LETTERS FROM EMPLOYEES

PRAISE SHORTER WORK WEEK

Four Hospital Trustees Named to Barnes Board

Five additional members have been added to the Barnes Hospital Board of Trustees. It was announced recently by Chairman Edgar M. Queeny.

Their appointment increases the number of trustees to 14. The St. Louis Circuit Court recently authorized the board to increase the number from nine to 15 as an aid in meeting heavier responsibilities imposed by a proposed expansion and modernization program and establishment of a medical center.

The five, all of whom are directors and members of many civic and other enterprises, are: Irving Edison, president of Edison Stores inc.; Robert R. Hermann, president, Standard Container Co.; Charles E. Claggett, president and chairman, Gardner Advertising Co.; Joseph E. Griesedieck, president, Falstaff Brewing Corp., and Benjamin M. Loeb, board chairman, Renard Linoleum and Rug Co.

New Vending Machines Will Serve Employees

As a convenience to hospital personnel and visitors, coin operated machines dispensing candy, cigarettes, coffee and soda will be installed in the near future in eight scattered locations.

Exact locations have not been selected as yet. Areas under consideration are: Barnes lobby, hall between Maternity and McMillan, 2nd floor of Barnes near dispatch, near 5200, near Wohl basement, Wohl basement near the auditorium and between Wohl lobby and clinics.

Final placing of the machines will depend on the availability of electricity, water supply and drainage lines, as well as traffic patterns and convenience to those being served.

Barnes Joining With School, Other Hospitals To Form Medical Center

Mayor Raymond R. Tucker has hailed the recent creation of the Washington University Medical School and Associated Hospitals medical center saying, “By combining their efforts these hospitals should be able to serve the St. Louis Community even more effectively than they have in the past. St. Louis’s hospitals should be able to assist in the advancement of medical research and investigation; (c) to coordinate the hospital operations of five medical units met to affiliate, constitute a board of directors and elect officers. The medical center was created through an agreement between Washington University and the boards of Barnes, Barnard, Jewish and Children’s hospitals.

Also included in the center are McMillan, Maternity, Renard and Wohl hospitals and the clinics all owned and staffed by the school and operated by Barnes.

Announcement of the 40-hour week for most Barnes Hospital employees by the board of trustees has resulted in several letters of thanks.

Particularly novel was the following poem, received from Opal Kemper, nursing service typist:

On the first of April in ’62
Barnes Hospital made a dream come true.
They changed our week to 40 hours
Which has always been a wish of ours.
So let’s all join the grateful ranks
And give administration our heartfelt thanks.

The change-over to the shorter work week, to be completed by January 1963, will not cut wages. Pay will be based on the 44 hour rate, even though only 40 hours are worked. In effect the shorter week means an increase of approximately 10 per cent in the salaries of 2000 employees.

In a memo to all employees, Dr. Bradley, hospital director, said, “The trustees and administration have long searched for the means to make this move possible. They view this in the best interests of the hospital family, and, needless to say, are counting on all who benefit to cooperate fully in maintaining and improving the high standards of patient services for which we all constantly aim.”

Mrs. Ruby Wadsworth, drug store cashier, responded by concluding her letter of thanks with, “I’d like to express my appreciation for your confidence that we can do an efficient job in less time. I think I can speak for others on the staff as well as myself, in saying that we shall try to justify the confidence.”

The shorter week, because of the large number of persons involved and the planning needed for its execution, goes into effect in four steps. This was deemed necessary in order that no hospital services be disrupted.

First groups to go on the 40-hour week, April 1, included auxiliary nursing service personnel, laundry and linen departments, gift shop, drug store, and improving the high standards which we all constantly aim.”

The mayor spoke of the action taken March 31, when representatives of five medical units met to affiliate, constitute a board of directors and elect officers. The medical center was created through an agreement between Washington University and the boards of Barnes, Barnard, Jewish and Children’s hospitals.

GIFTS OF CARPET, LIGHTS

The objects, purposes and functions of the center are: (a) to improve the knowledge, teaching and practice of medicine and related subjects; (b) to assist in the advancement of medical research and investigation; (c) to coordinate the hospital operations of five medical units met to affiliate, constitute a board of directors and elect officers. The medical center was created through an agreement between Washington University and the boards of Barnes, Barnard, Jewish and Children’s hospitals.

