

BULLETIN

of the
**MAHONING COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY**

Volume LVI

FEBRUARY, 1986

Number 2



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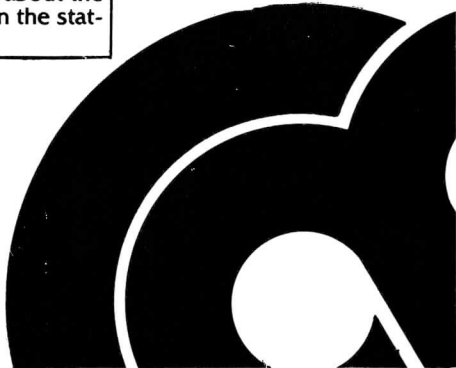
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1986 - MAHONING COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS - 1986

Tuesday Jan. 14	Tuesday Mar. 18	Tuesday May 20	Tuesday Sept. 16	Tuesday Nov. 18	Tuesday Dec. 16
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Table of Contents

FEBRUARY, 1986

From The Desk Of The President	34
Editorial: The Age Of Patients Rights	35
Emeritus Members (revised)	36
Committees For 1986	39
In Memoriam: Gordon G. Nelson, M.D.	41
Proceedings of Council	42
Installation Dinner Meeting	44
Letters	45
From The <i>Bulletin</i> , 50, 40, 30, 20, 10 Years Ago ...	46
Birthdays	49
Items From The Exec's Desk	54



Advertiser List

Barrett Cadillac	52	Moreman-Yerian	52
Boardman Hearing	32	Neurology Consultants	48
DeBald & Co. Inc.	32	Patient Care Center	53
Gluck Agency	31	Spath & Zimmerman	48
Howcas, Inc.	47	PICO	30
Lester's	32	Stillson & Donahay	38
Luxor Management	37	1350 Building	43
Mahoning Bank	51	Travel Planning Associates	47
Medical Dental Bureau	56	Trumco Insurance Agency	50
Medical Protective	51	Visiting Nurses	38

From the Desk of the President



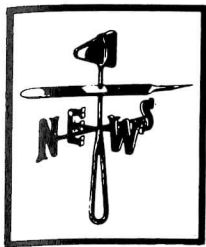
I believe the Medical Society needs energized. My plan for such can be described in four words: Advocacy, Legislation, Network Development, and Participation. In detail, the first objective, Advocacy, is now as it has always been, to promote good patient care. Above all, we are concerned that patients receive compassionate, competent, efficient services from our medical community. We have no ability to police medical care. We have only the ability to provide information, monitor legislation, and make statements on behalf of our patients. *"Care More For The Patient Than The Special Features of the Disease"* by Sir William Osler, has even greater implications today than it did in the time he initially stated it. Perhaps today it would be re-stated *"Care More For The Patient Than For The Special Interest Groups That Surround The Patient."*

Our second objective is to affect legislation. We must become more politically involved. We must stay committed and speak out on the issues of the day. I feel that we can influence legislation such as that of physician liability and that of the diagnosis related groups. *"Politics is like football. If you see the daylight, go through the hole"* said John F. Kennedy. This fits our philosophy as the public is now prepared to take action on liability insurance and we must, through the OSMA, provide suggestions which will be funneled to legislative channels that can indeed affect laws. Send your comments to me about specific recommendations that you prefer if you could dictate legislation on malpractice. We are the ones who should have the specific treatment to reverse the paralyzing effects of physician liability claims.

We are the foot soldiers of the DRG system. We have the best chance to document its successes and failures. We must challenge DRGs before they become etched in stone. We must convince third party payors, particularly the government, that reimbursement must be molded around the patient, not mold the patient around the diagnosis. Who said that a specific portion of the gross national product should be slotted to medical care? We must influence our patients to write to their congressmen and tell them that quality health care is high on our priority list.

