

MUHLENBERG MEDICAL CENTER

MMC PULSE

Vol. 10, No. 6

MUHLENBERG MEDICAL CENTER, BETHLEHEM, PA.

December, 1977

Construction Moves Ahead on Hospital Expansion Project

Despite continued inclement weather, the MMC construction projects forged ahead in November.

By the end of the month the demolition of the two wing sites had been accomplished and the main water line to the hospital had been relocated. Excavations for the wings were nearing completion.

Donald E. Porter, executive director, reported that the construction schedule had been received from Hughes-Foulkrod Construction Company, Plymouth Meeting, the general contractor. Pouring of the foundations was the next scheduled step.

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Auxiliary Honors Two For Service To Organization

Two members of the Muhlenberg Medical Center Auxiliary were honored for their outstanding service to the organization. Mrs. Frank Muhr of Bethlehem, the president, was given a life membership and Mrs. Margaret Snyder, Emmaus, was made an honorary director.

Two areas have named new chairpersons. Mrs. Emily Nagle will head the Bethlehem Area, while Mrs. Mildred Houck was chosen to chair the Nazareth Area.

Mrs. Muhr reported that the Auxiliary, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, now has 3,741 members.

New Internal Medicine Department Will Serve Patients, Education Needs of Medical Staff



Two volunteers put finishing touches on a Christmas tree in the MMC Dining Room. In the background is one of the windows decorated by Freedom High School art students.

Christmas Spirit Rings Clear At Hospital During December

It has always been said of the Muhlenberg Medical Center that it keeps Christmas well. Mrs. Mary Grace Stanton, director of community services, stated that the 1977 holiday season will be no exception.

Decorating the hospital began on December 1 when the Freedom High School art students painted Christmas scenes on the dining room windows. The following day the Bethlehem Garden Club decorated the first floor hall and dining room for the season. Mrs. Nancy Kichline was in charge of this committee.

On December 3 youthful artists from St. Francis Academy, Bethlehem, decorated

the windows of the Emergency Room and members of the Bethlehem Girls Club painted the windows of the solarium on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors.

The Cedar Crest College Nurses Club sang carols for the patients of the Skilled Nursing Facility on December 8 and also served cookies and hot chocolate. The Moravian Academy Bell Choir performed on the afternoon of December 14 on all floors of the hospital.

An organ was provided for the dining room for the week of December 19 by Fulton Piano & Organ Co. Mrs. Pat Saylor arranged for organists to play seasonal music daily

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The formation of an Internal Medicine Department was approved by the MMC board of directors at their November meeting. Dr. Ben C. Barnes, the hospital's medical director, was named chief of this new section, which will enhance medical staff capabilities in the differential diagnoses and medical management of patients.

Dr. Barnes said the hospital has 25-30 internists with subspecialties in internal medicine.

The new section will initially include nine staff physicians who are active in internal medicine. Plans call for extension of its membership to additional physicians with internal medicine sub-specialties.

The educational phase of the program will focus particularly on the students who

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Hospital Costs In Pennsylvania Stay Under U.S. Average

The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania reports that the average cost of inpatient care in the state last year was \$142.36 per day, \$9.43 less than the national average.

According to the HAP, the state's hospital costs fare even better when compared with the average cost per day of hospitals in neighboring states: Maryland, \$171.46; New York, \$169.00; Delaware, \$157.22; Ohio, \$144.18, and New Jersey, \$142.51.

Although Pennsylvania hos-

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PULSE

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Schoenersville Road, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18017
Donald E. Porter, Administrator

MMC Nurse Dubbed "Miss Hope" For County's '78 Cancer Drive

Betsi Horwath, an MMC nurse, was named Miss Hope 1978 for Northampton County. Another MMC nurse, Virginia C. Stover, was named alternate.

Miss Horwath will represent the county in the state Miss Hope Contest. In her acceptance speech, she said, "I believe that the dreaded word 'cancer' will come to mean the triumph of our will to live." The Miss Hope Contest is sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Miss Horwath is a graduate of the Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing in Allentown and is active in local music and theatre programs. While in nursing school she wrote a show

which was adjudged first runner-up in a state talent contest.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Werner of Allentown. The new Miss Hope is a nurse in the MMC Intensive Care Unit and also serves as a Red Cross nurse.

Miss Stover is the nurse manager of the Intensive Care Unit and an assistant teacher in the MMC critical care course. A graduate of the St. Mary's School of Nursing, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Stover, Mt. Hope, W. Va.

The 1977 Miss Hope, Mary Matte, is also a member of the MMC staff, serving as clinical coordinator

Internal Medicine *(Continued from page 1)*

will train at Muhlenberg Medical Center through the Hahnemann Hospital Medical College program. Dr. Barnes said he anticipates that four of these seniors will begin clerkships at Muhlenberg Medical Center in the spring of 1979.

