

NSH Admissions Up, But No Layoffs

By DENNIS L. PAJOT

Northville State Hospital is admitting patients as fast as beds become available.

Employees needn't fear layoffs. Normal attrition has brought the hospital staffing to budget level.

Dr. Richard Budd, hospital superintendent, told Observer Newspapers Monday he's hopeful the State Department of Mental Health will take steps to eliminate the \$100,000 deficit that almost prompted layoffs.

In answer to criticism from Detroit General Hospital administrators, Dr. Budd said admission units are fully staffed and the Detroit General requests for admissions are being given top priority.

"Part of the trouble is that we've been experiencing a very heavy admissions load in the past six weeks," said Dr. Budd. "It's been the highest in the history of the hospital. We just ran out of beds."

He said five beds became available Friday afternoon after he gave notice that admissions in the morning were impossible and that three more became available Monday morning.

Dr. Budd noted that NSH is likely to handle 3,200 patients this year, compared to 2,850 last year in the facility de-

signed to house 2,800 at any one time.

He said he couldn't explain the upsurge. "So many factors play a part. For one thing, whenever there's an economic recession, admission loads do increase."

Ironically, the increased loads are coming at a time when the state-supported facility normally expects to allow its staff to dwindle, and - this year - at a time when economic conditions also dissuade staff members from changing jobs.

It was this situation which prompted Budd to announce possible layoffs, which he expected would mostly be in the nursing staff. As many as 50 persons might have been laid off to meet the budget for this time of year. That level was reached last week without layoffs, however.

Detroit General patients are

being admitted at a rate of three to four a day now, said Dr. Budd.

"It must be borne in mind, however, that this is not the only source of our admissions. We also serve the Probate Courts, and we have to take in our own patients returning from convalescent leave or family care at times."

An act of the Legislature would be required to provide funds to handle emergency level loads.

Check That Medicare Statement

Medicare beneficiaries should carefully check the "explanation of benefits" form sent to them after Medicare has made payment for hospital or physicians' services they have received.

If the payment record is incorrect, the beneficiary should report any discrepancy to his social security office or to the Medicare paying agent immediately. Sam Test, social security district manager, said.

Test emphasized that errors in billing can occur. A careful check of payment records can prevent fraud or error, he added.

"In a program as large as Medicare," Test said, "with over 122 million bills received each year, even a tiny percentage of incorrect billings can add up to a lot of money." By reporting any apparent mistakes, Test added, Medicare beneficiaries can help keep costs down.

Of 2,500 cases of errors or discrepancies in Medicare bills reported by beneficiaries, Medicare carriers, intermediaries, and others recorded in the SSA's central control system, Test said, over half turned out to be the result of clerical error or misunderstanding. But others did reveal evidence of attempts at abuse or intent to defraud.

THE HARRIS BROADCASTER

EASTER CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, March 29 - 10 a.m.

St. Michael Lutheran Church
3003 Hannan Road (at Glenwood)
Wayne, Michigan

Donation: None

MILLIONAIRES PARTY

Saturday, April 4 - 8 p.m.

U.A.W. Hall
35603 Plymouth Road
(East of Levan Road)

Tickets: Howell Ridley - 476-7820
Tom Gorton - 261-5347

EASTER INDOOR CAMP MEETING

March 22-29 - 7:30 p.m.

Grace United Brethren Church
1410 Lillian at Parkwood

Information: Call 728-7206

To publish the notice of your organization activity, contact, in person, Thomas F. Rost, Mgr., Garden City Chapel, or David R. Whitney, Mgr., Livonia Chapel.

R.G.&G.R. SINCE 1910

Harris FUNERAL HOMES

GARDEN CITY CHAPEL
(Formerly LANE) Phone: 425-2200
31551 Ford Road, near Merriman

LIVONIA CHAPEL
Phone: 422-6720
15451 Farmington Road, near Five Mile

Regional Affairs



THESE JUNIOR ACHIEVERS are members of a group of 177 youthful business entrepreneurs, all members of Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan, who are traveling to Europe for eight days late this month to view firsthand the overseas operations of several American corporations. Participating are (from left; front row) Mike Scoggins of 30134 Fink, Farmington; Barb Ziegler of Detroit; Penny Morgan of 23915 Pickett, Farmington; Linda Moringstar of Southfield; Kathy Kopla of Detroit; (middle row) Carol Beneson of Detroit; Kathy Hume of 23700 Wesley, Farmington; Ron Stahl of 17435 Centralia, Redford; (back row) Karen Penegar of Detroit, Lloyd Ingram of 15136 Marsha, Livonia; Mary Commarford of Detroit; Pete Furlong of 20825 Cass, Farmington; Bruce Scoggins of 30134 Fink, Farmington; Dianna Cochran of 21045 Gill, Farmington.