Other professions, such as the business world and high tech industries, have learned that network development is the replacement of the traditional pyramidal organizational structure. The pyramids developed into islands without touching other pyramids, even within the

(Continued on Page 37)



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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:

THE AGE OF PATIENT RIGHTS

We are in an age of patients' rights. No longer are we supposed to tell the patient what is best for him or her, rather the patient has a right to assist in decision-making. Further, while we are expected to present all viable alternatives, patients may freely refuse diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The idea of patient as consumer is often beneficial, with both physician and patient mutually content with outcomes. However there are problems as well. While malpractice considerations certainly prevent coercion of the patient, they also tend to produce somewhat wishy-washy acceptance of whatever the patient opts for, which can be counter-productive and medically unsound.

Decisions made by patients are based upon informed consent or conversely, informed refusal. But patients' abilities to make reasoned judgments, based upon informed consent, is not necessarily an obvious conclusion. Illness affects people and can distort their thinking. Underlying emotional dynamics are brought out in the face of such situations. Doctors can avoid paternalistic attitudes but still avoid taking at face value all statements a patient makes.

Thus, an obsessive-compulsive person with a sudden heart attack may be denying the severity of his illness by refusing Streptokinase or a catheterization. Or a long term cigarette smoker with a new lung module may refuse intervention because of a feeling that this was a deserved punishment for his own folly. The feeling of worthlessness is made worse if the physician readily agrees to the patient's wishes.

Some patients will unconsciously refuse therapy as a test of how much effort their physician will put in to dissuade them — a teenage girl with Hodgkin's disease may be convinced that her situation is hopeless, so the physician's attempts to convince her of the need for therapy are really attempts at restoring her sense of worth and hope. In such a case, the physician may well be projecting his or her own feeling of hopelessness in a case by not arguing with the patient.

Refusal of a test or treatment may represent an attempt at asserting control of a situation — an elderly patient quite dependent upon family may be showing independence rather than sense in making a questionable decision.

A patient's unspoken hostility may enter in as well—anger at the physician's "Didn't I tell you so" attitude when a non-compliant patient deteriorates or hostility displaced from a family member who nagged the patient until he or she was finally seen and given an unhappy diagnosis by the physician.

Depression is often a result of illness, and a patient refusing to make a decision may in fact be unable to make that decision.

Many patients have been fed much misinformation in a media diet of half-truths. Patients may be so sure the side effects of chemotherapy are utterly horrible that they will unconditionally refuse it, and so on.

In any of the above situations and in many others the patient's better judgment has been affected by psychodynamic considerations that have kept the patient from clearer and more rational thinking.

Physicians have a natural tendency to expedite their relations with patients—time is our most valuable asset. Decisions are expected quickly, and accepted often out-of-hand once given, especially with patients viewed as obnoxious—such as those who are hostile, demanding, or argumentative.

None the less, most of us would have a solid opinion as to what is the right thing to do in a given situation and non-committally accepting the decision the patient proffers when it is in direct disagreement with our own decision begs for the doctor to stop and consider the patient's reasoning.

It is good medicine to give patients a role in their own care, but bad medicine to let ill-conceived decisions pass that are the product of emotional reactions to illness or other factors. Physicians have simultaneously the responsibility to treat cognizant adults non-paternalistically, while making and sharing judgments and not accepting out-of-hand inadvisable decisions.

Emil Dickstein, M.D.

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same local community, let alone the state, national, and international ones. By developing bridges between these pyramids we will not only develop effective coalitions, but also increase our visibility and prestige in the community. People respond to a hand extended outward rather than to one close to the trunk.

The last priority is participation. We must provide a good product to draw non-participating physicians back to the society. We need large numbers of people not to make decisions but to generate ideas. This forum is one where ideas are to be expressed and developed. Creativity in our country is being squelched by mega-organizations, legislation, liability insurance problems, lack of funds and general de-energizing of the free-thinking person. This medical society must not just exist but must be the refueling and launching pad of medical innovation. Anatole France said *"To accomplish great things we must not only act but also dream; not only plan but also believe."*

For those of you who plan to join me in the accomplishment of these attainable goals, as I said in my first note from the President's Desk "Welcome Aboard." For those of you who will not participate, Ben Franklin has a word for you: *"Beware of two people; the young doctor and the old barber."*

Richard A. Memo, M.D.

ST. E's SETS DOCTOR'S DAY

March has been designated as "Doctor's Month" in the St. Elizabeth Hospital Jubilee Calendar of Events and March 13th has been chosen as "Doctor's Day" and the entire staff will be recognized for its contribution to the hospital.

