

# AA THE PROBE

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**POISON MONEY** — ER nurses and volunteers cheer the take during a recent White Elephant sale for the Lehigh Valley Poison Center located in the emergency room. The proceeds will benefit the center. According to Bonnie Smith, Educational Director for LVPC, the center took in \$614 from the sale.

## HOSPITAL DEVELOPS AMNION BANK

A pediatric surgeon at The Allentown Hospital has developed the area's first amniotic tissue bank to store tissue taken from the human placenta for use in the treatment of burn patients.

Dr. Andrew Walker, who has extensive experience in the application of amniotic tissue, particularly with burn patients, created what is called an Amnion Bank at The Allentown Hospital.

Amniotic tissue is taken from the lining of the human placenta after birth. Before banking, it is cleansed, placed in a sterile container and then stored under refrigeration for up to six weeks. The tissue is placed over burn areas to promote healing.

While use of the amniotic tissue is not new to medicine — it was first used as a biologic dressing on burn patients in 1913 — extensive application of the tissue was hampered because it had to be used within a few hours after the placenta was discharged.

Recent experimentation has shown that the tissue will survive up to six weeks under refrigeration. Thus, it is now readily available when needed.

In order to make the amniotic tissue

available to hospitals and physicians in the Lehigh Valley, particularly to the Burn Unit at The Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center, (ASHHC), the Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust has provided an Innovation and Development Grant of \$3,235, to ASHHC and the Allentown Hospital.

Project directors for the grant are Dr. Walker, Dr. Walter Okunski, Chief of the ASHHC Burn Unit and a member of the Allentown Hospital Board of Trustees, and Dr. Robert McGuire, Educational Director of OB/GYN Department at The Allentown Hospital. Dr. Walker said that a second Amnion Bank will be established at ASHHC.

Use of amniotic tissue in the treatment of burn patients has been shown to be superior to other forms of treatment, according to Dr. Walker.

The gossamer-like amniotic tissue — one cell deep in thickness — is applied to the burn area. It is transparent and adheres to the wound. Unlike other treatment methods, amniotic tissue quickly reduces pain and enables patients to use their limbs, if they are affected. Infection is

(Cont'd. on page 4)

## Application Filed For Linear Accelerator

To improve the quality of radiation treatment for cancer patients in Allentown and the Lehigh Valley region, The Allentown Hospital has filed an application with the Health Systems Council of Eastern Pennsylvania to acquire a 20 million volt (high energy) linear accelerator to be located in the Radiation Therapy Division. The application is completed and ready for HSC review.

Radiation has long been used in the treatment of cancer patients to kill malignant cells, sometimes as a separate treatment, but often in conjunction with other treatment forms such as surgery and/or chemotherapy. The Hospital has had a modern Cobalt unit for radiation therapy since 1971.

Two hospitals in the Lehigh Valley maintain low energy accelerators similar to the Cobalt unit. None, however, maintains a high energy unit. Equivalent high energy treatment can be obtained only in larger metropolitan areas.

The high energy linear accelerator will generate up to 20 million volts while the Cobalt and low energy linear accelerators generate 4 million volts or

(Cont'd. on page 2)

## RESIDENTS GRADUATE

Members of the residency programs at Allentown Hospital, ASHHC, and Sacred Heart Hospital, voted Thursday, June 21, to honor nine physicians "Teachers of the Year" for making the most outstanding contribution to medical education during the past year. The recognition came at the combined three hospital graduation dinner for the residency programs. Receiving the awards were: Dr. Forrest Moyer in Pediatrics; Dr. Lawrence Levitt in Medicine; Dr. Joseph Prorok in Surgery; Drs. Martha Lusser and Ronald Wasserman in Family Practice; Dr. Stanley Snyder in Obstetrics and Gynecology; Dr. Antonius Tan in Radiology; and Drs. Charles Kosteva and Stuart Schwartz in Dentistry.

