

# what's happening

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, Maine 04102

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July 8, 1981

## City emergency teams test crisis response

As billows of what appeared to be chlorine gas rolled over the Morrill's Corner area of Portland, felling all in its path on the morning of June 24, a triage team simultaneously rolled out of Maine Medical Center. Five nurses and physicians were picked up by a police cruiser and taken to the Portland Exposition Building, where gas victims were to be treated. There they joined similar teams from the Osteopathic Hospital of Maine and Mercy Hospital.

The exercise was a city-wide test of response capability for major medical emergencies. Coordinated by officials in the fire department, MEDCU, the police department, Maine Central Railroad, and the three Portland hospitals, the drill came unannounced to the emergency people on duty. A railroad employee phoned in a report of a "leaking chlorine tank car," and smoke bombs were rolled under the car to produce the effect of escaping gas. Meanwhile, officials parked a "propane" tank truck perilously close to the leaking railroad car.

On-the-scene medical care was provided by MEDCU, with the help of other personnel. The fire department kept a stream of water on the propane truck while the rescue was going on, and the police kept traffic and sightseers at a distance. The "victims" -- some 12 volunteers -- were stabilized at the scene, the most critically injured were transported to hospitals immediately, and the rest went to the Portland Expo for treatment. There, victims were arranged on floor mats, and medical teams moved up and down the rows rendering aid and making decisions about priorities for transport to hospitals.

At a debriefing session after the drill, organizers discussed problems

CITY, page 2

## Trustees give green light for Phase One of facilities plan

The Maine Medical Center Board of Trustees, at its June 25 meeting, accepted the Long-range Facility Master Plan for the hospital. The Master Plan is a comprehensive statement of the space requirements of the Medical Center's programs in patient care, education, and research for the next decade, and is designed to aid the Board as it considers various planning options in the years ahead.

The Board authorized the hospital's administration to file a Letter of Intent with state regulatory agencies, and to proceed with the development of a detailed facilities design for Phase One. A formal financial feasibility study, a fund-raising feasibility study, and

the selection of a bond underwriter are also included in the authorization resolution.

At present, the first phase of the facilities plan is in the form of suggested spatial arrangements and problem areas to be addressed. The plans would call for a minimum of new construction, located adjacent to the Richards wing behind the 1870 Maine General building. Extensive areas of the existing buildings would be renovated, improving the facilities and moving departments into better interrelationships to improve efficiency.

Detailed plans will be developed by a professional architectural firm, working with the Board of Trustees, hospital administration, Nursing, and the Medical Staff. The major thrusts of Phase One are new Operating Room facilities,

FACILITIES, page 2



**DRILL DEBRIEFING** following city-wide test of disaster procedures involved personnel from MMC, Mercy and Osteopathic hospitals, fire and police departments, MEDCU and REMIS. Leading the discussion is Portland Fire Chief Joseph McDonough. (A/V Photo)



**FACILITIES**, from page 1 \_\_\_\_\_ improved Ambulatory Surgery capacity, a new Special Care Unit, renovation and expansion of the Labor/Delivery/OB area, the correction of code deficiencies in existing structures, and improved access to and flow through the hospital. Also, the number of beds will increase by about 65-75. Early estimates of the construction/renovation costs approximate \$40-45 million.

At this point, the basic concepts of the Master Plan and the specific needs it addresses have been reviewed by the Board of Trustees, the Corporators, the Medical Staff, hospital employees, and city and state officials. Phase One deals with the hospital's most pressing needs, as identified through 1985. Many months of intense study led to the Trustees' decision to go ahead with Phase One, and the planning effort and the involvement of the entire medical center community will intensify as detailed plans are developed over the next few months.

## About People

Steven K. Pearson, administrative assistant in MMC's Emergency Department, has been named to the American Academy of Medical Administrators. The Academy is an international professional organization for those working in the administrative side of health care.

Suzanne Langlois, RN, has been named Head Nurse on R4. She has been Acting Head Nurse on the Rehab unit for several months.

Hazel Hincks retired from the Patient Accounts Department on June 23, after working evenings in the department for 20 years. Coworkers held a retirement party June 11 at the Galley restaurant.

