

# WHAT'S

mmmc

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT  
MAINE MEDICAL CENTER  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04102

# HAPPENING

Vol. 9, No. 15

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## *RDL Moving To New Building; Will Retain Work Relationship With MMC*

Leadership of MMC and its Rheumatic Disease Laboratory have agreed that the laboratory can best pursue its research and testing activities as a separate entity, but with a continuing mutual working relationship between the two institutions.

The agreement, approved by the Executive Committee of the MMC Medical Staff, the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees, clears the way for operation of the RDL under sponsorship of the Foundation for Blood Research, a non-profit Maine corporation.

Trustee action last week came after the comment by President Andrews that "the agreement and pledges of mutual cooperation mean that the laboratory's vital services to the community will continue to increase and improve."

Dr. Andrews stressed that the opportunities for joint research and development projects, consultative services and educational programs provide a firm basis for a continuing formal relationship between MMC and the laboratory.

The Rheumatic Disease Laboratory has recorded significant gains in several related areas of study that have attracted the attention of the medical world: methods of protein analysis, computer interpretation of laboratory data, prenatal diagnosis of spinal abnormalities and automation of laboratory procedures. The facility is perhaps best known for the latter project, which has been successful in developing automated systems for the determination of normal and abnormal serum proteins which reflect importantly on diagnosis of many human diseases.

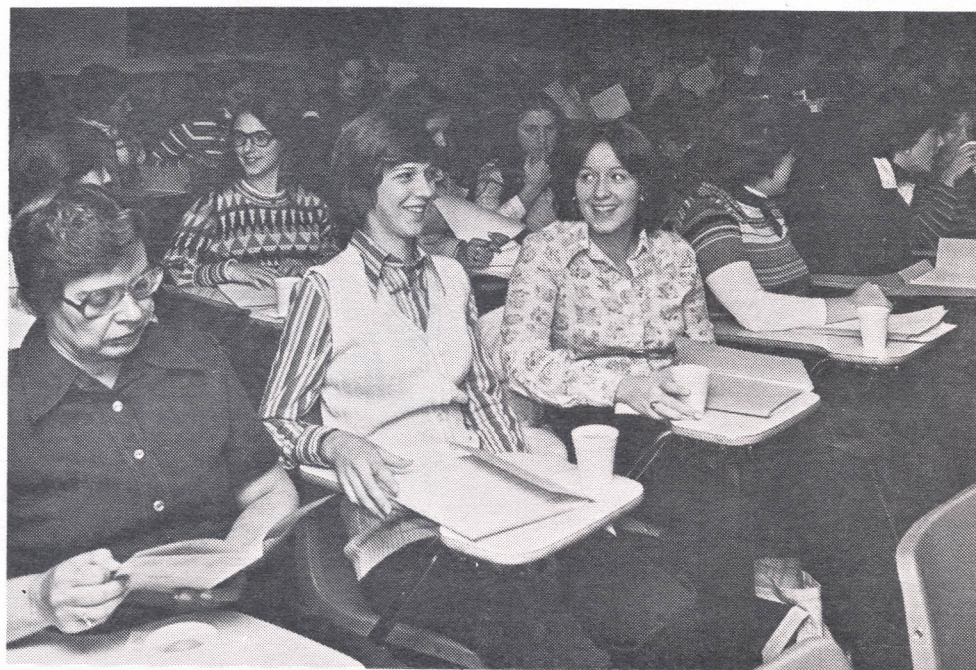
The RDL was established at MMC in 1965 with a grant from the Arthritis Foundation and the start of consultative and investigative work by Dr. Robert Ritchie, who had completed a clinical research training program at the Robert Breck Brigham Hospital in Boston. In 1967 a major Boston hospital asked the RDL to apply its research RDL, page 2.

## **INFLATION DRIVES 'CAF' PRICES UP**

Cafeteria prices—which have remained unchanged since July, 1975 despite constantly rising food and labor costs—will increase slightly beginning Monday, Nov. 14.

"We've tried to hold the line on prices as long as possible," said Director of Dietary Services Eleanor M. Gee, "but we can't any longer."

The modest increases will range from five cents to 10 cents on a number of individual items to about 10 cents to 15 cents on entrees. When the CAFETERIA, page 4.



