

ANESTHESIA DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER.

V.A.'s Christmas Card
January, 1950

Greetings to everyone in 1950! 1949 has been a banner year in many ways. On December 10 I had the very great pleasure of seeing or hearing from more of you all at once than ever before. For some mysterious reason, some energetic people concocted the idea of a dinner for me, and was it a bang-up party! In addition to our present staff (the call people came in shifts) Larry Wu came from the farthest west (Chicago), with Dottie Darling a close second, while Fernando Diaz represented our eastern boundary, Cordt and Gerry Rose the northern limit and Lila Gairns the southern, with Anne Wagar and Sam Rochberg runners-up. Bob Gladstone and a large metropolitan contingent consisting of Steve Mazur, Mildred Bohne, Helena Bertel, Dita Sporer, Helene Mayer, Jean Weil, Margaret Galotta, John Cicero, Miss Penland and U.J. made up the rest of the party. First we had a scientific session in the afternoon, the prize story concerning a bull who had a spinal fusion. Anesthesia was chloral given with a big funnel into the jugular vein. Then cocktails, orchids, filet mignon with all the trimmings; Bill Musicant rolling around his movie camera with headlights attached; extra-ordinary speeches by McDermott and Howland and Bob Gladstone who read excerpts from your many letters and reminisced about the problems of the No. 1 boy and presented me with a gorgeous waterproof, alcohol and iodine-proof, ether and cyclo-proof, shockproof watch which stops only when I do. Guess what's on the back besides the name and date -- a smiling face! I also received a magnificent check, which I shall enjoy spending on several trips this spring, visiting you. Thank you one and all for these most undeserved gifts.

The third era in our department began on Sept. 1st when Manny Papper joined our staff as executive officer or "Boss". We were both given the rank of full professor at Columbia. He has already set into motion at least five research problems, showed us several new clinical slants and is waging an uphill tussle with the Administration, Surgeons and Department Heads alike. Just watch our dust!! At the moment we have 23 residents and 9 on the instructing staff. A real rotating residency is finally a fact. Each resident spends a month on each of eight services to which an attending is also assigned on a different rotating schedule. Preoperative rounds are now almost 100% complete throughout the hospital. Requests for nerve blocks have taken a big jump this year.

Construction work in all parts of the hospital has really started. McCosh is an empty shell. Manny and I have offices under the basketball hoop at one end of the gym; Adeline and charts hold forth in the "mattress room" on 19; while Viola and equipment reside on 18 across from G operating room. Sloane operates on 16, 17 and 18. All the labor rooms have been moved to 16 East and there is a beautiful new "premie" nursery on Babies 2. Oxygen is piped into

all the wards and private rooms. The anesthesia penthouse over the old labor rooms will be started soon. The new 16 bed recovery room on the site of McCosh will be ready quite soon and will save hours of elevator travelling, not to mention patients.

As part of a Sabbatical leave, I spent 5 weeks this fall with Dona Huggins, an anesthetist from Winnipeg, visiting 25 clinics in Sweden, Norway, England, Scotland and Wales. We spent one night with Tone Dahl in Oslo. I returned the visits of our many foreign visitors during the past ten years and certainly received interest at a high rate. Many new friends were made, among the most interesting -- Dr. Mushin at Cardiff, Dr. Pask at Newcastle, Dr. Gillies in Edinburgh, and Drs. Lucas, Beard, Rowbotham and Magill in London. Equipment abroad is entirely different from what we are using. In Britain Boyle's type machine is chiefly in use but all with metal rotameter gauges, -often to and fro canisters placed near the face. At Oxford, Oxford vaporizers are used exclusively but with a non-rebreathing valve interposed near the mask or tube. In Sweden an ejector type of machine (Aga Company) is used but the spiropulsator of Crafoord's was the most fascinating. We have one now and are beginning to use it in chest cases. The British anesthetists do beautiful bronchoscopies, even with the patient in prone position, and with no assistance at all. The bronchial blocking technics as used at Sabbatsberg in Stockholm were entirely different from the British methods originated by Magill. The most amazing patients were those in Edinburgh undergoing bloodless surgery for thoracolumbar sympathectomy. A physiological phlebotomy is produced by a total spinal anesthesia with 200 mgms. procaine, administered after a generous dose of pentothal and several minutes of 100% oxygen inhalation. Fast injection and steep head down position were followed by absent blood pressure and even heart beat! Respirations remained good and the color of the blood was the best we saw in any clinic! The sympathetic block lasted a little over one hour, and b.p. and pulse returned quite promptly. The "22 second" tonsillectomies and adenoidectomies done with semi-closed ethyl chloride on children also were startling to say the least. Almost every one we saw at work was a "specialist" and little was actually done by a group similar to our residents. Very little fluids are administered to patients and blood is at a premium but they think we are a waterlogged, edematous group of people. Maybe they're right! No surgery observed by us took over two hours.

