

# what's happening

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

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March 7, 1984

## Dr. Andrew's Medicare testimony concluded

MMC President Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D., was among health care professionals invited to present expert testimony during the series of open hearings on Medicare held across the state in February. Last week (Feb. 29) *What's Happening* carried the opening portion of Dr. Andrews' testimony in which he revealed some insights and concerns shared by professionals on Medicare's problems and potentials.

The balance of his testimony addressed questions raised by U.S. Senator George J. Mitchell (sponsor of the hearings) and others about possible solutions to avert the financial crisis that could face the Hospital Insurance program of Medicare by the end of the 1980s. Following are excerpts:

"You have asked two questions related to Medicare beneficiaries and their payments for services and benefits. I have two reactions: first, there is merit in providing some economic incentives for Medicare beneficiaries to seek lower cost services; and second, we should not increase the economic burden on middle and lower income Medicare beneficiaries for needed care.

*"I do favor a reasonable means test for Medicare beneficiaries to help reduce the financial strains on the system. Increasing co-payments and deductibles for all Medicare recipients would only mean economic hardship for them and the hospitals that absorb and must pass along to others the cost of free service and uncollectibles. We also need to remember that increased co-payments and deductibles will not have a significant effect on demands on the system, since physicians - not patients - make most of the decisions affecting demand.*

*"There are two approaches to the issue of the Medicare Hospital Insur-*

**MEDICARE**, page 2

## Don Sedenka joins MMC Personnel team

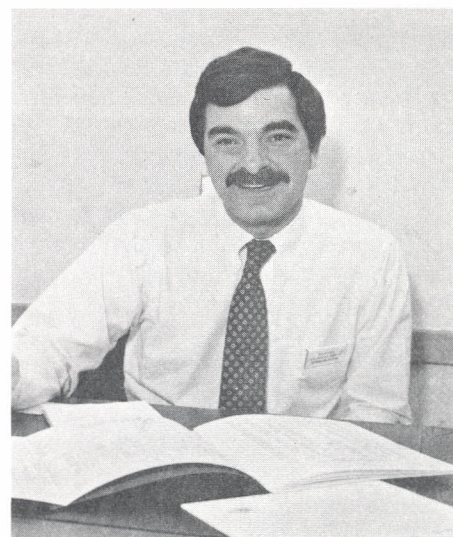
Donald O. Sedenka, most recently a resident of Derwood, Maryland, has joined Maine Medical Center's Personnel Department as the Employee Benefits/Information Systems Manager.

In introducing Sedenka to the institution, Vice President for Employee Relations Ronald J. Baril said, "We're glad --- and fortunate --- to have Don; he comes to us with 15 years of broad personnel experience."

As Manager, Sedenka will be responsible for the planning, designing and administration of all features in the Employee Benefits program, a program which accounts for \$5,123,368 in MMC's 1984 operating budget.

He will also be responsible for implementation of an automated personnel information system. This system will enhance MMC's ability to communicate benefit data to employees and provide greater statistical data for planning purposes in MMC's personnel programs.

Sedenka graduated from Lynchburg



**DONALD O. SEDENKA**

College, Virginia, with a B.A. degree in Psychology/Sociology. He has been a personnel supervisor and manager in business and industry, a personnel relations specialist for the Montgomery County (Maryland) Public School System, and he has owned and operated his own retail sales and service company.

Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D., President  
Maine Medical Center  
and

Howard R. Buckley, President  
Mercy Hospital

cordially invite all MMC employees to

**AN OPEN HOUSE**

at the

**FAMILY PRACTICE UNIT**

*in its new location at 103 India Street, Portland*

Friday, March 16, 1984

Tours

2:30 - 5:00 PM

Refreshments



**MEDICARE**, from page one —  
 ance Fund's solvency. One is to correct the rigidities of the present law with regard to interfund transfers. The other is to tap potential sources of additional tax support.

"I understand from former Social Security Commissioner Robert Ball and from the preliminary report of the Advisory Council on Social Security that there will be a surplus in the SSI Trust Fund in the next several years. Since the surpluses and deficits in the different funds are not correlated, it makes sense to increase the flexibility in managing the funds to allow reasonable interfund transfers. That does not solve the problem, but it does alleviate it.

"I do not favor increasing the basic Medicare payroll tax rate. That is a regressive tax and the higher it goes the more burdensome it is to middle and lower income groups. I would not object to further increases in the Social Security tax base or to a moderate, progressive Medicare surtax. The added tax on alcohol and tobacco with revenues earmarked for the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, as proposed by the Advisory Council, is reasonable, although the revenue potential may be limited. There is also some merit in considering the allocation of some general revenues to the hospital fund, as is now the case with the Supplemental Medical Insurance Fund.

