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The Rouen Post, February 1952

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PHILIP A. CONRATH, OF ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY, IS ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP MEDICAL ILLUSTRATORS. "Phil" Conrath as he is known to his contemporaries of Base Hospital 21 and Mobile Unit 4, both of W.W. I, now of the faculty of St. Louis University School of Medicine, is one of the nation's top-flight medical illustrators. We consider it a rare privilege to reprint a story by Virginia Irwin, of the Post Dispatch special writer's staff.

Once when Philip A. Conrath, one of the nation's top-flight medical illustrators finished a particularly tough job, a three-by-five canvas entitled "Semi-schematic Representation of the Distribution of Sympathetic and Parasympathetic Nerves of the Visceral Organs," a magazine editor asked him why he devoted his time to the drawing of such morbid subjects.

Conrath didn't have to think a minute for a reply. "Because," he said simply, "I like it."

Assistant professor of Anatomy and Medical Illustration and Director of the Section of Medical Illustration at St. Louis University School of Medicine, Conrath is vice-president of the American Association of Medical Illustrators. Had he followed his original ambition and become a commercial artist he might today be turning out covers for popular magazines and rolling in dough.

"A doctor talked me into becoming a medical illustrator more than 20 years ago and I've never been sorry," Conrath, who holds the distinction of being one of only 250 artists in the world who can qualify as medical illustrators, says happily.

Born in Jefferson City, Missouri, Conrath says some of his first drawings were done when he was in high school and made some pen and ink sketches of crawfish to illustrate an exhibit his biology class was sending to the state fair. Later at Washington University he took art subjects along with an academic course and went on to put in four years at Washington University School of Fine Arts.

"I had been paying in part of my way through school doing medical illustrations but my intention was still to be a commercial artist," Conrath explains. "Then the late Dr. R. Walter Mills, who was famous in the field of internal medicine, persuaded me to think of medical illustration as a career."

With four years in the school of Fine Arts behind him, Conrath put in another year in medical school, studying anatomy and doing medical illustrations for nothing and then in 1920 was added to the Medical School staff as an artist. After 16 years on the staff at Washington, he joined the medical illustration section at St. Louis University School of Medicine and during that time has come to be recognized as one of the outstanding medical illustrators in the country.

Though generally unsung and almost unsigned, the work of the medical artist is rarely out of the doctor's sight. One of the compensations of the business, Conrath points out, is the rare privilege of associating with the most famous doctors in the various fields of medicine. Conrath counts as satisfaction greater than any amount of money could buy some of his work with the late Dr. William T. Coughlin, famed professor of surgery of St. Louis University, and the occasion when he was the recording
artist for an operation in which Dr. Evarts A. Graham made history with the first successful removal of a lung.

* * *

A HAPPY, laughing man, Conrath foresees the day when every big hospital and institution will have its own medical illustrator.

"Medical illustrations convey thoughts more quickly and simply than words," he says. "I often quote Howard Kelly, the famous gynecologist at Johns Hopkins on the subject: Good true illustrations are a most valuable hand-made in medical instruction, for what the eye of the student has grasped remains indelibly impressed after a fashion unequalled by the clearest verbal description!" Medical illustrations aid the student in medical school right through a lifetime of learning and are still needed when he has perhaps become a recognized expert in his field and needs medical illustrations for his lectures or clinical papers or perhaps even for some textbook he has written.

Recently Conrath completed six illustrations showing the various steps in a cerebellar craniotomy for a book on brain tumors. Done in crayon dust technique, these amazingly detailed and delicate drawings represent untold hours of work.

Conrath says the demand for expert medical illustrators is today much greater than the supply. He says many a youngster who thought he wanted to be a medical illustrator gets cold feet when he finds out the years of study needed, first in an orthodox school of fine art and later in pathology, anatomy and in actual observation in operating rooms studying such things as the appearance of living tissues and surgical techniques.

Rather than scorning photography as a medium of expression, Conrath says it has its definite place in medical illustration. As director of the Section of Medical Illustration he also teaches radiological technology.

