Telephone executive is elected to hospital board

Zane E. Barnes, chief executive officer of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., has been elected to the board of directors of Barnes Hospital, according to an announcement by Raymond E. Rowland, chairman of the board.

Barnes (who is not related to Robert Barnes, the founder of the hospital), was elected during the April meeting of the board and joins 15 other St. Louis civic leaders on the governing board of the 1,197-bed hospital. Reelected during the meeting were Zane E. Barnes, president of executive operations in 1961. In 1963 Barnes assumed the duties of chief executive officer of Southwestern Bell.

In 1964 he became president and general manager of the Oregon operations of Pacific Northwest Bell and a year later returned to Ohio Bell as vice president-personnel. He was elected vice president of operations of Pacific Northwest Bell in 1967 and became president of the company in 1970. He became president and chief operating officer of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. in St. Louis in 1973 and last December 1, he assumed the duties of chief executive officer of Southwestern Bell.

Mr. Barnes is a member of numerous boards including that of the First National Bank of St. Louis; First Union, Inc.; St. Louis-San Francisco Railway; Pet, Inc.; General American Life Insurance Co.; and Alton Box Board Company.

He is a trustee of Midwest Research Institute, a director of the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis, a director of Civic Center-Re-

development Corp., a director and member of the executive committee of the United Way of Greater St. Louis and a member of Civic Progress.

He also serves as regional sustaining membership enrollment chairman, North Central Region, Boy Scouts of America.

Patients to receive Centrex Dec. 1

Centrex, a direct-dial telephone system installed in 1973 for non-patient areas of the hospital, will be extended to all patient phones Dec. 1. When installed, the new system will permit patient rooms to be reached directly, without necessarily going through the medical center switchboard.

George Voyles, director of telecommunications, said the system will greatly reduce the time span occurring when the calls go through the switchboard and should contribute to patient convenience. "The system will provide more flexibility; however, calls to patient rooms can still be handled by an operator if the caller wishes. We expect that after the initial call to a patient, other calls will be dialed directly."

The remaining PBX switchboards will be removed when the conversion is made and the telephone operators will have smaller control boards at individual desks. "The telephone area will have a completely different look," Mr. Voyles said.

In preparing for the switch to a total centrex system, an inventory will be made of telephone equipment, equipment will be checked for service life, new procedures for operation will be developed.

One tradition continued, another begun with decoration of graves

A little-known Barnes tradition was continued and another was begun in late May when the graves of Robert Barnes, founder of the hospital and Edgar and Ethel Queeny, hospital benefactors, were decorated for Memorial Day.

Raymond E. Rowland, chairman of the Barnes board of directors, and Robert E. Frank, president of the hospital, laid wreaths of flowers on the grave sites in Bellefontaine Cemetery on St. Louis' north side.

When Mr. Barnes died in 1892, his will directed that $850,000 be used to build a hospital, a dream which was realized when the hospital was completed in 1914. Mr. Barnes also asked in his will that he be remembered on Memorial Day each year and that his grave be decorated. The wreaths were laid prior to the Memorial Day weekend.

"We continue the practice of decorating the graves of Mr. and Mrs. Barnes because of their great contribution in the establishing of Barnes Hospital," said Mr. Frank. "We also feel it is appropriate that we remember Mr. and Mrs. Queeny whose dedication and financial support of Barnes lifted it to its present position of one of the major medical centers in the nation."

Mrs. Queeny died Feb. 9 at Barnes following an illness of several months. She was preceded in death by Mr. Queeny who served as chairman of the hospital's board of directors from 1962 until the time of his death in 1968.
New vacation policy extends benefits

A revised vacation policy, including benefits for permanent part-time employees for the first time, is now in effect for Barnes Hospital employees. The policy was recently distributed to department heads by hospital President Robert E. Frank.

The new policy grants vacation time for permanent part-time employees and permits maximum vacation time that may be accrued in an amount equal to two years’ vacation. This latter change means that employees will not lose vacation days if they are not taken during a year’s time. The vacation year, which began May 1 and ended April 30 under the old policy, is no longer in effect.