The faculty nucleus for this program will include the MMC staff internists, as well as some sub-specialists in internal medicine. They will be augmented by visiting members of the Hahnemann faculty.

Still another phase of internal medicine education will involve "fifth pathway" schools, particularly the Guadalajara College of Medicine in Mexico. The fifth pathway pro-

gram will be conducted jointly with Hahnemann.

MMC is presently providing clinical clerkships for two former Guadalajara students. In May 1978 they will become eligible for internships and licensure as physicians. At MMC they are being trained at the clinical level in medicine and surgery, emergency room and psychiatry. Arrangements have been made with Allentown Hospital for their work in obstetrics and pediatrics.

He added that all of the students that will come from the Mexican medical school to MMC for their clinical training will be Lehigh Valley residents.

Dr. Connelly Named Director of MMC's Emergency Services

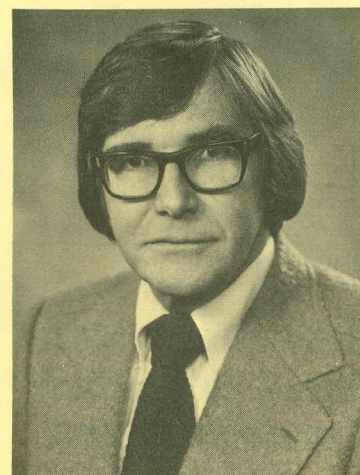
Dr. Neil O'Boyle Connelly, Allentown osteopathic physician, became director of the emergency medical services at Muhlenberg Medical Center on November 1. His appointment was announced by Donald E. Porter, the executive director.

The new director will be in charge of the Emergency Department, where he will be on duty weekdays. He will be responsible for the assignment of physicians who will provide the balance of the 24-hour emergency medical coverage at the hospital.

Mr. Porter said that Dr. Connelly also will develop a program of closer rapport with family practice physicians in the area. In his new post, he becomes a member of the Medical Executive Committee.

A native of Goshen, N.Y., Dr. Connelly is a graduate of the Fordham University College of Pharmacy where he earned a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy. He was awarded his doctorate by the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and interned at Allentown Osteopathic Hospital.

He is a member of the Emergency Medical Services Council of Eastern Pennsyl-



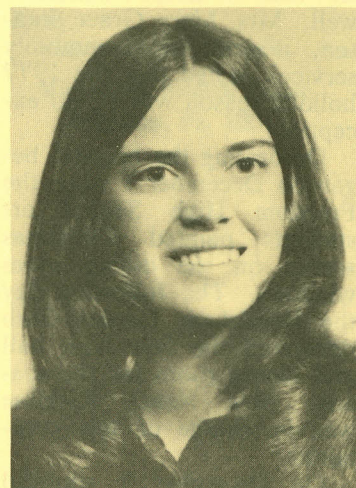
Dr. Neil Connelly

vania and the Emergency Room Physician and American Trauma Society.

Dr. Connelly served four years as co-medical director of the MMC Alcohol Detoxification Unit. He is a member of the boards of the Bethlehem Council on Alcoholism and the Halfway Home of the Lehigh Valley, a rehabilitation center for alcoholics in Allentown and a former member of the Allentown Osteopathic Hospital board of trustees.

He resides in Allentown with his wife, Cecelia. The Connells have 11 children whose ages range from 25 to 9 years.

New Therapist Joins Staff of Physical Therapy Department



Mrs. Candee Bowers

Mrs. Candee Bowers has joined the staff of the MMC Physical Therapy Department as a physical therapist. For the past three years she served in that capacity at the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Bowers earned a bachelor of science degree as a biology major at Pennsylvania State University and was certified in physical therapy by the University of Pennsylvania.

A native of Smethport, Pa., she and her husband, Dr. James Bowers, a dentist, reside in Stroudsburg.

**BEST WISHES FOR A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Stress-testing Introduced To Aid Heart Patients

Almost 28 million Americans are estimated to have a major form of heart and blood vessel disease. A new heart stress-testing program at Muhlenberg Medical Center will assist physicians in their efforts to detect coronary disease in its early stages.

This Viagraph, or exercise electrocardiogram system, recently installed on the hospital's second floor, is under the direction of Mrs. Irene Dorville, R.N.

The exercise test enables the physician to determine the amount and frequency of work and exercise a patient can perform. It also provides strong motivation to the individual who wishes to improve his cardiovascular fitness through a physician-managed exercise program.