Conrath's hobby is also photography and he is currently completing a group of portraits of the faculty of the medical school. As vice-president of the American Association of Medical Illustrators and chairman of the 1952 convention which will be held in St. Louis in October, Conrath is already busy sending out invitations not only to the nation's top medical men but to young artists and art students who will be allowed to participate in some of the Association's meetings with the hope that these young artists and students may become interested in medical illustration and thus help fill the nation's present need for medical illustrators.

* * *

NOTE: A photograph accompanied the original article from which it is to be seen the description Virginia Irwin gave Phil Conrath fits him quite well, "A Happy, laughing man."

* * *

THE 21ST GENERAL HOSPITAL CELEBRATED 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEPARTURE FROM ST. LOUIS

The St. Louis area members of the 21st G.H. of W.W. II, the evening of 12 January 1952, gathered at the home of Colonel and Mrs. John R. Patton on Conway Road in St. Louis County, to revive the memories of ten years earlier when they departed from St. Louis for Fort Benning, Georgia.

Practically a full complement of the St. Louis contingent was on hand for the occasion. Dr. and Mrs. Russell Crider journeyed from St. Charles, Missouri; Dr. and Mrs. John Wedig and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Anschuetz came from Alton, Illinois. Frances Ward traveled from Rolla, Missouri to lend color to the gathering. Francie's presence can always be counted on the asset side of any party.

The affair was held in the new wing of the Patton home, which was designed especially for gatherings of this nature. It is a roomy addition capable of accommodating comfortably, more than the 60 persons who were present.

We are informed the special "play room" is attractively designed and outfitted, the decorative scheme, fittings and furniture being the creations of Mrs. Patton.

Catering was handled by Mrs. Patton and the untiring Dr. David Nafe Kerr took care of everything else, including entertainment and refreshments.

Just as during the early days of B.H. 21, W.W. I, the members brought their scrapbooks full of snapshots of their activities since being discharged from the Army. Pictures of their offspring predominated. There were the customary exaggerations about their heroic deeds and some just plain "fabrications." We have it on good
authority that the former Major, now just plain Dr. John Wedig, was in rare form during the evening, dwelling at length upon his exploits as a horseman.

It has been reported the party was a huge success and everyone seemed glad to have been a member of Colonel Lee D. Cady's command, the 21st G.H. during W.W. II.

* * *

Ed. The Rouen Post presents compliments and greetings to Colonel Cady and his fine group of officers, nurses, enlisted and other personnel on this, the 10th anniversary year of their departure from St. Louis to participate in World War II.

* * *

A LETTER FROM ARNOLD MINTZ OF THE 21ST GENERAL HOSPITAL AND OUR ANSWER

New York

Dear Mr. Engel:

I received my copy of the Rouen Post News-Letter this morning and was interested to see a paragraph in it about me. Unfortunately the facts are entirely wrong and have proved most embarrassing to me. I would like you to print a retraction in the next edition.

I did not suffer a nervous breakdown while attending Missouri University and I was not hospitalized for it as you implied in your article. While attending the university I suffered a relapse of my tuberculosis which was contracted while serving in the 21st General Hospital. I was a patient at Trudeau Sanatorium for a year and a half for my tuberculosis. I am now discharged and at home. As bad as it is I would prefer tuberculosis to being hospitalized for two years with a nervous breakdown . . . all I can say is it would have to be some breakdown . . . please correct this error at your earliest convenience. A good reporter always checks his facts.

Sincerely . . . Arnold E. Mintz

* * *

OUR OPEN ANSWER . . .

Dear Mr. Mintz:

Even before receiving your letter we were preparing a statement retracting our mis-statement regarding the need for your hospitalization at Trudeau.

Dr. Beam, also of the 21st G.H., who was very much disturbed about it, telephoned us immediately that he read the item and, as you know, took personal steps to correct our mis-statement.

During the Christmas holiday period, son King Engel was home and we lunched with Drs. John Patton and Sim Beam, both of the 21st G.H. Dr. Beam was late in arriving but immediately with his usual boundless enthusiasm announced that you had been discharged from the sanatorium.

