

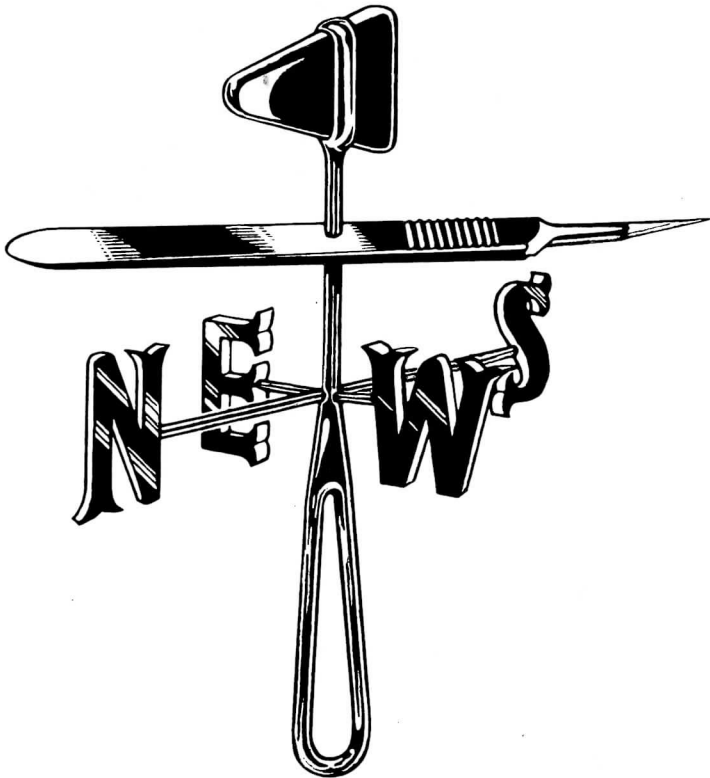
# BULLETIN

of the  
MAHONING COUNTY  
MEDICAL SOCIETY

Volume XLVII

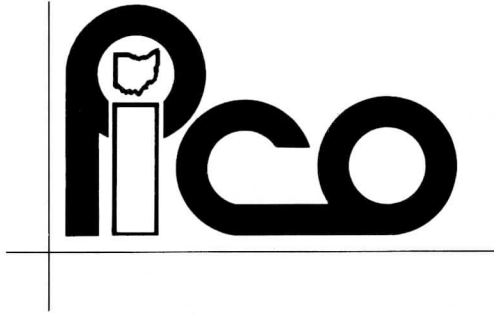
JUNE, 1977

Number 5



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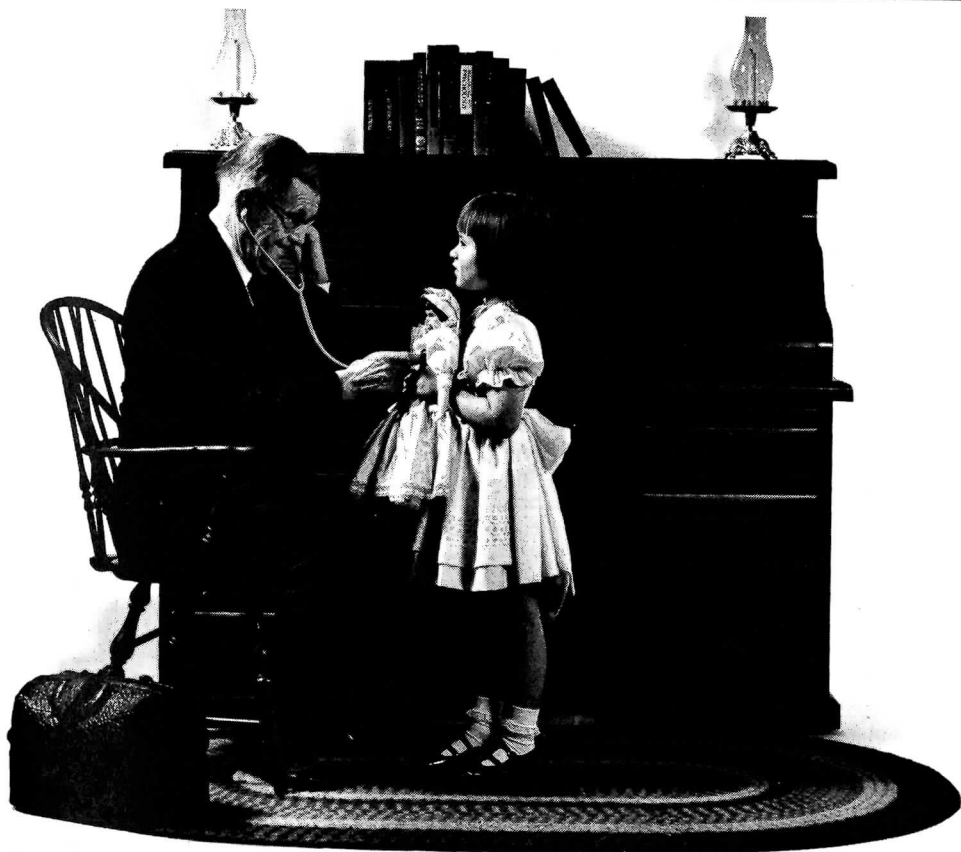
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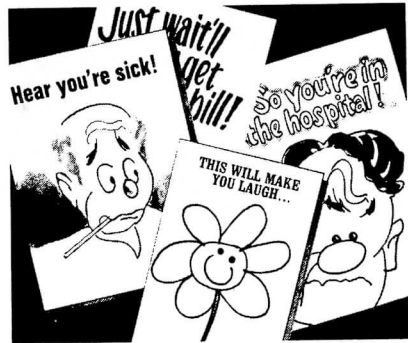
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## MAHONING COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS — 1977

Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Jan. 18	Mar. 15	May 24	Sept. 20	Nov. 15	Dec. 20

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## *From the Desk of the President*



### GENERIC DRUG POLL RESULTS

Last April your Medical Society conducted a poll in order to obtain your opinion concerning generic drugs and the Bill now in the Ohio legislature that would, in effect, repeal Ohio's drug anti-substitution law. The results are interesting and are as follows:

#### QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Do you believe that the quality of drugs manufactured for generic houses generally equals the quality of brand-name drugs?

YES — 24 (10.2%) NO — 206 (87%) DON'T KNOW — 5

2. Who do you believe is best able to determine whether a brand-name or a generic drug should be prescribed?

Patient's Physician - 226 (96.2%) Patient's Pharmacist - 9 (3.8%)

3. Do you believe the Federal Drug Administration is able to maintain adequate quality control over all drugs manufactured in the U.S.?

YES — 26 (11.1%) NO — 205 (88.9%) DON'T KNOW — 4

4. Do you believe your patients will benefit from a law that allows a pharmacist to substitute a generic drug in your brand-name prescription?

YES — 11 (4.7%) NO — 222 (94%) DON'T KNOW — 4

5. Do you believe physicians should oppose such a law?

YES — 219 (93.2%) NO — 14 (6.8%)

This information was conveyed to the Ohio legislators from our area with the request that they give serious consideration to the opinions of the practicing physicians of Mahoning County.

Senate Bill 45 is now being considered in the judiciary committee of the House and, as president of the Mahoning County Medical Society, I testified before this committee on May 19th, giving the results of our questionnaire.

Our legislative staff at OSMA felt that this testimony was effective, and stressed the point that this type of grass roots involvement is most important and carries more weight with the legislators than OSMA input.

I want to thank all of you for your involvement. Let's hope that we did some good for our patients.

—J. James Anderson, M.D.  
President



# BULLETIN

## of the Mahoning County Medical Society

Published Monthly for and by the Members

1005 Belmont Ave.  
 Youngstown, Ohio 44504 Not published in May,  
 Phone 747-4956 July and August.

Volume XLVII

JUNE, 1977



Number 5

The opinions and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial staff nor the official views of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

### EDITOR

A. Reed Hoffmaster, M.D.

### EDITOR EMERITUS

James L. Fisher, M.D.

### EDITORIAL STAFF

C. A. Gustafson, M.D.  
 John C. Melnick, M.D.  
 James A. Lambert, M.D.  
 Jack Schreiber, M.D.

## Editorial

Charles Peters, editor of the Washington Monthly, was given his opportunity to critique American Medicine in an editorial presented in Newsweek's March 28, 1977, edition. (I really do not know what Mr. Peter's qualifications for such a critical undertaking are, but irregardless of his qualifications or lack thereof, I believe Mr. Peters failed miserably in what I consider to be an extremely biased, negative attack on the American physician.)

In his article Mr. Peters recommended total abolishment of the private medical education in favor of a National Health Service which would subsequently assume the total cost of each physician's education. With public assumption of the cost of one's medical education, the product produced under such a system could be trained in specialties of demand, not interest, and that product would be sent to practice in areas of (geographic???) need, not desire. In Mr. Peters opinion, "the doctor is the spiritual father of the gross extravagance of our present health delivery system" and, with initiation of his program for physician control, he believes that we can significantly reduce medical costs and improve the quality of medicine in this country as the British have recently accomplished (?). To quote Mr. Peters, "Those who control whether we live or die must be under our control."

By his own contention, Mr. Peters admits that he has presented a radical cure for high medical costs. By the same token, the very fact that such a biased, ludicrous solution to America's health care problems would be published in a national magazine with Newsweek's renown, is an omen of events yet to occur.