**A GOOD TURNOUT** representing many high schools throughout southwestern Maine greeted the first Health Career Day program last Saturday. Part of the group, for whom many departmental presentations were arranged, is shown here. Plans call for similar programs to be held twice yearly, designed for high schoolers with a demonstrated interest in health careers. (A/V Photo)



## MMC/MERCY ABOLISH PATIENT INFO PHONES

MMC and Mercy hospitals said last week they will cease providing patient condition reports to persons who telephone the institutions.

They cited the patient's legal right to confidentiality and privacy, and the fact that condition lists cannot be constantly accurate.

The hospitals' decision was announced by the administrators and directors of nursing at Maine Medical Center and Mercy Hospital with the support of their respective medical staffs.

The action means the end of a longstanding custom under which unidentified callers could receive information describing the condition of any patient. Under the new plan, switchboard operators will respond to inquiries about patients only to the extent of confirming or denying their presence in the hospital.

The hospital spokesmen said information will continue to be supplied in response to calls by immediate family members for information about relatives in special care, coronary care, or other specialized units.

## ABOUT PEOPLE

**Jean Blanchard**, chief occupational therapist, recently attended the 57th annual conference of the American Occupational Therapy Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

M.I.S. Administrator **Clinton Cooper** has been nominated for membership in the American Society for Computer Medicine, and will serve on its council of ethics and international affairs. He will be one of the organization's few layman members.

**Eleanor C. Cairns**, chief librarian, in the hospital's Medical Library, attended the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Health Sciences Library Association in Montreal Oct. 28-29. The Association represents medical libraries in New England and coastal Canadian hospitals.

**J. Michael Taylor, MD, MPH**, chief of Community Medicine, has been elected to the Editorial Advisory Board of the JOURNAL OF AMBULATORY CARE MANAGEMENT.



**GRADUATES** of a Coronary Care nursing course included, front row, from left, Roger Collard, RN, and Susan Eldridge, RN, MMC; Janet Watkinson, RN, Penobscot Bay Medical Center, Kathy Geiser, RN, and Janet Gustafson, RN, Rutland Hospital; and Margaret Jealous, RN, Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital. Back row, from left, Lynwood Leland, RN, and Keith Plant, RN, MMC; Nancy Green, RN, and Janice Powsner, RN, Rutland Hospital, Christine Love, RN, MMC; Debbie Beaulieu, RN, York Hospital; Linda Alm, RN, Henrietta Goodall, Sanford; and Paula Durgin, RN, instructor, Staff Development, MMC.

(A/V Photo)



**A GOOD FORECAST** for the new MMC Meningomyelocele clinic was delivered by WGAN-TV weatherman Bob O'Wrill, an honorary chairman of the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children, shown here talking with a patient, little Rona Bilodeau of Biddeford, as the clinic opened a few days back.

RDL, from page 1.

to perform patient tests that had evolved from the laboratory's work. A total of 1,500 samples were received in that year; the total grew to 6,000 annually in five years, and this year, Dr. Ritchie says, the operation will process 22,000 samples from 200 institutions. New laboratory discoveries continue to be applied to these samples.

Since all Maine hospitals are included, and since RDL methods have resulted in considerable cost savings, roughly 7,000 Maine patients have benefited.

The RDL is associated with a number of federal, national and international scientific bodies, and in its first decade, produced 32 publications in major journals. This year, so far, the RDL has produced, or has been invited to write, 17 publications, including chapters for texts and at least two entire books that will either be written or edited by the RDL staff.

Expansion of the laboratory's work to include research in cancer, genetics, and prenatal diagnosis has packed 20 people and about 2,000 square-foot area devoted to the RDL on the second floor of MMC's old General building. There is no other available space, and no room for RDL expansion.

Dr. Ritchie, Geneticist James Haddow, Dr. Donna K. Thompson, cancer diagnostician and researcher, and others associated with the Foundation for Blood Research will occupy a half-million-dollar structure now under construction between Routes 1 and I-95 in South Portland, about 4.5 miles from MMC, near the Jetport and major highways. Initially, it will provide 12,000 square feet of space, with 3,000 square feet unfinished, and 13 acres of land available for expansion.



## Two MMC PA's At Virginia Sessions

Physician's assistants, Bob Lapham and Mike Sheldon of MMC's Emergency department, recently attended the second annual Physician's Assistant Constituent Chapter Officers Workshop sponsored by the American Academy of Physician's Assistants (AAPA).

Held in Arlington, Virginia, nearly 200 officers representing 32 state physician's assistant constituent chapters participated in this seminar which contained briefings on national issues pertinent to the profession.