Clement A. Hiebert, M.D., a staff cardiovascular-thoracic surgeon at MMC, delivered a commencement address at Harvard Medical School early last month. Dr. Hiebert graduated from Harvard in 1951, and his address was the first of several delivered at the commencement by alumni.

**LIVER ROUNDS** will be held Friday, July 31, at Harmony Hall on Route 115 in North Yarmouth. Two bands will be featured. Admission is \$2.50 per person, BYOB.

**CITY**, from page 1 \_\_\_\_\_ and suggestions. Fire and MEDCU officials had some problems with the removal of the injured, and some minor equipment problems. The first MEDCU team on the scene drove right into the "poisonous" cloud, which would have knocked them out of action, and a holding area set up for evacuated victims had to be moved quickly when the wind shifted. At the Expo, medical people were hampered by a lack of radio facilities to keep in touch with the rescue workers and hospitals, and were without crowd control help as well.

All in all, though, organizers agreed the test was a success. Response times were excellent, and officials unilaterally praised their people. The problems, all minor and easily corrected, will sharpen response to any real disaster that might occur. The Expo proved to be a good location for handling massive numbers of injured people, and medical people involved expressed the hope that it would continue to be available. Some large building like the Expo is essential for large-scale emergencies, because hospital emergency rooms would soon be overloaded.

Just how serious would the real thing have been? Portland Fire Chief Joseph McDonough says an actual

leak would have required the evacuation of an area some one and a half miles wide by up to two miles deep, depending on the wind. Chlorine gas clouds have been known to stall cars, blocking roadways, and firefighters failing to get their airpicks on in time have died responding to chlorine leaks. Also, McDonough noted, no one is sure how the combination of propane and chlorine, or another chemical combination, would react in a crash or explosion. Assuming a suitable facility were available, Portland medical teams feel they could easily mobilize enough people to deal with a sizeable disaster. Even on short notice, for instance, MMC could probably produce 100 or more doctors and nurses for emergency duty, with a much larger force available in off-duty personnel. Support help and supplies in the community are also available on short notice, from bandages to food to transportation, and each drill like the one on June 24 improves the ability of the community to respond to medical emergencies.

*There was one real victim at the disaster drill. A young boy posing as a "victim" at the scene of the exercise inhaled some of the smoke and suffered an asthma attack. He was aided at the scene, and transported to the Expo, and then taken to MMC where he was treated and released.*



**BACK IN UNIFORM** of another color is Elizabeth Hargitt, RN, who retired from MMC as Nursing's Assistant Director for Personnel Counseling just two years ago. Her volunteer duties at the moment involve teaching procedures to Junior Volunteers who are assigned to various nursing units. Here Michelle Goodale learns the trick to making square corners and comfortable beds. (A/V Photo)



## New house officers join nine services

Thirty six new House Officers reported last week for orientation and get-acquainted sessions preparatory to beginning specialty services at Maine Medical Center. The doctors, in their first through fifth years of post-graduate residency, began staff duties on July 1.

The new residents are concentrating in nine specialty areas:

**Anesthesiology:** Jonathan T. Gudman, M.D. (1st postgraduate year), William A Shabb, M.D. (1st) and Robert Jaffee, M.D. (2nd).

**Dentistry:** Leonard J. Brennan, D.M.D. (1st) and Geoffrey W. Wagner, D.D.S. (1st).

**Family Practice:** Joseph F. Borzelleca, M.D. (1st), Christopher L. Clark, M.D. (1st), Thomas R. DeFanti, M.D. (1st) and Andrew Lackoff, M.D. (1st).

**Internal Medicine:** John Bouchard, M.D. (1st), Norman O. Fiorica, M.D. (1st), Steven J. Fisher, M.D. (1st), Nancy Hasenfus, M.D. (1st), Clifton D. Smith, M.D. (1st), Leon Wugofski, M.D. (1st), Michael Roy, M.D. (2nd), Peter Bates, M.D. (5th - Pulmonary Medicine) and Donald Belmont, M.D., Gary P. Bohannon, M.D., Neal Friedman, M.D., Stephen A. Stowers, M.D. (all 4th year - Cardiology).