The results of the bombing in London and Cardiff were frightful, especially around St. Paul's Cathedral. Kipperred herring, tea and porridge for breakfast for a month were indeed a change. I am convinced that British, Swedish and Norwegian hospitality is almost unsurpassed (except possibly by Saranac Lake). We can never do too much for our foreign visitors. An unexpected stop in Iceland and a beautiful flight over Greenland were a fitting finish to a grand trip. I expect to take two or three trips this winter and spring, one to New England, one two-month southern jaunt and the third to attend the A.M.A. meetings in San Francisco. Hope to see most of you at work wherever you are.

One sad note:- Herman Levin died suddenly in May of coronary

occlusion, in Lancaster, Pa. I had seen him in April and he appeared to be in excellent health. Helen's address is 226 E. Orange Street.

The New York December meetings were attended by 1600 anesthesiologists. Be sure to save the second week in December for them. Don Richter has suggested a summer edition of the newsletter about work in the department, which I'll consider if you really want it. Good luck to you all and "keep that chin up!"

BOB GLADSTONE (158 Holmes Rd., Pittsfield, Mass.) is enjoying life and work in New England. He is looking forward (?) to enlarging hospital plans, as are so many of us.

CHARLIE STEIN (3152 S.W. 21st St., Miami, Fla.) by secondhand reports, is busy, well and happy.

GLENN POTTER (1332 So. Hope St., Los Angeles 15, Cal.) is mentioned several times in the excellent color film on "Endotracheal Anesthesia" edited by Dr. McCuskey. Thanks, Glenn for your kind thoughts in the letter to Jack. Hope to see you in June.

OLGA SCHWEIZER (65 E. 76th St., NYC 21, NY) has moved downtown to be nearer her work at Memorial Hospital. Her work has been increased by the addition of the James Ewing wing, with several more operating rooms. I heard vivid reports from Dr. Robert Cope in London of one of Olga's chief surgeons who demanded that 18 pints of blood be on hand for a proposed operation with deep ether anesthesia. Cope gave the patient pentothal, nitrous oxide and curare and 3 pints of blood -- with complete success. The surgeon still thinks he gave deep ether anesthesia!

MARGARET GALOTTA (Mrs. Milton Sheldon, 532 Prospect Ave., Hackensack, NJ) is busy with private practice. Her tales of doing tonsillectomy anesthesia on the kitchen table startled us, but were all in the day's work to her.

SAM ROCHBERT (3906 Calloway Ave., Baltimore, Md.) is working hard at Sinai Hospital and his extra hours are kept busy with a new house. The tonsillectomies under pentothal anesthesia, so common in Baltimore, still have not proven practicable in a resident set-up in our hands.

ELLEN FOOT's child, Chickie Neumann, is now 5 years old and is living with his grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. N. Chandler Foot, in Bronxville. His father, Dr. Charles Neumann, has just opened an office for plastic surgery near New York Hospital.

BEL MUSICANT (2009 Preuss Rd., Los Angeles 34, Cal.) changed on Jan. 1st to a private practice with his brother at the California Hospital. Good luck in your new venture. Yes Bel, Jack let me see the letter. You are an extravagant fellow!

KINGSLEY BISHOP (Mrs. Paul Ducharme, Windmere, Fla.) has had a busy year moving and returning to practice. Amy and Paul are learning how to put airways in. Paul Sr. is in private radiological practice in Kissimmee. Hope to see you soon!

MARY WARD has resigned from our staff and is taking a few months off to accompany me on our southern trip before starting work again.

BETTY CONOVER (Mrs. David Allen, Summit Medical Group, Summit, NJ) is kept out of mischief by three daughters and plenty of work.

MILDRED THOMPSON BOHNE (62 Elm Street, Summit, NJ) is a frequent and welcome visitor to NYC. She will be busy with an expanding Overlook Hospital and two active children at home.