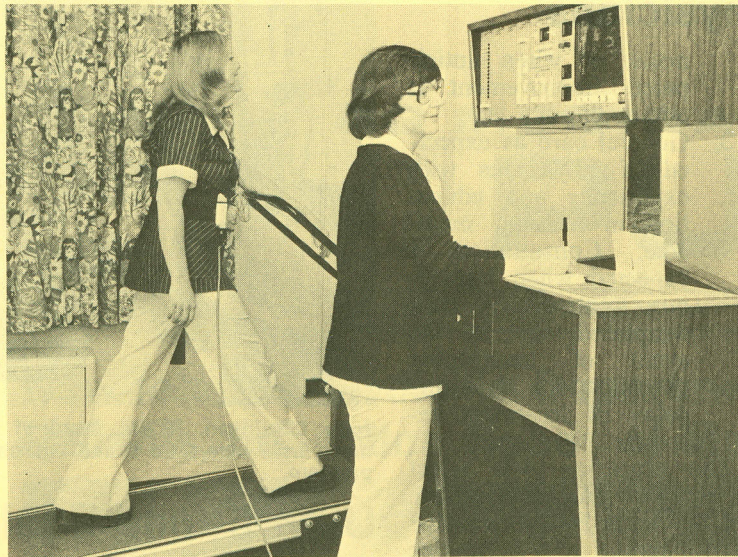
Mrs. Dorville pointed out that the major challenge is to identify those individuals with moderate or potentially life threatening disease early enough to initiate effective preventive measures.

The system consists of an operator's console, 3-channel ECG recorder, treadmill-type exercise device and a comprehensive group of electrocardiography modules.

The treadmill, that can change speed every three minutes, simulates walking, running, climbing stairs, etc. It has a speed range from .7 to 4.2 miles per hour. The elevation also can be changed to simulate hill or stair climbing. Mrs. Dorville emphasized that the operator is always aware of the extent of the work load.

The individual being tested is on the machine for 10 to 12 minutes. The recorder produces an ECG record every minute or every three minutes, as desired. At the end of the exercise test the recorder produces a complete minute-by-minute summary of the procedure on a single page report.

The test permits the physician to detect heart disease, characterize its nature and severity, aid in developing a rational management plan and



Mrs. Irene Dorville, R.N., (right) demonstrates how the hospital's new heart stress-testing equipment permits physicians to detect heart disease and determine a patient's stress limits.

assist in motivating the patient. It also provides means of monitoring the patient trend.

As an example of the testing results, Mrs. Dorville noted a patient who wanted to resume his skiing hobby. The stress test indicated the extent to which he could indulge this sport. Patients who have chest pains, but no negative EKG reading, are also tested for stress.

Mrs. Dorville served for a year as a part-time nurse in the MMC Emergency Department. A native of Silverdale in Bucks County, she was graduated from Goshen College in Indiana with a bachelor's degree in nursing.

She then spent two years as a nurse on the hospital ship, SS Hope, which was anchored in the port of Maceio, Brazil. Following her marriage to a Brazilian physician, she was employed as a nurse in a Rio de Janeiro hospital for a year.

Her husband, Dr. Favia Dorville, is a resident at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem and the couple reside at Bath R. D.

Mrs. Dorville and Mrs. Betty Fitzgerald, director of the Intensive-Coronary Care Unit, attended a seminar on coronary disease, stress testing and rehabilitation therapy this fall in Portland, Maine.

Care of Patients Closely Watched In New Program

The manner in which a hospital supervises its patients and analyzes their care is closely scrutinized by the teams of experts which make accreditation surveys.

At Muhlenberg Medical Center a program of review and analysis has been instituted to augment the long-standing policy of patient audits. Dr. Ben C. Barnes, medical director, reported that problems, as well as interesting and unusual cases, are being presented at the monthly internal medicine meetings. These breakfast sessions in the Conference Room are open to all staff physicians.

At clinico-pathological conferences, also held regularly, laboratory physicians will discuss tissue and autopsy findings and radiologists and nuclear medicine technicians report the results of their tests.

Dr. Barnes added that members of the Hahnemann Medical College faculty will make what are called "grand rounds". He explained that visiting professors once actually made rounds of the patient floors with medical staff members. Since this is no longer practical, the Hahnemann professors will conduct lectures during which patients will be brought in for discussion of their cases.

Construction

(Continued from page 1)

Site preparation for the two medical office buildings had also been completed and the contractor was ready to pour foundations. Excavation, grading and filling had been made for the roadway from Westgate Drive to the medical office buildings which will be leased by physicians.

Mr. Porter said he expected the physicians' buildings to be ready for occupancy by this coming spring. He said the two wings should be completed by early 1979. The doctor's buildings should be ready for occupancy next spring.

Easton Resident Selected As Personnel Secretary at MMC

Mrs. Shirley Pysher became MMC personnel secretary on August 29 succeeding Denise Johnson who resigned. Mrs. Pysher reports to Mrs. Mary Grace Stanton, director of employee and community affairs.

