

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
Portland, Maine 04102

Vol. 11, No. 29

Feb. 20, 1980



AMONG FIRST VISITORS to MMC's new Employee Health/Urgent Care Unit are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rutter and their daughter Jessie. On duty at the desk are Denise Amergian and Carol Romano, RN. (A/V Photo)

Out-patient department has a new unit devoted to Employee Health/Urgent Care

The area with the new look by the Bramhall entrance on MMC's ground floor actually includes a brand new unit. It's designation: Employee Health/Urgent Care.

The new unit became fully operational last week when Employee Health completed its move up from the Orthopedic area. Urgent Care is the new, more generally descriptive title for the Category IV Clinic.

Leonard Kielson, M.D., is Medical Director of the new unit which will be responsible for the care of MMC employees and those Category IV patients who are triaged from Emergency. He says "coordination and integration of patient care is the key factor in the move."

"We will be providing prompt care for those patients who do have problems but who do not require the high technology care of the emergency room,"

Dr. Kielson explains. "And that will be increasing the emergency room's capability to care for the true emergency."

The new unit shares the same space as the Adult Primary Care Unit and the Medical Clinic.

"The unit will combine professional and support service for adults with acute problems and chronic illness," Dr. Kielson says. "A real benefit is that it is easily accessible to transportation, the OPD, page 2

Hospitals suffer at loss of NMCP beds

While the media and the community in general only recently became aware of the prospect of National Medical Care of Portland, Inc., closing its doors, Maine Medical Center — and other hospitals — had been alert to that skilled nursing home's problems for several months.

Last fall when it became apparent that federal cuts in reimbursements might lead NMCP to the decision to close, its administration warned area hospitals of that possibility. MMC joined others in urging that NMCP be granted an exception from the new reimbursement system provided for under current Medicare regulations.

Noting that NMCP provides services unavailable in other, similar facilities in the state and makes it possible to transfer patients there who would otherwise be forced to remain in the hospital, MMC warned that closing of the skilled nursing home would present hospitals with even more severe occupancy problems with attendant risks to patients unable to obtain care and with attendant higher costs for Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance companies, and the families of those who could not be transferred out of an acute care hospital.

MMC termed a distinction between hospital-based and non-hospital skilled nursing facility institutions artificial, inequitable and short-sighted, and urged that reimbursement for facilities such as NMCP be based on the cost of services provided and not on affiliation or type of ownership.

In explaining its February 8 decision to close, NMCP stated that the federal BEDS, page 4

MMC players earn racquetball rates

The enthusiasm of MMC employees attending the first Racquetball Open House last week at the Falmouth Playoff Club ran so high that there will be another scheduled for March (date to be announced). Four of the club's courts were reserved for employees who wanted to give the game a try; club pros played demonstration games and gave pointers during a question and answer session.

The Employee Activities Committee arranged the open house and is responsible for making special MMC membership rates available at both the Mall Playoff and the Falmouth Playoff Clubs. The Mall and Falmouth both have eight regulation courts, saunas and lounges, and Falmouth also offers a squash court, whirlpool (103°), exercise room, and a men's steam bath. All are available to MMC employees for \$55 individual memberships or \$65 family memberships.

Both clubs are open daily from 6 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.; Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays at the Mall from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and at Falmouth from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Falmouth will be open until 1 p.m. on Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Employees can sign up at either club where detailed brochures are available, or call Andrea Beaudet at 2336 for more information.

For those who still know very little about this game which has become so popular among our more physically inclined peers, recently issued dictionaries carry the following: "A game played on a four-walled handball court in which all the rules of handball apply except that an 18" long strung racquet is used to strike a slightly larger and softer ball."

Food Service Department

EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK

is

ERNEST SYLVESTER,

Dietary



OVER 80 YEARS OF SERVICE to MMC were represented at a special party last week. Three Dietary employees whose retirements came in December and January, were invited back for a triple retirement coffee. Pictured, left to right, are Eleanor M. Gee, Food Service Department consultant; Robert Underwood, Food Services Director; and the guests of honor, Loretta Harriman, 22 years service, and Phyllis Yorke, 30 years, both assistants to the Dietician, and Ernest Yorke, 30 years, First Cook. Yes, the Yorkes are Mr. and Mrs. (A/V Photo)

Annual EAC show is accepting sign-ups

The seventh annual employee's Arts and Crafts Show is set for March 13 in the Admitting Lobby. All are eligible — and welcome — to exhibit their artistic or crafting talents.