In my opinion such an article demands a resounding answer, for such an approach would certainly not serve the best interest of our nation's health. In addition, it would severely limit the personal liberties which we physicians, as American citizens, are also guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America. To implement a program with any gross similarity to that suggested by Mr. Peters would certainly be tantamount to total disruption of the health care industry in this country, and, even worse, would probably herald the onset of gross manipulation, on the part of government, of a significant segment of our productive population.

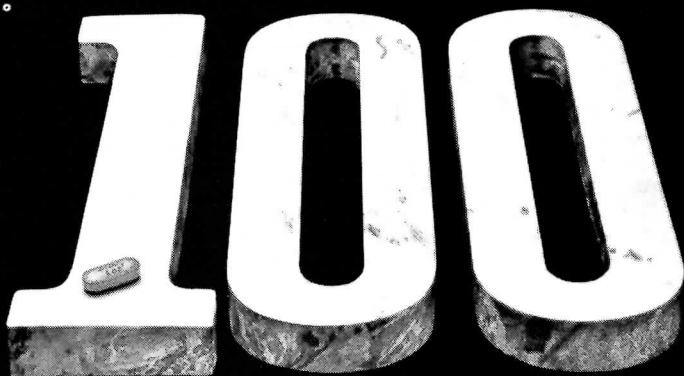
—A. Reed Hoffmaster, M.D.  
 Editor

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## SUGGESTED PHYSICIAN GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS EXPOSED TO HEAD AND NECK RADIATION FOR BENIGN CONDITIONS

1. Confirm the history of exposure to ionizing radiation. Patients with a history of radiation exposure during infancy, childhood, or adolescence have a higher risk of developing thyroid abnormalities, including carcinoma of the thyroid.
2. An attempt at documentation of the radiation exposure should be made by contacting the institution and/or physician who administered the treatment. However, if no documentation can be found, any patient with a history of prior radiation should be considered at risk, and should be evaluated. Those patients at risk include not only those who have received radiation to the thymus, but also those patients who received prior radiation to any other head and neck organs such as the tonsils, adenoids, and skin, as in the treatment of acne.
3. Examination should include history and careful physical examination. Often the field of radiation exposure extended from the umbilicus upward, thus careful examination of the skin, breasts and particularly examination of the thyroid and salivary glands is indicated. If nodules are palpable in the thyroid gland, then a thyroid scan utilizing Technetium 99m performed with a gamma camera and a pin-hole collimator is indicated. If there is a history of radiation exposure, the scan is indicated even if palpation is negative.
4. If no nodules are palpable on physical examination of the thyroid, and if the thyroid scan is normal, the patient should be reassured, and remain under observation annually thereafter. Some experts use full replacement doses of thyroid hormone on these individuals if long-term followup is assured, although this approach is controversial. Subsequently, if a thyroid abnormality develops, repeat thyroid scan is recommended. Some experts recommend that repeat thyroid scanning be performed at five-year intervals, although this also is controversial.
5. Patients with a palpable nodule or nodules and a history of prior radiation exposure should have surgery. The presence of multiple lesions does not decrease the probability of thyroid carcinoma among those patients who have been previously irradiated.
6. If the patient has a normal gland on palpation and an abnormal scan, the patient should be considered for surgery. However, some experts place such patients on full replacement doses of thyroid hormone to shrink normal tissue and have physical examination and scan repeated at six-month intervals. If the scan is definitely abnormal, even in the absence of any physical findings, the patient has approximately the same likelihood of having carcinoma as a patient with abnormal palpation findings.

### REFERENCES:

For a more detailed presentation of the subject, a copy of the pamphlet: *INFORMATION FOR PHYSICIANS ON IRRADIATION-RELATED THYROID CANCER* may be obtained from the National Cancer Institute, Office of Cancer Communications, Room 10A19, Building. 31, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

This same information is contained in the May-June 1976 issue, Volume 26, No. 3, of *CA - A CANCER JOURNAL FOR CLINICIANS*, published by the American Cancer Society. A reprint of this article may be obtained by calling or writing to the Mahoning County Unit of the American Cancer Society, 830 E. Midlothian Boulevard, Youngstown, Ohio 44502; phone 788-5049.