The new secretary held a similar position with the Victor Balata Belting Company in Easton. She resides in Easton with her husband and three children, and is also the organist for St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Easton.



Mrs. Shirley Pysher

Medical Staff Categories To Be Instituted for Physicians

A categorization of physicians on the MMC medical staff will be instituted in the New Year. Dr. Ben C. Barnes, medical director, announced that the categories to which staff members will be assigned will depend upon the results of investigation of their ability to perform certain procedures.

The three basic categories are as follows:

1. Emergency and preliminary care. Physician will obtain consultation, if additional care and treatment is indicated.
2. General care with a requirement for consultation in cases where doubt exists as to diag-

nosis, or when anticipated improvement is not apparent.

3. General care as expected of physicians with experience and education in internal medicine. Consultation is expected when hazardous treatment is contemplated, or in the event of unexpected complications or undue delay of treatment response.

The physician will select his category and the decision will be made by the medical staff executive committee upon recommendation by Dr. Barnes.

Switchboard Sees Supervisor Switch

A familiar face—and voice—is missing from the MMC scene. Mrs. Shirley Miller, switchboard supervisor for several years resigned in November for reasons of health.

Mrs. Mildred Gavora of Bethlehem was named chief operator and began her new duties on November 22. Mrs. Gavora had served as the hospital's weekend switchboard operator.

Hospital Names New Secretary To Assist Medical Director

Mrs. Deborah Holland has been named secretary to Dr. Ben C. Barnes, MMC medi-

cal director. She succeeds Mrs. Ellen Contento, who resigned.

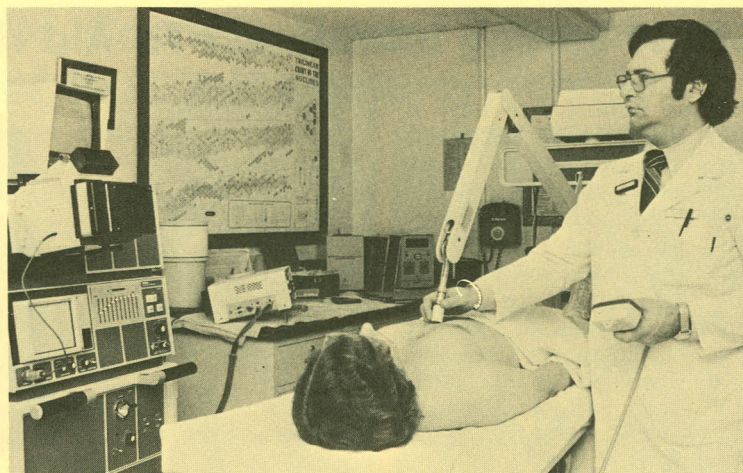
A native of Connelville, Pa., Mrs. Holland had been a secretary at the Kurtz Training Center of the Lehigh Valley Association for Retarded citizens. She also was employed at St. Luke's Hospital as a medical secretary.

The new MMC secretary is a graduate of Norwin (Pa.) High School and the Maryland Medical Secretary School in Hagerstown. She was a medical secretary at Columbia Health Center in Pittsburgh following graduation.

She and her husband, Robert, reside in Bethlehem.



Mrs. Deborah Holland



John O'Sullivan, RTNM, head of MMC's Nuclear Medicine Department, uses new ultra sound equipment to diagnose a patient's chest problem.

Ultra Sound Equipment Makes Diagnosis of Patients Easier

Now sound waves can be used in the diagnosis of aneurisms, cysts, abscesses, prenatal fetus and biopsies. Equipment for this diagnostic ultra sound, installed in the MMC Nuclear Medicine Department in November, also evaluates brain shift caused by lesion.

With ultra sound high impedance sound waves are bounced off organs, so they can be visualized without use of dye or other contrast ma-

terial. This diagnosis provides an image of soft tissue organs, without the use of x-ray, injections or pills. The image can be recorded on a TV screen or on polaroid or x-ray film.

John O'Sullivan, RTNM, who heads the Nuclear Medicine Department, received special training at Allentown Hospital and Thomas Jefferson Hospital Medical College, Philadelphia, in the use of ultra sound equipment.

Christmas Spirit

from 11:30 to 1 and 4:30 to 6 p.m.

More than 200 members, guests and hospital employees attended the annual Christmas Tea in the MMC dining room on December 7. The tea is sponsored each year by the Bethlehem Area of the Auxiliary.

Mrs. Elmer Paules and

Muhlenberg Medical Center
Bethlehem, Pa. 18017

(Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Kenneth Fluck, both of Bethlehem, were co-chairpersons of the affair. The tea table was decorated by Mrs. E. Allen Stever of Bethlehem, a member of the MMC board of directors.

A candystriper, Jayne Hatfield, was at the piano and Frank Malone played the role of Santa.

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