EDGAR EARNED his award for a Sunday feature article which appeared in the Observer Newspapers on April 20 of last year.

His story dealt with the growing shortage of general practitioners in Michigan and what leaders of both the MD and osteopathic schools of practice are trying to do about it.

So many MDs are entering the various specialties, he said, that family medicine is rapidly becoming the domain of the osteopathic physician.

EDGAR NOTED, that according to a recent survey, only 10% of today's medical school graduates are entering general practice, compared with 72% of the new DOs.

Michigan, he added, has a doctor-patient ratio that ranks a little below the national average and could use at least 600 more physicians right now.

One way this need is being at least partially met, Edgar reported, is through the new Michigan College of Osteopathic Medicine at Pontiac, the first of the profession's schools to become affiliated with a state university.

The other two winners in the annual contest were Miss Ruth Winter and Kenneth Levy, both of the Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger.

EDGAR, A VETERAN or more than 50 years in the newspaper business, came to the Observer Newspapers group three years ago after retiring as bowling moderator for the state of Michigan.

Prior to that he was with the Detroit Free Press serving as sports editor and handling bowling, collegiate football and basketball, the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions, powerboat racing, auto racing, golf and boxing.

He currently has the title of roving editor but has served as editor of the Plymouth Mail and Observer, the Farmington Enterprise and Observer and Garden City Observer.

His most recent award was his fourth with the Observers. In 1969 he became the first individual in more than 50 years to win three Michigan Press Association awards in a single year.

He received a first for his column "The Stroller"; a first for best feature story and a second for a picture page and story of the big Plymouth downtown fire.

Milliken Gets Response To 'Clean Earth Corps'

By TIM RICHARD

Gov. William Milliken, his campaign a good \$100,000 richer, said he's getting some "interested responses" to his proposal for a Clean Earth Corps.

The governor, who will turn 48 next week though he still looks half that age, attended a gala fund-raising birthday party in his honor in Southfield last week.

In an interview with Observer Newspapers, Milliken said he had had "several wires and letters" on his proposal, which could be of some value to suburban communities.

BRIEFLY, the Clean Earth Corps was proposed by Milliken a week before at the teach-in on environmental problems at the University of Michigan.

Under it, local communities would propose environmental and conservation projects that could be handled by college-age persons. The state would bankroll the project, with students taking a semester's time to work on them.

Milliken had said last week that the state would have money for "pilot programs" this year.

He asked the students for their reactions, but in last week's teach-in excitement he got little response except for some profanity from the students for a Democratic Society delegation.

Milliken said he received a "lot of comment" on the idea after his speech, which was first on the program and was followed by Arthur Godfrey, Sen. Gaylord Nelson and ecologist Barry Commoner.

Yet it was clear that the governor's proposal failed to "turn on" the college crowd the way he had hoped. More loudly cheered were speakers who advised the students to "go sue somebody"—meaning



STATE SEN. GEORGE KUHN (right) Republican from West Bloomfield, gets in a few words for a pet bill with Gov. William Milliken at a gala party in Southfield in honor of the governor's 48th birthday. Kuhn represents the 14th District, including Livonia, Farmington and Plymouth. He won't announce his candidacy for a second four-year term until near the filing deadline in June. (Observer photo)

oni observer newspapers, inc.

CIRCULATION DATA

FRED J. WRIGHT, Circulation Director

NEWSPAPER	Current Press Run	CAC Audit Sept. 1969
LIVONIA OBSERVER	29,500	28,220
REDFORD OBSERVER	20,700	19,956
WESTLAND OBSERVER	18,000	17,376
SOUTHFIELD OBSERVER	17,000	116,000
FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER	15,400	14,501
GARDEN CITY OBSERVER	11,400	10,924
PLYMOUTH MAIL & OBSERVER	9,700	9,600

* WEEKLY EDITIONS, WEDNESDAY 9TH EDITION, February 1970. Will be included in March 1970 CAC Audit.

Total Wednesday 122,200 116,577
Total Wednesday 93,800 88,277

FRED J. LEVINE, Advertising Director

Art Langer, Classified Mgr. 422-0900 Joel Stark, Retail Mgr. 422-3175

CARL PURSELL (left), a Wayne County commissioner from Plymouth, greets Gov. William Milliken amid a gala atmosphere last week at a 48th birthday party in Southfield. Pursell earlier in the week announced he would seek the Republican nomination for the State Senate in the 14th District, now represented by fellow Republican George Kuhn. (Observer photo)