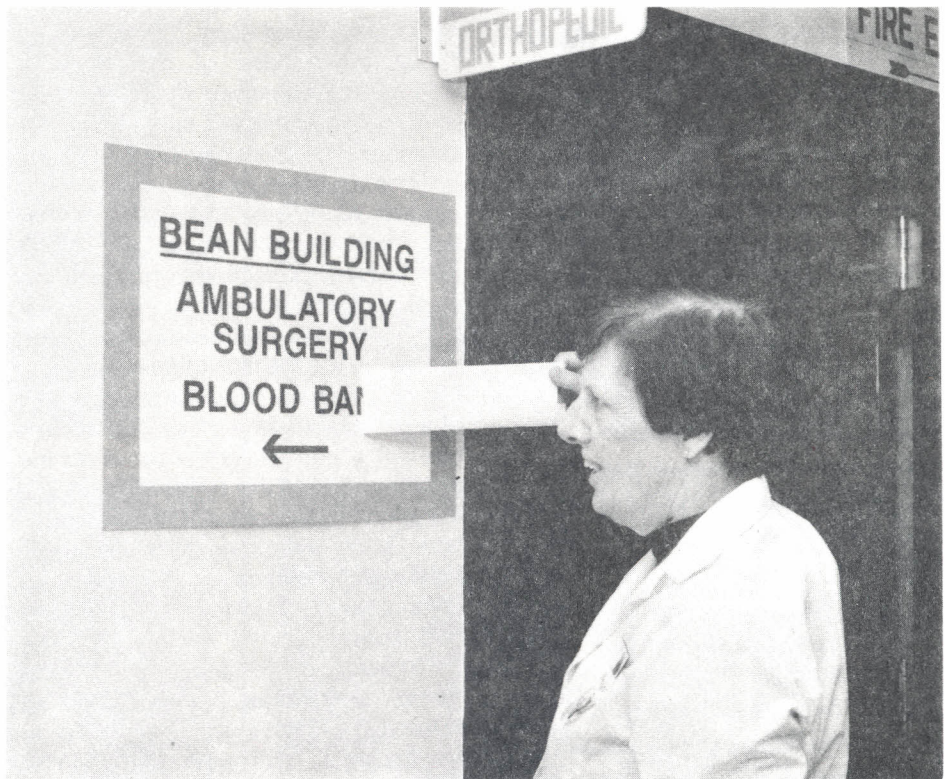
The MMC Board of Trustees voted at its February 28 meeting to apply for VHA membership. The 67 current VHA shareholder hospitals are expected to consider the application at their March 27 meeting; if accepted, Maine Medical Center could purchase an equity share in the cooperative.

VHA is one of the largest multi-hospital systems in the country. Its 67 shareholders, partners, and affiliated hospitals represent over 84,900 beds in 39 states. All the members are voluntary, non-profit hospitals and the shareholders, like MMC, are primarily tertiary care teaching hospitals with 500 or more beds.

Voluntary Hospitals of America, Inc. was developed in 1977 as a response to the changing environment of American health care. As MMC Executive Vice President and Treasurer Donald L. McDowell explains, "the profit motive has come to health care, and the for-profit hospital chains are quite literally 'buying up' hospitals across the country. New England has not -- so far -- felt the same pressure from the for-profits as have other regions of the country, primarily because of the strong tradition of community, non-profit hospitals.

"But it's clear that the freestanding, non-profit, locally-controlled hospital -- especially of the 500-plus bed size -- is an endangered species," McDowell says. "If we are committed, as MMC is, to the non-profit philosophy and to com-

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THE BLOOD BANK MOVE happened as planned last week. In fact it happened even more quickly than planned, and by mid-morning on Wednesday, February 28, all blood services were available at the new location in the sub-basement level of the new building. To make it official, Blood Bank Supervisor Irene Dempsey, RN, "unveiled" direction signs to the new location. (More move photos inside.)

Healthy food is focus of Nutrition Time

March is National Nutrition time, and MMC's Food and Nutrition Services Department is taking the opportunity to provide nutrition information to hospital employees and visitors. The theme for this year: CRISPY, CRUNCHY, JUICY, SWEET FOOD. . . Good for your body. A colorful, dramatic display depicting the theme will be in the display case near Security at the first of the month.

What's Happening will carry a special "Ask Your Nutritionist" column during

March. Employees may take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions about nutrition by dropping them in the question box in the Cafeteria.