(Cont'd. on page 4)



## Accelerator (Cont'd. from page 1)

less. Many forms of cancer are best treated with high energy units. In a random study of the survival rate of women with cancer of the cervix, 60 percent of those treated with high energy X-rays were cured as opposed to 34.4 percent of those treated with low energy units.

According to Dr. Nathaniel Silon, Chief of Radiation Therapy at The Allentown Hospital, there is a demonstrated need for a high energy linear accelerator at The Allentown Hospital. Last year the Division's patient load was well over 9,000 cases and the projected patient load for 1979-1980 is more than 10,000 cases. The recommended workload for Cobalt units nationwide is 6,000 cases per year.

The high energy unit is a much more versatile unit because of the type and intensity of its available beams. Treatments can be given by electron beams at energies of 6, 9, 13, 17, and 20 million volts. The unit also is capable of highly penetrating X-ray beams of 18 and 10 million volts. Acquisition of a high energy accelerator would complement the present Cobalt unit and would enable the division to offer more varied treatments, combining the X-ray and electron beams with those of the Cobalt unit for the benefit of the patient.

With the high energy unit, less radiation is distributed to normal areas peripheral to the tumor. Therefore, higher doses can be focused on the tumor itself, causing fewer complications and side effects.

Because of its power, the high energy accelerator is more suitable for treating obese patients who constitute a large number of radiation patients.

## Hospital Hosts Two Work-Study Students

A Moravian College student from New York and a junior nursing student from American University in Washington are enrolled in a 12-week work-study program at The Allentown Hospital, funded by the Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust.

Angela Gilliam, working for a Bachelor's degree in nursing at American, is a student instructor with the School of Nursing. Her grant is in line with her interest in becoming a nursing instructor. During the 12-week course Angela works with the instructors going over classroom

And because of the better dose distribution, the unit is more effective in the treatment of head and neck cancers.

The Hospital is the recipient of a National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant for the development of a broad-based Clinical Oncology (cancer) Program to elevate standards of early diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of cancer patients and improve education in cancer. This program is one of seven throughout the nation similarly funded by NCI.

According to Dr. Silon, "The addition of the proposed linear accelerator at The Allentown Hospital represents a qualitative improvement in patient care as well as an appropriate response to the sheer weight of workload volume and the physical capacity of the existing Cobalt equipment. It is consistent with goals of The Allentown Hospital to improve cancer care generally and to provide high quality facilities for the radiation therapy of cancer patients. It will represent an important community resource. Afflicted patients will not have to travel out of the area when this type of treatment is considered best for the patient."

Installation of a high energy linear accelerator at The Allentown Hospital has won endorsements from a wide area, including several local and regional hospitals, and the medical staffs of The Allentown Hospital and Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center.

Total cost of the project is \$1,842,000 with the accelerator costing \$687,000. Construction cost for a new building to house the accelerator, adjacent to the present Cobalt unit, is \$484,000.

work, the clinical work schedule and the student reading list. She also joins the students on the floors.

Enrolled in a four-year Bachelor's degree program, Angela says that if she were to do it again she would enroll in a Diploma program similar to the one here at the nursing school. "It's a better program," she states.

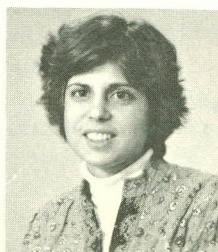
Karen Fischbeck, a Moravian senior majoring in biology, is working out of Utilization Review doing audits.

"Going through the charts I learn a lot about medicine," Karen says.

Math is Karen's minor and she's interested in Bio-Statistics, a field she will pursue after graduation.



Angela Gilliam



Karen Fischbeck

## UPDATE . . .

### Joggers Needed For Heart Study

Dr. Robert Oriol, Cardiology Fellow at Allentown Hospital and ASHHC, is looking for serious joggers who log at least 15 miles a week. The joggers will be taking part in a research project to study arrhythmias among runners. Dr. Oriol notes that no one has completed a study of joggers' hearts during a run to determine if arrhythmias are normal or not.

The study will take about three months to complete and Dr. Oriol hopes to study about 60 joggers. They will undergo a stress test and be asked to carry a Holter Monitor while jogging.