Prior to the issuing of the revised policy April 27, permanent part-time employees were not entitled to paid vacation allowances and other employees who did not use their full entitlement during the vacation year, forfeited the remaining accrued time off.

Permanent part-time employees will be entitled to one hour of vacation for each 26 hours paid and these employees may accrue a maximum of 160 hours of entitlement. Part-time employees who receive an average of 20 hours pay weekly will receive approximately 5 days of vacation each year.

Full-time employees entitled to ten days of paid vacation each year (80 hours) may now accrue up to a maximum of 20 days vacation (160 hours). These employees receiving 15 days vacation may now accrue up to 30 days (240 hours) and employees receiving 20 days vacation may accrue a maximum of 40 days (320 hours).

Other aspects of the vacation policy remain unchanged. Permanent, full-time employees receiving 10 days of vacation each year will receive three weeks annually up to reaching the 10th year of continuous employment. These employees will receive 20 days of vacation annually upon reaching 20 years of continuous service. Employees receiving 15 days vacation will receive 15 days of vacation each year, and employees receiving 20 days vacation will receive 20 days when they reach the ten-year mark in continuous employment.

Employee pay check stubs are being revised to show remaining vacation entitlement and regular reports on vacation time taken will continue to be distributed to department heads. Vacation pay checks will continue to be issued on regular pay days only, but in advance of the vacation period.

Radio programming available for patients

Barnes patients now can listen to soothing background music, or the latest newsmflash, in their rooms. A radio signal has been incorporated into the television receivers, and in addition to the choice of six television stations, patients can select from an FM or AM radio station, or opt for the background music.

Don Telthorst, assistant director, said the radio programming is a result of the desire expressed by many patients. The system is incorporated into unused television channels, and will not interfere with TV reception.

With the exception of patients on the second floor of Rand Johnson and in Barnard Hospital, all patients may now listen to KMOX radio on channel 12; KEZK, an FM station on channel 8, and background music on channel 13.

The audio programming is in addition to the regular color television reception of ABC-TV on channel 2, CBS-TV on channel 4, NBC-TV on channel 5, public TV on channel 9 and an independent station on UHF, available on channel 7 because the remote control handsets for each bed do not include provisions for UHF tuning. Television controls are operated through the bed handset which also contains a television speaker for patient privacy.

A card is expected to be available shortly in each room which will explain television programming to patients. The card also will include information about radio programming and asks that televisions be turned off in semi-private rooms at 10:30 p.m. unless each patient has given permission to watch late evening programs.

Wells National Services provides television services to Barnes. There are 632 receivers in the hospital complex. Television is a standard service in private rooms and is currently available at a rate of $2 daily in semi-private rooms. Radio programming can only be received through the television receiver.

Doctor’s notes

Dr. Frank Spencer, chairman of the department of surgery at New York University Medical Center, presented the fifth annual Thomas H. Burford lecture in thoracic surgery. Dr. Spencer spoke May 29 on “Current Developments with Bypass Operations for Coronary Artery Disease.” Dr. Burford is a Barnes surgeon.

Dr. Thomas B. Ferguson, Barnes surgeon, has been elected vice-chairman of the board of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. He recently was a visiting professor at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington where he spoke on “Current Viewpoints in the Management of Bronchogenic Carcinoma.”

Barnes pathologist Joseph M. Davies has been named professor and head of the department of microbiology at Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Davies served his internship at Barnes.

Dr. Richard Clark, Barnes surgeon, is chief investigator for a $473,697 grant from the National Heart and Lung Institute to study advance cardiovascular valvular and vascular prostheses. The grant will fund a three-year study of artificial heart valves.

Dr. Stanley Hampton, Barnes physician, has received the 1975 Distinguished Service Award from the American Academy of Allergy. The award was presented at the academy’s recent annual meeting held in San Diego, Cal.

Dr. Ernst Friedrich, obstetrician-gynecologist, has been elected vice president of the St. Louis Gynecology Society.
Hardhats have soft hearts; befriend ten-year-old

Construction workers may wear hardhats but many also have soft hearts. At least this is the case of workmen for G. L. Tarlton Contracting Co. who recently made friends with ten-year-old Pat Manus, a recent patient on the eighth floor of the East Pavilion.