As always, Nutrition Time brings healthy specials to the MMC Cafeteria. Specials the weeks of March 11 and March 18 will focus on healthy eating for a healthy body. Nutrition information on vitamins and minerals developed by MMC Nutritionists will be available in the Cafeteria.

Chairing the Nutrition Time effort are Mary Buteyn, RD, and Liz Bagonzi, DT.

Language Bank needs some specific help

The MMC Language Bank, which furnishes volunteer interpreter services to non-English-speaking MMC patients, is in need of additional interpreters in one particular language: Cambodian. If you are able to interpret Cambodian, or know of someone in the community who would be willing to do so on a voluntary, on-call basis, please contact the Public Information Office, x2196, days or Unit Manager Ed Moore, RP253, nights.

There is always room in the Language Bank for interpreters of all kinds, on all shifts. Areas of specific need include Spanish, Polish, and Vietnamese. Additional interpreters would also be useful for French and Korean. Volunteers will be put in touch with a health care professional for a briefing on the duties and responsibilities of interpreters.

New Employees

MENTAL HEALTH: Elizabeth Belanger

CSD: Jeffrey Brown

MIS MAINTENANCE: Steven Gillingham

PERSONNEL: Darlene Greenfield

PHLEBOTOMY: Cathy Lailer

HOUSEKEEPING: Charles Parker,
Jeffrey Robinson

NURSING: Deborah L. Plourde

INVENTORIES: Timothy Rasmussen

HOUSEKEEPING: Susan Buzzell,
Richard Henderson, Wayne LaPointe,
Linda Leeman, Katrina Lowberg,
Michael Mogan, Inge Stevens, Kristen
Taylor

CSD: Anthony Caiazzo

NURSING: Jo-Anne L. Cioe, Catherine
Costa, Susan Deschesne, Mary B.
Fernald, Wanda J. Pease, Jan E.
Prewitt, Jean D. Thibault

HOUSEKEEPING: Karen M. Cyt, Scott C.
Douglass, Douglas E. Neff, Louanne
Michaud

FOOD SERVICE: Laurie J. Gilbert

OR: Robin L. Henkel

MATERIEL MANAGEMENT: Christopher
Howe

MEDICAL RECORDS: Jeanne M. Lee

CSD: Roderick MacLeod, Jr.

PHARMACY: Jane McCormack

SEWING: Sovann Meas

PATIENT ACCOUNTS: Ann E. Russell

HEMATOLOGY: Margaret Russo

VHA, from page one

munity control of hospitals, we must recognize the changing environment and adjust our method of operation. The purpose of VHA and similar groups of non-profit hospitals is to band together to do the same things for non-profit hospitals that the for-profit corporations are doing for their hospitals."

Those things, according to McDowell, include economies of scale in purchasing, the pooling of economic resources, and the sharing of expertise and programs. "The challenge to VHA members," McDowell says, "is to develop those advantages of systemization without compromising the philosophic and ethical principles upon which the voluntary, non-profit hospital is founded.

"The VHA's biggest strength and its biggest weakness," McDowell points out, "is its voluntary nature. Control rests absolutely with each member hospital, so each hospital is free to do whatever it believes best. The members aren't required, as are the individual hospitals in a for-profit chain, to follow the direction of a corporate home office. Sometimes this lack of central control can dilute the effectiveness of the cooperative, but it maintains local control of the hospital. And when the members *do* band together and pursue a goal, there is an enormous reserve of talent and power to draw upon."

Chairman of the MMC Board Mrs. Herbert S. Holmes, Jr., says "it's an honor to be asked to join VHA, because the invitation isn't extended often or lightly. A prospective member must be a well-managed, generally large, financially viable hospital, with an excellent clinical reputation and a commitment to education. That Maine Medical Center was asked is a reflection of its strength and prestige, and a compliment to all who are associated with it."

Prior to the Board of Trustees vote on February 28, the application for VHA membership had been studied and recommended to the Board by the Joint Conference Committee and the Finance Committee. MMC staff and VHA staff also held information-sharing meetings with Department Heads and Chiefs; and MMC staff discussed the VHA invitation with the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff and at a meeting of the full Medical Staff.

