Firemen's Local Thanked For Burn Unit Gift

St. Louis Fire Fighters Local 73, whose generosity made possible the purchase of equipment to establish a "tissue bank" for patients in the hospital's burn unit, was officially thanked for its help at a luncheon held December 8 in Queeny Tower.

The fire fighters raised $2,500 in response to an appeal from Barnes doctors for money to help purchase a machine to freeze and dry skin grafts for use on seriously burned patients.

The freeze-dried skin, used as a dressing over badly burned areas of the body, may be collected and stored for later use.

"Patients who receive this type of biological dressings do not develop the usual immune reactions which cause their bodies to reject the skin," says Dr. Paul M. Weeks, Barnes associate surgeon and plastic surgeon-in-chief, head of the burn unit.

Barnes Hospital Director Robert E. Frank hosted the luncheon, which was attended by Dr. Weeks, associate surgeon Dr. Harvey R. Butcher, formerly director of the burn unit, and two Local 73 representatives Gail Chatfield, second vice president, and Larry Stringer, secretary.

"Fire fighters, more than any other group, realize what tragedy burn victims undergo," said Mr. Chatfield. "All fire fighters are haunted by experiences they have had while aiding persons who have been injured in a blaze. It's the most natural thing in the world for these men to want to help burn victims."

Donald E. Lasater Named To Board

Donald E. Lasater has been named to the board of trustees of Barnes Hospital, Methodist Bishop Eugene M. Frank announced late last month. Mr. Lasater is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Mercantile Trust Company.

Barnes is not a new area of interest for Mr. Lasater, who, from 1962 to 1967, served on Barnes' Gifts and Bequest committee. He will fill the vacancy on the Board created by the death of Gale F. Johnston.

A native St. Louisan, Mr. Lasater is active in many civic and philanthropic organizations in the city. He served as chairman of the Greater St. Louis United Fund campaign for 1971-72. He also is a member of Civic Progress, Inc.; the board of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis; the executive committee of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, and serves as Chairman of the Clayton Planning Commission.

Other interests of Mr. Lasater include the Municipal Theatre Association; Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley, Inc.; Boys Town of Missouri; St. Louis Area Council, Boy Scouts of America; Museum of Science and Natural History; and a trustee of the Governmental Research Institute. He is a member of the board of the Zoo Association and treasurer of the Missouri Public Expenditure Survey.

A Navy veteran, Mr. Lasater attended Southeast Missouri State College, the University of Iowa, and the University of Southern California where he received his law degree. After engaging in private law practice in St. Louis, he served as assistant prosecuting attorney of St. Louis County and then as first assistant county counselor. He joined the Mercantile Trust Company in 1959, was made assistant vice president in 1960 and vice president in trust administration in 1963. He was elected president of the company in 1967 and became chairman of the board and chief executive officer in 1970.
Thursday Chapel Services
For Patients and Students

On Thursday evenings at 6, Barnes Hospital School of Nursing students sponsor a 30-minute service in Danforth Chapel open to hospital patients as well as students. Notices are posted throughout the hospital and in the daily News Capsule to encourage attendance.

Speakers for the services are selected by the students themselves and anyone is free to submit a preference. Speakers are not asked to discuss a specific subject, but rather to discuss religion as it relates to themselves. The services are organized by the school’s religion committee.

Because so many School of Nursing students find themselves away from home for the first time in their lives, the school has several programs to help students develop the ability to live meaningfully on their own.

One means of fostering feelings of independence and self-reliance is to give the students a way of expressing what is important in their own lives.

The religion committee encourages the spiritual attitudes and aspirations of the students. This committee, composed of four student nurses, Vicki Hill, Marge Gross, Ruth Bollinger and Paula Behrhorst, works hard to make religion meaningful and relevant to the nurses of the future.

For example, the committee offers to introduce students without a religious affiliation to various denominations and also provides transportation to religious services whenever possible. And, of course, the committee has introduced the new Thursday evening services.

“We wanted a relaxed atmosphere where people could be themselves. With this in mind we have made the services inter-denominational and invited speakers from the neighborhood as well as our own hospital chaplains,” said committee member Marge Gross as she explained the philosophy of the service.

In addition to formal speakers, the students themselves often hold discussions. “Happiness is faith in yourself, in others and in God,” was one such recent topic. Committee members take turns leading the service in song and introducing guest speakers.

Said one student, “This is a time when people can share what God means to them . . . personally.”

Smokey The Bear, Where Are You?

