

HAPPENING

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INPUT OF MMC EMPLOYEES SOUGHT AS STEPS BEGIN TO CURB SMOKING

Steps began last week to implement a series of Medical Staff recommendations that will confine smoking to designated areas of the Maine Medical Center.

The staff recommendations:

- Segregate smoking and non-smoking patients.
- Prohibit smoking by visitors, except in designated areas.
- Provide no smoking and smoking areas in the Cafeteria, the Coffee Shop, the Bramhall Lobby and the Admitting Lobby.
- Provide smoking areas in Richards Wing elevator lobbies and the Emergency Division waiting area, but prohibit smoking in other waiting areas, elevators, nursing stations and patient areas.

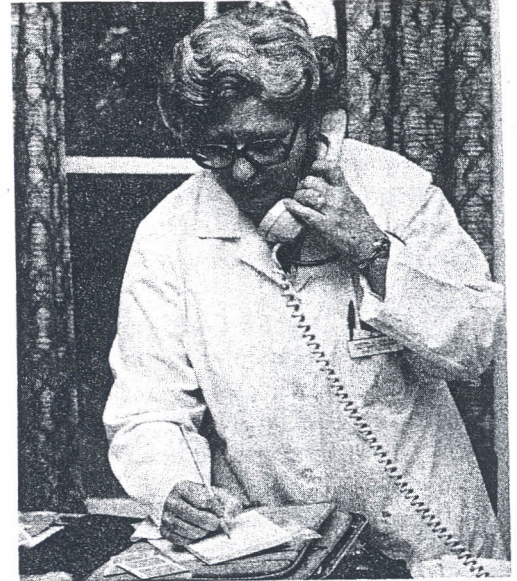
A letter outlining the staff recommendations went to all employees Thursday. It said the staff action came "in view of patient and personnel safety requirements and in recognition of increasing public awareness of the rights of non-smokers."

The letter sought an expression of worker's views, and indicated that a series of departmental meetings will be held to identify smoking areas. It said the input is needed by an employee-management committee headed by James Fraser, safety engineer, before Oct. 1.

Smoking in the hospital, particularly in the patient areas, has long been recognized as a health and safety problem. Tobacco has not been sold in the

Coffee Shop for nine years, and the non-smokers now far outnumber the smokers on the medical staff and among hospital employees. And as non-smokers

see SMOKING, next page



Marge Erico, RN, FNA

SEVEN CERTIFIED IN CRITICAL CARE

Seven MMC nurses are among the first in Maine to receive Board certification by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. The national certification program was established to formally recognize professional proficiency of critical care nurses and thereby promote excellence in the nursing care of the critically ill patient.

The written examination is designed to test critical care proficiency in cardiovascular, pulmonary, renal, neurologic, metabolic and psycho-social areas.

Carol Parcher, R.N., who teaches MMC patients prior to open heart surgery, passed the certification examination in

ISLAND MARRIAGE, CAREER LOGICAL STEPS FOR HEALTH STATION F.N.A.

When Marge Erico spent her first summer on Peaks as a girl, she never expected the island would be the focal point of her marriage and her career.

But both turned out to be logical steps.

She was a Framingham, Mass., teenager when she first came to Peaks, and several island summers later as a Framingham Union Hospital School of Nursing graduate, she returned again to marry husband Dick, an island native who operates power generators on Peaks. There were four daughters and a son, and when all five were grown, Marge returned to her interrupted nursing career.

She enrolled in a refresher course, then became a staff nurse at Mercy Hospital.

"It was satisfying," she says now, "but it wasn't too long before I wanted to do something more for people."

During nearly 20 years as an island homemaker, Marge became friends with many of the year-round residents. Because she was a nurse, island neighbors often turned to her for help when medical emergencies arose.

Should the little girl with a sore throat and temperature make a midnight

what I could do as a nurse," she said, "and I knew if I could get some additional training I could do much more."

Others shared Marge's concern and the Casco Bay Health Council was formed to establish an island health station. At about this same time, Marge had an opportunity to enroll in the Family Nurse Associate Program co-sponsored by the University of Maine and MMC.