The cornerstone of VHA's programs is group purchasing. The collective purchasing power of the shareholders and affiliated hospitals allows VHA to negoti-

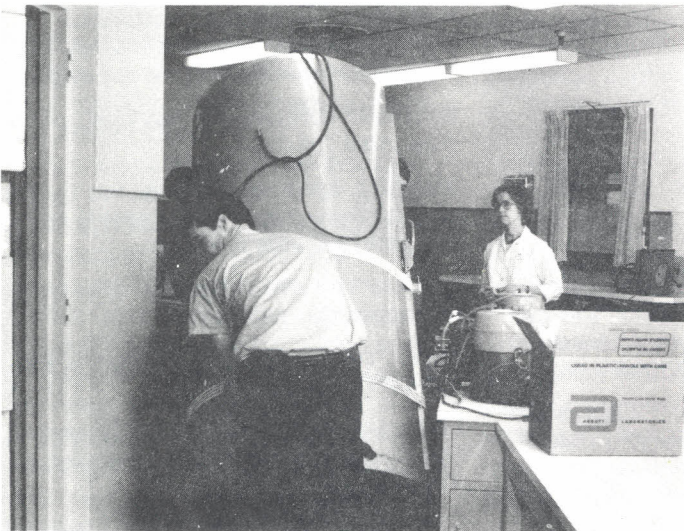
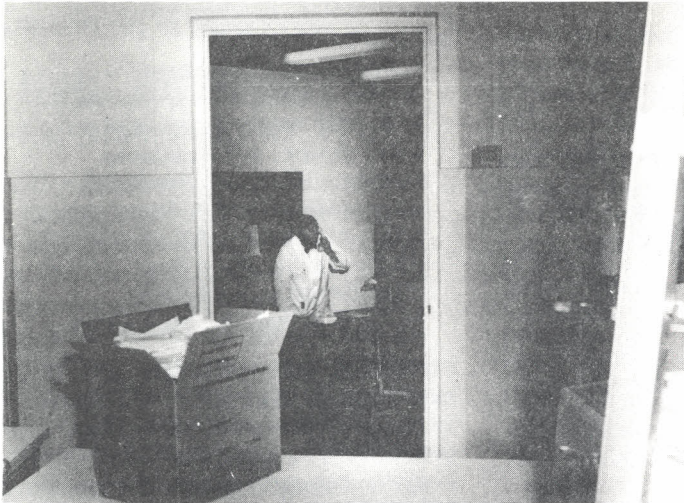
ate very favorable prices on such products as pharmaceuticals, medical/surgical supplies, capital equipment, and forms. McDowell notes that the VHA's estimates of the savings it could realize for MMC are lower than the VHA's usual percentages. "That speaks well of MMC's current purchasing program," he says, "and changes in suppliers will have to be weighed carefully." Nonetheless, McDowell says conservative estimates are that MMC could save \$50,000 - \$100,000 in the first year.

Other programs in the VHA "circle of companies" include efforts in management services (financial systems, productivity programs, and human resources programs), the provision of capital financing, and assistance in capital development and diversification. As a shareholder, MMC may choose to participate in all or none of the available programs, McDowell says, depending on the needs of the hospital and the community.