Plans call for the honoring of past presidents of staff, staff members with 25 or more years of service, and recent retirees. There will be a special gift for those members with ten years or more of service.

Schedule of events for March 13 include a guest lecturer at 9 a.m.; hospital tour at 10:30 a.m. and a free lunch for all medical staff members and ex-house staff officers.

The evening festivities will start at Mr. Anthony's at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails, followed at 7:30 p.m. by a Jubilee Physician Recognition dinner. There will be a short program at 8:30 p.m. and then dancing to the Sgro Brothers Band starting at 9:30 p.m.

The event is part of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical Center.

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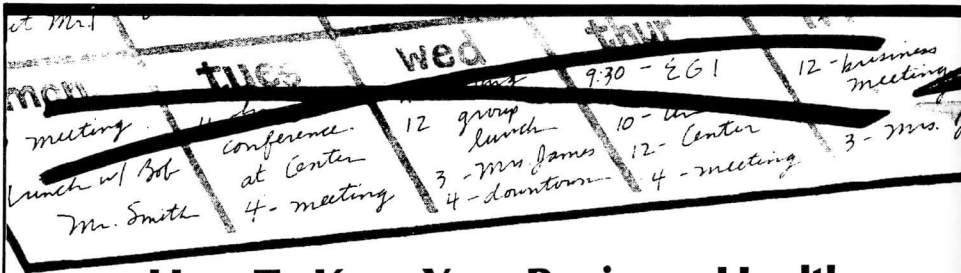
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GORDON G. NELSON, M.D.**1900 - 1986**

Dr. Gordon G. Nelson, 85, died January 10, 1986 at Assumption Nursing Home. He was a physician and surgeon. He was a former president of the Society.

Dr. Nelson was born in St. Paul, Minn. He was a graduate of John A. Johnson High School in St. Paul and received his undergraduate and medical degree from the University of Minnesota in 1926. He came to Youngstown and served his internship at the Youngstown Hospital Association.

He was president of YHA staff and was chief of surgery for nine years. He was a member of the Pan American College of Surgeons, American College of Surgeons and International College of Surgeons. He was also a member of Youngstown Rotary Club, The Elks Club, Duquesne Club, Youngstown Country Club, and the Youngstown Club. He was a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church.

He entered the Army Medical Corps in 1942 and attained the rank of Major after serving in North Africa and Italy and being named chief of orthopedic service for the 182nd Station Hospital.

Dr. Nelson was a member of the Ohio State Medical Association and the American Medical Association, as well as the Mahoning County Medical Society.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

Jan. 14, 1986

The regular meeting of the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held Tuesday, Jan. 14, 1986 at the Youngstown Club.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Memo at 7:50 p.m. and one item of unfinished business was taken out of sequence to accommodate three special guests: Judy Bloomberg, manager of the Medical/Dental Bureau; Tim Duffy and Frank Geuss of the paging company Wilcom. Because of some problems physicians are having with the Bureau and the paging system, the three guests were asked to attend the council session and discuss the problems. In opening remarks, it was noted that the Bureau transferred the paging division of the ownership of Wilcom in September 1984. The council members were informed that Wilcom had purchased the very best equipment when the paging system was taken over. Several problems were discussed and Mr. Duffy stated the problems related to the paging will be taken care of. Ms. Bloomberg stated some of the problems had not been brought to her attention and advised that anyone having problems with the Bureau should contact her and not try to take care of the problem through a Bureau operator. She stated a list of problems presented by an emergency room physician will be looked into and answered.

The minutes of the December meeting, having been read, were approved.

The treasurer's report included the names of five physicians who have been dropped from the membership rolls for non-payment of 1985 dues. The report also delineated the amount of extra income, over and above dues income, received by the Society. The bills list was read and a motion made, seconded and passed to pay each bill.

The following applications were presented for membership:

ASSOCIATE: Shokathusen Fatteh, M.D.

ACTIVE: Paul W. Weiss, D.O. Thomas E. Ragland, D.O.

The applications were approved. The applicants become members in the voted category 15 days after the printing of the names in the minutes of the January meeting that are mailed to all members, unless an objection is received in writing by the executive director before that effective date.

COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDED:

Another AMA notice of extension of the Medicare fee freeze;

A note of appreciation from the American Red Cross in regard to the Society's contribution to the Tornado Relief Fund;

A letter of thanks from Ray Bumgarner, Ohio State Medical Board Administrator, for the courtesy extended him when he spoke at the Society meeting;

A request from the Ohio State Medical Journal for permission to reprint Dr. Ruiz's "From the Desk of the President" of the December issue of *The Bulletin*;

A notice from Metropolitan Life Insurance concerning new pre-admission procedures and other procedural changes;

A letter concerning acquisition of a "super" computer by YSU and a response from the provost concerning such an acquisition;

Thank you notes from Mrs. George Cook for the Society's contribution to its Scholarship Foundation in the name of Dr. Cook and from Mrs. Dolly Handel for the contribution to the Auxiliary's winter event by the Society.

The Scholarship Dinner committee reported the event will be held April 17, 1986 at the Youngstown Club and that host couples are needed for the event. It was noted that two students from each of 24 schools are honored at the event. Couples wishing to volunteer may contact the Society office.

Under new business, the Council decided to take no action on a proposal concerning negotiated contract pricing; instructed the executive director to

contact legislators in regard to increasing GR-Medical fees in the same percentage as the recent Medicaid increase; by motion made, seconded and passed approved a resolution naming Dollar Bank as the Society's checking account depository.

Sixth District Councilor Dr. J. J. Anderson reported on the State council meeting and commented on four items: The OSMA Liability Task Force is working toward forming a coalition of concerned organizations to obtain more clout to bring about legislative change; OSMA is asking physicians to document problems with DRGs and send the documentation to the local society office so it can be forwarded to OSMA; The Nurse Practice Act is still being considered and will not be like the original concept; The need to reach into the community, an effort to cooperate with labor, and institution of a mini-internship program to enhance community awareness of medical practices.

Dr. Anderson announced there will be a Winter Caucus Meeting for delegates, alternates and officers Feb. 5 at Skyland Pines in Canton.

The following resolution was presented to Council and approved for submission to the District and OSMA:

Whereas, there have been instances when the names of physicians have come up in meetings of the Ohio State Medical Board during the discussion of infractions of the law and the physicians named have not been guilty of any infractions, and

Whereas, the news media are generally present at the meetings of the Ohio State Medical Board and have, at times, related the names of innocent physicians in news stories in such a manner as to infer guilt, and

Whereas, it is the rule of jurisprudence that an individual is deemed innocent until proven guilty, now therefore

Be it resolved, that the legal department of the Ohio State Medical Association be instructed to determine if there is any way the Ohio State Medical Board can be persuaded not to use the names of physicians in any meetings or hearings unless there is irrefutable evidence that the physician named is guilty of some infraction of the rules or the law.

The names of Dr. Joseph W. Tandatnick and Dr. Karl F. Wieneke were inadvertently left off the announcement of the Installation Dinner being held Tuesday, Jan. 21, 1986 at Antone's. Dr. Tandatnick is being installed as secretary and Dr. Wieneke is being installed as a delegate.

Program for the Installation will be a wine-tasting and narration concerning wines by Dr. Thomas W. Wykoff, owner of the Cedar Hill Winery and Au Provence in Cleveland.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Robert B. Blake
Executive Director

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AN APPRECIATION PLAQUE was presented to Dr. Juan A. Ruiz, outgoing president (left), by Dr. Richard A. Memo, new president of the Society at the installation dinner meeting January 21 at Antone's.

INSTALLATION DINNER HELD IN JANUARY

Dr. Richard A. Memo, practicing urologist with offices at 1350 Fifth Avenue, was installed as president of the Mahoning County Medical Society at the annual installation dinner held January 21 at Antone's in Boardman.

Guest speaker for the dinner event was Dr. Thomas Wykoff of Cleveland who is owner of Cedar Hill Winery and Au Provence Restaurant in Cleveland Heights and a practicing otolarngologist.

Dr. Juan A. Ruiz conducted the installation ceremony of all the officers and council members present at the meeting and then presented to Dr. Memo a gavel symbolizing the change of officers. As his wife, Rosemary and four children at the head table looked on, Dr. Memo presented his goals for 1986.