—Prepared by the Cancer Committee of the Mahoning County Medical Society



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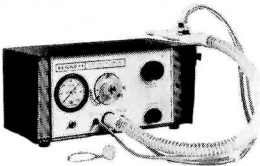
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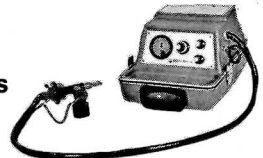


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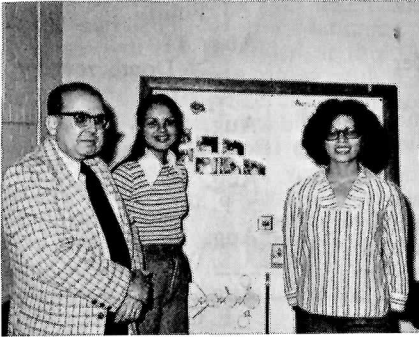
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## SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS



**TOP LEFT:** Maria Samonas, first award winner, with Dr. Butcher.

**ABOVE:** Kim Brownlie accepts award from Mrs. Robert Barton, Auxiliary president.

**LEFT:** Dr. Jenkins with Trina Whitacre and Nancy Kornhauser.

The Mahoning County Medical Society and the Woman's Auxiliary gave three awards at the public schools Science Fair, Saturday, May 7. All awards were for the best projects related to Medicine.

A \$50 savings bond first prize went to Maria Samonas, a ninth grade student at Hill Junior High School. Her project was "The Effects Outside Stimulus Have on the Brain."

A second prize of a \$25 bond from the Auxiliary went to Kim Brownlie, a Chaney High School senior for her project, "Have a Heart." Another second prize from the Medical Society went to two Rayen High School juniors, Nancy Kornhauser and Trina Whitacre, for their project, "Blood Typing."

Judges were Dr. Gene Butcher and Dr. Robert L. Jenkins. Mrs. Robert Barton, president, made the presentation for the Woman's Auxiliary. The judges were highly complimentary for the over-all high caliber of students' work. Manager of the Fair was Mr. Ernest Szalma, instructor at West Junior High School, where the projects were shown.

### CME REMINDER

The legal requirement for 150 hours of continuing medical education is now in effect, and all physicians must complete their 150 hours between now and Dec. 31, 1979 in order to reregister their medical license in 1980.

The article "Ohio State Medical Board Physician Relicensure Program," page 724 of the December, 1977 issue of the *Ohio State Medical Journal* gives extensive information. Reprints of the article are available from the Mahoning County Medical Society and the Ohio State Medical Association.

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- June 22**  
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M. C. Raupple  
J. K. Altier  
J. V. Chaves
- June 27**  
F. A. Pesa
- June 28**  
W. S. Curtis  
R. A. Hall  
Wm. Katz
- June 29**  
H. L. Khanna  
I. A. Lopez
- June 30**  
A. V. Banez
- July 1**  
A. M. Qadri
- July 2**  
E. Weltman  
I. Mendel
- July 4**  
I. Nenadic
- July 5**  
F. A. Miller
- July 6**  
M. M. Kendall  
M. L. Fok  
G. A. Butcher
- July 9**  
G. L. Altman  
J. R. LaManna, Jr.
- July 11**  
L. M. Pass
- July 13**  
D. W. Metcalf  
G. Boulis
- July 17**  
E. J. Wenaas  
J. J. Lee
- July 18**  
J. L. Finley  
G. H. Dietz
- July 19**  
N. A. Jaffer
- July 20**  
J. B. Werning  
S. A. Basile
- July 23**  
B. S. Brown  
G. S. Sevachko  
W. F. Stanford
- July 24**  
B. L. Lipton
- July 25**  
P. J. Mahar  
R. M. Roth
- July 27**  
N. D. Belinky  
M. M. Yarmy  
P. I. Silverstein
- July 28**  
D. G. Corredor
- July 29**  
S. M. Zervos  
R. Aiello
- July 30**  
F. L. Schellhase  
J. H. Fulks
- Aug. 2**  
S. C. Young
- Aug. 3**  
I. Werbner
- Aug. 4**  
D. A. Salcedo
- Aug. 6**  
R. S. Boniface  
H. M. Wang
- Aug. 7**  
B. J. Klahr  
J. A. Lambert
- Aug. 8**  
J. N. Gordon
- Aug. 9**  
R. B. McConnell
- Aug. 10**  
J. Politi
- Aug. 11**  
I. N. Dombczewsky  
G. Ariza
- Aug. 14**  
J. L. Fisher
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J. R. LaManna  
S. S. Husain
- Aug. 21**  
E. R. Constantinidi
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R. J. Hritz
- Aug. 23**  
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- Aug. 27**  
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- Aug. 30**  
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY****Aug. 31**

