

BULLETIN

of the
MAHONING COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY

Volume XLIV

SEPTEMBER, 1979

Number 6





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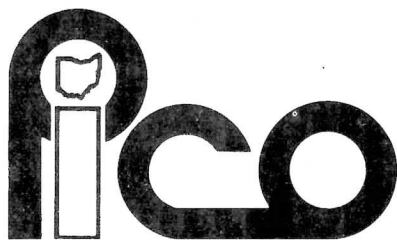
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MAHONING COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS — 1979

Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Jan. 16	Mar. 20	May 22	Sept. 18	Nov. 20	Dec. 18

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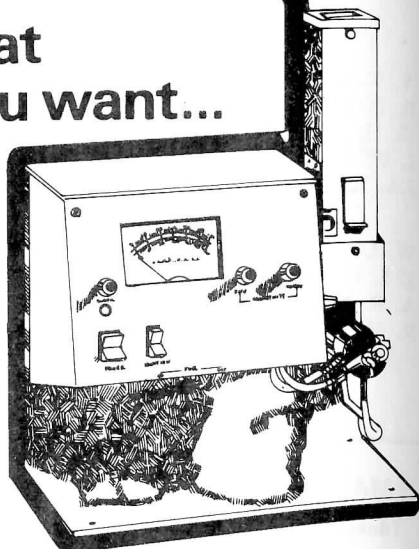
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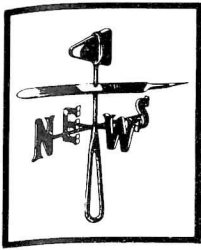
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BULLETIN

of the Mahoning County Medical Society

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Volume XLIV

SEPTEMBER, 1979



Number 6

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.

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Editorial

BUDDING M.D.'s AND THE MEDICAL SOCIETY

Mahoning County is fortunate in that 95% of practicing physicians in our county are members of the Society. In contrast, a recent national survey showed less than 50% of physicians in practice fewer than five years had joined the AMA.

A newly established policy of the Mahoning County Medical Society is the invitation to membership of physicians in training without dues, but all other incidents of full membership. To date 29 physicians have accepted the invitation and hold this class of membership. One windfall from such increased membership is an increase in delegates to OSMA. Far more important are the doors opened to the physician in training into the world of medical organization. This insight is gained without financial burden on the young doctor.

Organized medicine is viewed by some as an elite club limited to elderly prestigious physicians. This opinion is absolutely *not* true. It should be viewed as an organization to all concerned physicians who elevate their most able as representatives on the local, state, and national level.

We face increased governmental regulation, third party payer intervention, and public clamor in our day to day endeavors. In such circumstances the vigor of New Voices, New Ideas, and New Solutions are sorely needed. It is important for the learning physician to acquaint himself with professions' crisis of today, begin his analysis, and become a part of the solution. The young physician's future is inextricably bound to decisions and course of direction established now. It is our obligation today to prepare and make them ready for tomorrow.

If you know of a house physician who has not availed himself of this opportunity to join and to participate in our Society; please inform him of his opportunity and call the Medical Society office if the doctor does express interest. It is in the best interest of the physician, and in the best interest of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

—H. S. Michael Wang, M.D.
Editor

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YOUR LICENSE!

In your professional life there are innumerable items which remain vitally important: your driver's license, your annual car registration, your malpractice insurance policy, renewal of your hospital staff privileges, etc.

However, there is one basic *privilege* which is covered by a license that is indeed of primary importance - - your license to practice medicine and surgery in Ohio. The greater part of your professional activity depends on your *valid license* to practice!

(Triennial renewal) Registration is the current law in Ohio. However, there are many physicians who never renewed their license in January, 1977. Little do they realize that during a malpractice suit, evidence proving they were practicing medicine *without* a license could result in ultimate financial ruin. Most of this group claim they never received notification for renewal from "The Board" in October, 1976. The fact is, the change of their mailing address was never reported to the Board, and the postal department *does not* forward mail after a certain time period has run.

