

# what's happening

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

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November 3, 1982

## Erickson to retire from "his" hospital

The most striking thing about a walking tour of MMC with Bob Erickson is his constant use of "my" and "our." Of course, he doesn't actually think he owns the place, or that the units are his responsibility only. It is a paternal "my," and "our" includes the nursing staff, physicians, and patients. The attitude is clear in his definition of what a Unit Manager does: "we deal with budgets, equipment and supplies, heat, lights and other matters of physical environment on the units, in short *everything* that will keep the nurses free to do what they are here for -- taking care of patients."

Robert Erickson is retiring as Coordinator of Unit Managers after nearly 13 years of service to Maine Medical Center. He brought the Unit Manager concept to MMC, and was the first to serve in that position. He has seen the role grow from one man struggling for acceptance to a highly respected staff of seven men and women who provide assistance to nursing units sixteen hours a day, seven days a week. Over the years, Erickson has worked every unit in the hospital, and now his units are P1A, P1C, R1, and R4.

The unit managers are on the administrative side of the MMC organization, but they occupy a special niche in between nursing, support services, and administrative services. "Our only reason for being here is patient care," Erickson stresses, "and that's why we've stayed on the units." The managers, in fact, have their "offices" in supply closets on the units, though they are usually too busy around the units to be at their desks.

Another thing you notice immediately is the respect managers command. Erickson would call it friendliness, and he comments regularly about how pleasant people generally are at MMC. "The place may have gotten big," he



**BOB ERICKSON is leaving MMC after 13 years, and among the many who have said a friendly goodbye are P1A staffers Gwen Graham, LPN, left, and Betsy Bolton, RN. (A/V Photo)**

says, "but make no mistake, it is still a family." Bob Erickson's "family" gave him an enormous surprise retirement party recently, at which he found out just how many friends he has and how clever they can be at planning. "I used to think I knew everything that was going on at MMC," he says, "but this was a complete surprise -- and an experience I'll never forget." The rest of the MMC family will have a chance to wish Bob a happy retirement at a coffee Friday, November 5, 9:00-10:00 AM, Cafeteria Rooms A, B, & C.

Knowing as much about the hospital as possible is one of the first qualifications of a good unit manager, says Erickson. The unit manager needs to know who does what, what is where, and how it all fits together. The variety and challenge are essential ingredients of the job, in Erickson's mind.

## A Special Letter

The following letter was received recently at the Executive Offices of L.L. Bean in Freeport:

*To All My Friends at L.L. Bean:*

*Saw the attached Associated Press story that appeared in most of the newspapers across the nation.*

*It makes me feel good to be able to say, "I know those good sports at L.L. Bean."*

*IT'S LL BEAN PITCHING...MAINE MEDICAL CENTER CATCHING.*

Love,  
Willard

Willard is Willard Scott of NBC-TV "Today Show" fame. And attached to his note was a newsclipping about L.L. Bean's \$1 million gift to MMC's proposed expansion and renovation program.

## New Transportation Idea in Planning Stages

If the response is good, and the Greater Portland Council of Governments has its way, there may soon be a whole new way for people in rural and suburban areas of Greater Portland to get to work. GPCOG is exploring the concept of commuter buses running from outlying points in Portland, and needs input from those who might be interested.

The exact routes, departure times, and fees are still to be determined, but the survey form reprinted below gives some details. Any interested employees may respond by mailing the completed form to GPCOG at the address given. The service can only be successful if those who might use it make themselves known, and any and all input is needed.

The Transportation Advisory Committee of the Greater Portland Council of Governments has commissioned a study of the demand for express bus service between rural and suburban points in the Greater Portland area and job sites in Westbrook, South Portland and Portland. People who would like to ride a bus to and from their work should complete this questionnaire. Portland residents who work in the suburbs and rural areas and would like to ride a bus to work can also return the questionnaire. If enough questionnaires are returned then the express bus service will begin in the summer of 1983.

Briefly, the service would tentatively involve four routes to Portland: one from the Freeport area, one from the Windham area and two from the Gorham area. Each route might have two inbound trips each weekday morning (before 8:00 a.m.) and two outbound trips each weekday afternoon (after 4:30 p.m.). The fares would probably be between \$1.00 and \$1.50 each way. The service would integrate with the METRO and the South Portland Transit District.

The service would be operated by the Regional Transportation Program with new 30-passenger over-the-road coaches. The precise end points of the routes would be chosen on the basis of where the interested people live and the location of available parking lots.

The Maine Department of Transportation has offered to underwrite part of the cost of the service. Please note if your response is for more than one person.