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**Sept. 1**

B. Taylor

**Sept. 3**

D. E. Beynon

G. F. Hromyac, Jr.

**Sept. 4**

M. B. Krupko

E. Kessler

**Sept. 5**

W. H. Bennett

A. V. Whittaker

V. A. Neel

M. L. Paige

H. X. Kramer

**Sept. 6**

H. Holden

E. H. Jones, Jr.

**Sept. 8**

I. Maeda

**Sept. 9**

C. E. Pichette

A. R. Hoffmaster

J. F. Johnson

**Sept. 10**

A. K. Phillips

**Sept. 12**

R. Tarnopolsky

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**Sept. 14**

M. B. Goldstein

**BC GROUP DECLINES DENTAL COVERAGE**

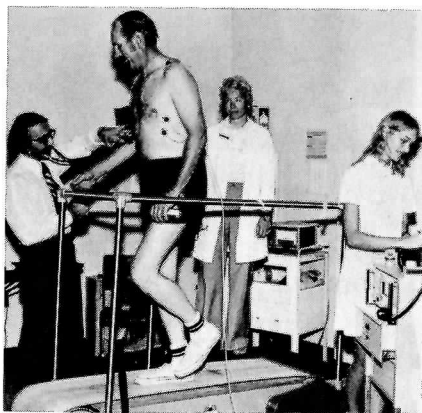
As the result of a poll taken among members of the Blue Cross Group of the physicians of the Mahoning County Medical Society, major dental coverage will not be added at this time.

The questionnaire, along with a letter of explanation was mailed by Dr. Rashid Abdu, insurance chairman, to all group members on May 4. At the May 20th deadline for tabulations, responses showed that 56 members were in favor of adding dental coverage, but 95 members were opposed.

The rates for next year's billing have been received at the Medical Society office, and show an increase over the previous year. Rates are determined on usage in what is called a "merit rating system" by Blue Cross. Due date for the next billing is July 1st, and bills will be sent out from the Medical Society office during the month of June.

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## SCHOLARSHIP DINNER HONORS 61



Mrs. Mary B. Smith and Jerry Hanisko, director and assistant director of the career planning and placement service of Youngstown State University, were speakers at the eleventh annual Scholarship Dinner of the Mahoning County Medical Society. They emphasized the role of career planning in college and its importance to first year college students.

In attendance as guests were 61 senior students from 25 high schools in Mahoning County and adjacent area. A complete list of the honorees is printed in the April issue of the *Bulletin*.

Each student was presented a scholarship pin and a certificate enrolling him or her in the Mahoning County Medical Society Roster of Scholars. Students were called forward by Dr. Gene Butcher, chairman. Certificates were presented by Mrs. Smith, and pins were presented by Dr. and Mrs. James Anderson.

The dinner was held at Ramada Inn. A number of physicians and their wives volunteered to attend and were seated so that each table had a physician couple and six students.



### TOP TO BOTTOM:

(1) Dr. Butcher with speakers, Mrs. Mary B. Smith and Jerry Hanisko.

(2) Mrs. Smith presents scholarship certificate to student.

(3) Mrs. Anderson presents the Roster of Scholars charm to student.

(4) Dr. Anderson presents the Roster of Scholars pin to student.

### SUMMER RECESS

There will be no *Bulletin* published during the months of July and August.

The Staff wishes you a pleasant summer vacation.

---

## *In Memoriam*

---

### CARL A. GUSTAFSON, M.D.

1893 - 1977

Dr. Carl A. Gustafson, 82, died on Monday, April 11 at his home following a long illness.

Dr. Gustafson was born at Philadelphia, Illinois. He was graduated from Virginia, Ill., High School, and received his B.S. degree at Illinois College. His medical degree was conferred at Rush Medical College of Chicago University in 1933.

Before becoming a physician, Dr. Gustafson came to Youngstown as a teacher in the science and math departments of South and Chaney high schools. He had already made up his mind to go into Medicine, and taught school in order to earn the money for a medical education.

He interned and took his residency at Youngstown Hospital Association and entered the practice of medicine in association with the late Dr. R. M. Morrison at 101 Lincoln Ave. in 1935.

Dr. Gustafson was very active in medical circles during his entire career. He was president of the Mahoning County Medical Society in 1952. He was editor of the *Bulletin* for four years, 1946-49. From 1952 to 1959 he was Councilor of the Sixth District, Ohio State Medical Association and also served as an alternate delegate to the American Medical Association.

He served for 25 years as medical advisor to Selective Service Board 79 and was medical consultant for the United Airlines here.

He was a member of the American Academy of General Practice, Rotary Club of Youngstown and the Youngstown Club. In 1959, he was presented a plaque for service by the Ohio State Medical Association.