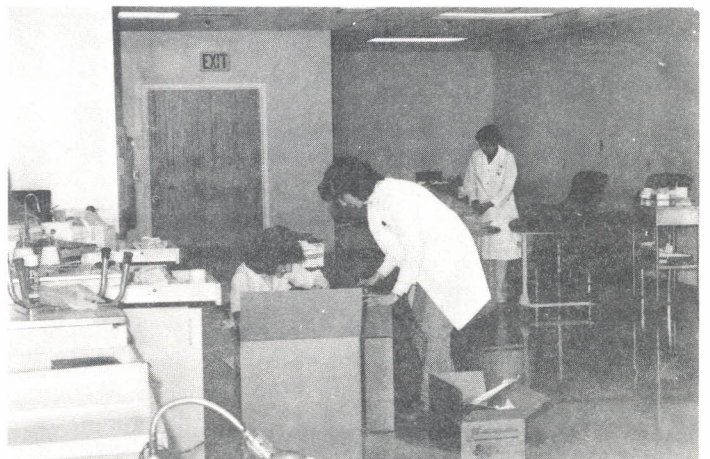
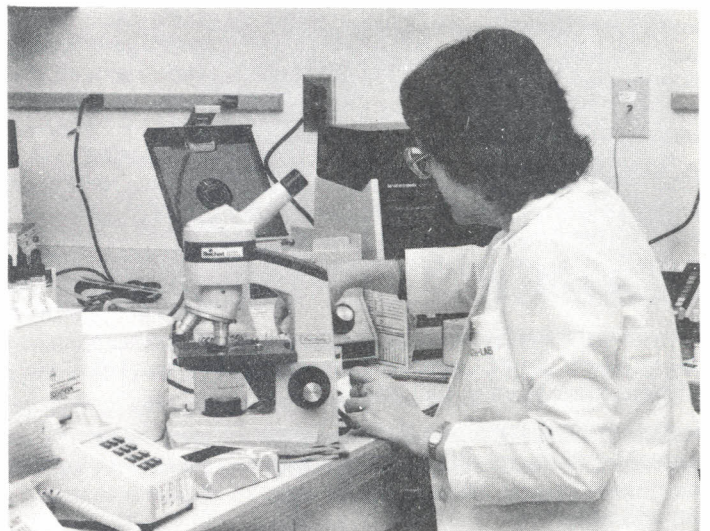
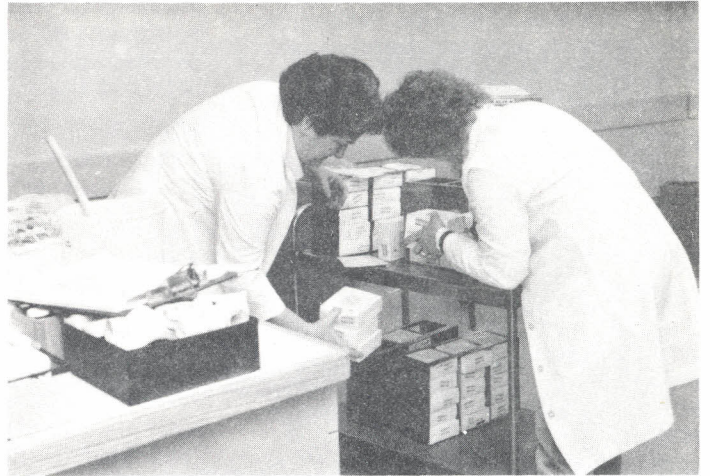
Maine Medical Center in January appointed Robert F. Underwood Director of Shared Services to coordinate the hospital's shared services that have been in place for several years at other health care institutions in northern New England. Underwood, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, is overseeing the shared services program already in place and will develop and offer services in new areas as well. The formalized shared services program coincides with the move to VHA membership, and McDowell says the two initiatives will be complementary.

Maine Medical Center is also investigating the potential of a regional partnership within the VHA. In this arrangement, MMC would join with two other shareholder hospitals -- Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, New Hampshire, and Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, in Burlington, Vermont -- to form a partnership. It would be the first VHA partnership in Northern New England. Selected hospitals within the region would be invited to join the partnership with the shareholder institutions, and benefit from the same VHA services. MMC has held discussions with The Aroostook Medical Center, Mid-Maine Medical Center, Central Maine Medical Center, and Kennebec Valley Medical Center as potential Maine partners. Other, smaller Maine hospitals could participate in VHA programs as affiliates of Maine Medical Center.

ON BLOOD BANK MOVING DAY: Top, Packing is in progress as Blood Bank Director Joseph M. Stocks, M.D., takes a phone call in his almost empty office; middle, Diane Jordan, Medical Technologist, keeps on packing as workmen remove a reagent refrigerator from the old quarters; and bottom, Sherry Tome, Research Technologist, pulls the last of the saline lines.



IN THEIR NEW QUARTERS: Top, Jackie Shields, Senior Technologist, and Joyce Haas, Medical Technologist, unpack plasma units; middle, Alison Skoczenski, Blood Bank Technologist, runs tests at one of the new stations; and, bottom, Barbara Stauble, Medical Technologist, Jean Tourangeau, Blood Bank Technologist, and Supervisor Irene Dempsey, RN, start settling the donor room.



Marketplace

FOR RENT: 15 Crescent St. 1 room with KT privileges. \$55/wk. includes all utils. Call 839-4463.

FOR RENT: 2 BR apt. with w/w carpeting, bath, KT, LR, stove/refrig. Adults only, no pets. Near MMC, Mercy, busline. \$350 sec. dep., references required. \$65/wk. unheated. Call 775-2581.

FOR RENT: Heated, sunny 3 rooms with modern KT and bath. Locked building within easy walk of hospital. Parking. No dogs. \$325/mo. plus elec. Sec. dep., refs., plus initial 6 mo. lease. Call after 6 PM or weekends at 829-6975 and keep trying.