In addition to scheduled academy activities, Lapham and Sheldon had the opportunity to review with the four members of the Maine State Congressional Delegation and key aides the effectiveness of the utilization of physician's assistants on the health care delivery system in Maine.

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Elizabeth R. Hargitt, RN, assistant director of Nursing for Personnel Counseling, says all department applications for scholarship loans must be submitted before Nov. 15. Nursing personnel accepted for or enrolled in a nursing program full-time may apply, she says.

## NICC Team Gets Equipment Grant

A recent grant from the Southern Maine Chapter, March of Dimes, has made possible the purchase of several items of specialized equipment to be used with MMC's neonatal intensive care center's transport program.

"The transport team," said Dr. John C. Serrage, director of the hospital's NICC, "includes specially-trained nurses and a neonatologist. They respond to calls from hospitals throughout Southern Maine for movement of critically ill newborns to the Medical Center's NICC."

The equipment purchased with the March of Dimes funds includes an oxygen analyzer, an IV infusion pump, an infant blood pressure device and an oxygen controller. "These items will be used with the transport incubator," said Dr. Serrage, "and together with the NICC techniques will make it possible to begin life-saving treatment during the ambulance trip to MMC."

## Career Planning

SMVTI — "Emergency Care." Adult Education Division. This program will review management of skeletal, neurological and cardiogenic crises so that the L.P.N. will be prepared to deal

with emergency situations. Training in the recommended standardized procedures for CPR performance so that the L.P.N. may become certified or receive recertification. Dates: Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1. All four sessions are recommended. \$20. Call the Adult Education Office, 799-7303, ext. 73, and registration materials will be mailed to you.

## MATERNITY TEAS NOW ATTRACT 'DADS,' TOO

On the fourth Wednesday of each month more than 60 expectant mothers—and an increasing number of prospective dads—visit MMC's maternity department as guests of the FRIENDS of MMC.

Invitations are mailed monthly to nearly 165 Portland-area women who are in the seventh month of pregnancy and who plan to be admitted to the Medical Center. The visit to MMC gives the expectant mother and her husband an opportunity to become familiar with the hospital's maternity area and nurseries. Following refreshments in the cafeteria conference rooms, Head Nurse Gloria Stover speaks informally to the group about maternity care and answers questions about the planned admissions.

The appreciation of a young Old Orchard Beach couple, whose first baby arrived in September, was expressed in a note to the FRIENDS. "The food was delicious, the tour helpful and the talks...informative," they wrote. "Because of your thoughtfulness, our stay at the hospital was less confusing and more enjoyable," said Bob and Sue Morrison.

## TRUSTEES APPROVE NEW MED STAFFERS

The following have been received MMC Medical Staff appointments by vote of Board of Trustees:

To the Associate Staff, Paul F. Bonjour, MD, Portland, Portland, Family Practice; and Joel A. Sabeau, MD, Portland, Medicine (Dermatology).

Robert R. Scholl, MD, Biddeford, Family Practice, has been appointed to the Courtesy Staff.

Bonnie G. Wood, Ph.D., M.T., University of Maine at Orono, Pathology, has been named to the Scientific Advisory Staff.



**CHATTING TOGETHER** before the brief ceremony marking completion of a four-week course in Critical Care Nursing are, from left, Claudette Mimeault, RN, MMC; Cathy Palleschi, RN, MMC; and Jackie Girardin, RN, Rumford Community Hospital. The course was coordinated by Judy Thomas, CCRN, staff development instructor, Department of Nursing. (A/V Photo)



## CAFETERIA, from page 1.

new prices go into effect Monday, a cup of coffee—with or without—will cost 15 cents. All types of doughnuts, muffins and buns will sell for 15 cents each.

Mrs. Gee said nearly all food items purchased by the hospital have increased substantially over the past two years. Many of the high-use items such as fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, juices and fish have nearly doubled in price. Tomatoes, for example, have jumped from 16½ cents to 30 cents per pound. And of course, Mrs. Gee added, everyone is well aware of what has happened to coffee prices.

"We still want to provide a wide variety of high-quality food," said Mrs. Gee, "served to employees in a convenient and pleasurable atmosphere."

To maintain this level of quality, the hospital has continued the policy of partially subsidizing the cafeteria operation. This significant subsidy must continue even with the slight increases effective Monday.

And even with the new prices, MMC cafeteria customers will still enjoy the best food at the lowest prices in town.