---

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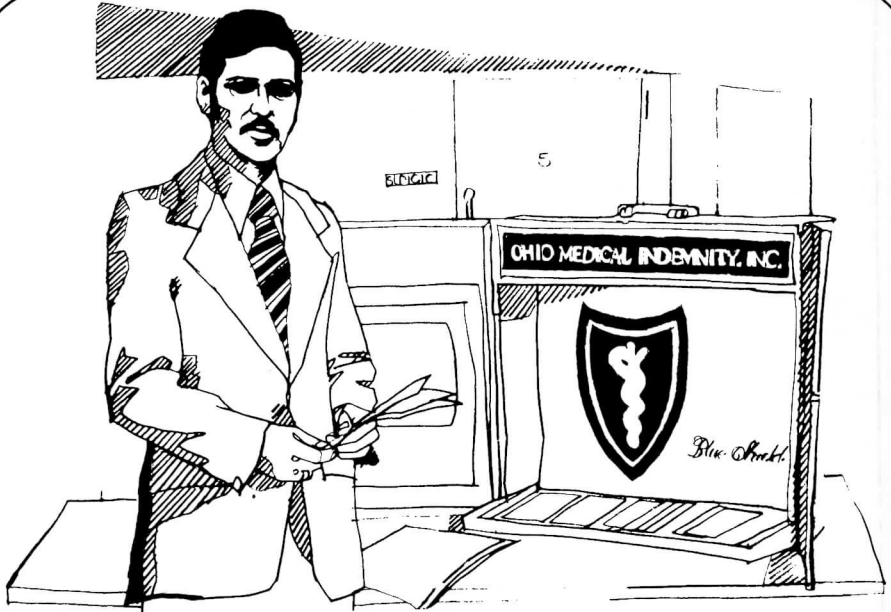
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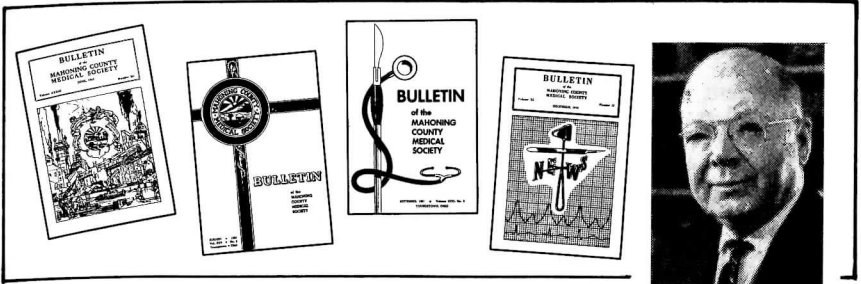
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## From the Bulletin

### FORTY YEARS AGO — MAY 1937

There were three remarkable pictures of Medical Society picnics taken in 1913, 1914 and 1915 in the days when picnics were picnics. Fred Bunn was Superintendent of Youngstown Hospital and was responsible for organizing them. The chef from the hospital would prepare the ham and beans, corn, pie and coffee. Spitz Renner furnished the beer and a truck to take everything out to the place. The first ones were held out north of the Canfield Road just beyond Cornersburg where a creek crosses the road. Another place was Jackson's Gulch where Ray Fenton either fell in the lake or was thrown in during an argument over a poker game. There was always a ball game between teams from the two hospitals with loud arguments and high morbidity among both players and umpires. Kocialek fractured his humerus, Edgar Tobey developed a ventral hernia and Luxan was hit on the leg by a ball which ruptured his varicose veins and he was laid up for a month with phlebitis. There was some high class baseball talent those days. Bill Welsh was an old O.S.U. varsity pitcher and Wendell Bennett played on the Cornell team. Joe Nagel was a varsity catcher and M. P. Jones a beautiful out-fielder. The trouble was they were not in condition and after the picnic many of the doctors went around in bandages and splints.

The first picnic this writer remembers was in 1918 and was held along Mill Creek where the Truesdale Road crossed over a little iron bridge. It is under Lake Newport now, right near the boat landing. We all went swimming in the creek sans bathing suits and there was a great flurry when some lady hikers came along and we all had to duck under. It was a secluded spot, far above Mill Creek Park those days, very beautiful and quiet. The Truesdale Road started at Glenwood Avenue near the Newport entrance and there was an old covered bridge over one branch of the Creek which had two channels through the valley.

Besides baseball there were more sedate sports such as poker, trap shooting and crap games where the inequities between the incomes of the medical men and the surgeons were straightened out.

The pictures show some of the great figures in medicine of that day whose names should not be forgotten. There were W. H. Buechner, C. D. Houser, J. A. Sherbondy, H. E. Blott, C. R. Clark, C. C. Booth, John Heberding, I. D. Gibson, B. B. McElhaney, R. E. Whalen, R. M. Morrison, H. E. Patrick and Harry Evans.

Many of our members today do not remember Karl Allison, L. E. Phipps, H. L. Beers, W. P. Connor, Victor Wick, Sam Sedwitz, J. U. Buchanan, Jack Lindsay, Painter and Washburn, or A. M. Rosenblum.