When workmen looked up from construction of the subsurface garage, they often saw Pat waving down to them. They became interested in the boy and after they learned more about him, they decided to get better acquainted. Pat became the proud owner of a Tarlton hardhat, a toy truck and toy crane. "The men thought it would be nice to give him a little something to remind him of his friends out there on the construction site," said Skip Williams, a concrete finisher who presented the gifts.

Pat was thrilled with the presents and wore his hardhat in his room and when he moved about the hospital. He also put up a sign saying "Hi Pat." The construction workers responded with a large sign saying "Thank You." The sign was set up so Pat could see it as he looked out his window.

Ten-year-old Pat Manus talks with Tarlton employee Skip Williams about construction work on the underground garage. In the window are some of the presents presented by construction workers to the otolaryngology patient.

Barnes the designated hospital during Kissinger visit

On May 12 a few hours before the expected arrival of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in St. Louis for his address to the St. Louis Council on World Affairs, Barnes Safety director Ed Thurman was notified by the secret service that Barnes would, as usual, be the hospital that would care for Dr. Kissinger in case he incurred any health problems while in the city.

This is standard procedure. Whenever a high ranking government official is in St. Louis, Barnes is designated as the hospital which is alerted to stand by in case a need for care should arise. Mrs. Kissinger would, of course, be treated here also, should she have any medical problems.

In the past, Barnes has been alerted for presidents (Nixon and Johnson most recently), presidential candidates, and other well known political figures as they have visited St. Louis. Usually the secret service will pass along a blood type to insure that should an emergency occur, there is a supply of the dignitary's type on hand.

Muskular dystrophy center to open

The Muscular Dystrophy Associations (MDA) have made an initial grant of $327,755 to Washington University School of Medicine for the establishment of a Jerry Lewis Neuromuscular Disease Research Center scheduled to open July 1. The center will be the ninth major neuromuscular disease research and clinical center to be established by MDA.

Dr. Darryl C. DeVivo, a Barnes pediatrician and neurologist, will be co-director of the center with Dr. Michael H. Brooke who joined the medical school faculty June 1. Dr. DeVivo said the purpose of the grant is to generate a multi-disciplinary approach to neuromuscular disease, bringing together investigators from the departments of anatomy, biology, biochemistry, medicine, neurology, pediatrics, pharmacology, physiology and preventive medicine.

Dietetic interns receive diplomas

Fifteen graduates of the Barnes Dietetic Intern program received diplomas during ceremonies April 18 at the pool in Queeny Tower.

Doris Canada, director of dietetics, and Kathy McClusky, associate director for education in dietetics, presented the diplomas, pins and corsages to the graduates. Three of the graduates will work in the St. Louis area.

Kathleen Taylor of Corvallis, Ore., will join the clinical dietitian staff at Barnes and Elaine Kammeier, Soap Lake, Wash., will work in the Lipid Research Center at Washington University School of Medicine. Margaret Kuehler will join the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital in her hometown of St. Charles, Mo.

Other graduates are Jan Anderson, Dutton, Ala.; Carol Austin, Englewood, Colo.; Judith Dose, Shelbyville, Ind.; Barbara Foster, Springfield, Ohio; Janice Johnson, Santa Cruz, Calif.; Kristine Low, Logan, Utah; Sheila Nichols, St. Louis; La-Vonna Obriest, Steinauer, Neb.; Kathleen O'Hare, Berkeley, Calif.; Juliann Powers, Fresno, Calif.; Brenda Shimchack, Alexandria, Va.; and Michele Wagner, Independence, Mo.

The graduates have completed an internship program of more than eight months working closely with the dietitians at Barnes and gaining practical experience to go along with their college education.


Mastectomy is topic during Awareness series

An address by a surgeon, a film and a panel discussion were highlights of a two-part program on mastectomy presented recently as part of the monthly "Awareness" series, sponsored by the Barnes nursing department.

Dr. Lawrence O'Neal, a Barnes surgeon, discussed the scope of the problem and outlined various forms of treatment available. He said that 33,000 women will die from breast cancer this year.