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The problems of getting full coverage on nursing divisions are illustrated here as Mrs. Margaret Linss, head nurse on 1200, goes over the schedule with some of her helpers. The shorter, 40-hour week takes much planning on the part of supervisors as they strive to maintain full coverage while adjusting schedules. Standing, from left, are: Nelda Johnson, nurse assistant; Naomi Graham, floor technician; Dora Martin, junior nurse assistant, and Mrs. Gladys Scherrer, secretary. Because of the administrative problems of seven-day-a-week, 24-hours-a-day service, the switch to the shorter week is being accomplished in phases.

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Training Advances Non-Professional Nursing Personnel

More than 1000 young men and women have been given the opportunity to advance their position at the hospital since a comprehensive in-service training program was inaugurated in September, 1958, for non-professional nursing staff. In gradual steps over a three-year period, for those who are ambitious, intelligent and apply themselves, base pay can be increased more than $900 a year.

The program, under the direction of Mrs. Bertha Beckwith, assistant director, nursing staff program, trains staff to supplement the services of registered nurses, always-docile training dummy. The classes take place on the 9th floor of the university, will discuss the atomic ability, floor technician. A nurse assistant, senior nurse climbs to junior nurse assistant, formal and on the job training, program, trains staff to supplement the services of registered nurses on the floors where they work. If the evaluation proves satisfactory it's a new white uniform and two chevrons for the candidate.

HISTORY SOCIETY MEETING

Atomic energy and biological warfare are the discussion topics scheduled for the History of Science and Medicine Society meeting at 8 p.m. on May 9 in Clifton Amphitheatre.

Dr. Edward Condon, physics department of Washington University, will discuss the atomic energy program's inception and Dr. Theodor Rosebury, School of Dentistry, will speak on medical ethics and biological warfare. The meeting is open to the public.

Members of the current senior nurse assistant class practice their technique on their always-docile training dummy. The classes take place on the 9th floor of the Rand Johnson wing of Barnes Hospital. Shown, clockwise around the bed, are: Betty Freiburger, Altonia White, Bessie Watkins, the dummy, Lulla Evans, Onieda Phillips and Nelda Johnson.

Drug Room Employee Holds Record of 41 Years Service With Hospital

Emma Math, a lively, gray-haired clerk who works in Wohl Clinics drug room, can probably document the development of Barnes Hospital more vividly than anyone else now employed here.

The reason: She has been working for the hospital over 41 years and has witnessed the sporadic growth of each medical unit as it became a part of the hospital complex.

"I've enjoyed every moment of my 41-year stay at Barnes," says Emma, "and I'll continue working as long as they let me.

She has the important job of packaging and storing enormous supplies of drugs that are used by clinic patients. The assignment is an important one in that orderly pre-packaging and shelving of drugs is a requisite for keeping a steady stream of medication flowing through the dispensing station.

"Emma does an excellent job in handling these items," according to W. E. Williams, chief druggist. "She has been a loyal and faithful worker, and the drug service has profited immensely from her conscientious performance. Rain or shine, she is always here to carry out her daily duties."

Emma started her career at the hospital in January, 1921, working in the record office. Four years later she was transferred to the drug department, where she remained on full-time duty until March of 1961, when she voluntarily decided to work on a semi-retired basis.

Residing at 4486 Vista Ave., the affable clerk spends her leisure hours "cooking, sewing and raising African violets."

For many years she belonged to the Eastern Star but recently dropped her membership in favor of participating more actively in St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

An enthusiastic traveler, Emma is going to Seattle, Wash., this summer for the World's Fair. While vacationing there she plans to visit an old friend, the former chairman of the drug department, Della Storck, who worked for Barnes in 1914.

In reminiscing, Emma smilingly recalls the lone structure that comprised Barnes Hospital in the early days... when it was less than six years old.

"Only the hospital facility and the old clinic existed then," she adds. "I regard it to believe that 41 years could bring about such a remarkable change."

With renovations and new construction in the offing, Emma probably will see other assignments, as well as amazement, because she, too, had a hand in the making of Barnes.

