

update

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MRS. BOYER TO HEAD ALLENTOWN HOSPITAL

"How beautiful are they who stand upon principal, who teach by example and kindness, . . . who are true leaders as well as true followers. These are they who have learned the lessons of life; and they have inherited life's teachings."

Gary B. Jones

Valeria S. Boyer, who has been the Associate Administrator of the Hospital Center since its incorporation in 1971, will become Acting President of Allentown Hospital in January. Mrs. Boyer's involvement and dedication to the health care system and the community and her knowledge of Allentown Hospital, where she had been Assistant Administrator for 13 years, led to her selection to fill this extremely important position. Mrs. Boyer had planned to retire from her position at the Hospital Center in March. The position at Allentown will be an interim one, six months to a year, until a new President is found. As Acting President, she will be extremely active in the modernization proposal so vital to the future of Allentown Hospital's role in the health care system in Allentown.



It has been said that Allentown's gain will be the Center's loss, and this is in fact true. Mrs. Boyer has been an integral part of A&SHHC since its beginning, and a leader who has shown foresight and understanding, devotion and expertise, and a commitment to the Hospital and all those who work here.

The position she has accepted is an important and a demanding one, in her own words, "a challenge" to which she will give her all.

From the Hospital Center to Mrs. Boyer, an "Old Gaelic Blessing:"

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back. . .

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

May the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again. . .

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Season's
Greetings
from the staff of
Update

The Center Welcomes

To Admitting

Darlene Lambert

To Housekeeping

Janine Fabian

Bonnie Schellhamer

To Laboratory

Marilyn Smith

To Pulmonary Function

Karen Schweyer

To Radiology

Kathleen Miller

Dorothy Pfeiffer

To Respiratory Therapy

Donna Caswell

To Volunteers

Roberta Tinsman



Visions of Sugar Plums are probably the last thing on Pharmacy Technician Diane Helinsky's mind as Chef Kuno Stadelman serves her a generous portion of tasty roast beef at the 5th Annual Employee Christmas Dinner. The feast, prepared to perfection by the Dietary Department, was served to 1,227 employees by various department heads and administrative personnel.

Ready for the next patron is Assistant Chef Joe Beam (right), while Dave Kuhla, Assistant Food Service Director, looks on.

An Invitation . . .

All Hospital Personnel employees and Medical Staff are invited to attend a reception honoring Valeria S. Boyer, Associate Administrator, on Wednesday, January 3, 2:30-4:00 P.M., in the Hospital Dining Room.

HOLIDAY HAZARDS

The excitement and increased activity of the holiday season can cause families to forget the damage that can occur by some items used in traditional festivities. According to Bonnie M. Smith, Director of Education/Communication at the Lehigh Valley Poison Center, here is a list of the possible troublemakers.:

Alcoholic Beverages - In adults, 250-500 grams of ethyl alcohol can be fatal. This equals 500-1,000 milliliters of whiskey. Extremely dangerous to children, alcohol produces hypoglycemia.

Angel Hair - Made of spun glass, it can irritate eyes, skin, and the gastrointestinal tract. Observe for any apparent bleeding.

Boxwood - an evergreen shrub consisting of long leathery leaves that are dark green above and light green below with a whitish midrib. If eaten, severe gastroenteritis may occur along with convulsions and respiratory failure.

Evergreens - oil of Balsams, Fir, Cedar, Juniper and Pine are extremely toxic in pure form. Ingestion of any amount should be treated by gastric lavage.

Hollies - Ingestion of the bright red berries can produce poisoning. 20-30 berries, which contain Illicin, if ingested, is fatal to a child. Rapid onset of violent symptoms, including nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and severe diarrhea. Recovery is begun in 24 hours and is essentially complete in 48 hours.

Mistletoe - Contains Betaphenethylamine and Tyramine, both toxic chemicals. Death can occur after 12 hours of ingestion. Symptoms include severe gastroenteritis, vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea.

Also, anyone interested or knowing of a group looking for a poison education program, call 821-2368, between 1:00-5:00 P.M., for information.



Gale Schmidt — Editor

Jim Higgins — Associate Editor

Janet Dech — Staff Assistant

Jack Dittbrenner — Photography

Darla Molnar — Photography

Pete Gallo — Art



Donald H. Gaylor, M.D., Chief of Surgery, has recently been elected Vice President of the Pennsylvania Division of the American Trauma Society and has been appointed Active Member of the American College of Surgeons Pennsylvania Committee on Trauma. As Vice President of the Trauma Society, Dr. Gaylor will be responsible for assisting the President in arranging education programs for professionals and the public.

Mary Helfrich, Housekeeping, has successfully completed the Nursing Assistant Program offered at Northampton County Community College. Mary has been at the Center since October, 1977.

Greg Black, formerly of Pulmonary Function since January, 1976, has been recently promoted to Cardiac Catheterization Technician. His new duties include setting up and operating specialized x-ray equipment, and performing closed circuit telecasts of vascular, circulatory, and cardiac systems of the body.

Karen Schweyer will be replacing Greg in Pulmonary Function. Karen was a Respiratory-Pulmonary Technician at Sacred Heart Hospital prior to coming to the Center.