Dr. Memo then presented to Dr. Ruiz a past president plaque and a past president pin, on behalf of the members of the Society.

As part of the program, Dr. Wykoff introduced several of his wines as aperitifs and then two more during dinner. Following dinner, a series of five wines were the subjects of a wine-tasting session.

CONDUCT REVIEW BEING SOUGHT

Medical Society review of physicians' conduct, including excessive fees, would be permitted under model state bills that have been developed by the AMA. The Board of Trustees approved two model bills at its meeting in October.

One bill provides for an agreement between the medical societies and state medical boards allowing the societies to undertake review activities. A second bill provides that charging an excessive fee is considered "unprofessional conduct" that is subject to state disciplinary action. Because physicians who charge excessive fees would be subject to state disciplinary action, the bill would have the effect of allowing medical societies to review excessive fees for the state.



PRESENT FOR the installation dinner meeting January 21 were Mrs. Richard Memo, wife of the new president, and their four youngsters who endured the festivities with mixed reactions..

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

It has been some time since I have submitted a letter for publication in the *Bulletin*. So much is written today and we are often overwhelmed with words. However, I should like to share with you a personal experience that is significant for all who are members of our medical society. On July 1, 1983 I suffered a third heart attack. Upon consultation with my physicians it was decided that it was best that I retire from active medical practice. Since that period I have had in depth personal experience with disability insurance and health insurance. Let me assure you that we are most fortunate to have the services of Stillson and Donahay. Not only does this agency provide personal attention and compassionate care, but their efforts go far above and beyond those required of any county medical disability plan. Mr. Peck came to my home shortly after my disability began and provided me with advice and council. He has returned many times since, and is always available by phone. It is interesting to note that the two most efficient agencies that I have had to deal with are the so called "cancelable plans" of the Mahoning County Medical Society and the American College of Physicians. The highly touted "non-cancelable" policies frequently forget to send payments. Guess who comes to the rescue when this occurs? Right, the offices of Stillson and Donahay and a very efficient and compassionate young lady by the name of Jill Bodziach! She is always ready to lend a hand, often checking on payments to make sure that they have arrived. This type of personal service reminds one of the story of the Good Samaritan in the Bible and Christ's words in Matthew 25:40.

"WHEN LORD DID I SEE YOU . . ."

Leonard P. Caccamo, M.D.

From the Bulletin

FIFTY YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1936

The Florence Crittenton Home opened its new fireproof building on McGuffey Road, replacing the old frame dwelling. The Junior League donated the equipment. Miss Sarah Sims, that grand person of revered memory was Superintendent. She was the first Superintendent of the Youngstown Hospital. Obstetricians were H. E. Fusselman, Herman Kling, J. A. Altdoerfer, Samuel Schwebel and A. J. Brandt. E. R. Thomas was the Pediatrician. The Florence Crittenton Home was a quiet and safe haven for unwed mothers to go and have their babies in strict confidence and with the best obstetrical care available. No names ever appeared in the newspaper in those days.

FORTY YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1946

President Reilly said that the prevalence of tuberculosis was a serious health problem and urged the members to keep themselves informed about developments in this field. That was to be expected of the President of the Tuberculosis and Health Association.

The first annual banquet since the beginning of World War II was held at the Youngstown Country Club. The returned veterans were guests of the Society and it was a grand reunion.

Service records of Comdr. M. B. Goldstein and Lt. Col. Ivan Smith were published. Dick Middleton, Stan Myers, Steve Ondash, Asher Randell, Morris Rosenblum, John Russell, Wm. Sovik, R. V. Clifford, Barclay Brandmiller, Lewis Shensa, Al Cukerbaum and Brack Bowman were back home again. Al Phillips and Bob Tornello were still out somewhere and not heard from. Fred Schlecht was home on leave but scheduled to go out again for overseas duty. Gabe DeCicco received a belated promotion to Major.

The Home Savings and Loan Company received a letter of commendation from presidential aide Wallace Graham for holding vacant and undisturbed the offices of sixteen doctors away at war. When they came back their offices were ready to walk into and go to work, and no rent to pay.