"Breast Cancer, Where We Are Now," a film produced by the American Cancer Society, was presented during the second part of the series. The film stressed the need for breast self-examination. A panel discussion followed the film and included two members of Reach to Recovery, a program designed to aid women who have undergone mastectomy. Panel discussion participants also included Maureen Byrnes, assistant director of the education division and Marian Cavaness, an instructor.

Future subjects for the series include venereal disease and sickle cell anemia. The series is open to all members of the department of nursing.
Dieting was the subject of a KTVI-TV interview between reporter Sherry Banks and Dr. Steve Leichter.

Post-Dispatch photographer Michael Baldridge photographs Washington University clothing design student at the pool in Queeny Tower.

The 5 p.m. deadline is approaching in the Globe-Democrat newsroom as medical writer Lois Timnick discusses relations director.

Barnes Makes

Set up the lights and microphones and roll the cameras. Barnes Hospital is on television—the radio—and in the newspapers. Hardly a day goes by when Barnes is not mentioned in the media and the story behind the story involves many Barnes employees and medical personnel.

Because Barnes is the largest hospital in the St. Louis area and because of its national reputation for excellence, the news media often turns to the hospital as sources of information. What starts in many cases with a simple phone call can end up with a finished product which is watched, read or heard by millions of persons.

Stories which are printed in St. Louis papers or aired on area television and radio stations are often picked up by national media such as the New York Times, Time and Newsweek magazines and major medical publications. A clipping service confirms the use of Barnes stories throughout the nation.

The task of coordinating media relationships with the hospital is the responsibility of the hospital’s public relations department. “Because of the hospital’s size, excellence and reputation, news organizations are eager to write of the many medical achievements which have and are taking place in the hospital,” said Constance Barton, director of public relations.

“The PR office arranges interviews, parking for news personnel and provides background information for reporters from all the media. We accompany the news staff personnel to the interview, and often follow up later with requests which come about during the discussions.”

The public relations office has an active program of “placing” stories. The office will take a

Post-Dispatch photographer Michael Baldridge photographs Washington University clothing design student at the pool in Queeny Tower.

KSDK-TV’s Chris Condon, left, prepares to interview Barnes controller Robert McAuliffe about the hospital’s malpractice insurance.
completed story or story idea to a newspaper or media station and attempt to interest a reporter in the story or story idea. When the story is accepted, the office works closely with the reporter in developing its contents and arranging for photographs or filming.

At other times, news releases are sent to news organizations. Often the releases tell of major programs in the hospital, dedications of completed construction or renovation, or graduates of the hospital's schools. Many releases are sent to major medical publications.

Recently, news crews from KMOX, KSD and KTVI television were in the hospital filming interviews on such subjects as dieting, new born babies, malpractice insurance and prepared childbirth classes. Often, medical personnel and administrators are asked to comment on both local and national stories. And other hospital employees also get into the act. A housekeeping employee was recently interviewed on the subject of women who work and most television interviews film areas of the hospital related to the story.

When the story is initiated by the media, the procedure is usually that the public relations office receives a call from a reporter or news director, asking the answer to specific questions or asking for a doctor or hospital personnel to comment on a given subject. The office then makes contact with an appropriate person and an appointment is set up between the media and that person. Routinely, most requests are for information or for an interview needed the same day. Occasionally public relations personnel serve as official hospital spokesmen.

A detailed list of all inquiries from the media is kept. Last year the office handled a total of 228 separate inquiries and the rate has picked up this year. Through mid-May, the number was 123. A few of the inquiries can be handled quickly but many require hours of research and work.

Arrangements are made with the security office to provide parking, normally on Wohl Bridge, for media personnel visiting the hospital. A public relations representative meets the reporter and escorts him or her to the meeting place. In many cases, a doctor's office. Because of the right of patients to privacy and confidentiality, someone from public relations is always with a photographer, reporter and film crew. Unescorted media representatives are detained by security officers.

The size of the medical center and shortage of parking presents problems. Sometimes media personnel arrive at the wrong hospital entrance, complicating the situation, and one well-known television reporter constantly complains about the distances from the parking area to the appointment.