Always eager for personal news items we made a brief note, "Mintz discharged." When it came time to write the copy for the next News-Letter, we were not concerned about the nature of illness but we were eager to let your many friends know that you had recovered and had been discharged from the sanatorium. Nothing else mattered at that moment. That was of paramount importance to us and we were happy to be able to report it.

At no time during the conversation on that day was the nature of your illness mentioned. Sometime previously we had filed in our memory file, which does not fail us too often, a note that bore reference to the need for your hospitalization. From whence the faulty information came we do not know.

We assume full responsibility for the error and humbly apologize for our distortion of the facts. Again we repeat, we were intent upon reporting that you had fully recovered from your long siege of illness and letting your many friends know it. Any other references were purely incidental.

Believe us to be truly regretful.

Most sincerely . . . Bill Engel

* * *

AMONG OURSELVES


Marshall who served in the North African campaign had not been in good health since his discharge. For the past several years he was employed as a draftsman by the
American Well Works in Aurora, Illinois. He was born October 15, 1914 at Frederic, Wisc. and moved to Batavia 12 years ago from Dairyland, Wisc. with his family.

Funeral services were held from the Holy Cross Church of which he was a member.

* * *

Our condolences to the family. Ed.

* * *

Officers for the Women's Auxiliary of St. Luke's Episcopal-Presbyterian Hospital of St. Louis, were installed recently, including Mrs. Sim F. Beam as recording secretary. Mrs. Beam is the wife of Dr. Beam of the 21st G.H., W.W. II.

Miss Lucille Spalding, Chief Nurse of the 21st G.H. and until recently Chief Nurse at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis is now Director of Nursing Education at the University of North Carolina Hospital, Chapel Hill, N. C.

* * *

What is Barnes Hospital loss is an immeasurable gain for the new school at the University Hospital of North Carolina. Girls who served with Miss Spalding and the 21st G.H. have had only the highest praise for her ability and treatment of them. We are certain Miss Spalding will be happy in her new position for which she is so eminently qualified. We wish her the best of luck and a great deal of happiness.

* * *

Mrs. Mary Conrath, wife of the illustrious Phil who features this issue, again is hospitalized. We are unfamiliar with the nature of her ailment but it is our hope that ere this issue reaches you that Mrs. Conrath shall have fully recovered and returned to her home.

* * *

When we learned of the illness of Mrs. Philip Conrath a letter was promptly dispatched. The following is husband and artist Philip's answer. Ed.

* * *

Dear Bill: Mary has asked me to thank you and Opal for your kind letter and good wishes. She would have done so herself but did not have such a good day yesterday. She has a liver disformation complicated by Reynauds' Disease. She had been making good progress until she had an attack of chills and fever. We hope this is only temporary.

* * *

We both hope you and Opal are enjoying good health and thanks again.

Sincerely ... Phil (Conrath)

* * *

DR. MELVIN E. CASBERG HAS ASSUMED NEW DUTIES

Effective January 1, 1952, Dr. Casberg who has been Dean of the School of Medicine, St. Louis University, St. Louis, assumed the Vice-Chairmanship of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council. His new address is:

Melvin A. Casberg, M.D., Acting Chairman Armed Forces Medical Policy Council Office of the Secretary of Defense Washington 25, D. C.

* * *

HEADS SOCIETY OF SURGEONS

Dr. Eugene M. Bricker, associate professor of surgery at the Washington University School of Medicine and a member of the 21st G.H., W.W. II, was seated as president of the Society of University Surgeons, recently, at the organization's convention at Baltimore.

Dr. Bricker, who lives at 43 Briarcliff, Ladue, was named president-elect in 1951. The society met at Johns Hopkins Hospital to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. William Halsted, first professor of surgery at The Hopkins Medical School. The 1953 meeting will be at Washington University, St. Louis.

* * *

LETTERS

Lebanon, Mo.

My dear Bill Engel, Editor:

Enclosed is a letter just received from "Padre" Edwards who was with us at the race-track, most of our stay there. If you have room for some or all of it, there are several old-timers who probably will find it of interest. If it doesn't fit in can you return it to me, please, and I will round-robin it a bit.