The State Medical Board licenses approximately 32,000 physicians and surgeons and limited practitioners. In *October, 1979*, the Board will mail a standard card form to each licensee which he should execute promptly, enclose with a check or money order for \$50.00 and return as instructed without delay.

Before the return of this important registration form, you should also send in a completed log sheet of your Category 1 and Category 2 CME credits acquired during the period January 1, 1977 through December 31, 1979. These should total 150 hours with at least 60 hours in Category 1.

But in order to assist you, here are some "tips" which may provide valuable and helpful information to you:

1. As soon as you have completed your log of CME credits (Categories 1 and 2), mail it in to the Board at once; we will place it in your file.
2. If you have altered or removed your 1977 mailing address, correct it by writing the State Medical Board at once!
3. If your 1976 license has expired (not been renewed) notify the Board at once for advice and directions on the proper procedure to follow. According to law and at discretion of the Board, you might have to submit to re-examination. The expiration date of your license is carried in the lower right-hand corner of your "wallet card" issued by the Board. The wallet card also bears your license number.
4. As a final thought, DO NOT have your DEA narcotics registry number pre-printed on your prescription blanks! If the blanks are stolen or fall into evil hands, a forgery of your signature and a prescription for Class II drugs may get "on the street" and enter the drug-traffic chain. The DEA officials and the Pharmacy Board direct that you inscribe your DEA number on the prescription blank at the time you prescribe for the patient.

—Anthony Ruppertsberg, Jr., M.D., Secy.
Ohio State Medical Board

SEND IN THOSE PHOTOS

As the *Bulletin* heads toward the end of its 1979 printing schedule, all members are reminded that this year's covers are selected from black and white prints of photos taken by members of any scene in Mahoning County. The staff asks that prints be not primarily medical in nature, however, medical related pictures will be considered.

Response has been light. If you have a good photo and would like to see it on the October, November or December cover, send it in today to the Medical Society office.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM L. MERMIS, M.D., F.A.C.A.

1908 - 1979

Dr. William L. Mermis, a longtime member of the Mahoning County Medical Society, died July 5, 1979 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

A graduate of The St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Mermis served his internship at St. Louis County Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri and his residency at St. Francis Hospital, Wichita, Kansas. He then practiced Medicine in Wichita, Kansas until he entered the U.S. Army Medical Corp in 1939 and was discharged with the rank of Major in 1942.

In 1942, Dr. Mermis established his practice in Youngstown, Ohio specializing in internal medicine and allergy. While in Youngstown he was an active member of the St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical Staff, a courtesy member at Youngstown Hospital Assoc. and a member of local, state and national medical associations. He was a member of the American College of Allergists and served as Chief of the Department of Allergy at St. Elizabeth Hospital and in the department of internal medicine. He served on numerous hospital and county medical society committees and organizations throughout his practice in Youngstown.

In 1961, he relocated to Phoenix, Arizona where he limited his practice to insurance examinations, consultations, then made a full return to practice of allergy and internal medicine until illness forced his retirement in 1974. He was a member of the Maricopa County Medical Society and Arizona State Medical Association and was on the staff of Good Samaritan Hospital, Scottsdale, Arizona.

His wife, Marjorie D., died several years ago. She is well remembered for her activity in women's circles in the community, in the County Medical Society Auxiliary and the St. Elizabeth Hospital Woman's Auxiliary in which she served as president. Both are survived by their children, Dr. William L. Mermis, Jr., of Godfrey, Illinois and Miss Gwendolyn E.