THIRTY YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1956

AMA Delegate Wm. Skipp reported that the Congress of the United States was considering lowering the Social Security retirement age for women from age 65 to 62, expand Social Security coverage to all self-employed professional groups (Except physicians) and raise Social Security taxes over and above the increases already scheduled for the next twenty years. The AMA was clearly opposed to the expansion of the Social Security System.

During 1955 St. Elizabeth's Hospital expanded and added ten new operating rooms with a Recovery room, a new x-ray department, an Isotope Room, and a Deep therapy room. Also added was a new Emergency Room, Orthopedic Department and Physiotherapy Department. Youngstown Hospital opened a new Department of Electro-encephalography at the South Unit.

New members that month were: J. J. Campolito, R. M. Foster, U. H. Boenning, W. L. Agey, R. V. Bruchs, P. A. Dobson, R. J. Fuzy, Jr. and S. F. Gaylord.

TWENTY YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1966

Editor Jenkins said that the Declaration of Independence did not give us the right to pursue happiness in an automobile.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital Emergency was manned by a group of eight doctors from the Staff serving on twelve hour shifts. They were Frank Morrison, Rashid Abdu, Rene Cossette, D. J. Dallis, Milan Halmos, William Johnson, U. A. Melaragno, and William Mostalik. They were known as the Doctors Emergency Service.

(Continued on Page 49)

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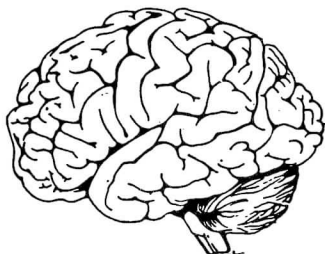
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New members that month were: Samuel Adornato, Rudolph Basso and Isadore Mendel.

TEN YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1976

Editor James Lambert stated, "More and more we are overly concerning ourselves with the economics of medical practice (Malpractice problems, insurance costs, operating expenses)". Meanwhile the Federal Trade Commission was filing charges against the AMA for restraint of trade in not allowing its members to advertise. "S. Q. Laypius" recommended that doctors who treat older doctors should send a bill for their services and collect the 80%. The times, they were a-changing!

In a bit of horseplay, General Ulysses S. Grant (in the form of Dr. Jim Anderson, beard and all) strode into the Installation Banquet and presented Howard and Eleanor Rempes with a "proclamation" granting them a free trip to New York City.

Robert R. Fisher, M.D.

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Feb. 22
R. A. Memo
A. Riberi

Feb. 24
T. L. Neuendorf

Feb. 26
E. M. Thomas

Feb. 27
L. P. Alexander

Feb. 28
J. S. Goldcamp

March 1
L. M. Farolan
N. R. Sarma

March 3
F. C. Lin

March 4
H. L. Queen

March 5
C. C. Albarran

March 6
D. Chung
N. I. German

March 8
P. B. Guthikonda
M. D. Miller

March 9
A. N. Pannozzo

March 10
R. A. Brown

March 12
S. F. Petraglia

March 14
J. R. Madison

March 15
N. Afrooz
J. Mersol
S. Siripong

MEDICAL OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

The North American Medical Golf Association has announced the 11th Annual Medical Open will be held April 19-25 at Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The 54-hole tournament, that follows two practice sessions, is based on medal play with each participant assigned by handicap to compete in one of four flights: 0-5, 6-10, 11-15, and 16+. Awards are presented in each of the four levels of competition.

The six-day Tournament Package includes accommodation, green fees and motor cart, breakfasts and dinners, receptions, and the gala awards banquet. For information and registration forms write: North American Golf, Box 2291, Naperville, IL 60565.