Quick action is essential whenever fire strikes, says Safety and Security director Ed Thurman, shown here demonstrating the operation of a carbon dioxide fire extinguisher to a group of hospital night shift employees. Everyone should become familiar with the location and operation of the fire extinguishers in their area before a fire occurs, not after, Mr. Thurman says. There are more than 600 fire extinguishers in Barnes Hospital.

New Promotion-From-Within Program Begun For Barnes Hospital Employes

An aggressive new program to give present Barnes employes the maximum opportunity possible for promotion to a higher job grade within the hospital was initiated here last month.

The internal promotion policy affords employes the chance to fill job openings before non-employes from the outside are considered, said Walter J. Hanses, personnel director.

Notice of Openings
All openings above job grade one will be posted on the bulletin board at the entrance of the Employe Cafeteria for four working days. The notices will contain the job title, grade, duties and qualifications, Mr. Hanses said. Only openings requiring specialized skills, such as computer programmer or pharmacist, will not be posted.

Applying
Anyone who feels he or she is qualified for the opening then simply fills out an application in the employment office. Applications must be made within the four-day period during which the job notice is posted.

The qualifications of each applicant, including past performance, educational background and other information will then be evaluated, Mr. Hanses said. Final selection will be based on such information and will be made by the department head and employment manager at all but the higher graded levels.

In such cases the administrator concerned will also participate in the selection.

Transfer
Once an employe is selected, promotion and transfer will be accomplished within a period equal to the basic vacation allowance of the position being vacated.

Such an internal promotion policy offers employes several advantages. Obviously a better job offers an increase in salary and prestige. But because the promotion is within the Barnes organization, the employe does not lose any of the many benefits, such as vacation time and insurance, that he has already accumulated. Then, too, the promoted employe is already familiar with Barnes’ policies and personnel.

Mr. Hanses emphasizes that the new program is concerned solely with promotion, not with transfer to another department at the same job grade.

Mr. Hanses expects that at least two dozen internal promotion vacancies will be posted every month. In the past, many Barnes employes have benefited from internal promotion, frequently rising two or three job grades, Mr. Hanses said. The new program is intended to make such advancement easier and more accessible to all hospital employes.
Lab Technicians Attend Workshop Here

Several dozen laboratory directors, microbiology laboratory technicians and other medical personnel from throughout the midwest attended a workshop on single disc antibiotic susceptibility testing held here recently.

The event was jointly sponsored by Barnes Hospital's Central Diagnostic Laboratories and the Washington University School of Medicine's Laboratory Medicine Division. Dr. Paul M. Southern, head of the Barnes clinical microbiology laboratory, organized the program.

Single disc testing, sometimes referred to as the Kirby-Bauer method, is the procedure most commonly used to determine the effects of various antibiotics on microorganisms.

Basically, the test consists of placing a small disc of antibiotic-impregnated filter paper on a special culture plate containing the test microorganisms. After several hours of incubation the plate is examined to determine the effect of the antibiotic on the growth of the microorganisms.

The effectiveness of a particular drug is measured in terms of the zone of inhibition of the growth of the specific microorganisms being tested. With the help of such tests doctors can learn which drug will be most effective in treating a patient. The single disc method may also be used to aid in the development of new antimicrobial drugs.

Both the theory and the practice of the single disc method were covered at the two-day meeting. Outstanding guests included: Dr. Charles V. Sanders, Louisiana State University School of Medicine; Dr. Jay P. Sanford, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School; Dr. Fritz D. Schoenknecht, University of Washington Hospital; Dr. John A. Washington II, Mayo Clinic; and Dr. Alex C. Sonnenwirth, Jewish Hospital of St. Louis.

In addition to attending lectures, workshop conferees also participated in instructional experiments here using the single disc methodology. One of the main goals of the workshop was to advance the standardization of the single disc technique, Dr. Southern said.

Such standardization facilitates easy comparison between the test results of different laboratories, he said.

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Barnes and Allied Hospitals Society Holds Annual Banquet

A capacity crowd attended the annual Barnes and Allied Hospitals Society banquet held last month at the University Club. Jack Buck, well-known sports announcer for KMOX, was the featured speaker. Mr. Buck discussed the past seasons of the football and baseball Cardinals. His candid remarks about professional athletics in general sparked many questions and observations from the audience.

"I hope we don’t see St. Louis sports fans become the bad-tempered kind of audiences they have in one or two eastern towns. In the past, St. Louis has been known nationally as a good city in which to play. But irate audiences and people who get too upset will change that image."