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Sept. 17 J. Dentscheff	Sept. 26 E. A. Massullo	Oct. 10 G. A. Mihok
Sept. 18 J. A. Renner M. C. Galose	Sept. 27 R. J. Scheetz G. J. Baumblatt J. S. Saint-Julien	Oct. 11 H. S. Ellison E. Hecker R. J. Solyn S. K. Bal
Sept. 19 D. Malta	Sept. 29 D. H. Levy C. S. Ko	Oct. 12 B. I. Firestone J. R. Gillis A. Garcia
Sept. 20 W. Moskalik E. Perry H. S. Hwang	Oct. 1 K. Iqbal	Oct. 14 J. H. Smith G. R. Barton
Sept. 21 R. G. Warnock	Oct. 2 W. L. Crawford	
Sept. 22 T. E. Ragland	Oct. 4 G. Delfs	



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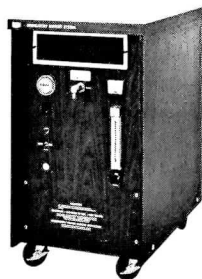
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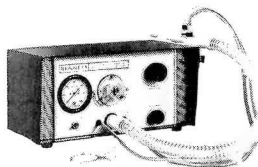
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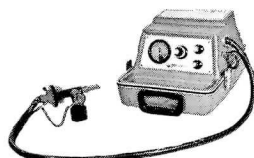


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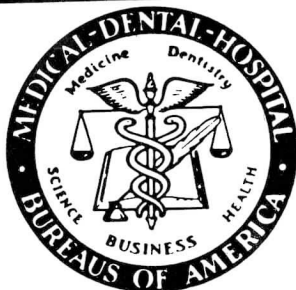


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From the Bulletin

FORTY YEARS AGO — SEPTEMBER 1939

Society affairs always pick up speed in September. That year things seemed about as usual. From reading the *Bulletin* one would never know there was a bloody war brewing in Europe. A corn roast was announced for September, a dinner dance in October, and a banquet in December. The Doctors' Secretaries' Organization held its Harvest Moon Dance at the Mahoning Country Club and listened to the music of Ruth Autenreith's Orchestra. Dr. Walter Simpson addressed the Society on "Artificial Fever Therapy" which was a hot subject those days. Only one ominous note in the whole twenty-eight pages: Dr. Martin Conti closed his office and left for active duty in the United States Navy.

The Medical Crier wanted to know why so many children returned to school after their vacations rosy cheeked and healthy and immediately came down with severe respiratory infections.

Editor Patrick deplored the fact that the per capita expense for public health activities in Youngstown was only twenty-five cents, while in Cleveland it was sixty cents. He noted with satisfaction that no expense had been spared to give us a good safe water supply from Meander Reservoir.

THIRTY YEARS AGO — SEPTEMBER 1949

Former internes of St. Elizabeth's Hospital had a big day at their reunion. Dr. H. E. Clark from the New York Post-Graduate School spoke on "Management of Lesions of the Colon and Rectum". J. K. Herald of the Section on Proctology led the discussion. After an afternoon of golf, prize-winners were S. W. Ondash, Harold Reese, A. M. Marinelli and Dr. Dockry. Door prizes went to W. Breesmen, L. M. Shensa, and W. E. Maine. R. V. Clifford was president of the association.

Breesmen and Fred Lamprich were internes then. Robert V. Bruchs, Dockry and Leonard Caccamo were residents.

Harold Chevlen started practice of general medicine at 2004 Elm Street. George Cook came back from Pittsburgh to practice Orthopedics. Clyde Walter reopened his office in Canfield after a course in Allergy in Chicago. Edward A. Shorten finished his residency at the Youngstown Hospital and joined George McKelvey and Walter Turner in the practice of Surgery. Dean Stillson finished his residency at the Youngstown Hospital and joined Lewis Reed in the practice of Internal Medicine.

Thus was the medical circulation in our district enriched by a transfusion of fresh young blood quality.

TWENTY YEARS AGO — SEPTEMBER 1959

Editor Gregg remarked: "One of the greatest threats to the private practice of medicine is . . . the Veteran's Administration supplying government paid hospitals the medical care for veterans with non-service connected disabilities . . . Approximately 85% of veterans care goes to those disabilities having no connection with their services in the Armed Forces - - - at a cost to the taxpayer of one billion dollars a year."