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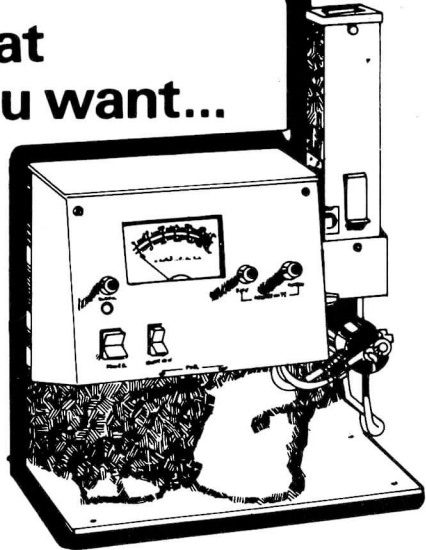


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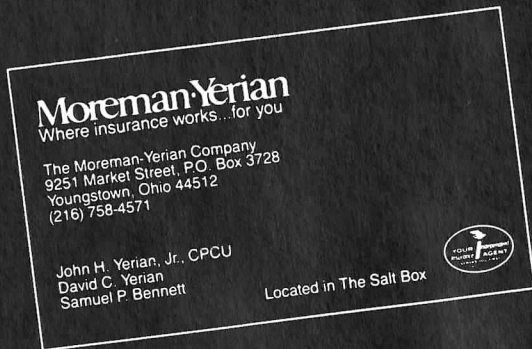
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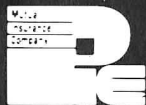


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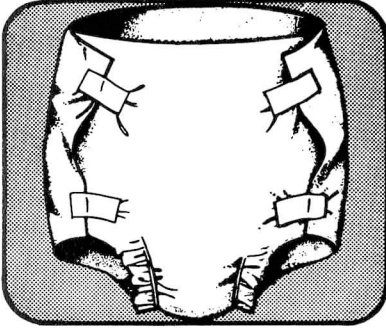
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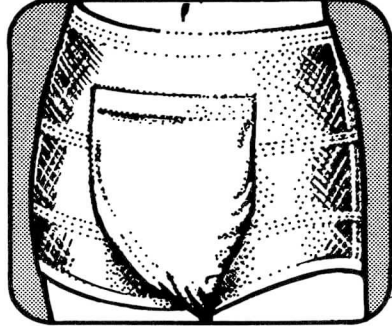
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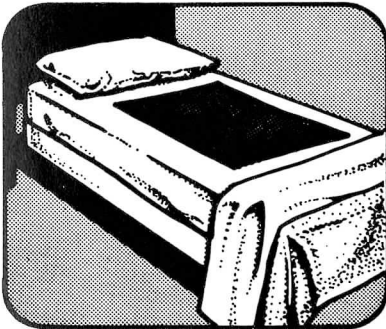
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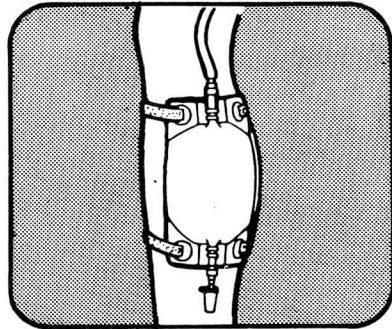
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ITEMS

From the Exec's Desk

ROBERT B. BLAKE, Executive Director

The Ohio General Assembly is considering legislation that will keep a judge from receiving a \$50,000 annual salary while he is in jail after being convicted of accepting \$236,000 in kickbacks. Under a technicality in the state code, the judge continues to receive his annual salary. Because he refused to resign his judgeship, the Ohio Supreme Court must hold hearings to determine if the judge is fit to practice law. The hearings could lead to disbarment. In the meantime, the judge draws his pay!

* * * * *

Otis R. Bowen, the country doctor who assumed the post of secretary of Health and Human Services, won a reputation as a tax slashing governor in Indiana. He heads the largest Federal department with 145,000 employees and a budget of \$330,000,000 (330 billion).

* * * * *

A study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, finds that Medicare reimbursement for hospitals doesn't take into account the longer hospital stays needed for some vascular surgery procedures. It found that the patient's age, previous medical and surgical history and the difficulty of the operations contributed to how long each patient needed to stay in the hospital and those factors were not taken into account by Medicare.

* * * * *

Statistics compiled jointly by the Census Bureau and the New York-based Conference Board, a research group, showed the average annual per-capita discretionary income for people aged 65 and older was about \$5,600, compared with a nationwide average for all age categories of about \$3,700. Apparently, we only hear from those in the bottom half of the average, the upper half keeps a low profile and blissfully spends money!

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