DR. ROBINS IS NAMED TO HEAD DEPARTMENT

Dr. Eli Robins has been appointed head-elect of the department of psychiatry and neurology at the School of Medicine. He will succeed Dr. Edwin F. Gildea, who will retire as chairman of the department in July, 1963. At that time, Dr. Robins will also become psychiatrist-in-chief of Barnes, Renard and affiliated hospitals and the Washington University Clinics.

Dr. Robins, a faculty member since 1949, was named professor of psychiatry in 1958. He is also assistant psychiatrist at Barnes and Allied Hospitals, attending psychiatrist at St. Louis City Hospital and visiting psychiatrist at St. Louis State Hospital.

Dr. Gildea, Wallace Renard professor of psychiatry, has been chairman of the department since 1942. In 1948, he initiated the opening of the first in-patient psychiatric service in the state. He also conducted clinics in McMillan Hospital in the medical center and through his efforts, the 100-bed Renard Hospital was constructed in 1953. Dr. Gildea will continue to be Renard Professor until 1965 and will use the greater leisure afforded by the new appointment to further his research and for travel as a guest lecturer.
Promotions Announced For Barnes Employees

Promotion of 19 employees during the period March 22 through April 17 has been announced by the personnel office.

Advancing to junior nurse assistant from student nurse assistant are: Jacqueline Williams, Shirley Ann Crawford, Connie Mae Sanders, and Breeder French.

Newly named nurse assistants from junior nurse assistants are: Eunice Martin, Geraldine Thomas, Arzena Leonard, Alice Keys, Patricia Jackson, and Billy J. Cleveland.

Other promotions include: Floyce Moore and Wanda Root to head nurse, Sandra Woltenson and Edna J. Pearson to assistant head nurse, Max Abernathy to chief technician, Edward Scott to equipment technician, Effie Stubbs to technician, Kirk Campbell to orderlies, and Phillip Winberry to elevator starter.

One could say that he cares nothing for flowers and small garden plants, and that he does not make his living by farming, it does not change the fact that growth is taking place all about us. The observer who would try to rule out this fact would find it rather difficult.

Growth never stops in the natural realm, and it should not in the individual. There are times in the midst of winter when it seems that all plants have withered away, but this is nothing more than a part of the process of growth. Members of the human family have their times of rest and relaxation also, but these important periods should not be over-worked. A great process takes care of the balance of activity of the plant. A far greater plan is given to individuals, for we are given the freedom to work out this balance for ourselves.

Some will immediately respond to this idea by referring to the fact that this is hardly so, for we have to live within the limits of certain rules and regulations of the law and the job. Our ability to adjust to the regulations, or limits, is determined by the extent to which we are able to grow.
Birthdays, Special Events Marked By Tribute Fund

The tribute fund committee of the Barnes Hospital Auxiliary reports that 73 donations for a variety of occasions have been received since the auxiliary began sponsoring the fund in mid-December.

"Gifts to the fund," Mrs. Simon Edison, fund chairman, states, "help support cancer and heart programs and assist your hospital in the purchase of ancillary materials for needy patients."

Both Mrs. Edison and her co-chairman, Mrs. Betty Driemeyer, feel that tributes, in addition to memorial gifts, should be made for joyous occasions. The list of contributions bears out this contention, with days of birth, anniversaries and hospital recoveries being remembered through tributes. In addition, gifts have been made in honor of individuals and special occasions, such as Christmas.

Envelopes for anyone wishing to donate to the fund are available from the auxiliary's desk in the Barnes lobby, the auxiliary office, Mrs. Edison or Mrs. Driemeyer.

Barnes Auxiliary Reports On Volunteers, Annual Meeting

Another bumper crop of candystripe volunteers will be on tap when the summer vacation season rolls around, the Barnes Hospital Auxiliary reports. More than 100 new applications have been received from teen-agers who want to volunteer their services.

The auxiliary also reports that their new room, behind the chapel and next to the doctors' office, was formally christened April 24. Kudos were acclaimed for the maintenance department for repairs and painting of the room and for individuals who donated furnishings.

Plans for the auxiliary's annual meeting on May 4 have been made. Election of officers and a fashion show will highlight the program to be held at Old Warson Country Club.