Anyone interested should contact Dr. Oriol.

### New Educational Coordinator

Anne Belzecky, staff technologist in the Microbiology Laboratory since 1972, has been named Educational Coordinator for the Hospital's School of Medical Technology. Mrs. Belzecky, herself a 1969 graduate of the school which is operated by the Pathology Department, takes over from Harry Sanner who is leaving for a position in Kansas.

Mrs. Belzecky will be responsible for coordinating educational activities in the school which each year graduates eight medical technologists.

A resident of Allentown, Mrs. Belzecky received a B.A. degree in Biology from Thiel College, Greenville, Pa. Prior to her employment with The Allentown Hospital in 1972, she worked as a medical technologist in Bethlehem.

### Elected Director

Dr. Henry Fetterman, OB/GYN, is one of the eight new directors elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Allentown-Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Fetterman's election came at the Chamber's annual reorganization meeting June 26. Dr. Fetterman will serve for a two-year term.

### Linda Heister Awarded B.S.

Linda Heister, RN, ICU, graduated recently from Cedar Crest College with a B.S. degree in Nursing. Linda took five years to complete the course on a part-time basis.

## THE PROBE

Valeria S. Boyer  
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# HOSPITAL GRADUATES EIGHT MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

Eight Medical Technologists graduated from the Allentown Hospital School of Medical Technology, Friday, July 27, marking the 40th graduation exercises held by the school opened in 1939.

The school offers a one-year program of laboratory training to students who have already completed three years of college education or who have already received a Bachelor's degree. During the year, the students are rotated through the various laboratory departments which include Chemistry, Hematology, Blood Bank, Urinalysis, Serology, and Microbiology. Upon completion of the course the students receive a certificate of Medical Technology from The Allentown Hospital and a Bachelor's degree from their respective colleges if they have not already received one.

Among those graduating in the class of 1979 are: Vicki L. Buss, Alburtis; Frederika S. Rhodes, Wescosville; Deborah L. Bassett, Newton, N.J.; Joseph V. Bazzarri, Old Forge, Pa.; Jeanne M. Bostrom, Wellsboro, Pa.; Sandra Ann Schmidt, Charlotte Harbor, Fla.; Charlotte E. Torongo, Yardley, Pa.; and Jane E. Crum of Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

A new class of eight students begins Tuesday, July 31. They are: Clare M. Dismuke, Coopersburg, Pa.; Kathryn M. Hoderman, Allentown, Pa.; Diane Hughes, Washington, N.J.; Mary S.

Lombardo, Freeland, Pa.; Kim Nguyen, Pine Grove, Pa.; Cynthia Varenick, Bethlehem, Pa.; Deborah A. Witman, Barto, Pa.; and Norine A. Gedes, Phillipsburg, N.J.



**NEW GRADS** — Eight members of the class of '79, Allentown Hospital School of Medical Technology will graduate July 27. They are, from left to right, standing: Charlotte Torongo, Sandra Ann Schmidt, Joseph V. Bazzarri, Deborah L. Bassett. Seated are: Fredericka S. Rhodes, Jeanne M. Bostrom, Jane E. Crum, and Vicki L. Buss.

## Ruth M. Blom Named to Head Social Services

Ruth M. Blom, formerly an Assistant Director of Social Work at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, Md., has been named new Social Services Director at The Allentown Hospital.

In her new capacity, Mrs. Blom, a Whitehall Township resident, will be responsible for developing and administering the social services program for the hospital. Ms. Blom assumes the position formerly held by Bob Hobaugh who resigned in May.

Prior to her association with Johns Hopkins, Ms. Blom was Administrative Supervisor of the Lutheran Charities Federation of Illinois.

A native of Chicago, Mrs. Blom received her B.A. Degree from Concordia College in Moorehead, Minn., and her Master of Social Work (MSW) Degree from Loyola University School of Social Work in Chicago.

She is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers.



