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Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
How Well Do YOU Know Your Medical Center?

In response to a lively and stimulating memo from the Center’s Director, Dr. Lewis H. Rohrbaugh, a BUMC “Assembly,” and a BUMC “Clinic” on February 9th and February 10th respectively, drew close to 100% attendance of those invited – from all groups of the Center – and resulted in a good deal of plain talk and positive sharing.

The groups were small, about 20 people, but represented a real cross-section of our Medical Center: physicians, department heads, students, trustees, secretaries, including also such interested “outsiders” as real estate authorities.

A surprising but understandable lack of knowledge about the make-up of the Center came to light. But no lack of interest whatsoever! We all want to know what makes us tick, so FRONT & CENTER starts off with a definitive statement prepared by the Hospital’s Personnel Department for a special supplement of The Boston Globe which presented information on leading Boston firms and institutions for a Career Exposition held in January at the Hotel.

Planning for the forthcoming Art and Antique Auction to be held on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 10 and 11, under the sponsorship of the University Hospital Aid Association are auctioneer John Colby of Hallmark Gallery; Mrs. Lawrence A. Norton who is Chairman of the event, and, holding the delightful statuette, Mrs. Jerome Preston, Sr. Turn to the next page for more pictures and news of the Auction.

OUR BUMC PLANT DEPARTMENT IS REALLY DIFFERENT

Early in January the Trustee Council of the Medical Center heard a lively and eye-opening account by Herbert Klein whose story begins above, confers with David Eaton, his second-in-command, seated at the “master” console, nerve center of the Medical Center complex which occupies a small room in the basement of the Instructional Building.

Left: Peter Rufo, Maintenance Mechanic who has just been named to the newly-created position of Leading Man, is examining the impressive-looking instrument panel in the basement of the new School of Graduate Dentistry Building where he has gone to answer a Mr. Fixit call by two-way radio. Immediately below, Plant Superintendent Herbert Klein whose story begins above, confers with David Eaton, his second-in-command, seated at the “master” console, nerve center of the Medical Center complex which occupies a small room in the basement of the Instructional Building.

(Continued on page 3)
SHE SINGS... (continued)

reported for duty. Mrs. Thomas, perky
in her cherry-colored volunteer's smock
and a small red bow in her hair, pre-
pared herself thoroughly for her job, by
frequenting the Botanical shelves in the
Public Library. She waters, she washes
and she feeds her charges — and as if
this were not enough, she sings to them!
(Yvonne Devine and Elaine Bernier on
the Information Desk in the Robby
Lobby testify to this.) She can also call
them by name: dracaena, croton, ficus.

YOUR MEDICAL CENTER (continued)

Stalter. (Spokesmen for other consti-
tuents of the BUMC will be heard in
future issues.)

Partial text follows:

University Hospital, a general teach-
ing hospital located in the South End,
traces its origins to an 1855 charter.
Known for many years as the Massachu-
setts Memorial Hospitals, the hospital
for nearly a century has been linked
closely with the Boston University
School of Medicine. With the formation
of the Boston University Medical Center
in 1962, University Hospital and the
medical school integrated their re-
sources more effectively; in 1963 the
Medical Center expanded to include its
third member with the creation of the
unique Boston University School of
Graduate Dentistry.

Today, University Hospital receives
patients from across the country and
from abroad, and has achieved particu-
lar distinction for its work in cardio-
vascular diseases and in surgery. Staffed
by highly trained specialists, the Hos-
pital primarily admits acute medical and
surgical patients who can best benefit
from its sophisticated techniques and
equipment. New physical facilities at
the Center include the Doctors' Building,
the Medical School tower, and a new
home for the world's only School of
Graduate Dentistry. A Community Men-
tal Health Center, financed by the State
and jointly administered by the State
and Division of Psychiatry will become
part of the Medical Center.