I find "retirement" much fun but like Charlie Koch in the January issue, there is no so-called leisure. Besides volunteer work, the district and state Nurses' Associations, committee activity is continued with the American Nurses' Association, as is chairmanship of a committee of the International Council of Nurses.

As a by line am "chief cook and bottle washer" and general factotum in and for our eight room house surrounded by about three acres of front, side and back yards. Birds
galore of many varieties, detract from concentration on the above, as do the antics of the frisky squirrels. We watch daily for our faithful terrapin whose annual pilgrimage will bring him back to summer with us; almost before we can turn around it will be Fall and he willwend his way to parts unknown. So many things tend to make life pure joy. The best I can wish all of my "buddies" is that similar "retired" satisfactions may come to them if they have not already realized them.

My good wishes to each and everyone and appreciation for your faithful struggles in keeping the News-Letter going. It is the one tie which keeps us together.

* * *

The Padre’s Letter ...

My dear Mary: It was a joy to receive your card containing greetings and good wishes. You are indeed a loyal friend. We much appreciate your thought of us. Next time you write tell us a lot about yourself. If I am to judge by your handwriting, you are in good-health and spirit. Given that you are busily occupied. I can’t imagine you being the butterfly, though I can well see you as the busy bee - without the sting. We received word from Myrtle and Mary Moats. It is good to be reminded of you girls.

Indeed, I am reminded of you every day for beside me in the corner is that posh walking stick you gave me. I don’t need it to keep the missus in order, nor do I need it for support for my legs.

We here are well, thanks. In 1947 I was quite ill in a hospital, so I resigned. After an operation I got well again. For two years I served as moderator of Spurgeon’s Tabernacle. Now that the new minister has arrived I am free to serve here, there and everywhere. I do a lot of writing. For ten years I have written a weekly talk for the Baptist Times (Children’s Corner), also I write for British Weekly every week. My books are out of print, but I am preparing another. Keep a friendly eye on my invalid friends, so there’s enough to keep me on the go.

Carey and Maud and their two children are well - Ann 13, Lyn 3. Enid and Charles and their five year old Tony also are fit. They live within a few miles of us and can all be reached by bus in 20 minutes. Both boys are in good positions and are a comfort to us. Carey does a lot of script-writing for B.B.C. So we go on.

I have just had a phone talk with a former patient of No. 12, W. V. Dawkins (surgical). He tells me that you ministered to him and wishes to be remembered to you. He is a successful business man, although he is lame. He’s 6 foot 3 and weighs 17 stones, so there’s a lot of him.

If you see any of the old guard, give them my love and ask them to write. I can recall lots of names of the nurses, their faces, too, and their voices. And the recalling is a pleasure. You all served the boys handsomely. Oh, for the day when we shall have a war-less world and when Christ and his way of life shall be a reality in the experiences of all nations.

K and I and the children send love and good wishes to you. I am, dear Mary, Cordially yours, J. R. Edwards.

J. R. Edwards, 57 Sudbourne Road, S.W. 2


* * *

Ed. It is a real pleasure to receive such letters of those of the "Padre" and Mary Stebbins. Life for Mary Stebbins obviously has been a wonderful thing, so laden with the spirit of pure joy and ecstasy. Apparently she has kept her "house and life" in order and does not need any fantastic, socialized schemes "to lighten the load as she gaily carries on." As a matter of fact, with just a few exceptions, mainly due to ill-health, the nurses of B.H. 21, W.W. I, seem to be in comfortable retirement. They have chosen different paths in so doing but the ultimate results are the same - but it hasn’t been because of their large pay checks during their active years!

* * *

Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Jackson: I am enclosing a small check for the Rouen Post. With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all ... Howard W. Dunham

* * *

Dear friend Jackson: St. Louis

Please find a check enclosed.

Well, I am home again after seven weeks in Barnes Hospital. Miss Hilligass and Dr. Eyerman came to see me. Willard McQuoid and Bill Engel also visited me.

