

WHAT'S

HAPPENING

MMC

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
MAINE MEDICAL CENTER
PORTLAND, MAINE 04102

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JCAH SUMMATION CONFERENCE was held late Friday afternoon as the survey team closed its three-day visit at MMC discussing its recommendations, which are sent forward to the Commission for action. The Commission then decides to accredit the hospital for one year, two years, or not at all. From left, the survey team members are Dr. Harry M. Lowd, Miss Elaine A. Crawford, RN, and Oliver R. Johnson, administration. (A/V Photo)

Nurse-Doctor Study Pinpoints

Problems In Communication

A recent study done by the MMC Patient Care committee shows that physicians and nurses here often have different opinions about their own and each other's roles in a patient care setting.

That and other observations were the results of a 14-item questionnaire created and circulated by an Ad Hoc committee last winter, designed to pinpoint areas of communication difficulty between nurses and physicians at MMC. To allow for various comparisons to be made, those surveyed were

asked to indicate age (under 26; 26-40; 41-55; over 55), sex and status (attending physician, staff physician, resident/intern or nurse). Of the nearly 900 polled, approximately 57 percent were returned.

The results showed certain trends in the various categories. When comparing all nurses with all physicians, there was significant disagreement on five of the 14 items. Generally, nurses believed that they should have more authority in deciding issues of treatment and patient management, and that

they were more sensitive to the non-medical needs of the patient than were the physicians. The nurses disagreed with the physicians' opinions that the physicians accurately perceived the nurses' capabilities to think and act independently, and with the belief of the physicians that the primary role of the nurse is that of executor of the physician's orders. The nurses also disagreed with the physicians' belief that the nurses did not afford physicians the respect that was due them.

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MMC CORPORATORS TO MEET JUNE 7th

Members of the MMC Board of Corporators have been invited to attend the semi-annual meeting on Wednesday, June 7, in the NDF lecture rooms at 2:30 pm.

The program highlight will be an "Overview of Modern Radiology" presented by Dr. John F. Gibbons, Chief of Radiology, and members of the Radiology department staff including Joseph S. Blinick, Ph.D., Charles W. Capron, MD, Roland G. Ware, MD, H. Randall Deming, MD, Anthony F. Salvo, MD, Donald E. Bitterman, MD, and Andrew B. Packard, MD.

Registration and coffee is scheduled for 2:30 pm, with Chairman Roger F. Woodman calling the session to order at 3 pm. The business meeting will include the report of President Edward C. Andrews, Jr., MD, and items of old and new business.

Corporators have been asked to park in the Big Buy lot on St. John Street and to take a hospital bus to the NDF. Return trips will be scheduled after the meeting.

Dr. Ritchie Nominated To FDA Chairmanship

Dr. Robert F. Ritchie, medical director of the Foundation for Blood Research, and member of the MMC medical staff, has been nominated to the chairmanship of the Immunology Panel of the Food and Drug Administration.

The tasks of the committee include review of old and all new kits, and tests applying immunological principles in human medicine. No new tests can be approved for use in hospital laboratories without approval of the Panel and of the Administration.

Dr. Ritchie is presently the only Panel member who is not on a medical school faculty.

SMVTI Graduates Respiratory Techs

The second graduating class of Respiratory Therapy technicians was graduated from Southern Maine Vocational Technical Institute Friday, May 26.

The 12-month course, which begins again in June, consists of clinical rotation at MMC and Mercy Hospital throughout the year.

Course coordinators are Robert Hess, RRT, and C. Fred Goodwin, chairman of the Allied Sciences at SMVTI.

The 1978 graduates include: Pam Acker, Melinda Dyer, Jennifer Brannen, Bruce Freeman, Reginald Harmon, Barbara James, Chris Kiger, Dana Hurtubise, Jackie Leblond, Ted Malinowitz, Marie Morrow, John Oceretko, Marlene Reali, Eveline Seavey, Harvey Sherwood and Kathy Zahl.

NEW FLAGPOLE DEDICATION SET

Arthur Stevenson, chairman of the MMC Employees Activity Committee, said Friday that a ceremony will be held on Flag Day, June 14, to dedicate the hospital's new flagpole.