### THIRTY YEARS AGO — MAY 1947

This writer was back from W.W. II and "nervous from the service."

So were many of his friends. After three years of active military service the period of re-adjustment to civilian practice was difficult. Some went

away for post-graduate courses, some were divorced by their wives and some just suffered through it for a year.

### **TWENTY YEARS AGO — MAY 1957**

President Ondash said that the Medical Society should lead in health matters and not be led by lay health organizations.

Clyde Walter won the Bela Schick Award for the best report on original investigation presented at the American College of Allergy.

Herman Allen became a member of the Society.

### **TEN YEARS AGO — MAY 1967**

President Reese wrote that all is forgiven. Please come back to the Medical Society and attend the meetings.

Frank Gelbman wrote about the "Impending Death of the Medical Society" and held a quasi CPC over the patient with detailed history and physical examination, prognosis and treatment. The article is worth looking up in your old issues (which of course you save) and reading again.

S. W. Chiasson had an interesting article on "Female Infertility" and made some important recommendations in the treatment.

A. V. Whittaker was at the University of Pittsburgh studying Cardiology. W. T. Breesmen was about to leave for Washington to study Cardiology at the D.C. General Hospital. John Melnick's paper on "Chondrodystrophia Calcificans Congenita" was reprinted in the Yearbook of Pediatrics. It is now known by the eponym "Melnick's Disease".

John Buckley and Vincent Lepore became diplomates of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

—J. L. F.

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## **DR. BURROWES HONORED**

The Medical Society joined many segments of the community in honoring Dr. B. B. Burrowes at a banquet, May 29, at Mahoning Country Club. Dr. Anderson, president, presented him with a plaque that read, in part, "in appreciation for 38 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Youngstown in the practice of Medicine and in community leadership."

Dr. Burrowes has been president of the Board of Trustees of Youngstown State University and has given years of service to McGuffey Center, Red Cross, Child Guidance Center, City Park Commission and many civic clubs.

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## **DR. PICHETTE REELECTED COUNCILOR**

Two elections from the Sixth District took place at the annual meeting of the OSMA House of Delegates, May 15-18 in Columbus. Dr. C. Edward Pichette was reelected to a two-year term as Councilor of the Sixth District, and Dr. Ned Grable, Stark County, was elected an Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association. Dr. Schreiber continues to serve in the second year of his term as Delegate to the AMA.

Sifting through an unprecedented number of resolutions, the House of Delegates, at the recommendation of three reference committees rejected a great number. One important resolution to establish a unified membership with the AMA was defeated.

Dr. George Dietz represented the Sixth District on one of the Reference Committees. The Sixth District met in daily caucus to consider resolutions and to promote the candidacy of Dr. Grable. Chairman of the Sixth District delegation was Dr. Yut, Stark County.

Delegates and alternates from Mahoning County in attendance were: Dr. Jack Schreiber, Dr. Jim Anderson, Dr. Ed Pichette, Dr. Dietz and Dr. Bill Sovik.

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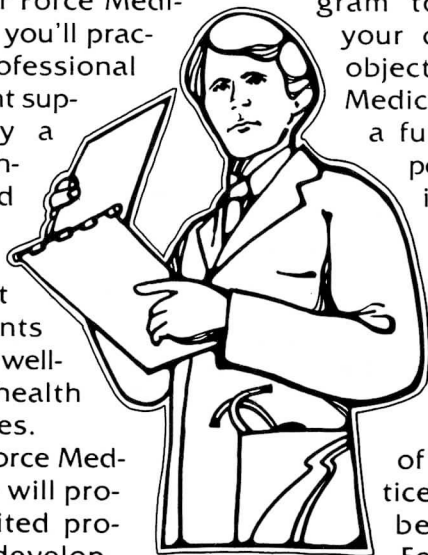
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## PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

### April 12, 1977

The regular meeting of Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held on Tuesday, April 12, 1977, at the Youngstown Club.

Dr. Pichette, Sixth District Councilor, reported that a new PSRO area, #13, will include the counties of Mahoning, Trumbull, Stark and Columbiana.

The following applications for membership were presented by the Censors:

#### ACTIVE:

S. Cuddapah, M.D.  
S. K. Garg, M.D.

#### ASSOCIATE:

Humberto A. Lattore, M.D.  
Satish Kumar Seth, M.D.  
Sai-Chi Young, M.D.

The applications were approved. Applicants will become members of the Mahoning County Medical Society 15 days after publication in the *Bulletin*, unless objection is filed in writing with the secretary before that time.

A letter was read from Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Eastern Ohio confirming that Hemophilia Home Treatment has been added to our Medical Society group at no additional cost. This was done at our request.