"You asked whether the physician assignment should be made mandatory. I think not, until there is a careful examination of the disparities in fees between primary care physicians and procedure oriented subspecialties. There are more promising approaches to the physician service cost issue through prepayment systems and prospective pricing than the mandatory assignment proposal.

"Finally, I want to urge that in changing the health care financing system and in coping with the immediate problems in Medicare funds, we try to avoid actions that undermine the long-term health of our health care system. For example, there is a temp-



**BACK IN THE SHUTTLE BUSINESS AGAIN** is Titus Wheatly of MMC's Parking Department. Employees will remember him from the shuttle bus to the Offsite Lot. Now, he's changed vehicles and is shuttling radiation therapy patients between the Bramhall Lot and the Southern Maine Radiation Therapy Institute entrance while the SMRTI lot is given over to construction activities. (A/V photo).

tation in present circumstances to trim reimbursement for medical, nursing and allied health and support personnel education. Those expenditures, in a view of some, are not direct care expenses. *But education of health professionals today, especially in direct clinical care, is an investment in the capacity of our health care system to meet tomorrow's needs. Here, as elsewhere, we need to be prudent in what we cut as well as in what we spend.*"

## EAC planning trip to the hubbub of the Hub

The Employee Activity Committee is organizing another Boston trip, Saturday, May 19. The \$12 per person bus ride departs Maine Medical Center for Faneuil Hall at 8:00 AM, and leaves Boston at 6:00 PM. Contact Bev Cookson in the Cafeteria for tickets.

## New Employees

**FAMILY PRACTICE:** Doris A. Giancola  
**COFFEE SHOP:** Janice R. Palmer  
**PATIENT ACCOUNTS:** Susan F. Bean  
**NURSING:** Daniel E. Belanger, Frances C. Berry, Suzanne L. DiMambro, Kathleen M. Dunn, Michelle S. Foster, Belinda F. Haines, Hope E. Hotchkiss, Diane L. Jones, Verian D. Kellner, Lorraine D. Levasseur, Leona L. Lombardi, Susan E. Purington, Benedict F. Starbuck, Audrey D. Stempel

## Thanks. . .

*We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the cards and flowers and other expressions of sympathy shown to us in the recent loss of our very beloved Mother, Ruth, who brought so much joy and happiness to us.*