## MARKETPLACE

**FOR SALE:** Solid cherrywood dining room table, 70" X 42", plus leaf and 4 chairs. \$250. Also rm. size humidifier, \$45; chain fireplace screen, 36" X 32", \$15; and a Fuego fireplace, 30" X 24", complete, \$250. Call 883-6812 after 6.

**FOR SALE:** Diamond wedding ring trio; wh. gold, lady's dia., .18 kt., both bands, Zales; unused. Call Jim Fraser, 2441 or 773-8851.



**JACK-O'-LANTERNS**, cider, doughnuts and cheese, and Halloween costumes for staff members made Halloween a special day for patients and their families in Radiation Therapy. The black witch manning the desk is receptionist Linda Pierce.

(A/V Photo)

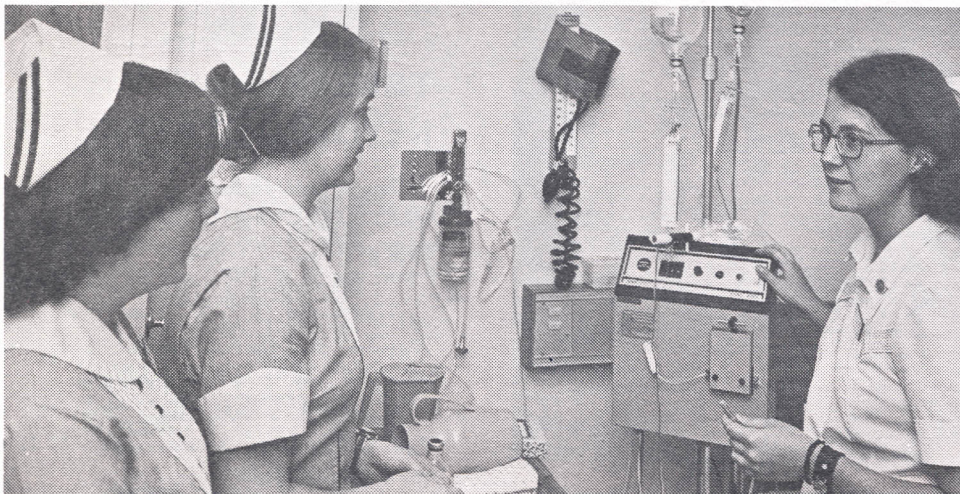
**FOR SALE:** Pair of 1971-74 Dodge Dart wheels, \$10. Call 2196 days.

**FOR RENT:** Two 3-bdrm. houses on spacious lot in quiet neighborhood, 29 Maple Ave., Scarboro. Pets & children welcomed. Many extra features. \$240 mo. each, & utilities. Call 883-5412 or 883-4854 anytime.

**WANTED:** Someone to do light housework 1 day per week. Call 799-0195.

**WANTED TO BUY:** Set of 4 small bowling balls. Call Herman Thompson, 2271.

**FOR SALE:** 1974 Pontiac Firebird, books at \$2800, must sell, \$900. Needs minor front end body work. Power steering & brakes. Call 2547 or 846-5627 after 5.



**ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE NURSING STUDENTS** Roberta McGann, left, and Judy Wynne learn how to set up an IVAC-controlled IV for a patient from Instructor Dale Martin, RN. The college's nursing program students participate in two days of clinical experience at MMC weekly. (A/V Photo)

## 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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## EmD Team Teaches Aroostook Medics

Dr. Frank Lawrence, director of the Emergency department, and Jean Atherton, RN, EmD head nurse, were members of an emergency medicine team which taught a course in Advance Life Support recently in Presque Isle.

The three-day program attracted 36 physicians, nurses and emergency medicine technicians from hospitals in northern Aroostook County.

## PERSONNEL PERSPECTIVES

About 140 MMC employees will be honored at a service awards coffee Wednesday, Nov. 9. Employees who have just reached the five-year service mark, and those with service in multiples of five years, will be invited.

The event will open at 9 am in the Cafeteria conference rooms. Debbie Palmer of Dietary and Amelia Whitney of Housekeeping will pour.

Winifred Rose, RN, Nursing department, will be recognized for 35 years' service and Ernest York of the Dietary department will receive a 30-year pin. Honors for 25 years' service will be awarded to Iva Chamard, RN, Patricia Brown, RN, and Andrea Melness, RN, Nursing; Virginia Andreasen, Social Service; Geraldine Trayers, Radiology; and Edith Harris, RRA, Medical Records.