I note from the Rouen Post that Jablonsky passed away while I was in the hospital. Jabby sure was a square guy. I do not think he ever played favorites with
any one. About two years ago I visited him at the V.A. Hospital and had planned to see him again but did not get the chance. I guess he is no longer miserable ... he was suffering when I saw him.

Yours sincerely, Wrennie W. Steele

P.S. If any of the boys have time, drop around as I shall be home for a while.

Address, 5458 Lindenwood Ave., telephone Flanders 7963.

From Syl Horn to Arshav Nushan.
959 Cook Street
Denver 6, Colorado

Shim, My Boy: Was pleased to have your January 31 response.

Consul ("retired") Tomhorm would appear to have visited your friend George's food palace. Tom devotes much time to racial relations endeavors, and is now Member of California State Committee, Federation for Civic Unity.

We were sorry to realize Marie Koch's passing. We had not known of her loss of sight. Marie had an admirable capacity for friendships, and we know that you and your mother were firm on her list. She was by temperament a perennial young-girl I believe; one who never felt above age for dancing and simple enthusiasms. Perhaps she never really grew up emotionally.

Jablonsky's passing was too bad also, for he contributed much that was good, sound and constructive. Bill Engel's graceful estimate of Jablonsky was another example of Bill's superb writing talents. Indeed, the Rouen Post has throughout its years of publication uttered gems of fine and firm prose from the pens of Engel.

Your boy Jack sounds like a most worthwhile young man. We hope he will be permitted to complete education without untoward interruption. Our elder Nephew DEAN BUTLER (29) bought ring last week for a little neighbor (our's) lady schoolteacher Aunt Ida introduced him to a few months ago! Both our (only) nephews, "the Butler Bros." work in Federal agencies here and have kept a bachelor apartment. They are "Country boys" of Idaho ranch rearing, and neither has shown undue romantic inclinations until the elder got intensive about our little neighbor. We suppose it will be a June wedding.

Bob Taft is to speak here next week. An Eisenhower headquarters was opened downtown couple days ago. Whether one likes him (or the idea) or not, I believe it would be an excellent idea to adjust one's self to the probability that Gen'1. Ike will be next Pres. of the U. S. When one keeps hearing and reading that Taft has the Republican Organization completely lined up, one wonders if such Commentators and writers haven't heard that Eisenhower is enthusiastically forwarded by Dewey, Duff, Lodge, Saltonstall and many another Republican not a stranger to "The Organization." And the "grass-roots" support of Eisenhower looms large - The "grass-roots" sprung a little-known Willkie you'll recall. I'm unwilling to declare a personal preference, for I feel no keen preference at the moment. I do want Mr. Truman of Missouri retired, and whatever candidate can best secure that mission will be my man! I admire Taft a great deal, but I can't go for the theory that he can wage a campaign on a National scale such as he waged at the State (Ohio) level two years ago. It's physically impossible to visit every town of 10,000 people in the U. S., and that's the way Taft got his Ohio job done.

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I'm feeling fairly well, but I have plenty trouble breathing when I exert a bit. And so I keep very close to home-base. There is a reaccumulation of pleural fluid on one side and it cuts down on lung space and function, and crowds the heart somewhat. I may have the fluid tapped off if it gets too uncomfortable. However I'd prefer to have it absorb by itself eventually, for then it would perhaps be less likely to reform. Ida feels rather well. It has been of some benefit to her that we've virtually retired from law chores; for her secretaryship thereon was demanding at times ---- in addition to house-hold and other undertakings.

Good greets to you all.

Heartily yours.
Syl.

Naples, Texas

Dear Jackson:

Do we get a reunion this year! If you don't know now how long will it be before
you will know! My best wishes to you and all of the gang ... Jess Lasater.

Mr. Ernst G. Keefer, Commander
2701 South 59th Street
St. Louis, Mo.
Dear Mr. Keefer: The services so ably conducted by the American Legion Guard of Honor for my late husband Charles, shall ever remain in my memories. It was a fine tribute to a fine soldier and husband and I am certain could be speak out, Charlie would say, "thanks my comrades, you did another beautiful job, let not that spirit die."
Please convey my most sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation to each Legionnaire who made this ritual possible.