*Her loving daughter,  
 Ginny Andreasen  
 and Family*

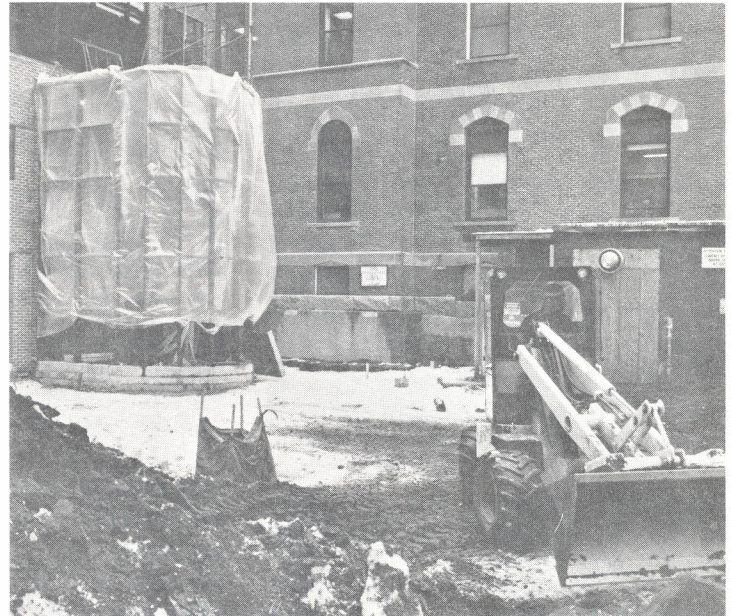
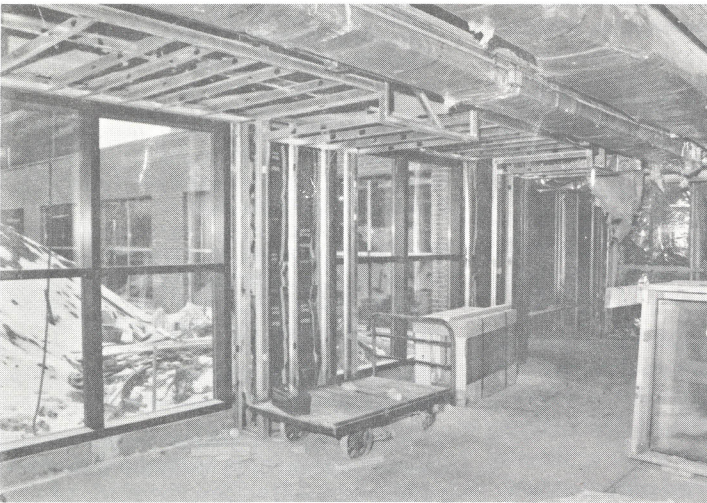
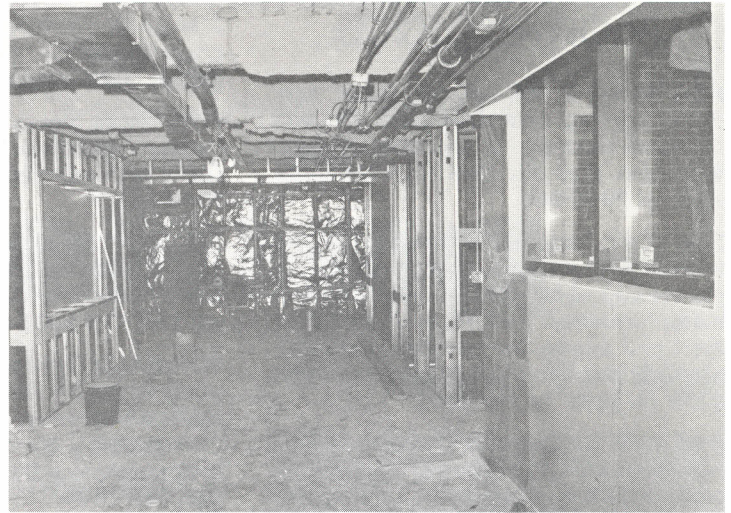
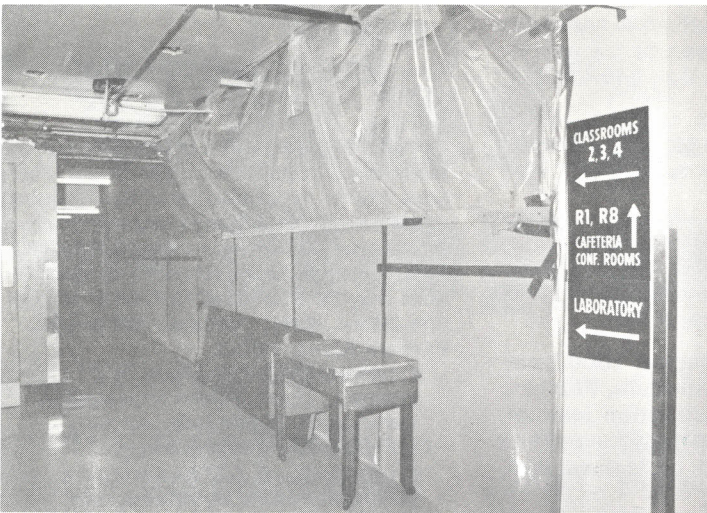
*We would like to send our special thanks to Dr. Wellin and Dr. Flaherty, the nurses and staff on the Burn Unit. You are all great people.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Laurel H. Weeks*

## It's time to get in shape!

Call LIFELINE (780-4170) now to sign up for MMC HealthStyles Programs (Aerobic Dance, Aerobic Exercise, Walk/Jog, and Aquatic Fitness).  
 Deadline for application: March 16.





AS WE COUNT DOWN TO THE APRIL OPENING of the Bypass Corridor, *What's Happening* conducts a photo tour of what's behind those "No Admittance, Construction Area" signs. Top Left, still blocked off, is the Pavilion end of the corridor, which opens onto the green corridor beside Classroom 2, across from the Doctor's Dining Room. Top right, the view looking from the Maine General Building corridor back towards the wall shown in the first photo. Above left, looking from the Maine General corridor out toward the Richards wing (through the windows can be seen the continuation of the corridor around the Richards wing) and the end of the Maine General Annex A. Above right, the opposite view of the previous photo, looking back toward the Maine General corridor intersection. The plastic-covered staircase connects the ground floor and first floor of the bypass corridor. Left, looking out into the elevator tower area of the new wing. (A/V Photos)



# Marketplace

**FOR RENT:** 2 BR, LR, KT, bath, sun deck, parking and large yard. On So. Portland busline. 1/2 mi. from beach. \$350/mo. plus util. Call Sal Bonetti for appt. at 799-4985.

**FOR RENT:** Western Prom area. Excellent building offers clean sunlit apt. of 3 rooms and ceramic bath, heat and hot water furnished. Parking avail. Suitable for 1 or 2 adults. No smoking. No pets. Security dep. and ref. Please call 998-2373 for appt. to inspect.