Dr. Anderson reported the results of the recent questionnaire on generic drugs and substitution. Dr. Anderson proposed a news story on the poll. The motion was made by Dr. Sovik and properly seconded, that the story be sent to the *Vindicator*. Motion was passed.

Dr. Wieneke, chairman of the Cancer Committee, reported that his committee met, along with other invited members of the Medical Society, and produced a set of guidelines in regard to radiation of the neck. He recommended that the guidelines be printed in the next *Bulletin*. Dr. Schreiber made the motion, properly seconded, that the committee report and recommendation be adopted.

Dr. Butcher, public relations director, discussed plans for the Scholarship Dinner and the Science Fair.

Dr. Kiskaddon read a statement which he proposed to present to the HSA. Basically it requested that HSA ask HEW to request legislation requiring plaintiff financial responsibility in a malpractice suit. The motion was made by Dr. Sovik, and properly seconded, that council accept the report and give Dr. Kiskaddon a vote of confidence. Motion was passed.

The motion was made by Dr. Sovik, and properly seconded, that council go on record as being opposed to the legislative authorization of independent non-medical practitioners, including optometrists, to prescribe or apply drugs for either diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, or both. Motion was passed. The secretary was instructed to send the resolution to the legislators and publish it in the *Bulletin*.

A motion was made by Dr. Schreiber, and properly seconded, that Council reaffirm OSMA resolution 23-74, which states that "OSMA advise its members not to involve themselves in the implementation of any form of government-controlled peer review as exemplified by the PSR section of P. L. 92-603, and to develop a uniform effective efficient peer review system for all patients." Motion was passed.

Meeting was adjourned.

### May 10, 1977

The regular meeting of the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held on Tuesday, May 10, 1977, at the Youngstown Club.

Dr. Pichette, Sixth District Councilor, reported on the annual caucus meeting of delegates and alternates from all counties in the Sixth District, held at Warren, April 20th. At that meeting, Dr. Pichette was elected to be the nominee for another term as Councilor for the Sixth District, OSMA.

Dr. Anderson reported his attendance at a meeting with the Mayor and city officials in regard to a City Health Commissioner. Dr. Jacob Chen-Yi Huang is being considered for the position. Dr. Anderson read his curriculum vitae.

It was reported that the Scholarship Dinner was a success, and that the Science Fair was a success. Dr. Butcher and Dr. Jenkins were judges for the Fair. The Medical Society gave a \$50 bond first prize and \$20 second prize. The Auxiliary gave a \$25 bond second prize. Prizes were for the best projects related to Medicine.

Dr. Perry made a motion, properly seconded, that the Mahoning County Medical Society draw up a resolution and plaque commending Dr. B. B. Burrows for his many years of medical service to the Youngstown community, and that this be presented May 29, 1977 at the Mahoning Country Club. Motion was passed.

A motion was made by Dr. Pichette, and properly seconded, that a letter of commendation be sent to Dr. Tornello for his work on the College of Surgeons meeting to be held in Youngstown. Motion was passed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Howard Rempes  
Executive Secretary

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## BRENT MULGREW WAS MAY SPEAKER

Brent Mulgrew, legislative director for the Ohio State Medical Association, gave a graphic description of how legislation is enacted in the Ohio State Legislature, in a talk before the Mahoning County Medical Society, May 24th.

He cited the impossibility of every legislator having complete knowledge of every item in every bill, due to the volume of bills under consideration. There are now 700 bills in the House and 400 in the Senate. In addition, he estimated that the amount of mail crossing a legislator's desk each day could be as much as 500 times as much as crosses the average doctor's desk.

He stated that there are currently 72 bills in which the Ohio State Medical Association is involved because these are in the area of the practice of medicine. Mr. Mulgrew and others of the OSMA staff function as lobbyists for the purpose of supplying medical information to legislators, and also to encourage amendments to bills when this is indicated to insure good medical practice.

Brent urged physicians to get involved personally and to let their legislators know their opinions on pieces of medical legislation because legislators do depend upon doctors for information. He cited the recent Mahoning County Medical Society poll on generic drug substitution as being exactly the type of help required, and congratulated the Medical Society as being the only one in the State that made the effort to express the opinions of its members.

Brent, an attorney himself, made his presentation brisk, staccato and off-the-cuff. In so doing, he also revealed the work that the OSMA staff is doing for all doctors of Ohio. It is common practice for the legislature to be in session at all hours of the day and night and often a bill may come up for either amendments or final vote in the wee hours of the morning. If it is a bill that OSMA is following, either Brent or his assistant will be there at that time. It is not unusual for an OSMA staff member to be at work at the State House at 3:00 a.m.

Brent was well received and stayed to answer a number of questions. He was introduced by Dr. George Dietz, program chairman. Dr. Anderson, president, presided.



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