"After all, it’s only a game. I like baseball because you can take your family, relax and talk to friends you see there, and if you miss an inning, it isn’t a catastrophe."

Faces at the head table at the Barnes and Allied Hospitals society banquet reflect the guests’ interest in the talk by Jack Buck of KMOX (at the podium.) Others, from left, are: Dr. Norman Knowlton, president of Barnes and Allied; Irving Edison, vice chairman of the Barnes Hospital board of trustees, Dr. M. Kenton King, Dean of Washington University Medical School, and John L. Davidson Jr., legal counsel for the Barnes Board.

Central Ambulance Service Proposed for St. Louis Area

Plans for a central ambulance service to serve the entire St. Louis area were proposed at a recent meeting of the St. Louis County Medical Society’s emergency medical services committee.

Committee Chairman Dr. Allen P. Klippel, Barnes assistant surgeon, proposed a plan that would coordinate and standardize both public and private ambulance service in the area.

Dispatching of the ambulances would be done by calling an emergency telephone number which would connect callers with a central dispatching service, Dr. Klippel proposed. This would save callers the time-consuming procedure of selecting the emergency service located nearest them.

Dr. Klippel said that if approval is given for a federally-supported military helicopter ambulance service next year, it could also be included in the plan.

Area-wide availability of trained ambulance attendants and modern emergency equipment could save many lives each year, Dr. Klippel said.
A new research approach currently under development here may one day make possible the early identification of persons with a high risk of suffering a severe heart attack, according to Dr. G. Charles Oliver Jr., Barnes assistant physician.

**600,000 Lives**

Arteriosclerotic heart disease claims the lives of some 600,000 Americans each year and has reached epidemic proportions, says a recent report issued by the National Heart and Lung Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

Such attacks usually occur without apparent warning. Approximately half of the victims die before ever reaching a hospital, according to the Institute’s statistics. Obviously, even further refinements in the area of cardiac intensive care will be of little help to such people.

Therefore a method of identifying potential victims of arteriosclerotic heart attacks before a seizure occurs must be discovered, hopefully making it possible to prevent such attacks.

Doctors have long known that ventricular cardiac arrhythmia, or premature contractions of the heart, are one of the most frequent causes of death in such instances, Dr. Oliver says. Unfortunately, long-term studies of the occurrence of arrhythmia in a large number of subjects has not been feasible because of the great amount of data involved.

For example, a 10-hour electrocardiographic recording of one patient’s heart will contain in the neighborhood of some 50,000 individual beats to be examined.

**Speeded-Up Playback**

Currently available electronic scanners, operated by heart technicians, are capable of reading a 10-hour recording in 10 minutes. But if arrhythmia occurs it may not be readily noticeable at the speeded-up playback rate.

And, if such a condition is noticed, the heart technician must then stop the machine, rewind the tape and play it again at the normal or “real time” rate. Not infrequently a 10-minute rapid analysis will end up requiring several hours, Dr. Oliver says.

**A New Approach**

Consequently, a long-term study of arrhythmia in a sample of several hundred subjects would require a prohibitive expenditure of time and energy. A new approach was called for.

Last summer the Biomedical Computer Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. Jerome R. Cox Jr., began development of a computerized, high-speed, arrhythmia recognition system capable of analyzing long-term electrocardiographic recordings.

Like the computer currently in operation in Barnes’ cardiac intensive care unit, the new system will be capable of recognizing cardiac arrhythmia. However, the hospital’s computer monitors heart functions at the normal or real time rate, not at the increased speed needed to analyze millions of heartbeats for hundreds of subjects.

“Even at the real time rate the computer in Barnes’ heart monitoring room is working relatively hard. It can’t begin to work at 60 times the normal speed,” says Dr. Oliver.

Because no commercial computer was available that could meet the requirements, the researchers decided to build their own, using macro-modules, the latest in computer techniques.

**Electronic Tinker-Toys**

To oversimplify, macro-modules are somewhat analogous to a tinker toy set in that the modules may be easily connected to create a wide variety of devices, Dr. Cox says. Of course, the macro-modules themselves are complicated electronic devices, but the principle is the same.

“We are working right at the edge of the state-of-the-art. A year ago it probably wouldn’t have been possible to do this. Dr. Cox is not only building a computer on a custom basis, it is a very fast computer,” Dr. Oliver says.

The initial prototype of the computer has already been completed and performed satisfactorily. The first version of the full-scale computer is scheduled for completion this spring.