George Seagreaves, working out of Administration, will be selling newspapers to patients on the medical/surgical units. A retired salesman, George will begin his deliveries at 8:00 A.M., and will also check with ACU and PCU charge nurses to determine the needs of their patients.

PARKING: SPACES AND STICKERS

Relief from the recent congestion in the employee and Emergency parking lots is here!

According to Leonard Farkas, Director of Engineering, the 70 new spaces can now be used, although a permanent macadam layer won't be constructed until spring.

Also, parking stickers are available from the Engineering Department, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. The stickers are mandatory, and all you need to get one is your vehicle registration.

The other construction that's been tying up the parking lot is work on a storm drain basin at the northern end of the hospital's property. South Whitehall Township is doing the work, which will eventually handle water runoff from the parking lot.

HOLIDAY TRIVIA

No other holiday seems to capture the gaiety, excitement, and festivity that surrounds Christmas. With that in mind, here is a little quiz designed to fit the mood of the season.

- 1) There are "12 Days of Christmas." Are they before or after December 25?
- 2) Finish this verse - "On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me..."
- 3) The Three Kings of the Orient brought gifts to the Magi. Name their gifts, and for extra credit, name the Kings.
- 4) We all know who Rudolph is. Can you name the 8 other reindeer who pull Santa's sleigh?
- 5) Who stole Christmas?
 - a) KGB b) CIA c) Grinch d) Scrooge

Answers: 1) After, between Christmas and the Epiphany; 2) Nine ladies dancing; 3) Gold, Frankincense and Murr (Melchior, Caspar, Balthazar); 4) Dasher, Dancer, Pancer, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Vixen, and Blitzen; 5) c) The Grinch.

FOR YOU LAST MINUTE SANTA'S

It's early Christmas Eve, and you've just found the missing page to your Christmas list! Panic sets in! Relax. Simply come to the Gift Shop. You'll find no crowds, no hassle, and smiling, helpful people with a big selection of great Christmas gifts.

Stockings, napkins, handmade wooden toys, Christmas tree ornaments, wrapping paper, and candles are just a sample of what you'll find. You may even want to consider cookie jars, glass and crystal items, their great selection of plants, and, of course, jewelry, cologne and candies.

So, whether you're in a jam or not, the Gift Shop has what you need. Stop in and see!

ICE CAPADES

The Ice Capades, featuring Dorothy Hamill, will be performing at the Hershey Arena, January 10-21, 1979. All shows will begin at 8:00 P.M.

Tickets are available for all show dates at \$7.50, \$6.50, and \$5.50.

Thirty (30) tickets, at a special group rate (\$1.00 off price), are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for the January 10 show only.

For further information, contact Linda Fenstermacher, Medical Records/Transcription; Jeanne Fignar, Business Office; or Jim Higgins, Public Relations.

on call

Appearing on "On Call: A Community Health Series" on WLVT-TV, Channel 39, will be:

December 25, 7:30 P.M.

December 30, 3:00 P.M. — "Exercise and Dieting" - Robert Downie, M.D., Chief of the Center's Department of Physical Medicine, and Kathleen Remo, R.D., of the Center's Dietary Department, will discuss weight reducing meals and exercise.

January 1, 7:30 P.M.

January 6, 3:00 P.M. — "Wellness" - Dr. Jeffrey Burtaine, Host Shelley Brown, and Dr. Headley White, Jr., will discuss the concept of wellness.

NEW EKG SYSTEM UNDERWAY

With its sight set on the future, the Heart Station has implemented a new, automatic electrocardiography system.

According to John Peeler, Heart Station Coordinator, the use of the two new three-channel EKG machines (one of which was donated by the Hospital Center's Auxiliary) will bring about substantial time and money savings when compared to the six one-channel machines now in use.

To understand the benefits of the new system, the differences between one and three channel machines must be explained.

First, an electrocardiograph is the instrument used for recording electrical currents that traverse the heart muscle previous to each heart beat. It is recorded by attaching "leads", generally twelve, from the EKG machine to the patient's chest. Each "lead" carries information into a "channel" where it is printed on special EKG paper, or tape.

In a single-channel system, heart activity is manually recorded one "lead" at a time, on the same channel.

This means you have a continuous tape with twelve different pieces of information. The EKG technician must then cut the tape into twelve parts, representing each "lead" used.

The sections are then mounted on cardboard and then interpreted by the physician; additional patient data is also added. Copies for the patient's floor and for Heart Station files must be made. The original stays with the patient's chart.

The three-channel machine provides an automatic printing of all leads, on three separate channels, in four timed segments. Much time is saved, as nothing is cut, pasted, or even copied. The machine can automatically produce another EKG, if desired. All that is needed is physician's interpretation and adding patient data.

According to John, administrative time is greatly reduced, especially when the amount of EKG's done in a month—2,000—is considered. Future development of this system could include direct link-up with a computer, which can provide everything from interpretation of EKG's, recall of past patient EKG's, to almost complete elimination of present methods of filing, record keeping and distribution.

For right now, the machines, which require special training, will be in use sixteen hours a day. The one-channel machines will still be used on STAT calls, and in ICU, ACU, PCU, and the Emergency Room.



Diane Helfrich, Chief EKG Technician, at work with the new three-channel EKG machine.

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