The care of the patient — both in and
out of the hospital — is our mission.
University Hospital combines ad-
vantages seldom linked for both patients
and staff: as a hospital of medium size it
is characterized by an atmosphere of
warmth and friendliness not possible in
larger institutions; as a major teaching
hospital, it offers an intellectually
stimulating environment and a wide
range of specialty services usually found
only in hospitals of great size.

Strong research programs in virtually
every field of medicine and surgery are
conducted at the Hospital. The famed
Evans Department of Clinical Research
conducts programs in such areas as
metabolic studies, for which an in-
patient metabolic unit is maintained;
the control of atherosclerosis and high
blood pressure through medication and
surgical intervention (UH staff pio-
nereed in the development of tranquili-
zation drugs); kidney research involving
dialysis and transplant programs; work
in clinical endocrinology; and major
programs in psychiatry with emphasis
on community involvement in mental
health care. With a tradition of dedica-
tion to excellence, UH continues to
pioneer in its diverse activities relating
to the Health Care field.
functions performed by the members of his big Plant Department staff.

There isn't a one of us within the sprawling Center who does not depend for comfort and safety upon the work of this department, and who cannot also share in pride for their innovative services.

Hereewith are excerpts from Mr. Klein's presentation:

"The title 'Plant Department' means B and D, buildings and grounds, throughout the Medical Center and maintenance at University Hospital. Actually the name doesn't mean too much. It's really why we are here and what we are supposed to be doing that is important.

The usual functions for a department like ours are to maintain and operate the physical facilities of the Center. We try to keep you comfortable and to provide sanitary conditions for you to work in. We operate and plow parking lots; we remove rubbish; we lock doors and then stand guard to protect them for you and your belongings, and for our patients. We help to plan changes in the various departments. We help plan new buildings. We coordinate all the construction work. We provide and maintain special paging systems for doctors as needed.

Yes, we are also the department receiving most of the complaints!!

There is something different about the Plant Department of our Medical Center. For the last twenty years, it has been innovative in its particular field. Medicine and Surgery have developed new ideas and received acceptance in their particular disciplines. We, too, have been involved in research and teaching — in the health care, not of people, but of buildings and equipment!

The Fixit program, both at the School and the Hospital was introduced by us and has been in effect for many years. Work is taken care of almost immediately. Strategically located within each unit is a so-called upkeep sheet for minor complaints that can be handled by versatile mechanics, thus reducing delays.

Two-way talk radio has been used here for over ten years and has proved a boon to both the maintenance department in particular and the Medical Center in general, as a form of instant attention and repair by a man who can be on the scene in minutes.

A forward-looking administration has sanctioned for almost eighteen years a training program for hospital engineers. I am happy to report that the seventh individual is now going through his training cycle. This training reaps benefits for the Center and in turn provides a rich experience for young men who, once they have had a two-to-three year training program here, have gone out to take over a hospital or medical center of their own!

We have had our share of inventions. We designed and developed a device called a sky-hook which replaces the normal intravenous pole by suspending the I.V. solution from the ceiling, keeping equipment off the floor and reducing potential accidents to a minimum. This hospital developed probably the first automatic recovery litter which permits the nurse to put a patient into shock position (Trendelenburg) by the use of a simple hydraulic wobble pump with which she raises the patient's feet above his head. During the famous polio epidemics of 1954 and 1955 your plant department designed and developed a respirator ambulance and we transported the patients in iron lungs all over the countryside.

The construction program now going on and the tremendous investment of funds in buildings and equipment allows us again to be in the vanguard of modern design. We are incorporating a Central Control Room and panel which will help us monitor and adjust the environment of any and every building in the Medical Center. We not only can determine what the temperature and humidity of your area is, but if adjustments are required we can make them remotely from this console. If the outside temperature starts to drop we can anticipate it and do something about it as far as our buildings are concerned. We can consolidate and monitor all the fire alarm systems.