C. C. Chen wrote about Endotracheal Anesthesia in Infants and Children. He advocated extreme gentleness in intubation and claimed many advantages over open-drop anesthesia.

Dr. Elmer Kirkwood died. He was the first Director of the Mahoning Tuberculosis Sanitarium when it was a busy and important hospital opened in 1925 to care for the many cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. He was a well-trained and devoted man and did much to help the near disappearance of one of the greatest plagues of mankind.

TEN YEARS AGO — SEPTEMBER 1969

Another transfusion of new life in our Medical Society occurred at this

time. New members were the new stars on the horizon: Dr. Ikuo Maeda, Dr. Anthony Pannozzo, Dr. Betty Jane Klahr (Mrs. Bert Einfalt), Dr. Rashid Abdu, Dr. Fernando Carbonell, Dr. Jose Gonzalez, Dr. Gene Butcher, Dr. Wm. Katz, and Dr. Charles McGowen. It was a good year for the Society.

With the new life there were also losses. Dr. Sidney Franklin passed away at the young age of 68. Mary B. Herald, the Society's first Executive Secretary passed on. Dr. Ben Berg, a former Editor of the *Bulletin*, left for further study of Nuclear Medicine at the New York University at Syracuse. We still see Ben's cartoons sprinkled throughout the *Bulletin* from time to time.

The Canfield Fair was the big September event and, as usual, Lyons Physician Supply did all the transporting of heavy equipment used at the Medical tent at no charge to the Society. Remember that when you next order supplies. Volunteers from the Society staffed the exhibits as well as the First-Aid tent.

John Parimucha of Northwestern Mutual organized a group who circulated petitions at the fair supporting a Medical School for Youngstown. The response was reported as "overwhelming".

"DOCTOR OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Deadline for submission of names for the second annual "Doctor of the Year" award is Oct. 1. Any member may submit the name of a doctor of the Mahoning County Medical Society whom he thinks is deserving of the honor. Along with the name, it is requested that documentation be submitted in writing citing the reasons for making the award to the nominee.

Names and documentation should be mailed to the Mahoning County Medical Society office. They will be referred to the nomination committee for consideration at a meeting to be held in October. The award, a plaque, will be presented at the December meeting.

The 1979 resolution setting-up the award stated that it was to be an annual event, and that "this physician be chosen as the one who has contributed the most to the community during the past years. The contribution may or may not be in the field of medicine."

Last year, there was a tie, and the winners were Ramiro Albarran, M.D. and, posthumously, John N. McCann, M.D.

SIX NAMED TO EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

At the May 18th meeting of the Mahoning County Medical Society, the following retired members were elected to Emeritus Membership: Dr. J. B. Birch, Dr. G. E. DeCicco, Dr. W. J. Flynn, Dr. J. A. Patrick, Dr. J. A. Renner and Dr. W. E. Sovik.

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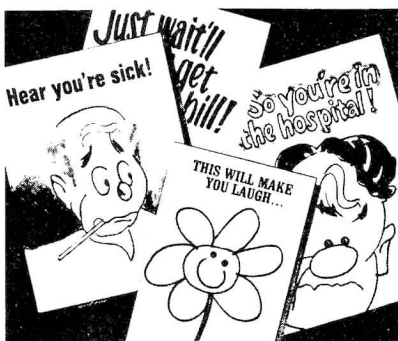
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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

August 14, 1979

The regular meeting of the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 1979, at the Youngstown Club.

A letter was read from Health-O-Rama, announcing a meeting. It was agreed we are not in favor of the concept of the Health-O-Rama and Dr. Chiu would like someone to attend the meeting to let them know our reasons for disapproval. It was suggested that the Medical Society should take the initiative and educate the public to the importance of everyone having a "Medical Home", or primary care physician, to look after his medical needs. Dr. David Levy was appointed chairman of an Ad Hoc Committee to work on this idea. He will choose his committee and report at the next meeting.

A letter was read from H.E.W. announcing films which they produced to promote HMOs.