**Gathering the Data**

Late last year researchers began compiling electrocardiographic recordings of heart attack victims in both the Barnes and the Jewish Hospital cardiac intensive care units. The electrocardiographs of such patients often show a relatively high level of premature ventricular contraction immediately after an attack which diminishes gradually with recovery.

If a patient and his doctor agree, 10 more such recordings are scheduled over the 12 months following the patient’s discharge.

These later recordings are made with a portable device which the patient carries with him for a 10-hour period during which he goes about his life normally, keeping a written record of his activities for later comparison with heart data.

Information obtained from these recordings is also given to the patient’s own physician for evaluation. Cooperation has been excellent, Dr. Oliver says.

“Not only may the patients themselves possibly benefit from taking part in the study, but they are helping other people indirectly,” Dr. Oliver says.

For comparison purposes a group of “normal” individuals will also wear the recording devices to establish a baseline.
Cinquerering A Killer

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For comparison purposes a group of "normal" individuals will also wear the recording devices to establish a baseline.

Interpreting the Results

Then, by looking at the data from the two different groups, the "normals" and the heart attack victims, researchers hope to isolate the factor or factors responsible for the onset of such attacks.

Dr. Oliver speculated that as research in this area advances the effectiveness of various heart attack inhibiting drugs will also be evaluated using rapid computer analysis.

If potential heart attacks victims can be identified, medical science will be that much closer to conquering another major killer.

Above—Dr. G. Charles Oliver Jr., left, Barnes assistant physician, and Dr. Jerome R. Cox, Biomedical Computer Laboratory director, examine electrocardiographic data.

Top, left—This portable device is worn by patients for a 10-hour period and records heart data while they go about their normal activities. The computer now under development will analyze data from such recordings.

Top, center—Wires and cables seem to be everywhere on this first experimental version of Dr. Cox's arrhythmia-detection computer, assembled to verify initial design concepts.

Bottom—Dozens of intricate printed circuit boards such as this one are the heart of the computer system currently under development. The boards are made by Washington University's Computer Systems Laboratory.
Caution: Flying Crane

A massive air conditioning condenser unit weighing more than 4,000 pounds was lifted by a "flying crane" helicopter to the top of Queeny Tower on a recent Sunday morning.

The condenser, which is nearly twenty feet long, was being installed as part of a program to increase the cooling capacity of the Tower, according to Kurt Bemberg, chief engineer of Barnes' maintenance department.

Workmen began readying the roof-top installation site early Friday morning, installing supports for the unit's legs. Early Sunday the condenser was brought by truck to an open area near the Steinberg skating rink just west of the hospital.

A Sikorsky S-58 helicopter from St. Louis Helicopter Airways, Inc., hovered over the unit while steel cables were attached to it. Then the unit was lifted from the truck and flown to the roof of the building. Swaying gently, the unit was lowered into place as workmen on the roof maneuvered it into its exact resting place.

Mrs. Lynda Glanz, left, and Mrs. Jean Hacher, right, members of the Barnes Wives Club, modeled at the group's 4th annual winter fashion show last month.

Barnes Wives' Club Holds Fashion Show

The latest fashions in casual wear and hair styles were presented at the Barnes Wives Club's fourth annual winter fashion show held last month at the home of Dr. and Mrs. George Tucker.

The majority of the group's 200 members were present for the showing which was preceded by a brief business meeting. Donations of toys and other gifts for distribution to children in City Hospital throughout the coming months were also collected before the fashion parade began.

After sherry and hors d'oeuvres, the guests assembled for the show, narrated by personnel from the Inner Circle Shop, the store that furnished the clothing.

Modeling was done by store personnel and by Mrs. Lynda Glanz and Mrs. Jean Hacher. More than a dozen ensembles were displayed during the 90-minute showing.

December Gifts to the Barnes Tribute Fund

Following is a list of honorees (names in boldface) and contributors to the Barnes Hospital Tribute Fund during December, 1971.

In Memory of

Mrs. Janette Billstein
Mrs. Ira Wittelshofer
Henry G. Keeier Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Moore Jr.
William Brodhead
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Moore Jr.
Harold A. Thomas Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Claggett
Brother of William Zalken
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hornbein

Mrs. Claire L. Allen
Mr. Edward J. Allen
Frank Pahyik
Wood River Illinois Lions Club

Mrs. William McGraw
Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Allen
Mrs. Randall Foster
Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Lansing

Mrs. Edward Carmady
Dr. and Mrs. Henry G. Schwartz
Mrs. Daisy Elliott
Mr. N. J. Robertson and family
Arthur Albietz
Eve Austin
Mr. John Zahradka
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer C. Teachener

Mr. Norbert A. Erdman
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Larson
Dr. and Mrs. Clarence R. McLaughlin
Mr. and Mrs. Hunter G. Griffith
Dr. and Mrs. Lee A. Hall
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin M. Hoffberg
Mr. and Mrs. Stanhope B. Ficke

Florida Mobilehome and Recreational Vehicle Association, Inc.