We have some closed circuit TV so that we can observe remote areas for various purposes — security for instance. Best of all, with knowledgeable people operating this device we can effect a cost saving in labor by having areas and equipment analyzed without sending a mechanic out to the location. If a problem does develop a knowledgeable operator can even describe from a remote location what has to be done so that he can minimize the number of trips made by a mechanic to effect a repair.

Ultimately this Control Center will be the center of operational and maintenance activity for the Medical Center for all supervision of facilities and the dispatching of maintenance calls. Preliminary investigation has been made with the Medical Center's Computer Director to determine the feasibility of working out relationships between computer and console to establish a preventive maintenance program.

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Editor — Josephine Brayton
Contributors to this issue: Mrs. Estelle Davidoff, Herbert Klein, Sabra Carl, Yvonne Levine, Elaine Bernier.
BUMC BRIEFS

Dr. David Samost of the School of Graduate Dentistry was recently elected chairman of the Board of Directors of Hillel Academy, Swampscott, the only Jewish-sponsored private elementary school on the North Shore.

Dr. and Mrs. Samost and their three young sons live in Marblehead. In addition to his staff responsibilities here at the SGD, Dr. Samost is in the general practice of Dentistry in Lynn, and serves on the staffs of Beth Israel and Lynn Hospitals.

Dr. Ephraim Friedman has been appointed Chairman of the General Research Support Grant Committee to replace Dr. Henry J. Bakst, now named Dean of the School of Medicine. The decision, made by the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff of University Hospital, means that Dr. Friedman as Chairman of the Hospital Committee will represent University Hospital to the General Research Support Grant Branch of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda.

It pays to advertise, particularly when the pay-off is in the form of an exceptionally well-qualified and "awfully attractive" young woman on the University Hospital staff!

Tracking a confidential report to FRONT & CENTER from a "reliable and highly-placed informant" we discovered the subject to be Jane Kretchman, Senior Hematologist, who heads this section of the laboratory under Ida Maloofian. The blood labs are on the third floor of MediCenter.

Jane who joined us last fall is openly enthusiastic about our Medical Center. "It's so friendly. And Ida is so great — one big reason why I accepted the job. Her swinging Christmas party with its unusual attendance from all over the Center showed the close rapport between the Hospital and other staffs of the Center."

But how I came? Through a large and effective advertisement for a "Senior Hematologist" in the Boston Globe. Coming originally from Salt Lake City, Utah, I spent three years at the Children's Hospital, Boston, as Chief Technologist of Hematology there. I left to travel with my family, and then in September, 1969, my eye was caught by the ad ... the U.H. Personnel Department was fine ... the job was 'up my alley' ... and here I am."

Dr. Allen Shuster, clinical instructor in medicine of the BUSM, has just been named director of the new Sheraton Continuing-Care Center now being constructed next to St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts. Dr. Shuster will continue the position he already holds as assistant director of the Department of Medicine at St. Vincent. He is also senior attending physician and director of the hospital's renal function laboratory.

PIANO, ANYONE?

A choral pianist is urgently needed by the Center's fledgling Choral Society, ready to take shape under the able direction of Dr. Orville Rodgers. As a result of an earlier notice in FRONT & CENTER, singers in sufficient number are prepared for weekly lunch-hour rehearsals. All that remains to have an active Choral Society to lend a musical dimension to our Center activities is a willing pianist!

If you qualify, won't you call the Public Relations office at 6146 and let us all hear the sound of music?

Tireless and gifted workers for a women's group called Aid for Cancer Research look justifiably happy as they present a check for $3,500 to Dr. Herbert Wotiz for a special machine which will aid in cancer research. The gift was made in the laboratories of Dr. Wotiz on January 15th, and, left to right, are Mrs. Melvin Norris, co-chairman of the Committee for the Presentation; Mrs. Leo Sontag, President of ACR, Mrs. Irwin Goldstein, co-chairman for the presentation with Mrs. Norris; and Dr. Wotiz.