A letter from Atty. James E. Pohlman, legal counsel for OSMA, was read regarding fee review activity by professional associations.

Dr. Anderson reported on the progress of the lawsuit. It was suggested that he write a brief summary of the lawsuit which will be sent to members of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

Suggestions for basic guidelines for good management of a county medical society in regard to antitrust, as it relates to groups and health planning, have been received from OSMA. These will be mailed to all council members for discussion at the next meeting of Council.

Dr. Deramo reported for the screening committee that the Scoliosis letter has been approved and all the conditions for the scoliosis screening have been met.

A report from Dr. Finley, chairman of the Ambulance Paramedic Committee was received and copies were passed out. This will be brought up for approval at the next meeting.

SEPTEMBER MEETING AT MAENNERCHOR

The September meeting of the Mahoning County Medical Society will once again be held at the Maennerchor Club, 831 Mahoning Ave. Society Hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at approximately 6:30. Free draft beer. Cost is \$10 per person. Come and have a good social get-together. Reservations 747-4956.

AUXILIARY STEAK FRY

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Mahoning County Medical Society is having an Old Fashioned Steak Fry on September 16 at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Felix Pesa, 1025 Ravine Drive. Contact Mrs. Daniel Handel, 758-7697 for information.

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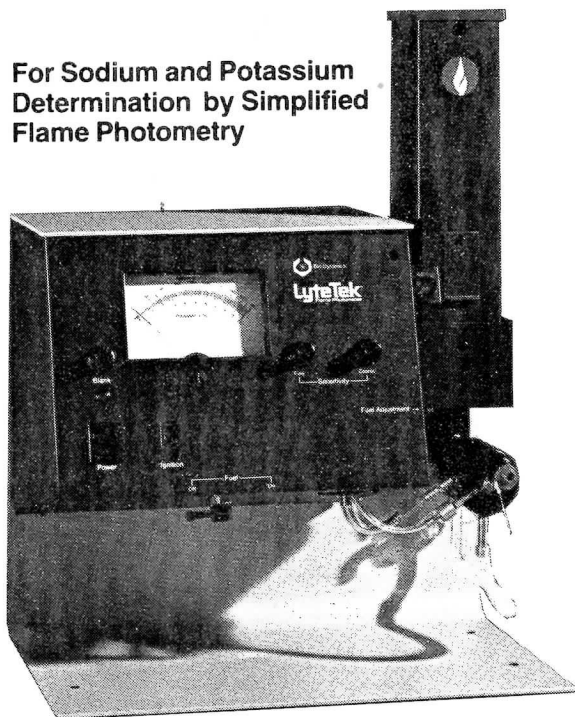
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"THE PHYSICIAN IS A DECISION MAKER, AND ALMOST EVERY DECISION HE MAKES COSTS OR SAVES MONEY."

—Dr. William Felts, Past President,
American Society of Internal Medicine



More and more physicians today are beginning to realize the extent of the economic influence they have, and are finding ways of holding costs down.

A number of studies show that the more physicians *know* about costs, the more they try to *reduce* them.* And this reduction can be done without reducing the quality of care to the patient.

How are they doing this? As a start they have become thoroughly familiar with the costs they incur on behalf of their patients. They know how much an X-ray costs, how much their hospital charges for routine lab tests. They're requesting copies of patients' hospital bills. And asking their hospitals to print the charges for diagnostic tests right on the order sheet.

What else are physicians doing? Minimizing their patients' hospital stays, whenever possible. Reevaluating routine admissions procedures. Questioning the real need of the diagnostic tests they order for their patients. Avoiding duplicate testing. Trying to discourage their patients' demands for unnecessary medication, treatment or hospitalization. Compiling daily logs of their medical decisions and what they cost. And more.

More physicians today realize what a tough problem we're all faced with. They know this is a challenge for medicine. And that physicians are in the best position to deal with and solve the problem.

*PATIENT CARE Magazine—Outlook 1977 "Face Off: Cost Containment vs. Chaos," January 1, 1977.

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