The timing was just right for the next logical step:

With help from the City of Portland Community Development Program, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Area Health Education Center funds and the professional resources of the hospital and its departments of Family Practice and Community Medicine, the Casco Bay Health Council was able to open a health station on Peaks Island. Marge Erico, R.N., family nurse associate and Community Health Services nurse, was

EAC MEETS, REPORTS ON YEAR'S PROJECTS

Dinner and a social evening last Wednesday marked the beginning of a new year for MMC's Employees Activity Committee and acknowledged the contributions of active members to the past year's successful events.

During 1975-76 MMC employees were invited to take advantage of seven low-cost EAC-sponsored bus trips to Boston for Red Sox games, the Flower Show, the Ice Follies and an annual Christmas shopping trip.

Proceeds of several EAC fund-raising projects provided financial support for MMC's softball team, bowling league and camera club.

Generous Christmas baskets were sent to two needy MMC employees and seven canned hams were added to door prizes for the annual employees' Christmas party.

The EAC Arts & Crafts exhibit held each March in the Admitting lobby has become an occasion enjoyed by both employees and hospital visitors.

Invited to attend the annual EAC meeting were Roxy Hassell, Beverly Cookson, Judy Castle, Ethel LeFebvre, Art Stevenson, Thom Linehan, Lucretia Romano, Thom Cowie, Marge Harris, Natalie Roberts, Betty Dickey, Claudette Champagne, Marlene Valeriani, Louise Gibson and Mary Zsiga.

SMOKING, from page 1

increased, so did their insistence on clean air and on having cafeteria and coffee shop space where smoking is prohibited.

A voluntary effort two years ago was only a partial success. It was a polite "Please Don't Smoke" campaign, and lacked the broad support and momentum of the current Medical Staff no-smoking recommendations. It was useful, however, in drawing attention of the hospital community to the smoking problem.

The letter last week asked for an expression of hospital employee's feelings on the issue, and for suggestions for implementing the plans. This week's WHAT'S HAPPENING includes a coupon that may be clipped, completed and mailed in a blue interoffice envelope.

Here's my thoughts on the plans to confine smoking to designated areas of the Maine Medical Center.



CHECKS PATIENT — Marge Erico, RN, FNA, nurse-in-charge at the Casco Bay Health Station on Peaks, checks an ear problem for an island resident. The new facility is under the direct supervision of MMC's Family Practice Unit and provides emergency and continuing healthcare for the people of the Casco Bay Islands. (MMC A/V Dept. Photo)

ABOUT PEOPLE

Charles E. Pierce, laboratory supervisor, division of Endocrinology, recently returned from the Fifth International Congress of Endocrinology in Hamburg, Germany. Pierce was notified this past summer that he has been voted into membership in the Endocrine Society, a national clinical research organization.

Dr. Robert H. Ritchie, director of the MMC Rheumatic Disease laboratory, has returned from Europe where he attended sessions of the World Health Organization's Standardization Committee in Frankfurt, Germany, and Copenhagen, Denmark. Later sessions are scheduled in Paris, Stockholm and London.

Frances Robinson, R.N., chairman of the Maine Section of the Nurses Association of the American College of OB/Gyn, **Irene Murray, R.N.** and **Gloria Stover, R.N.**, will attend meetings of NAACOG's District 1, which includes New England, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, Oct. 2-7 in Bermuda.

HEALTH OCCUPATION TEACHERS VISIT MMC

Fifteen Health Occupation teachers were guests of MMC last week as part of a week-long workshop conducted by the Department of Education and Cultural Services at Portland's Regional Vocational High School. The instructors -- all registered professional nurses -- are associated with Health Occupation programs at the high school level throughout Maine.

The group, accompanied by Mrs. Estelle Schwartz, R.N., Portland Health Occupation instructor, viewed MMC's multi-media presentation "Commitment to Caring," and toured the facility.

MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: 1972 Gremlin 35,000 miles. Excl. cond. \$1200. Call 892-6085.

FOR SALE: 1½ yr. old electric stove, self-cleaning oven. \$200.; kitchen set, wood grain formica top, 6 chrs., \$150, best offer; 3-pc. bedroom set \$75; Couch and 2 chrs, \$100. Diane DiConzo, 2632 or 934-4786, evs.

FOR SALE: 16 ft. Hobie Cat sailboat,