The ceremony will be brief, scheduled at 9 am, with members of the committee, local service organizations, employees and hospital leadership. Expected are Mrs. John C. Barker, who has donated a flag in memory of her brother, Carl F. Linde, a WW II serviceman, and the family of the late Pamela C. Orr, also donors of a memorial flag.

The pole, purchased by the Employees Activity Committee with its own funds and a grant from the MMC medical staff, will be set in the lawn area adjoining the Bramhall entrance of the hospital. Made of spun aluminum, the pole is 40 feet tall, and has halyards for the American and Maine flags.

SOCIETY HONORS FIVE PHYSICIANS

Five Portland physicians—members of the MMC medical staff—were honored by the Cumberland County Medical Society last week.

The five, all of whom are retiring from active practice, were Dr. Elton R. Blaisdell, Maine diabetes pioneer; Dr. Richard Hawkes, a trustee and well-known MMC internist; Dr. Ralph Heifitz, veteran pediatrician; Dr. Henry Tabachnick, Portland allergist and dermatologist; and Dr. Alice Whittier, one of Portland's first woman physicians and pediatricians.

Dr. Blaisdell was honored at MMC last month in a Diabetes Day program that featured the Dr. Elton R. Blaisdell lecture, and Dr. Whittier received an honorary degree from Bowdoin College Saturday.

COFFEE TO HONOR VOLUNTEERS TODAY

More than 30 hospital volunteers will be specially honored by the Women's Board of Maine General Hospital at a coffee this morning.

The affair—to be held at the Portland Country Club—will follow the group's regular meeting, which begins at 10:30 am. Board President Mrs. Edgar Spencer said the coffee will express the group's appreciation to the non-member volunteers who have circulated the gift cart, assisted behind the gift shop counter and served in the coffee shop during the past year.

The Women's Board has a record of hospital giving which spans 100 years and totals more than half a million dollars.

LAMAZE GROUP SEEKS NEW INSTRUCTORS

The Portland Childbirth Education Association, a non-profit organization which sponsors Lamaze classes for expectant parents, will be hiring new teachers and assistants in June.