**Ruth Blom**

## 32 Physicians Join Residency Programs

Thirty-two physicians have begun their residency training at Allentown Hospital, Sacred Heart Hospital, and the Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center. The three jointly sponsor a total of 10 specialized residency programs. In addition, three physicians will enter two Fellowship programs.

Physicians in five of the residency programs will train at Allentown Hospital and ASHHC. Entering the Flexible Medicine program are Harry Buchanan, Victor Faralli, Daniel Martin, and Eric Stein. Joseph Abate, Kenneth Bahrt, Gregg Donaldson, William Kesselring, Robert Kovacs, Robert Kraus, James McCrisken and Christopher Rumpf will begin the Internal Medicine Residency Program. John Waud will start training in Pathology.

Beginning the General Surgery program in their first post-graduate year are Frederick Denstman, Richard Fields, Henry Kurusz, and Stephen Schell. Ronald Springel, a graduate of the hospitals' Flexible Medicine program, will begin the surgical program in his second post-graduate year, and Yale Kadesky will enter the program in his fourth year of post-graduate training. Marvin Shienbaum is entering the Plastic Surgery Residency Program.

The Obstetrics and Gynecology Program, located at Allentown Hospital, will take on new residents

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## UPDATE . . .

### Linen Department Needs Wire Hangers

Curt Altoff, Linen Coordinator, is looking for wire coat hangers and asks any employee who has a surplus at home to please donate them to the linen department, ground floor, East Private.

Curt said that a similar request several years ago brought in hundreds of coat hangers. However, most have been lost.

The hangers will be used for uniforms.

## KUDOS

Below are some comments made about various units by recent patients in the Hospital. The remarks are picked up by Patient Representatives.

W-5 — "Terrific Nursing Floor."

W-4 — "So pleased to see a menu to be able to choose what you want. This is a very pleasant visit and very nice nursing care."

S-5 — "My Hospital visit has been delightful. The nurses are SUPER."



## Amnion Bank

(Cont'd. from page 1)

considerably reduced by use of amniotic tissue, as is morbidity — complications associated with the injury and treatment. Doctors also find that with use of amniotic tissue there is less chance of scarring than with use of topical antiseptic dressings.

The patient's body always rejects other forms of biologic dressings and they must be changed frequently. However, there is no rejection of amniotic tissue which sluffs off after a number of days, as the wound heals.

While the medical value of amniotic tissue is well established, there is financial value as well. The tissue is easily obtainable from the placenta and is less expensive than other types of dressings. Since use of amniotic tissue promotes faster healing with less pain and complications, most patients remain in the hospital half as long as patients treated by other methods and they return to work faster. Dr. Walker notes that in many cases burn patients who would have been admitted to a hospital for treatment by other methods, are treated in an emergency room with amniotic tissue and sent home.

Dr. Walker first began working with amniotic tissue five years ago at Children's Hospital, Buffalo, New York, and later as a pediatric surgeon with the Navy.

A 1963 graduate of Colgate University, Dr. Walker completed a Masters Degree in Organic Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh before attending Jefferson Medical College, from which he graduated in 1969. He took a residency at Wilmington Medical Center and Buffalo Children's Hospital in Pediatric Surgery before naval service. Dr. Walker joined the staff of The Allentown Hospital in 1978.

## 32 Physicians

(Cont'd. from page 3)

Heather Peirce and Robert Dalessandro. Charles Shufflebottom is the new dental resident in Allentown Hospital's program.

Colo-Rectal Surgery residents train at Sacred Heart Hospital and ASHHC. John McConnell and Howard Heron are entering this program.

Fellowships in Internal Medicine have been awarded to Joseph Candio and Larry Feldman. Drs. Candio and Feldman are both graduates of the Internal Medicine Program.

Richard Whitten will begin the Vascular Surgery Fellowship at ASHHC in August.

## DOCTORS' CORNER

Graduating from the residency program in Medicine were: Dr. Judith McDonald, Dr. Joseph Candio, Dr. William Dewar, III, Dr. E. Joseph Schwitzer, Dr. Larry Feldman, Dr. Ronald Springel, Dr. Bonnie Camo, and Dr. John Anagnost.

