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FEBRUARY, 1970



Mrs. Beatrice Sherman attends to one of her charges, just off the Evans lobby. See story below.

She Sings to the Leaves!

If you hear a sunny sound of singing on a Monday or Thursday morning, and it seems to be coming from the direction of a potted plant or two in the Robinson or Evans lobbies, just step right up and introduce yourself to Mrs. Beatrice Thomas, the unique University Hospital volunteer who keeps plants instead of people healthy.

It started with John F. Mullett and John Lewis who suggested to the Hospital's Director of Volunteers, Mrs. Estelle Davidoff, that a one-of-a-kind but important volunteer was needed to care for the green plants in the lobbies and waiting rooms of the "main House."

Mrs. Davidoff called the Boston Center for Older Americans on Huntington Avenue and a few days later "Bea" (Continued on page 2)

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 5th 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

(Continued on page 2)



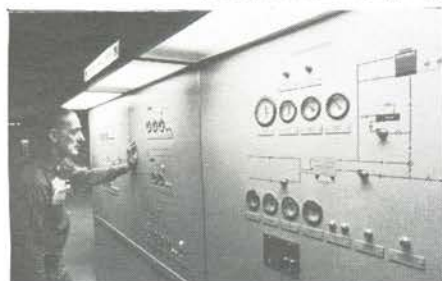
Planning for the forthcoming Art and Antique Auction to be held on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 10 and 11, under the sponsorship of the University Hospital Aid Association are auctioneer John Colby of Hallmark Gallery; Mrs. Lawrence A. Norton who is Chairman of the event, and, holding the delightful 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 of the complex, and often pioneering,

(Continued on page 3)

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.



SHE SINGS ... (continued)

reported for duty. Mrs. Thomas, perky in her cherry-colored volunteer's smock and a small red bow in her hair, prepared 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: *draecena*, *croton*, *ficus*.

YOUR MEDICAL CENTER (continued)

Statler. (Spokesmen for other constituents of the BUMC will be heard in future issues.)

Partial text follows:

University Hospital, a general teaching hospital located in the South End, traces its origins to an 1855 charter. Known for many years as the Massachusetts 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 resources 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 particular distinction for its work in cardiovascular diseases and in surgery. Staffed by highly trained specialists, the Hospital primarily admits acute medical and surgical patients who can best benefit

Below, another view of Mrs. Sherman, our "plant lady" as she goes about her important volunteer job for the hospital. Here she is in the Robinson Lobby, doing a little cutting on one of her favorites, Mrs. Estelle Davidoff, Director of Volunteer Services is an interested spectator.



"Never underestimate the power," etc., especially when it is in an exciting good cause, a greatly-needed Emergency Room for University Hospital. Aid association members, who have already garnered more than \$2,000. in cold cash and a whole spectrum of objets d'art: paintings, silver, antiques, glass and porcelains, are photographed at the Brookline home of Mrs. Richard Egdahl as they press their well-organized plans for April 10-11. Standing, l to r: Mrs. Nelson F. Evans, Mrs. M. Stuart Strong, Mrs. Egdahl, Mrs. Henry J. Bakst, Mrs. Sidney Friedman, Mrs. Jacob Spira. Kneeling to support the painting, Mrs. Belton A. Burrows. At left, below: Mrs. Henry Goldman, Mrs. Bakst and Mrs. Richard Egdahl with a handsome pitcher that will be put up for bid. At right, the ladies of the Aid Association admire an old coffee mill donated for the Auction. L to R. Mrs. Walter Wegner, Mrs. Jerome Preston, Jr., Mrs. John Mannick and Mrs. Norton, whose picture is also on page one, and who is the skipper of the Auction ship.

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 Mental Health Center, financed by the State and jointly administered by the State

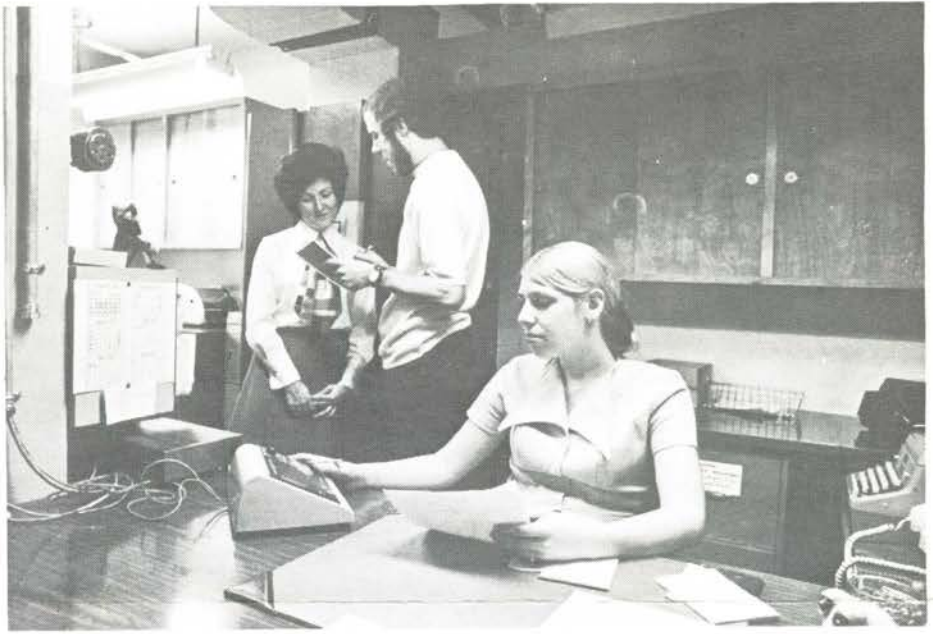
and Division of Psychiatry will become a part of the Medical Center.

The care of the patient — both in and out of the hospital — is our mission. University Hospital combines advantages 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 pioneered in the development of tranquilizing 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 dedication to excellence, UH continues to pioneer in its diverse activities relating to the Health Care field.



Above, another view of Mr. Rufo with walkie-talkie at hand as he communicates with the crew in Mr. Klein's office; shown in the picture at right. Elaine Connolly, attractive Secretary to Plant Superintendent Klein talks to William Kunze, Clerk-Dispatcher, and, seated at the talk-box is Linda Giannetti, another decorative and efficient member of the Plant Department group.



PLANT DEPARTMENT (continued)

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.

Herewith are excerpts from Mr. Klein's presentation:

"The title 'Plant Department' means B and G, 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 a 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 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.

FRONT & CENTER

February, 1970, Volume 4, No. 2

Editor — Josephine Brayton

Contributors to this issue: Mrs. Estelle Davidoff, Herbert Klein, Sabra Carl, Yvonne Levine, Elaine Bernier.

BUMC BRIEFS



The tender and cheerful atmosphere of this scene might be a spotless home nursery. It is instead one of the floors of the completely modern and handsome Boston City Hospital Children's Building, which opened last spring after a thorough \$1.2 million renovation with almost unlimited visiting hours for parents.

The March-April issue of the Boston University Medical Center publication SCOPE will carry pages of photographs of this uniquely designed children's hospital, which under the direction of Dr. Horace M. Gezon, provides, in Dr. Gezon's words "what the community wanted most — the best possible care and treatment for their children."

An interview with Horace Gezon, whose academic positions with the School of Medicine are Director of Pediatrics, Boston City Hospital, and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, will describe the almost miraculous development of this facility for the inner-city children of Boston. He feels that the accomplishment of this goal for children points the way for the whole hospital: "I really believe this is the direction — building for the future — Boston City Hospital must continue to move in. I hope every department can achieve the same results."

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 Malootian. 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 proffer 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.