1. Town Residence: \_\_\_\_\_
2. State Highway(s) Traveled to Work: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name and Address of Work Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Days of the Week Worked: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Regular Work Hours: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Describe Company's Flex-time Policy, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Would you ride every day that you work? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, how often would you ride the bus? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you own a car? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you carpool to work? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you already take a bus to work? \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: **Mr. John Duncan**  
**Greater Portland Council of Governments**  
331 Veranda Street  
Portland, Maine 04103

## Nursing Continuing Education Programs

- *Septicemia in SCU*, Michael Bach, M.D. (1 CEARP requested)  
November 9, 1982 8:00 AM R9 Conf. Rm.
- *NURSING GRAND ROUNDS: "The Patient with Anorexia Nervosa -- Psychopathology and Nursing Care,"* P6 Nursing Staff. (1 CEARP requested)  
November 10, 1982 12:30-1:30 PM Classroom #2

For further information, please contact Staff Development at Extension 2397.

## Remember reduced rate recital reservations

Several musical offerings from the Employee Discount Program will be coming soon, and tickets are available now. The *Los Angeles Philharmonic* will perform at City Hall Auditorium Monday, November 29, at 8:00 PM. Discount ticket prices for MMC are \$8.50 and \$11.00.

The *Vienna Choir Boys* will sing at City Hall Thursday, December 16, with discount tickets for MMC employees at \$5.00, \$6.75, \$11.00 and \$14.00.

The *Portland Symphony Orchestra's 1982 Christmas Concert* is scheduled for December 17, 18 and 19. A discount will be available for MMC employees, with the exact amount to be announced soon.

For further information or tickets, call x2325.

## Long-term service to be honored next week

Three people with 30 years of service are up for honors at Maine Medical Center's Fall Employee Service Award Coffee on Monday, November 8. They are Iva Chamard, Nursing Office; Patricia Brown, P4D; and Geraldine Trayers, Radiology.

In all, 185 employees will be honored for service milestones ranging from five to 30 years. Eleanor Littlefield and Edith Harris have kindly offered their services as pourers. The coffee will be held in Classrooms 3 and 4.

Chaplain Prokopios Nikas will give the blessing, and MMC President Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D., will preside over the award program.

## Please Note

The EAC Employee Discount Program offer at Reiche School has been withdrawn.

## More Marketplace

**BABYSITTING:** Seek mature person to sit for infant in my home 3 to 4 days a week starting Dec. Own transportation, flexible, references. Call 767-3986.

**HOME REPAIRS & CARPENTRY:** Free estimates and quality workmanship. Call 774-4899 eves.

**FLORAL SERVICE:** For your wedding. Specializing in silk flower bouquets, corsages, and headpieces. Delivery avail. Call 773-5081.

## ERICKSON, from page 1

"We're dealing constantly with all different kinds of people. Within one hour I can be talking to a nurse, a clinical engineer, a vice president, a housekeeper, and a patient, each with specific skills or needs."

Erickson says the unit manager must have managerial talents, understanding, flexibility, and a great deal of maturity. "You are dealing with people under pressure, so you see them at their worst -- and their best." The pressures of their own work are reflected in the ever-present radio pagers. The demands of coverage for vacations, weekend rotations, and sickness often require managers to carry one or two pagers in addition to their own, and they go off frequently.

It can take a long time for Bob Erickson to walk from one end of a corridor to the other, especially on his own units. Everyone knows him, and in addition to the pleasantries, many problems are reported or resolved and ideas exchanged in spontaneous corridor conversations. Bob's affection for the people he works with extends to the patients as well. He will often stop at an open door to say hello, especially to the long-term or repeat patients. "They say not to let yourself get involved," he says, "but you get involved. The patients are part of the family, too."