My dearest Mr. Engel:

It gives me great pleasure to read your paper. It makes one feel good that fellow soldiers are so much interested in each other. God bless you all!

Al is still in the Veterans Hospital at Northport, L.I., N.Y. (Al Lustig of the 21st G.H. of W.W. II). So far they have found no cure for multiple sclerosis. I am very thankful to Drs. Walton, Edwards, Anschuetz, Schwartz and the rest of the medical gentlemen.

It really is a pleasure to read in your Rouen Post that all of the 21st G.H. members are so interested in the good health, et cetera, of their fellow soldiers.

God bless you all! Louis Lustig

P.S. My younger son, Leonard, who was a major in the 165 Engineer Regiment and my youngest Gene was a Lieutenant. My son-in-law of the 28th Division was a prisoner in Germany. They each are doing wonderful work in the Jewish Vets for the boys in different hospitals. They are B'nai B'Rith and Jewish Veterans organization members.
I also want to thank the many who sent Christmas Greetings which were forwarded to me. Christmas, this time, found me swamped with the details of beginning a new venture and establishing a new home. I neglected my friends badly but thought of them all. As you probably know I am Director of Nursing Service of the new University Hospital, University of North Carolina, here at Chapel Hill. Construction of the building will probably be completed in April. In the meantime there is a tremendous amount of detail to be planned. When I think of some of the 21st who are North Carolinians and of their praises for their home state I know now what they meant. They will understand when I say that I have "tar on my heels." Enclosed is my contribution to the Rouen Post.

Best regards and thanks.

Sincerely yours... Lucille Spalding

* * *

Isabelle Kurtz, 1123 Juniper Avenue, Long Beach 4, Calif. did not send a note or letter but did send a generous contribution to the News-Letter, which, of course, we appreciate. It would be doubly fine if we could have a bit of personal news from or about Isabelle. Ed.

* * *

351 Jamaica Ave.
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackson: Here is a check for the Rouen Post News-Letter which I enjoy so much. Please have them change my address to the above.

Thanking you for everything.

Yours truly... Siegfried Cuck.

* * *

Floral Park, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jackson: Here is my contribution to help keep the Rouen Post News-Letter in circulation. I enjoy reading about the old gang. Wish St. Louis was not so far from New York. I would like to attend one of the meetings but do not have the time to spare.

Thanks for keeping me on the list and give my regards to all.

John J. Landgrover... 10 Verbena Ave.

* * *

* Denotes B. H. 21.

Fleishell, Father
Femgius
409 Southampton St.
Emporia, Va.

*Flint, Hazel
755 W. Kirkham
St. Louis 19, Mo.

Flod, Ansel L.
Rte. 4, Box 273
Turlock, Calif.

*Flynn, O. S.
(Olive Serafini)
St. Agnes Home
10341 Manchester Rd.
Kirkwood 22, Mo.

Folk, Chas.
Center, No. Dak.

Foss, Wilbert L.
1837 N. Luna
Chicago, Ill.

*Foster, Geo. W.
5122 Waterman Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Freedman, Dr. Harold
323 Clara Ave.
St. Louis 12, Mo.

Freedman, Dr. John
4853 Second Ave.
Detroit, Mich.

Freedman, L. H.
Columbus, Ga.

Friedman, Coleman
2928 Curran Road
Louisville 5, Ky.

Friedman, Samuel
1627 6th St.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Friedman, Dr. Harold
4853 Second Ave.
Detroit, Mich.

Friedman, Dr. John
4853 Second Ave.
Detroit, Mich.

Frankel, Warren
118-11 8th Ave.
Arlington, Va.

THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS...

You are making it possible for us to continue the News-Letter both by sending us funds and material. Let the flow continue.

* * *

Please mail funds to:
J. J. Jackson
10530 Far-View Ave.
W. Overland, Mo.

* * *

Letters and other material to:
Bill Engel
220 N. Fourth St.
St. Louis 2, Mo.