Interested exhibitors must reserve display space before March 10. Contact any member of the Employee Activities Committee, or catch Tom Linehan on Radio Page 147.

Open categories are: macrame, ceramics, pottery, decoupage, photography, painting (oil, water and/or acrylic), sketching or drawing, needlework (crewel, embroidery, needlepoint), crocheting and knitting, leathercraft.

Also cake decorating, rug making (braided or hooked), flower arranging, jewelry making, candle making, wood burning, carving.

And, of course, there's a category called "other" to allow for the latest innovations.

OPD, from page 1

laboratory and X-ray, and will include nutrition and social services. The move further insures that adult out-patients cared for by the MMC staff will be receiving care in the same area."

Nurse practitioners and physicians will continue to staff Employee Health, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Like most moves, this one has also caused several telephone number changes for the Out-Patient Department. They are: For Employee Health, Medical Clinics, Primary Care, and Walk-In/Urgent Care (category IV) — ext. 2911.

For Obstetrics/Gynecology, Pediatrics, Dental Residency Program, and Eye Services — 2973.

For Surgical Vascular, Surgical, Orthopedics, and Urology — 2626.

For J. Philip Nelson, Director of Ambulatory Services — 2910.

For Leonard Kielson, M.D., Director of Primary Care — 2919.

First ATLS program gets high grades; future programs will save Maine lives

The room resembles a disaster area. Patients, in varying degrees of catastrophic conditions, are lying on stretchers — or the floor. Physicians and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel are attending the injured in ratios of at least four to one.

By one stretcher Dr. H. Alan Hume of Mid-Maine Medical Center speaks to the attending group: "This was a bad car skid. His spine has been immobilized; the ambulance team brought him in on a spine board. He's been spewing blood — and he reeks of alcohol."

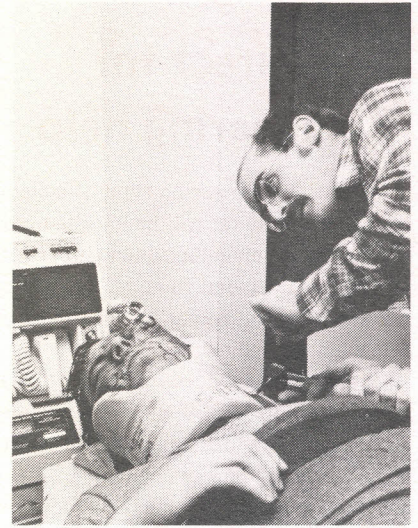
The patient also "reeks" just a little bit of greasepaint. He's actually an EMS volunteer expertly made up to resemble a true case; when his Xrays arrive, they will be of a real victim, with identifying data removed. But even though the situation is a mock-up, the physicians will study, diagnose, and initiate treatment in grim earnest. It is, indeed, a matter of life or death.

The scene is one small part of an intense, two-day course on Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) for the critically injured, held in late January at Maine Medical Center. Richard C. Britton, M.D., MMC's Chief of Surgery, is a director of the course, along with Dr. Hume and J. Cuthbert Owens, M.D., of the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

The purpose of the course, Dr. Britton explains, is to "develop a corps of instructors for all regions of the state, physicians who will take what they learn here and train others. We are trying to establish a system by which everyone seriously injured will receive expert care in the field, and in emergency rooms, and will be expertly prepared for transport."

The impact of the ATLS program, Dr. Britton says, could reduce mortality in severe trauma cases by 15 to 20 percent in a rural state like Maine, where the pre-hospital phase of emergency medical care is so crucial.

Final evaluation of the program is three years away, but Dr. Britton says the first course, given to a nucleus of 28 physicians from across Maine, got "very high grades" from the participants themselves. Some, he says, have already begun to organize ATLS sessions in their areas of the state.