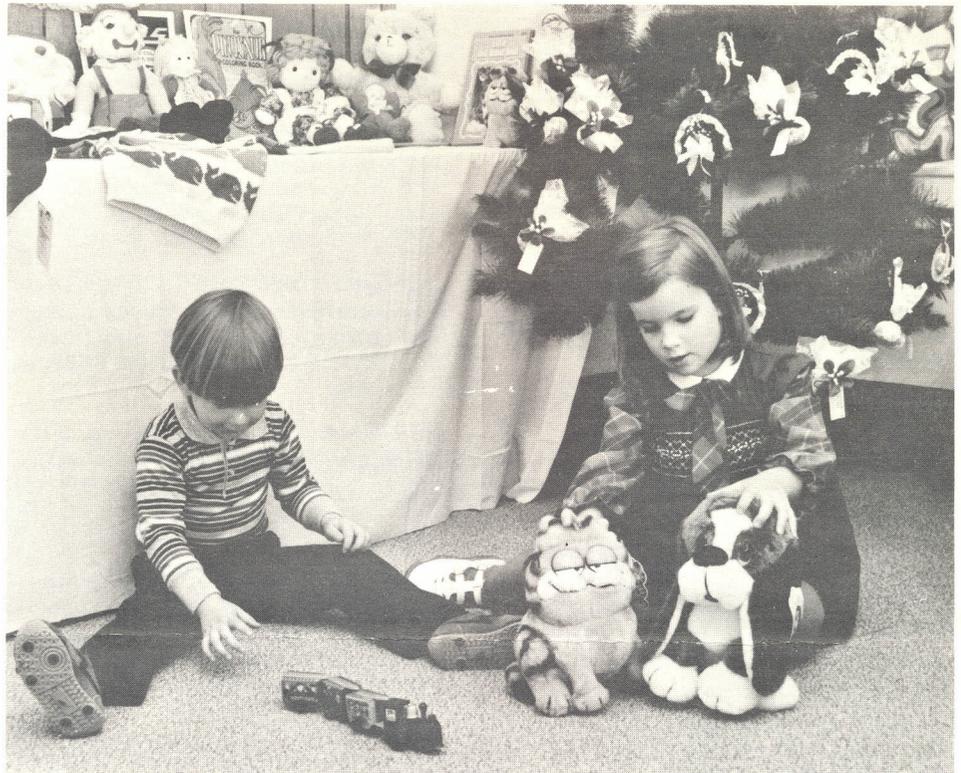
Retirements are often times of obligatory sentiments, phrases used over and over again until they have lost meaning. But there is overwhelming sincerity and genuine feeling in Bob Erickson's voice when he sums up, simply, his feelings about his MMC career and about the people with whom he has shared it:

"It's been a privilege."

## Intensive care nursing to be topic of program

The Southern Maine Chapter of the AACN presents "International Intensive Care Nursing" at 7:00 PM Wednesday, November 10, in Classroom 2. The program will be presented by Patti Jordan, RN, CCRN, Head Nurse on the Special Care Unit at MMC, and Judy Thomas, RN, CCRN, Staff Development Instructor at MMC.

The program has been approved for 1 CEARP, and all nurses are welcome. AACN members may attend free of charge, and others for a \$2.00 fee.



**IT'S ALMOST THAT TIME AGAIN!** The Women's Board of the Maine General Hospital is gearing up for the annual Christmas Fair, to be held in the Admitting Lobby November 15 - December 3. Above, Jason and Susan Gilpatric test some of the many items to be available this year, which include Garfield dolls, books, sweater and hat sets, ornaments, and wind-up trains. Jason and Susan are the grandchildren of Addie Munroe, Gift Shop Manager. The fair will run from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, and Noon to 3:00 PM Saturdays. (A/V Photo)



**FRIENDS OF MMC** elected officers for 1982-83 during their October Annual Meeting. From left: Mrs. Harold Fralich, 1st vice president; Mrs. Donald N. Reed, president; and Mrs. James E. Gagan, recording secretary. Also elected were: Mrs. John Keenan, 2nd vice president; Mrs. James L. Moody, Jr., corresponding secretary; Mrs. George Lord, treasurer; Mrs. Donald E. Nicoll, assistant treasurer; and Mrs. Gener R. Cohen and Mrs. David Sherman, members-at-large. (A/V Photo)

# Marketplace

**FOR RENT:** House in prime Falmouth Foreside location, one minute from water. 3 BR, 1½ baths, w-w, Franklin fireplace, freshly painted throughout. \$600/mo. + utils. Immediate occupancy. Call eves. 781-4167.

**FOR RENT:** Unfurnished bedroom in single home, KT privileges. Prefer woman in 50's, prefer non-smoker. \$40/w. Call after 4 PM 772-5960.

**FOR RENT:** Deering Ave., unfurnished, 3 pleasant rooms plus bath. Stove and refrigerator, unheated. \$225/mo. No pets. Call 772-8530.

**FOR RENT:** First time avail. Located in historical Stroudwater area, about 3 minutes from MMC. Mostly complete restoration done to retain early 1700 style. All utils. incl. Lease and sec. dep. \$450/mo. No pets. Call 774-0224 eves. for appointment.

**FOR RENT:** One 3rd floor apt., completely remodeled, 3 rooms + bath. New bath, KT, rugs, and paint. \$250 plus utils. Also, one 1st floor apt., 5 room + bath completely remodeled. New KT, bath, rugs, etc. Electric heat. \$325 plus utils. No pets. Call 772-1438 eves.