Television crews and still photographers garner most of the glances from hospital personnel throughout the hospital. Employees are curious about the crew's reason for being there and they want to catch a glimpse of local television news reporters. Most of the on-camera reporters in St. Louis have been in the hospital for a story during the last year.

What many employees want to know is, what are the local "celebrities" really like? The answer is that most reporters are professionals who appreciate the help which the office provides. A few, especially those new on the job, may try to get their story "on their own." They quickly find this leads to difficulties, because Barnes is a big place, and there are parking problems, problems in locating the office they wish to reach and security officers questioning their being in the hospital unescorted.

Most of the television interviews are telecast the same day that the interview takes place although many stations are doing more "series" and other telecasts may be delayed to another night.

"The news media continues to perform a valuable public service in keeping their audiences informed about the latest developments in health care and Barnes is happy to be a part of that news," Mrs. Barton said.
Dr. Becker's gift highlights dedication

Dr. Bernard Becker's gift of more than 650 early and rare medical books will highlight dedication ceremonies June 6 for the new Archives and Rare Book Annex of Washington University School of Medicine's Library.

Dr. Becker, Barnes ophthalmologist-in-chief, has been collecting rare medical books, primarily those relating to ophthalmology, for many years. Among those given the library are one incunabulum (a book printed before 1500), a first edition of Vesalius' epoch-making work on human anatomy (1543), the first printed work on diseases of the eye (Bartisch, 1583), the first English work on ophthalmology (Banister, 1622) and the French original on which it is based (Guillemeau, 1585), Helmholtz' treatise on optics, Priestley's work on vision, and Hauy's essay on education for the blind.

Altogether the collection contains one fifteenth century book; 16 sixteenth century books; 43 seventeenth century books, and 83 eighteenth century books, along with about 300 nineteenth and twentieth century items. The collection joins the almost 2,000 other rare books and five incunabula that the library already owns.

Barnes Tribute Fund

The following is a list of honorees (names in boldface) and contributors to the Barnes Hospital Tribute Fund from April 22 to May 20, 1975.

IN MEMORY OF:

Mr. Kurt Bemberg
Evelyn E. Bonander
Joseph T. Greco
Mrs. Grace Brewington
Carol Evans
Mr. Martin Mullally
Mr. and Mrs. Richmond C. Coburn
Mr. Harold Grauer
Alice Marshall
Mrs. Lillie Trulove
Barnes Hospital Central Service Dept.
Joseph T. Greco
William H. Behan, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Chambers
W. R. Persons
Marilynn Dooling
Sharon Ann Olson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nickels
Mrs. John C. Robinson, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. James Tanner
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip L. Dull

John Hutchings
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Dr. Henry A. Schroeder
Mrs. William S. Bedal
Dr. Elmer Hilpert
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Early
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Trent, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Monte C. Thro Dahl
Charles W. Middleton
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen F. Powell

Holton Price
Dr. and Mrs. Henry G. Schwartz
Mrs. Ethel S. Queeny
Dr. Thomas Burford
Dr. Thomas Ferguson
Dr. Charles Roper

Mrs. Martha Hankey
Barnes Hospital Dispatch Employees
Mr. Brooks Pumphrey
Mr. Joseph T. Greco
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Mr. and Mrs. Dan Brooks

Fay Krause
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Frank

George Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Robertson & Family

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Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schwartz & Family

Robert Kopf
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wegener
R. C. Fietsam & Company

Mr. Al Harris
Mr. Joseph T. Greco

Clifford Greve
Forrest Hemker
Mrs. Silas McKinley
Mr. George Brooks
Mrs. Arthur C. Brooks

IN HONOR OF:

Clara Tremayne
President, Barnes Hospital Auxiliary
Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Portman

Birthday of Louis Renard
Mrs. Lucy Mendelson

Patient Care Fund

The following is a list of recent contributors to the Patient Care Fund of Barnes Hospital.