**FOR RENT:** Falmouth Foreside home with large LR with fireplace, DR, wall-to-wall carpeting downstairs, 4 BR, full basement, large porch, fully applianced KT, washer/dryer, 1 1/2 baths. Lease and references required. No pets. \$650/mo. plus util. May 1 occupancy. Call K. Tolford at 781-2154.

**FOR SALE:** House on Meeting House Hill in So. Portland. Convenient location near shopping, ocean, and MMC. 3 BRs, 1 1/2 baths, KT with dishwasher, disposal, stove, refrig. included; LR, finished family room in basement. 2 frpls. with woodstoves. Private, attractive, enclosed backyard with sundeck with southern exposure. Call Ann or Peter Carter at 799-5951.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** 2 BR house in Yarmouth, nice location. \$175/mo. plus util. Call 846-9213 after 5 PM.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Mature woman to share my 2 BR apt. in So. Portland on busline. Split expenses. Approx. \$230/mo. each includes util. Non-smoker preferred. Call 799-4340 eves.

**HOUSEMATE WANTED:** 28 yr. old male professional seeks housemate to share house in Cape Elizabeth. Non-smoker. \$260/mo. including util. Call George at 772-1941 days or 767-4315 eves.

**FOR SALE:** 1978 Mazda. 2 door. Well maintained. 5-speed with stereo AM/FM. Runs very well. Good Maine car! Call 647-2369.

**FOR SALE:** 1979 Yamaha 650 special in good condition. Needs to be put together. Asking \$950. Call 846-4911.

**FOR SALE:** Sears 16 cubic ft. refriger. freezer. Frost free. \$150. Frigidaire 30" stove with self-clean oven, \$250. Call 775-0965.

**FOR SALE:** Waterbed (queen-size,) bookshelf headboard, padded side rails, satin sheet, deluxe pad, heater. \$225 takes all. Call 774-2067 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Timex-Sinclair 1000 computer with 16K RAM module, FileSixty keyboard overlay, instruction manual, "Programing the TS-1000", various programming articles. Little used, \$50. Call 799-7438.

**FOR SALE:** 2 tires, Sears radial APAMID P215/75 R14, mounted on rims, \$70 for both. Call 799-1951.

**FOR SALE:** 19' fiberglass canoe, \$300. One man kayak, \$200. 9' Dyer rowing dinghy with 4 oars, \$400. Call 781-3569.

**FOR SALE:** 9.8 horsepower Mercury outboard motor, used one season, 50 hours on it. Excellent cond., complete with tank, hose and stand, \$850 or best offer. For more information call 428-3808.

**FOR SALE:** Sharpfax SS-151 copying machine. Excellent cond., fine quality copies, economical operation, reliable and dependable, \$350 or best offer. Call 775-0702.

**FOR SALE:** Zenith Allegro stereo system, \$75. Call 775-1113.

**FOR SALE:** Large variety of instructions, patterns, and books on crochet work, afghans, and needlework, \$5. Call Dave at 775-1305.

**WANTED:** Rider from Biddeford/Saco area to MMC Mon.-Fri., 8 AM - 4:30 PM. For more information call x2730.

**WANTED:** Working parents desire experienced sitter for care of 3 mo. old at residence. Approx. 20 hrs. a week, within walking distance of hospitals. Refs. Call 773-2843 before 9 PM.

## 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. Barbara Burns, Editor.

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**WANTED:** Mother's helper needed for 3 mo. old. Two afternoons a wk. \$3/hr. Near MMC. References required. Call 772-8447 for interview.

**WANTED:** Woman to care for 2 young children in my Falmouth home 2-3 days a week. Must have own transportation and references. Call 781-4579.

**WANTED:** Senior citizen to share 7 room home. Call 775-1095 after 5 PM.

**WANTED:** Senior citizen needs to buy electric heater and cooker. Call 775-1095.

**WANTED:** Cardiology Fellow and family looking for 3 BR house to rent for 2 yrs. Call collect 801-328-3353. Jim or Linda Calli. Need in June or July.

**FREE:** Old English shepard dog needs good home. Country home preferred. Call 775-3299 for more information.

**LICENSED DAY CARE PROVIDER:** Will take children 1-5 yrs. old. Call 773-7911.

**WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY** and portraits. Call Don Brown at 865-6071 eves.

**FREE ESTIMATES:** Painting and wall-papering. Reasonable and dependable, top quality work. Call anytime, 799-1547.

**WANT TO GET IN SHAPE** and have some fun? The Portland Women's Rugby Club is looking for new members. No experience is necessary. Start in March. For information call Susan at 773-8591.

what's  
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Portland, Maine 04102  
happening

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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*"Everyone Wins  
with Good Nutrition"*

**NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH  
MARCH 1984**

Look for Specials in the  
MMC Cafeteria