The Flexible Medicine Program graduate was Dr. Kris Sperry.

Receiving certificates in General Surgery were: Dr. Lawrence Ciccarella, Dr. Florence Schenker, Dr. Manish Mehta, Dr. William Peters, and Dr. Hong Il Jung.

Graduates from the Family Practice Program included: Dr. Michael Buenaflor, Dr. Jerome Collier, Dr. Donald McAfee, and Dr. Clement McGinley.

In Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Judith Edwards and Dr. Emil Szabo graduated.

Dental Residency graduates included: Dr. Arthur Harris, Dr. Glenn Paskow, and Dr. John Sheppard.

Radiology graduated Dr. Rajesh Mehta.

Dr. Judith McDonald and Dr. Hong Il Jung received certificates for their work as Chief Medical and Chief Surgical Residents, respectively.

Post-graduate residency program graduates included Dr. Victor Celani in Vascular Surgery, Dr. Julio Rivera in Plastic Surgery, and Dr. Joseph D'Amico and Dr. Richard Alia in Colon and Rectal Surgery.

## Dr. Ziegler Honored

Dr. Anna Ziegler, longtime staff member of the Hospital and a member of the OB/GYN Department, was honored recently by the Allentown Human Relations Commission for outstanding volunteer counseling work in the Lehigh County Prison.

Mayor Frank Fischl presented the award Friday, July 6.

## Dr. Moyer's Photos To Be Exhibited

Dr. Forrest Moyer will exhibit his photographs taken on a recent visit to the Antarctic at the Kemmerer Museum, Bethlehem, during July and August.

The show is open to the public weekdays 1-4 p.m., and 2-4 p.m. the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Dr. Moyer has been exhibited locally, nationally and internationally and has long been a student of photography.

## Dr. Boyer Honored

Dr. Frank Boyer, Cardiologist, was recently promoted to the position of Consultant in Cardiology in the Department of Medicine at the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia.

Dr. Boyer has served at the Pennsylvania Hospital in various capacities for more than 30 years.

## Hospital Chatter

HOUSE FOR SALE — Three bedroom, 2 full baths, powder room, 1st floor, living and dining rooms, modern kitchen, breakfast room and full basement, 189 Aster Rd., Ancient Oaks, Macungie. Call 398-1468, Priced, mid-40's.

FOR SALE — Moving west, must sell: upholstered rocking chair, \$15; training wheel bike, \$10; child's large spring horse, \$5; new mechanic's creeper, \$10; waffle iron, \$3; electric blanket, like new, \$5; child's dresser with mirror, \$15; sawhorses, \$3 for pair; wooden rocking chair, partially sanded, \$3; mahogany chair, padded back, \$15; electric food grinder, \$10. Call 398-1275.

WANTED — New or used items in good condition for bingo prizes for aftercare state hospital patients. Knickknacks, jewelry, gloves, purses, household items, canned foods, etc. Please call Nancy Beidler, Mental Health Clinic - 2265.

SUPER SIDEWALK SALE — July 28, 29, 1012 S. 5th St., Allentown. Clothing, Ceramics, Baked goods, Hoagies, etc.

APARTMENT FOR RENT — 1 bedroom, living room, bath, 2nd floor, \$175 per month. Heat, hot water included. 20th and Allen Sts. Call 437-4682.

FOR SALE — '73 Jeep, CJ-5, V-8, 3-speed, roll bar, headers and side pipes. New inspection. Call 435-6558 after 5:30. Ask for Mike.

APARTMENT FOR RENT — 2½ bedrooms with modern kitchen in Lower Macungie. Call 966-2074 after 5 p.m.

## Microbiologists Meet

The eighth meeting of the Lehigh Valley Association for Clinical Microbiology and Immunology will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 24 in the auditorium of The Allentown Hospital.

Dr. Alan H. Schragger, chief of the Hospital's Dermatology Department, will talk on the clinical aspects of mycotic infections.