Mrs. Tolise G. Purifoy
Mrs. Frank E. Thompson
Mrs. Suzanne H. Morrison
Mr. Osie Jones
Ms. Marion Dungan
Mr. Max Gerhart
Mr. Sidney M. Rosenberg
Mrs. Jennie Golding
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Brooks
Miss Rose Sheffer
Mr. Newell A. Augur
Mr. Leslie C. Meyer
Mr. and Mrs. Philip L. Moss
Mrs. Diane Haynes
Mrs. Frank Virga
Mr. Irvin S. De Woskin
Mrs. Margaret James
Mr. Norman E. Prante
Mr. Albert Rich
Mr. Eugene J. Walter
Miss Frieda Heer
Miss Alene Sheppard
Miss Margaret Rodell
Mrs. Ella Berra
Mrs. Earl Rice
Mrs. Odell E. Webb
Mrs. Dorothy Brodhead
Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Gregson
Mrs. Oscar Brown
Ms. Josephine Jones
Mrs. Lucille Allen
Mr. Harry L. Lape
Mr. Arthur Martens
Mrs. Lois W. Ward
Mr. Ben Lite
Mrs. Ernest A. Murr
Mrs. Mae Cunningham
Mr. Russell G. Johnson
Mrs. Fannie M. Anderson
Ms. Helen Didier
Mr. Andrew Kozak
Mr. George Savage
Mrs. Ruby H. Davis
Mr. George M. Coffey
Mr. Bruce White, Jr.
Mrs. Harry Larson
Mrs. Chas. O. Lane
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Nathan W. May
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Erickson

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene J. Walter
Miss Frieda Heer
Miss Alene Sheppard
Miss Margaret Rodell
Mrs. Ella Berra
Mrs. Earl Rice
Mrs. Odell E. Webb
Mrs. Dorothy Brodhead
Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Gregson
Mrs. Oscar Brown
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Mr. Andrew Kozak
Mr. George Savage
Mrs. Ruby H. Davis
Mr. George M. Coffey
Mr. Bruce White, Jr.
Mrs. Harry Larson
Mrs. Chas. O. Lane
Mrs. Katherine E. Murrie
Memorial Endowment Fund created

A Memorial Endowment Fund has been established at Barnes to provide for continuing support of the hospital's permanent endowment fund. Joseph Greco, associate director for hospital services, said persons contributing to the fund will be supporting the continuing efforts of the hospital to provide the best health care available today.

Recent contributors to the fund are:

Mrs. Aileen Carroll
Ms. Laura E. Wadsorth
Mrs. Charles W. Duden
Mrs. Thelma Lucile Lietz
Ms. Candice Larner
Mr. Oscar D’Esopo
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Crossman
Mrs. Max W. Myer
Mrs. Barbara Rice
Ms. Joyce Kohn
Mrs. Flossie Taylor
Mr. Franklin O. Rodgers
Mr. and Mrs. John Giglotto

Staff changes

The President's Office reports the following physicians on staff: Dr. Arthur Porporis, assistant radiologist, effective Jan. 1; Dr. Steven Teitelbaum, assistant pathologist, effective May 5; Dr. Stanley Thawley, assistant otolaryngologist; Dr. R. Gilbert Jost, Dr. Javad Jamshidnejad, Dr. William Murphy Jr., Dr. Carlos Rozenbom, assistant radiologists; and Dr. Mary Davis and Dr. James Smith, assistant psychiatrists, all effective July 1, 1975.

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Constance C. Barton Director
Jim Hubbard Associate Editor
Daisy Kramer Associate Editor

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No cure yet for sickle cell anemia

“No only is there no cure for sickle cell anemia, there is not even an effective treatment,” said Dr. Hugh Chaplin, Barnes physician. Dr. Chaplin is one of many researchers throughout the country who are trying to discover some method of relieving the symptoms of the disease, if not the disease itself.

Sickle cell anemia attacks primarily Negroes and is an inherited disease. Eight percent of the black population has the sickling trait (these individuals live normal lives and have a normal life expectancy). Approximately 0.16% have the disease itself. That figures out to about 500 people in the metropolitan St. Louis area.

The severity varies, but Dr. Chaplin said a person with the problem considers himself very lucky indeed if he experiences only two or three sickle cell crises a year. More typical is five to seven such attacks.

Patients in sickle cell crisis range from under one year old to 50 or 60, but the symptoms are similar: excruciating pain of the bones and joints. “The pain usually starts in the back and radiates to the shoulders and hips, then spreads over the entire body,” Dr. Chaplin explained. “It is frequently almost unbearable.”