DEX BLAKE (R.D. 1, Far Hills, NJ) we have missed at meetings this year, which means a busier practice. He holds the record, with Don Richter, for having four children (Crafoord, the famous Swedish chest surgeon, has nine!) His hospital will soon expand.

DON RICHTER (59 Kiwassa Rd., Saranac Lake, NY) has a beautiful house in the middle of the Adirondacks, a fine family and busy practice, as I saw for myself last week. Dr. George Wright's respiratory lab. at Trudeau should provide Don and Cordt much food for thought in their spare moments (?) The absence of snow is a real tragedy in their part of the country. A great variety of chest cases makes their life more interesting -- pulmonary arterio-venous fistulae, multiple and congenital, were a new group to me. Also asbestosis!

CORDT ROSE (1 Birch St., Saranac Lake, NY) is Don's associate. He and Gerry, Debby and Timmy enliven the neighborhood as well as improve the scenery with bulbs, flower, rock and vegetable gardens.

HELENA BERTEL (720 W. 170th St., NYC) is a regular attendant at our Thursday evening meetings, which have grown like Topsy, and is increasing her private practice in upper Manhattan.

HELENA MAYER (301 Riverside Drive, NYC) travels to Brooklyn daily where she is in practice.

DITA STERNOVA (Mrs. Andrew Sporer, 30 E. 60th St., NYC) is back at work after having Andrea in March.

GRACE FRANK (Windsor Towers, 5 Prospect Place, NYC) continues her good work at Mary Immaculate Hospital in Queens.

FRED BROWN (Veterans Administration Hospital, Fort Logan, Colo.) is enjoying the west and is in the midst of the active Rocky Mt. Section. He finished his Board exams this year. Three cheers!

- CHARLOTTE EWART (Mrs. Richard Woodruff, Sunset Acres, Spear St., Burlington, Vt.) has moved farther north where Dick is a "Fellow" in Pathology at the University of Vermont. She is a resident at the Bishop DeGoesbriand Hospital, completing her second year of training.
- MARY HALL (Mrs. Murray Shepp, 21 Runyon Circle, Trenton, NJ) has had a second daughter this year and at present is a busy housewife.
- MARY JORDAN (Mrs. Delbert Smith, 11 W. Chester Pike, Ridley Park, Pa) I have no news. Where are you and what are you doing?
- LILA GAIRNS (2223 Kensington Court, Topeka, Kan.) has just moved to this new address, having had enough plastic surgery anesthesia to last her for years. Some of her work will be at the Menninger Clinic. Her travels this year took her to Denver for Board Exams and to NYC where she stayed a few days after the meetings.
- MARVELLA VANNEY (2019 Louisa St., New Orleans, La.) is upholding our reputation in New Orleans and more than this I know not.
- MARGARET WALDBAUER's (Mrs. Louis Waldbauer, 240 Western Ave., Albany, NY) letter contained the best news of any of my Christmas mail. She is back in Anesthesia, after several years of general practice, at St. Peter's Hospital -- and busy as a bee. You're forgiven for not being able to come to NY last month. Make it later this year, yes?
- JEAN WEIL (Mrs. Ernest Weil, 896 West End Ave., NYC) is busy around New York in private practice, much of it at N.Y. Orthopedic Hospital.
- JACK CLARE (49 W. 94th St., NYC) is a proud papa and is working at Sea View Hospital.
- JOHN CICERO (2238 Newbold Ave., Bronx, NY) married recently and is in private practice in the Bronx.
- DOROTHY DARLING (807 Fayette St., Gary, Ind.) was most enthusiastic about her work in Gary and has had four raises already! Let's all go to Gary. Keep up the good work.
- STEVE MAZUR (557 Grove St., Irvington, NJ) is getting along well in private practice in northern Jersey, which is no easy nut to crack.
- TOM WICKENDEN (Hyde Park, NY) picked a lucky day to drop in for a visit for Dr. Geoffrey Kaye of Melbourne, Australia was also visiting. Tom's hospital is St. Francis -- not St. Vincent as erroneously reported last year. The rest of the staff is becoming "anesthesia-conscious" and liking it.

JEAN HENLEY (552 Riverside Drive, NYC) has spent most of the year in Europe, chiefly Germany and Switzerland. She has done much anesthesia on poor risk, unprepared patients, and her letters sound as if she were practicing medicine on another planet! She is writing a simple inhalation guide in German for the increasing number of doctors there becoming interested in the subject. She was in NYC in November.

