



# WHAT'S HAPPENING...

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT ■ MAINE MEDICAL CENTER ■ PORTLAND, MAINE 04102

Dec. 23, 1974

## MOVING TOWARD MIS

Key patient care personnel and department heads had a closer look at MIS a few days ago when leadership people from TECHNICON were here for what amounted to the real beginning of the Medical Information System installation-education project. When the job is done, about a year from now, MMC will be the only hospital in New England to be equipped with MIS, and patients and staff will begin to realize its advantages. The installation and orientation phases of the plan will begin in earnest after the first of the year, when TECHNICON will have all its people on board, and when we all begin to see how it works, and how it can help a long list of functions at MMC.

Our hospital is leaning heavily on the experience of El Camino Hospital, near San Francisco, Calif., which recently reported results of its first full year of MIS operation.

El Camino, just a little smaller than MMC, said increased efficiencies brought about a decline in average patient bills; average patient savings of \$88 per stay; \$420,000 savings to Blue Cross; and shorter hospital stays. Direct patient benefits, besides dollar savings, included reduced errors, more complete data, better nursing care, and quicker results from diagnostic laboratory and x-ray orders.

MIS is now working in three other hospitals, with benefits being similarly assessed. They are the Ralph K. Davis Medical Center, San Francisco; Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Omaha; and the St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, N.J.

There were questions by the hundreds in all of these MIS institutions, and there will be here. In an effort to answer them, MMC will launch a new in-house publication soon. Dr. Robert F. Ritchie, who shares MIS responsibility with Treasurer Jack Dyson, will answer individual questions, for the benefit of all of us, in a newsletter entitled MIS BULLETIN, to be published soon after Jan. 1, 1975. It will be distributed to all MMC patient care employees, department heads, Chiefs and Medical Staff, and to a wide range of other concerned hospital people.

## MMC IS EXHIBIT A

MMC staff members and employees volunteered a total of 104 pints of blood last week to climax a drive that involved the Friends, other Volunteers, and a lot of our own people, including Frank Barclay, probably the first Santa Claus ever involved in a blood campaign. Frank, in red suit and beard, jingling sleighbells, carried a huge sign advising everyone of the time and place of the drawing, and a picture of Frank (no enlargement necessary) appeared in the EXPRESS. When it all settled down, 148 MMC people had made drawing appointments. Trouble was, it was more than Red Cross could handle properly, and many would-be volunteers couldn't spare the hour that was needed for the tests, the questions and the drawing itself.

Anyway, MMC people emerged in the local papers as a prime example of generosity...and just before Christmas.

## GO HELP OTHERS

Several more MMC departments, including Patient Accounts, Research, and the nurses and clerks on R3, have sent their Christmas card funds to Bruce Roberts, Portland Evening EXPRESS, for the annual Santa Claus fund devoted to needy Portland families. OBS-delivery room nurses are contributing a layette for a baby born on or near the holiday to a low-income family. Late word from the MMC Employees' Activity Committee indicates they will help a large hospital family, and the O.R. crew will supply gifts, food and clothing to a mother, father and ten children whose Christmas would otherwise not be merry at all.

## OUR HOLIDAY WISH:

A very Merry Christmas to What's Happening readers and a New Year filled with success, good health and happiness.

Public Relations Department