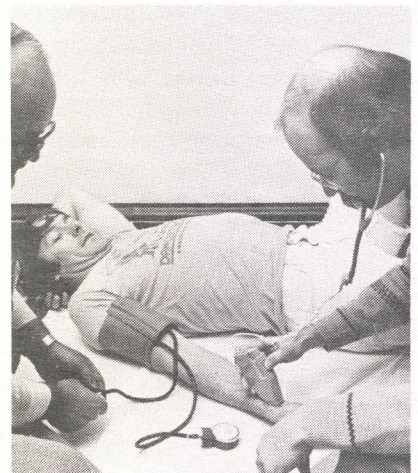
EMS MAKE-UP artist puts finishing touches on a serious head and eye injury.



SKI ACCIDENT victims Paul Christianson and Pam Gerrish relax between workshop sessions.



H. ALAN HUME, M.D., (in plaid shirt) briefs physicians on their case: a severe spinal cord injury. Donald Brushett, M.D., Houlton, and Sharon Bowden, O.D., check Xrays.



INSTRUCTOR and physician listen in vain for signs of change in diastolic pressure. (A/V Photos)

Dial direct for Engineering help

Specific engineering-type problems within the hospital will be handled most efficiently when telephoned directly to the people prepared to cope. The following shops should be called directly, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.:

Mechanical services (plumbing) - 2392; electrical shop - 2396; carpentry - 2394; painting - 2307; outside building services - 2395; building services operator (heating, cooling, ventilation) - 2231 or radio page 135; clinical engineering - 2393; bed repair - 2855.

After 4 p.m. and on weekends, the quickest response to a problem will come from the building services operator on duty. This operator can analyze the problem and has access to all craftsmen necessary. Reach the operator on radio page 135.

BEDS, from page 1

government had cut its reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid patients from \$90 to \$45 per day; an appeal resulted in a revised reimbursement figure of \$62 per day. Facing a loss of about \$28 per patient day, NMCP said it would have to close its doors as soon as every patient had been safely located elsewhere.

The 74-bed facility was, last week, down to 48 beds occupied, having stopped accepting new patients in January. Already cruelly affected by the unavailability of skilled nursing beds, Maine Medical Center, other hospitals and non-profit nursing homes have met and will continue to meet in a joint effort to determine the best manner in which to replace or recoup those lost beds.

marketplace

FOR RENT: Large, 3 bdrm. on Dartmouth St., parking, no pets, references and sec. dep. req. \$300/mo. unheated. Available March 1, 1980. Call 775-0509 eves.

FOR RENT: 4 rm. apt. in the MMC area, newly redecorated, no pets, no children, stove, refrigerator, parking. \$250/mo. plus heat. Call 773-6175.

FOR RENT: Recently renovated 7 rm. apt. Adults, overlooks harbor, all utils. included. \$550/mo. Call 773-9864 after 5 p.m.

FOR RENT: 5 rm. duplex in So. Portland. Fireplace, fully insulated, unheated. \$250/mo. Call 767-2771.

FOR RENT: 2 bdrm. Deering Ave. apt. Large kit. w/appliances, laundry, parking. \$400/mo. Adults. No pets. Call 774-1562 eves.

FOR RENT: 1 bdrm. apt., w/w carpet, elec. stove and refrig., modern bath, porch, 1 mile from MMC. \$225/mo. includes heat & utils. Call 854-5959.

FOR SALE: LR78-15 steel belted radials (summer) mounted on 15x8 white spoked wheels, ex. cond. \$125. Call 883-5719.

FOR SALE: 1976 Rupp Snowmobile 350 - ex. cond., used 1 winter, \$1000 or best offer. Call 799-2761.

FOR SALE: 1970 VW Squareback. Call 775-0567 after 5 p.m.

FOR SALE: 1972 Jeep Renegade, ex. cond. low mileage. Call 772-5293.

FOR SALE: Ladies Hart sp120 skis with Americana bindings. Ladies size 8 Nort Tyrol boots & ski poles. Used very little. Set: \$150. Call Roxanne at 799-5229 after 4 p.m.

ROOMMATE WANTED: to share spacious 3 bdrm. apt., 2 blocks from MMC. \$105/mo. & sec. dep. & sharing elec. and gas. Call 773-3964. Keep trying.

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.

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WANTED: Professional woman over 30, no children, wants house or duplex to rent. Need 2 BR with storage space or 3 BR in nice area in or near Portland. Excellent references. Call 968-2489.

WANTED: Babysitter for 8 yr. old girl whose mother works 11-7 shift at MMC, Sun. - Thurs. Will bring to your home. Call 854-5947.

new employees

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