In Honor of

Mr. Henry Scherck's Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Prager

Barnes Hospital Volunteers
Mrs. Edwin R. Culver Jr.
Many Barnes employees will be paying more social security taxes this year, according to the St. Louis office of the Social Security Administration.

The actual tax rate will continue to be assessed at the same rate as last year, 5.2 per cent. However, the tax will be assessed on a maximum of $9,000 of a worker’s income, an increase of $1,200 over last year’s maximum level.

Mrs. Kathleen McClusky, dietetics, was a recent guest on “At Your Service,” a KMOX radio public service program. Mrs. McClusky answered listeners’ questions about nutrition and holiday food ideas.

Lucy Phillips is the messenger of the month for January. Mrs. Phillips, 24, has been employed at Barnes for over a year. She was selected for the honor on the basis of her interest in the job, her pleasant personality and her attention to detail.

Mrs. Phillips, the mother of 4 children, enjoys reading and also plays volleyball, basketball and baseball.

Dr. Arthur J. Meagher, Barnes assistant obstetrician, was killed when the light plane he was aboard crashed near a Springfield, Illinois, airport recently. Dr. Meagher, 50, was a graduate of the Washington University School of Medicine. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

A lecture and film on self-defense will be presented on January 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the hospital’s Clopton Auditorium by St. Louis police woman Eleanor Hall. The title of the film is “Walk Without Fear.” Ninth District Police Captain Bernard Mundt will also participate in the program.

Already some 2,000 “graduate” from New Orientation, Training Programs

Two employee training programs begun here several weeks ago have already “graduated” more than 2,000 Barnes Hospital personnel, says training director Rex Ward.

Employees who have been on the staff for less than six months have been attending New Employee Orientation programs while other personnel have been attending Patient and Visitor Relations training sessions.

The program for new employees is held each Monday morning and lasts four hours. Three of the hours are concerned primarily with acquainting new workers with Barnes’, past, present and future.

Such orientation does more than simply provide people with information about their new place of employment, Mr. Ward says. It also shows that Barnes is interested in them as individuals.

“There is only one reason for Barnes Hospital to be here and that is to care for patients,” Mr. Ward tells new employees. “Even if your job doesn’t directly involve contact with patients, you are still contributing to patient care,” he says.

We are all interdependent. We couldn’t function without each other.

Out that every employee is doing something essential or wouldn’t be on the payroll.

Rex Ward

To dispel any doubts the audience may have concerning their importance, Mr. Ward points out: “Above all, you must never even indirectly indicate that the patient or visitor is foolish for asking a question. Simply because something is obvious to you doesn’t mean it is obvious to them.

“Another method of minimizing tension is to keep people as well informed as possible about what is happening. It is easier for most people to handle a situation when they know what to expect, as opposed to facing the unknown,” Mr. Ward says.

In closing, Mr. Ward explains his philosophy. “I think people are beautiful. I try to smile at everybody and give them a greeting and I am going to challenge you to do it for two weeks. You can do it if you try and the more you try the easier it becomes. And what’s so nice about it, it benefits you the most.”

Try to smile and give everybody a greeting. It benefits you the most.
Pay Periods Announced for 1972

Pay periods and pay days for the current year will be as follows:

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A little help for our friends

A Real “Starting Boost” Now Offered Here

Barnes Hospital personnel who discover that their automobile batteries have succumbed to January’s driving winds and low temperatures can now get a boost, literally, from the Safety and Security department.

In mid-December a special starting unit was installed in the department’s Toyota pickup truck to aid employees with battery problems. The unit operates on cars with either six or twelve volt batteries and will not harm the car’s electrical system in any way, says Ed Thurman, Safety and Security director. The unit has already been used several times.

Miss Sharon Hopfer, a Barnes secretary, gets some welcome help from Safety and Security Patrolman Duggan and the new mobile starting unit, installed in one of the department’s mobile units.

Employees with cars that refuse to start due to a weak or dead battery may now summon aid by calling the Safety and Security office.