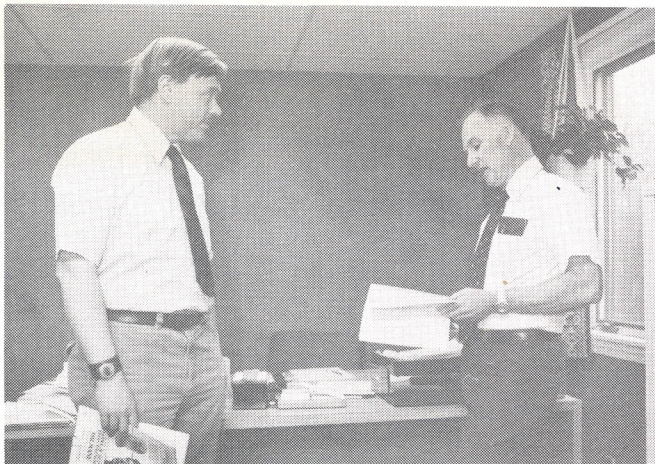
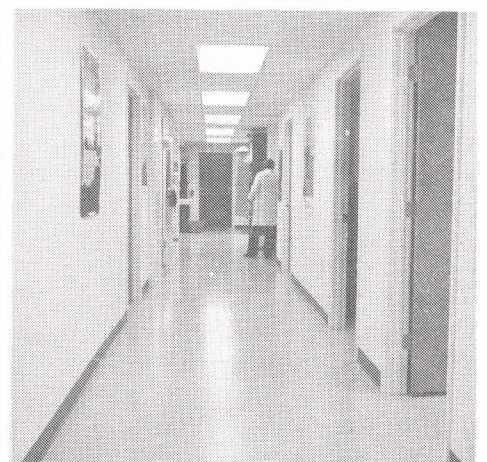
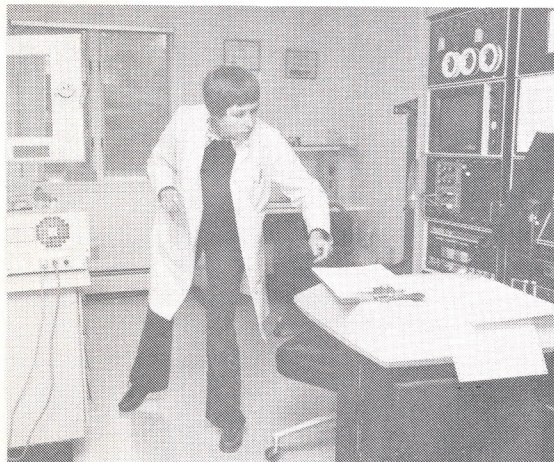
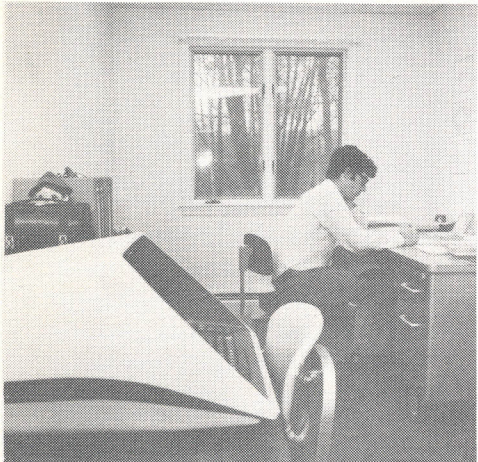
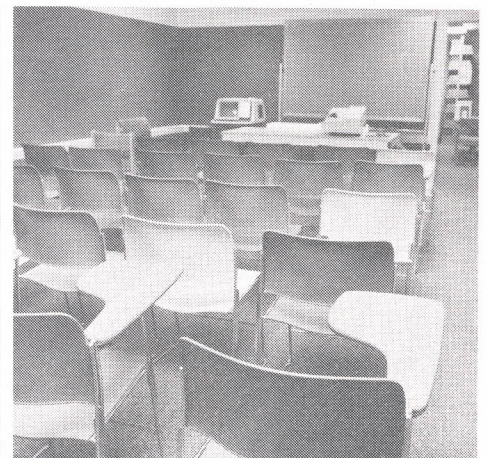
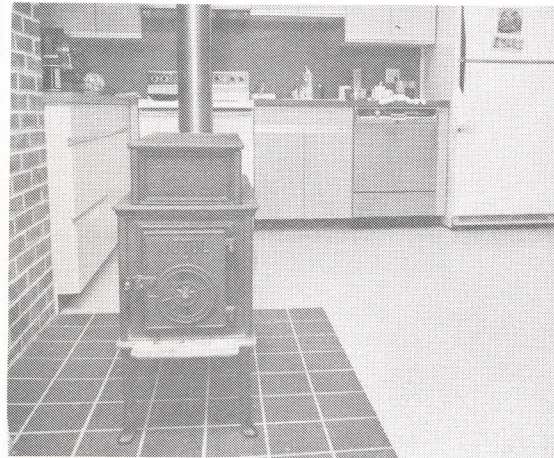
Teachers must be registered nurses with OB training or who have had a Lamaze delivery. The teaching assistants must have had a Lamaze experience.

Interested applicants should send a resume to Gail Cinelli, RN, 211 Middle Road, Falmouth.



IT SEEMED TO HAPPEN all at once last week, as the apple and cherry trees all over Maine burst into blossom. The crabapples outside MMC's Southern Maine Radiation Therapy Institute—shown here—were among the prettiest anywhere. (A/V Photo)

FOUNDATION OCCUPIES NEW, SPACIOUS QUARTERS



The Maine Foundation for Blood Research, not long ago the Maine Medical Center Rheumatic Disease Laboratory, has moved to new quarters in Scarborough which provide ample room for the organization's expanding responsibilities. TOP LEFT shows Medical Assistant Lynn MacWilliams at her desk. The reception area is at TOP RIGHT. Dwight Smith, systems analyst, is shown in the SECOND row, LEFT, with one of the building's four stoves (they helped keep the oil bill down this winter) and the Foundation's lecture room. Two of the computers are shown in the next row, with Pat Baldwin, medical technologist, at CENTER, and one of the building's bright corridors at RIGHT. Dr. James Haddow, left, and Dr. Robert Ritchie, respectively associate director and director of the Foundation, are at LEFT. (A/V Photo)

SURVEY, from page 1

When the nurses and physicians were broken down into age and status categories, it was found that older (over 55) nurses and all physicians were nearly always in accord. There was no disagreement between the older nurses and female residents, and older nurses and male residents disagreed on only one item—that of the nurses' belief that they should have more authority in deciding issues of patient treatment and management.