**FOR RENT:** Modern 2 BR furnished apt., w-w, sunporch, color cable TV. \$200/mo. plus utils. Call 934-2102. Car pool to MMC available.

**FOR RENT:** 1 BR, furnished apt. in Falmouth. \$65/wk. utils. included. Quiet, non-smoker preferred. Call Linda 829-5290.

**FOR RENT:** BR, bath, KT, magnificent view of Bay, non-smoker, \$275/mo. Call 781-4455.

**FOR RENT:** Shore front home in Cape Elizabeth with 2 BR, DR, LR, fireplace, KT, bath and ½, \$450 includes heat plus other utilities. Call 799-2977.

**FOR SALE:** 1972 Buick, runs good. \$600. See Mr. Todd Sanders in laundry dept. or call 773-4104.

**FOR SALE:** A lovely, well-maintained 3 or 4 BR saltbox in Country Gardens, So. Portland. Exc. location, convenient to schools, shopping centers, hospitals and I-295. Hardwood floors and a family room in basement. Formal dining room and living room. Nicely landscaped with many trees. Call for details, Bill Malone, office 797-3116, res. 797-9364.

**FOR SALE:** 1980 Ford Courier, 4 speed, P/U, long bed, camper cab, low mileage, exc. throughout, 28-31 mpg. Asking \$4,500. Call 797-6337 or ext. 2663, ask for Hutch.

**FOR SALE:** 1974 Chevy Nova, 2-door hatchback. New brakes and tires, 80,000 miles, good condition. \$1,400. Call Wendy, ext. 2121 eves. or 283-1583 after 6 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1979 Subaru DL, 4-door, 5 speed, AM/FM, white spoke wheels, radial tires, exc. cond., new wheel and other Subaru parts. Asking \$2,700. Call 883-6585 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Singer zig-zag and straight stitch sewing machine, exc. condition. \$75 or best offer. Call 774-7182.

**FOR SALE:** Pine sideboard table with large drawer, \$175; trestle table, \$175; portable Sears sewing machine, \$75; four-drawer pine chest with carved handles, \$200. Call 781-2383 between 1 PM and 4 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Boy's dk. blue knit coat, size 6-8, \$10; boy's Sears coat, size 10, \$5; girl's down vest and coat, both size 12, \$5 ea.; blue snowmobile suit, size 12, \$7. Call 929-5388 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** One-year-old queen-size box spring and mattress. Like new. \$175 or best offer. Call 773-3958 anytime.

**FOR SALE:** 28 mm wide angle lens for 35 mm camera, screw mount, 2 filters, sunshade. \$50. Call 865-6071 eves.

**FOR SALE:** 2 steel-belted snow tires, 2 FR 78 by 15, mounted on wheels. \$50. Call 727-3659.

**FOR SALE:** Parlor stove, \$60. Call 797-8900.

## 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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**FOR SALE:** 1969 Chevrolet, ½-ton pickup truck with camper including built-in stove and refrigerator. Needs some work. Asking \$575; also, old Glenwood black kitchen wood range in good condition. \$325. Call 284-8549.

**FOR SALE:** Chickering 6'4" Grand Piano in good condition. For sale at appraised value of \$2,500. Call 799-7250 eves.

**FOR SALE:** New 8-piece living room set, presently in storage in Portland. Asking \$1,000. Call 284-5338.

**FOR SALE:** Washer/dryer, stove and refrigerator. All for \$125. Call 781-4167.

**FOR SALE:** Desk 26" x 42" x 30" high, wood with formica top, \$20. Fluorescent light fixture 48", \$10. Call 774-7713.

**FOR SALE:** Oak dresser, needs repairs, must sell. Best offer. Call 773-2074 after 8 PM.

**WANTED:** Share large house on Western Prom, private BR & bath, winter parking, storage. Call Kris, 772-9044 (eves./weekends).

**WANTED:** M/F to help house-sit and share expenses for the winter. \$125 includes all utils. Own room with furniture. Call days 871-2322; after 5 PM, 892-4940. Ask for Jane.

**WANTED:** 2 roommates for 3 BR apt. \$160/ mo., heat incl. Call 799-3701.

**WANTED:** M/F to share 2 BR apt. at 362 Danforth St. 5 rooms, basement and backyard. Serious musical environment. \$237.50 includes heat. Call Tom, 934-2313.

**BABYSITTING:** Will babysit in my So. Portland home, flex. hours, ref. Call 799-8649.

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