During severe crisis the patient may require hospitalization for a week or ten days. “All we can do is treat the symptoms and wait for the crisis to pass,” Dr. Chaplin said. That includes intravenous feeding because the patients are not well enough to eat or drink, oxygen, antibiotics for any concurrent infection, and, most of all, analgesics to lessen the pain.

The infarcts that cause crises usually affect bones and joints, and in children the hands and feet may become extremely swollen and painful. In children, too, the infarcts can cause strokes and lead to hemiplegia.

There have been public announcements of apparent “breakthroughs” in sickle cell treatment over the years, sometimes cruelly raising the hopes of those affected with the disease. “Invariably, careful study has shown these treatments to be ineffective or to have such dangerous side effects as to prohibit their general use,” Dr. Chaplin said.

One of these is partial exchange transfusions with normal red cells. The transfusion must be repeated six or seven times a year, however, and most patients become sensitized to the donor antigens, and run the risk of contracting hepatitis.

Another hopeful approach a few years ago was sodium cyanate, which reacted with the hemoglobin molecule to help stabilize it. However, this treatment has been largely abandoned because it has been found that a dosage high enough to be effective was near dangerously toxic levels.

“We are carrying on a limited long-range study of a new approach to prevent sickle cell crisis,” Dr. Chaplin said. “It is based on the idea that blood clotting at the site of vascular occlusion by sickled cells may be contributing to tissue damage. Although other studies have determined that regular anticoagulants have no effect, there is a possibility that antplatelet agents might help.”

Dr. Chaplin is treating a very small, closely followed group of patients who have had severe crises. They are being given oral antplatelet agents and are followed weekly. “It is too early to say whether this approach is beneficial,” he said. “We expect to continue the study for several years.”

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Tax rates change; 
employes get more money

Barnes employes are getting larger paychecks as a result of new tax laws but they should be cautious to review the amount being withheld.

A new tax law, the Tax Reduction Act of 1975, went into effect May 1 and provides for an increase in the low income allowance, an increase in the standard deduction, a new tax credit and a new earned income tax credit. The changes mean that less money is being withheld from employe paychecks during the remainder of the year than was withheld at the beginning of the year.

The low income allowance has been increased from $1,300 to $1,600 for a single person (or head of household), and $1,900 for a married couple filing a joint return. The standard deduction has been increased from 15 to 16 per cent, with the maximum increased from $2,000 to $2,300 for a single person (or head of household), and to $2,600 for a married couple filing a joint return.

The new tax credit is for $30 for the taxpayer, his or her spouse, and each dependent. The new earned income tax credit has a maximum credit of $400 which phases out completely when income reaches $6,000. This credit applies to certain taxpayers who maintain a household that includes at least one of the taxpayer’s dependent children who is under 19 years of age or is a student.

The Internal Revenue Service has advised taxpayers to review their withholding. The IRS says that some employees may need to file new W-4 forms, indicating the number of deductions the employee is claiming. At Barnes, new W-4 forms are available in the employment office.

These persons are those in whose families both spouses are employed or where a second job is held. Another group includes employees who now claim additional withholding allowances due to large itemized deductions. Both groups of employees may find they will owe additional taxes for 1975 if they do not increase the amount of their taxes being withheld.

Bob Rechtien, assistant controller of Barnes, said that employees should review their withholding. “Employees should sit down with their tax returns for 1974 and their pay check stubs for this year to determine whether or not what is being withheld this year will be enough to cover their tax liability.” He advises persons with questions to call the IRS.

Hospital happenings

Rosemary Cowley Roberts, an LPN on 11100, died at Barnes April 30, of leukemia. She was 25 years of age. Mrs. Roberts, who lived in East St. Louis, began work at Barnes in 1972.

Spencer T. Olin, a member of the Barnes board of directors, and his wife, Ann Whitney, have become the first joint recipients of Washington University’s William Greenleaf Eliot Society Award presented for distinguished service to the university. The award was presented in April at the society’s annual dinner and specifically recognized contributions to the university’s medical school.