The survey revealed that differences between older and younger (under 26) nurses were more acute than between the older nurses and physicians. Older nurses agreed that there were no real professional conflicts between physicians and nurses—only personality conflicts, and that nurses were trying to assume roles for which they had neither training nor experience. Older nurses believed that their primary role is to execute physician's orders, and that nurses do not afford physicians the respect due them.

In contrast, younger nurses felt that nurses should have more authority, and that they should question the orders of a physician which they believe to be inappropriate. They also differed from the older nurses in their beliefs that patients received better care when nurses made rounds with physicians, and felt that nurses were not afforded the respect due them by physicians.

Differences between younger nurses and male residents were significant on almost every comparison, while younger nurses and female residents disagreed on only two items—the female residents feeling that they were bothered unnecessarily by phone calls and that nurses were trying to assume roles for which they had neither training nor experience.

The comparisons between the younger nurses and the older, non-resident physicians showed the most marked nurse/physician differences of the entire survey. The only areas in which there was agreement was in the belief that nurses did not make unnecessary phone calls to physicians, and that nurses and physicians shared responsibility for patient care.

Overall, the questionnaires revealed a strong pattern: the younger the nurse, the more her perceptions differ significantly from all non-resident physicians. Almost as striking are the

differences between younger nurses and their older counterparts. And the most harmony between physician and nurses is found with older nurses and physicians of any age and category.

YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

THAT there's a new procedure for dialing collect, credit card, person-to-person or calls billed to a third party from all color-disc phones. Dial "0" to Switchboard, ask for "8th level," and the operator will connect you to the long distance operator, who will handle your call.

THAT Honor Night RSVP cards must be returned to the Personnel department no later than June 9.

MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: 1975 Chevy Nova, auto. trans., 31,000 mi., ex. cond. \$2500. Also 12' fiberglass boat, \$150. Call 797-4077.

WANTED: Person to share house w/elderly lady, near MMC, on Chadwick St. Must be willing to be around evenings, in exchange for rent. Kitchen priv., own room. No nursing duties necessary. Contact Mrs. Hinds, 773-5748.

FOR SALE: 1972 Pontiac station wagon, good cond. PS, PB, steel-belted radials & 2 snow tires. \$995. Call Jackie Robinson, 799-7979.

FOR SALE: 48" bathroom vanity, white formica top w/18" round lavatory opening, \$25. Upright 15 cu. ft. freezer, truss inc. \$50. Contact Dan Butler, Family Practice resident.

LOOKING FOR WORK: Window washing & general maintenance in your home or Also house painting, interior & exterior. Free estimates for both. Call 799-7277.



DR. ALICE A.S. WHITTIER

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 Relations Dept., MMC, Portland, Me. 04102.

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Dr. Whittier Honored By Bowdoin College

Dr. Alice A.S. Whittier, Maine's first woman pediatrician and member of the MMC medical staff for nearly half a century, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Bowdoin College Saturday.

She was one of six well-known Americans to be honored by Bowdoin at Saturday's commencement exercises, including the college's retiring president, Dr. Roger Howell, Jr.

Dr. Whittier's citation read, in part: "As a member of the staff of Children's Hospital and Maine General Hospital, and subsequently of the Maine Medical Center when the two merged, she has touched the lives of more people than one can count through a deft and sympathetic practice of her art."

Daughter of a physician, Dr. Frank N. Whittier of Brunswick, she was one of Maine's first woman physicians and has practiced pediatrics in Portland for 47 years. She is a graduate of Bryn Mawr and Yale Medical School, and a former President of the New England Pediatric Society. She is a Corporator of Maine Medical Center, and served as the hospital's Chief of Pediatrics from 1950 to 1958. A Charter member and former President of the Altrusa Club of Portland, she has been active in community service, and in 1975 received the Deborah Morton award from Westbrook College.