FOR RENT: Deering Ave. near MMC. Single occupant. 3rd floor studio apt. with city views, LR and BR combination, KT, bath. Furnished. \$260/mo. plus sec. dep. and refs. Call 883-3311.

FOR RENT: Western Prom corner of Neal and Pine St. 1-2 BR apt. in quiet brick building. Hardwood floors, south-facing bay window, laundry, and storage area. \$410/mo. plus utils. Call 774-6921 or 761-1688.

FOR RENT: Apt. within walking distance of MMC and Mercy. 2 BR, 2 LR, eat-in KT, pantry, bath. Hardwood floors, large light rooms, off-street parking. Avail. April. \$435/mo. plus utils. Sec. dep. 1 month's rent. Call 774-2458 days from 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM and 773-8287 eves.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Professional female and single parent seeks same to share Cape Elizabeth house. 1-2 children fine. Avail. immediately. \$265/mo. plus ½ utils. Call 767-5224.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Female 25-35 years old to share 3 BR apt. Non-smoker. \$150/mo. plus ½ utils. Call 871-1320.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Will share home on Blackpoint in Scarborough on river with responsible person. \$50/wk. plus ½ utils. Call 883-5400.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Female non-smoker to share large sunny house with 2 others. 20 min. from Portland. Ocean view and beach access. Call Holly eves. at 781-4208.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Need a temporary place to stay? RN, 28, desires temporary roommate. 1-3 months at a time. \$35/wk. includes everything. Gives you a break on rent while looking for permanent residence or if only in the area for a short time. Apt. completely furnished. Walking distance to MMC. Call 761-0577.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Female to share furnished 3 BR townhouse. 3 miles from Scarborough beaches. \$200/mo. plus ½ utils. Call 883-6509 after 6 PM.

FOR SALE: 1977 Ford Mustang II with 4-spd., PS/PB, AM/FM, clean interior, 38,500 miles. \$1,500. Call 856-6142.

FOR SALE: 1974 Dodge Colt 4-dr. sedan. Good mpg, very good condition, extra tires. \$900 or best offer. Call 772-4845.

FOR SALE: 1973 Toyota Corolla. Good transportation for \$400. Call 767-2398.

FOR SALE: Children's ski equipment: Rossi's 110 cm, size 12 Nordica boots, Tyrola bindings, poles, \$90. Call 892-5291 after 5:30 PM.

FOR SALE: Famous Pa's firewood. All guaranteed hardwood, loose thrown cord, state required measure, written receipts upon request, cut, split and delivered 16", 18", 24". \$85/cord within 20 mile radius of woodlot. For limited time only will deliver one cord. Call 655-7745 or 892-6351.

FOR SALE: Twin size box spring and mattress, \$30. Twin size box spring, mattress, head and foot board, and frame, \$60. Full size box spring, mattress, head board and frame, \$80. Call 781-5647 after 4 PM.

FOR SALE: Exercise equip.: Weights and bar bell set, 275 lbs. and weightlift bench, press with leg attachment. Weights and bench less than 1 yr. old. \$150. Call Dick at 775-1250.

what's happening

WHAT'S HAPPENING is published every Wednesday at Maine Medical Center, Portland, Maine for members of the Hospital community and for friends of the institution throughout Maine and northern New England. Comments, questions and suggestions may be addressed to Public Information Office, MMC, Portland, ME 04102. Telephone: (207) 871-2196.

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FOR SALE: Cobra telephone answering machine, \$75. Commodore 64, disk drive, 15 pieces of software plus 4-6 disks of programs, \$375 or best offer. Yashica FRI, carrying bag and several lenses. Call 892-8901.

FOR SALE: Prime clock collection: Old American, banjo, wall and mantel. Call 773-6998 after 4 PM and ask for John.

WANTED: Software for Apple IIC computer. Call 775-3138.

WANTED: Looking for someone to do housecleaning once a week if price is right. Call 799-7225 after 5 PM.

INCOME TAX PREPARATION at reasonable rates. Call 892-3087.

FREE: Part Shepard-part Lab puppies. Call 829-5272.

LOST: Set of keys with "Mary" keychain. Call Mercy Hospital School of Nursing at 774-1461.

Morphology

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RULE:

A child can be exposed to mumps for weeks without catching it but can catch it without exposure the day before the family's vacation.

GILBERT'S LAW:

When everyone is somebody, then no one's anybody.

— Sir W. S. Gilbert

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Portland, Maine 04102
happening

NON-PROFIT ORG.

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