BILL MUSICANT (1059 S. Manhattan Place, Los Angeles, Cal.) after 7 months as an instructor, including 2 with hepatitis, has pulled up his eastern stakes, with wife, new son and car, and driven west to join Bei in the beginnings of a group practice.

PHYLLIS FROST (Norwich State Tb. Hospital, Norwich, Conn.) left after 6 months training and has recently taken a position at the above address.

ALFRED SORENSON (1909 Iowa Ave., Cedar Falls, Iowa) has left for parts southwest and will send us news later.

ANNE WAGAR (1280 Peachtree St., Atlanta, Ga.) left in July for a second year with Perry Volpitto, whereupon she came down with the famous disease, hepatitis! She has now recovered and we were glad to see her in December.

SID COHN (325 W. 45th St., NYC) is a resident in pathology, preparatory to an obs. gyn life, but I have not yet given up hope that he will "See The Light".

HUGH CRAWFORD (2318 West End Ave., Nashville, Tenn.) after a year with us, returned to Tenn. expecting to go into the Navy but is now in practice (surgical, alas!) with his brother Jack. Hugh is keeping his hand and eye in shape by intubating several patients. I have not yet given him up as a Lost Cause, either.

Our "foreign" contingent or anesthesia missionaries grow yearly and are almost better correspondents than our local sons and daughters.

MING YAO (407 Dundos St., Windson, Ont.) is in practice and maintains her Oriental silence. She has two children, Teddy and Tommy.

RAQUEL SANTOS (Casilla 26, Llay-Llay, Chile) wrote a nice long letter for Christmas and if you feel sorry for yourselves, listen to this: a can of baralyme costs \$100; no more pentothal until next year; one 20 cc. syringe costs \$500, etc. A recent bladder paralysis for three days after spinal with the usual technic reminds us all to carry ample malpractice insurance. (a recent case in the Bronx with paraplegia after what seems to have been a perfect spinal anesthesia is suing for \$200,000!) The case of human hydrophobia she mentioned with difficult feeding and suction problems would probably have been helped by a tracheotomy, as we are finding in tetanus and myasthenia cases. Many transfusion reactions with jaundice deter one

from using much blood even though it was indicated (as it was in the bleeding ulcer case. We would probably have used 3000 to 4000 cc. in that man.) We are certainly spoiled with a good blood bank and disposable infusion sets.

TONE DAHL (Mrs. Johs Kvittingen, Sorkesdalsveien 5, ogg 3, vi, Oslo Norway) (My, how much more that address means since I've been there!) tells us very good news-that she will be finished her work for her M.D. by the time this is written. This in spite of having 2 blonde, blue-eyed daughters and having her husband go to India with the World Health Organization where she may join him for a few months. Best of all, when she returns, she hopes to go into Anesthesia in Oslo. There are two good young men starting there now, Drs. Mollestadt and Lund, and they will need help. Tone studied anesthesia somewhat in reverse! During our brief visit there she fed us ELK steak, delicious vegetables, a big bowl of whipped cream and light yellow berries which looked otherwise like blackberries.

FERNANDO DIAZ (Laboratories Iznaga, Santa Clara, Cuba) reported in person about his work. He is especially interested in the treatment of asthma with stellate blocks and has done over 100 cases. Several cases had simultaneous bilateral blocks so far with no trouble.

HOMERO TREVINO (Parque Espana 17, Mexico, D.F.) is in active practice and I hope will keep us informed about meetings in Mexico.

PERFECTA LAMPIRA DINO (Mrs. Benvenuto Dino, V. Luna Gen. Hospital, Mandalangong, Rizal, Phillipines) in addition to her anesthesia practice, gave birth to a small daughter, and I'll bet it was tiny for Perfecta weighed 88 lbs. the last time I saw her! Thank you very much for the gift which arrived in September.

FRANCISCO BRANCO (Av. Luiz Bivar, 4 r/c Espdo, Lisboa, Portugal) although I was delighted to receive the several unused sets of Portuguese stamps, the many beautiful postcards and the unusual Christmas card, I liked best the hand-written letter you sent Jack Frumin. Your English was very good and we did not need the typewritten copy at all. No news about work must be good news, but write anyway. Really, I'll come to Portugal on my next European trip!

VERONICA BAKAMJIAN (American Hospital, Beirut, Lebanon) Am still awaiting her Christmas message. Have heard from Joe McDonald Edna Higgins (Khouri) and Rena Myers, but not from Veronica. You're probably working much too hard.