**Obstetrics/Gynecology:** Cynthia A. Rasmussen, M.D. (1st) and Elaine M. Secskas, M.D. (1st).

**Pediatrics:** Gary J. Allegretta, M.D. (1st), Daryl W. Linnell, M.D. (1st) and Ronald Rovner, M.D. (1st).

**Psychiatry:** Ronald E. Bailyn, M.D. (1st), Andrew G. Hinkens, M.D. (1st) and Laura Mark, M.D. (1st).

**Radiology:** Anthony V. Zancanaro, M.D. (1st) and Tod J. Abrahams, M.D. (2nd).

**Surgery:** Robert W. Chagrasulis, M.D. (1st), F. Scott Gray, M.D. (1st), Todd K. Howard, M.D. (1st), Jacques G. Laroche, M.D. (1st) and Bruce J. Leavitt, M.D. (1st).

## Nursing Continuing Education Programs

- **Rehabilitation Nursing Series:** "Sexual Dysfunction in Spinal Cord Injury," John Dyhrberg, M.D.  
July 15, 1981 4-5 PM  
R1 Conf. Room

- **Nephrology Conference Series:** "Interactions of Drugs in Nephrology Patients," Granville Wilkins, R.Ph.  
July 16, 2:30-3:30 PM Clrm #2.



**HOUSE STAFF ORIENTATION** sessions include a briefing on Cardiac Arrest Protocols, delivered here by Costas T. Lambrew, M.D., Associate Vice President for Health Education and chairman of the medical staff CPR committee. (A/V Photo)



**THE CARDIOGRAPHY** Division and some friends threw a small good luck party last week for departing Cardiology residents. The guests of honor, and their destinations, are (from left): Andrew F. Hall, M.D., practice in Farmington; John P. Driscoll, M.D., practice in Portland; and Paul G. Meadows, M.D., practice in the Biddeford-Saco area. (A/V Photo)

## Discount program adds another food

Church's Fried Chicken, on St. John Street, has joined the Employee Activity Committee Employee Discount Program. Church's will give MMC photo ID holders a 10% discount at the counter.

## Thanks...

Thanks to all of the hospital personnel who attended my retirement party and for the wonderful gift which I shall admire and hold dear for many years to come.

Eleanor Gee



# Marketplace

**FOR RENT:** All new 5 rm., 3rd. floor apt., appliances, carpet, etc. 1 block from MMC. \$350/mo. plus utils. Call 772-0208.

**FOR RENT:** 4 BR colonial home, 46 Kenwood St., dead end street, \$600/mo. 1 yr. lease. Call 772-5753.

**FOR RENT:** Western Prom townhouse, 2 BR, parking, full basement, grounds-keeping included. \$425/mo. Call 773-8287.

**FOR RENT:** Renovated bldg., new heating, appliances, K, bath, carpet. Laundry, parking, yard, no dogs, utils. not included. 3 BR townhouse for family/group, \$425/mo.; 1 BR apt. w/circular stairs, sunny, \$320/mo.; 1 BR, modern, \$340/mo. Call 781-5159 after 6 PM.

**FOR RENT:** 2 BR apt., Pine Point. \$200/mo. plus utils. Call 883-4609.

**FOR RENT:** 4 BR house, Bartley Gardens area, Portland. Close to schools, shopping, busline. 2 car garage, yard, workshop area. \$500/mo. plus sec. dep. Refs., 1 yr. lease or lease/option. Call 797-5827.

**FOR SALE:** 1879 farmhouse w/barn on the ell, 10 rooms plus 2 finished in loft, plumbing/wiring/bathrooms modernized, 1.1 acre lot. 5 min. from downtown, 5 min. from Crescent Beach. 945 Sayer St., So. Portland. Call 799-6845.

**FOR SALE:** \$49,500. L-shaped ranch house on corner lot in So. Portland. 3 BR, family room, 2-car garage; economical gas heat. Immediate occupancy 799-0314 or 829-3730.

**FOR SALE:** Jansport trailbone tent, Coleman lantern, backpackers stove, liquid canisters, tarp, assorted accessories. \$300/package. Call 797-2491 or 883-2289.

**FOR SALE:** Dahlquist speaker system, model DQ-10. Two years old, ex. cond. Moving, must sell. \$700/pair, paid \$1,000. Call Mike at 892-4771 or 892-8061 eves.

**FOR SALE:** 4,000 BTU Air Conditioner by G.E., ex. cond. \$110 firm. Call 773-1120 after 6 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1978 Ford Futura. 19,800 miles, 6 cyl., ex. cond. automatic, AM/FM stereo, two-tone green with vinyl roof. Call 773-3791.

**FOR SALE:** 1980 Dodge Omni, used 6 months. Call 773-2201.

**FOR SALE:** Twins baby stroller w/canopy, \$25; 3 umbrella strollers, \$8/ea.; Twins snowsuits, boy's and girl's, ex. cond., \$10/ea.; Babyswing-a-matic w/canopy, ex. cond., \$10; Bag of baby toys, ex. cond., \$15. Call 772-5103.

**FOR SALE:** West Bend portable tabletop humidifier, used 3 months. \$30. Call 799-2502 after 5 PM.

**FOR SALE:** Gate-leg table in cherry, \$200; Ox-yoke, \$95; Fake fur fox throw, king size, \$75. Call 772-6018.

**FOR SALE:** Mason white side-lace nurses shoes, new, sz. 5½B, \$29.95. Call 854-4758.

**FOR SALE:** Camel 10'x16' nylon tent. Full vinyl floor, zippered partition for two 8'x10' rooms, outside aluminum frame, lots of room, \$75; Bobby Mac deluxe car seat, ex. cond., \$25; Dining table with six chairs and 2 extra leaves, solid cherry, \$350. Call 773-7500.

**FOR SALE:** 1973 VW Bus, low mileage. Call 829-3648.

**FOR SALE:** Youthbed baby carriage, also misc. baby items. Call 773-8419.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Man seeks quiet roommate. Modern 6 rm. East Deering apt. w/w, panelled, parking, new, heat, storage. \$175/mo. Call 773-3752 before 3 PM.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** To share large 3 BR apt. on Morning St. with two men. Sunny, washer, parking, storage. \$100/mo. Call 775-4361 after 6 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 the Editor, Public Information Office, MMC, Portland, Me., 04102. Barbara Burns, Editor.

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**ROOMMATE WANTED:** Female to share 4 BR house in North Deering. Modern home in lovely area. Will consider short-term sublet. \$143/mo. plus utils. Call 797-6994.

**BABYSIT:** Will sit in my So. Portland home, reasonable rates, flexible hours, experienced. Call 799-8649.

**BABYSIT:** Will sit for tot or infant in my home, nights. Call 773-7911.

## Please Note

*The Employee Activity Committee will sponsor a Bake Sale, Friday morning in the Admitting Lobby.*

## New Employees

**BLOOD BANK:** Carol Dyer

**CHEMISTRY:** Simone Brodeur

**COFFEE SHOP:** Emily Baldwin, Theresa Dyer

**CSD:** Lotte Guitard

**FOOD SERVICE:** Elaine Citrine, Katherine Collins, Alan Goff, Suzanne Howe, Amy Panagakos, Pamela-Jean Selberg, Diane Stuart

**HEMATOLOGY:** Donna Kolber

**HOUSEKEEPING:** George Cholanakuzhiyil, Jeffrey Hewett, Theresa Maloney, Stephanie Nappi, Jon Vacchiano, Theresa Warren, Mary-Ann Wilson

**LINEN SERVICE:** Jeannette King

**NURSING:** Marlene Allegretti, Ann Marie DuPerre, Darlene Grover, Gretchen Handy, Nancy Litwinowich, Kathleen McMahon, Sally Ann Melcher, Deborah Mininni, Martha Morey, Paula Paquin, Joanne Strattard, Susan Tierney, Ann Turbyne, Jane Walker

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