JOAN CROSIER (Rode Road, Nondah, Brisbane, Australia) has written nothing directly, but Dr. Kaye reported her to be at work. I have my eye on Australia as soon as I recover from my Sabbatical "tripping".

LARRY WU (1804 W. Congress St., Chicago 12, Ill.) after working for a while on Staten Island, obtained a fellowship at Loyola University where he is now. His present work includes intrathecal epinephrine as an anesthetic agent. We were delighted to see him in December.

RAUL LOPEZ-MARIN (21 #1059, Vedada, Habana, Cuba) left our shores after a few months and I think is at work in Havana. Maybe he would write me a letter about it, yes? Thank you for your card.

STEFAN FOURNEL (Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.) is an energetic young French surgeon whom we snared for three months early this year. He learned quickly and had his eyes opened wide by anesthesia. Our only regret is that he is going into thoracic surgery. Anyway, he has promised to send back an equally energetic friend to be trained in anesthesia. Good luck, Steve.

Back to the home missionaries, in no particular order.

BEN ROOT (Apt. 412, 14015 Superior Rd., E. Cleveland, Ohio) is casting his eye over the Cleveland horizon and is at present in a group practice. Cleveland, after all, is meat for missionaries, as is St. Louis! Hope to see you sometime in April, Ben.

This last year was strenuous: We survived six departmental labors, all successfully. Future residents were born to Clare, Musicant, Fontes, McDermott, Hehre and Safian. Whooee!

The present attending staff, in addition to Manny and myself, consists of Dan Tausig, Tom McDermott, Al Safian, Bea Selvin, Bob Fontes, Shih-Hsun Ngai, Jack Frumin. To it will be added in the near future, present residents Howland, Hehre and Hanks. Duncan Holaday, via St. Luke's and Johns Hopkins Hospital, joins us on April 1st. Welcome to all the new ones.

The resident staff-keeps us on the jump as usual. DOTTIE MA, to our distress, last June was found to have Tbc and diabetes and has been and is up at Trudeau since then. I saw her last week and she is getting along well. Is in a rest cottage and up several hours a day. She can never receive too many letters. GERRY SAVAGE and GLORIA HANSEL both found suitable spouses and Gloria will go to New Orleans with her husband, Dr. Tom Nash, a neurosurgeon, in February. Lucia Vidal is staying a third year. The other second year residents are GEORGE HERBERT, HARVEY HATCHFIELD, JOHN CODE. Residents in their first year are PAT CENTRONE, ARTHUR HARTLEY, JOHN SHAMI, VANCE LAUDERDALE, IRVING WEINBERG, HERBERT RACKOW. The international contingent include RENE BALMASEDA, formerly of Cuba, FLAMINIO CAMARGO of Sao Paulo, Brazil, LYSIANNE GEORGE, of Paris, EVA KAVAN from Prague, Czechoslovakia, ENRICO CIOCATTO from Turin, Italy, OTTO MAYRHOFER from Vienna, KJELL STENBERG from the Karolinska Hospital, Stockholm and JACQUELINE VERLY, from Liege

Belguim, begins her service tomorrow. JOHN SHAMI originally came from Beirut, Lebanon and Lucia, of course, comes from Chile.

Miss PENLAND, Miss BARRETT and Miss MINOTTA have been well and happy. Miss JUSTUS was in the hospital for several weeks with severe phlebitis but it responded well to blocks by Papper and Ngai. She is back on the job now.

VIOLA GROLLIMUND as usual has been the backbone of the department, her own home and her parents' home. Just try to find her tucked around the corner of the 18th floor office. ADELIN STAHLEBERG works manfully (?) on punch cards and other records BERNICE COLETT is Manny's new secretary and regularly plays basketball with us in the gym. MARY ATRIA and HELEN COLLINS somehow manage to keep up with the equipment between the central sterilizing department in the basement, the used items on 18 and the cleaning facilities on 19, plus the hinterlands. They both keep thin.

And so on indefinitely. Two papers were published this year; one on norepinephrine in the AMA with the Depts. of Medicine and Surgery, and one on epidural anesthesia in the November Anesthesiology. Numerous meetings were attended and some hot air expended in several cities.

Thank you again for the strumptious gifts, your many letters and Christmas cards and come to New York the second week in DECEMBER, 1950.