

# Computer Study Approved By Hospital Board

Hospitals may be a place of healing but there is a place for computers and automated equipment.

With that in mind, the Peoples Community Hospital Authority's Board of Directors recently approved "in principle" a computer feasibility study which, if used to a large extent, could save money for the PCHA.

Dr. Karl S. Klicka, executive director of the authority, which includes Garden City and Westland, said:

"ONE THINKS FIRST of a hospital as a place of healing but it is also a very complicated, highly refined business operation involving payroll, census reporting, patient accounting, accounts payable, inventory control, personnel reporting, and financial accounting."

In a typical 300-bed hospital, for example, computers turn out literally dozens of reports daily, each containing figures that, if manually computed, would have taken weeks to obtain.

Pressure for such speedy reports is mounting, particularly since the advent of the federal Medicare program, he said.

"In addition, to routine business reports," Dr. Klicka continued, "there is an almost insatiable demand today for hospital statistics and records and the demand is steadily increasing."

The authority's board of di-

rectors at its last meeting received a detailed study from its auditors on the cost of using computers.

The study showed that if the hospital authority used either a full-scale automated system or by turning to an outside service bureau, a savings of

11 cents to 25 cents per patient per day could be realized.

IF A FULL COMPUTER system is eventually used, the total annual cost would range from \$230,800 to \$258,800 but there would be a net savings of \$33,200 to \$61,200 through a re-

duction of 54 employees. If an outside service bureau is used by the authority which has an \$18 million budget and nearly 2,000 employees, the estimated annual costs would range from \$163,000 to \$189,000 with the net annual savings ranging from \$33,600 to

\$79,000. If small individual computer systems are used, then the net additional cost per year would range from \$32,600 to \$64,600, depending on which computers are bought. The board of directors, upon the recommendation of its op-

erating committee, approved in principle a five-year feasibility study. If pursued to its full course, the computer program at the authority would encompass all computing functions of the four hospitals and the administrative offices.

At the end of the five year period, the auditors said, the authority might expect to add nursing and medical functions to the data processing system.

orders programmed, drug schedules computerized, and instant billing on discharge of patients achieved, a PCHA spokesman said.

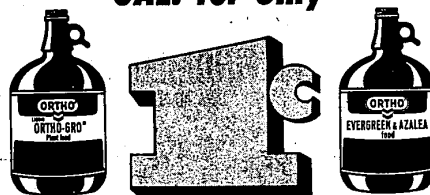
"In time, a patient may even be able to push a button and order his meals for the day," the spokesman said.

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## Smoking Started By Pals

Children do not copy their parents' smoking habits, nor do programs aimed at alerting them to the dangers of nicotine have much impact, according to a survey of 50,000 Indianapolis pupils aged 11 to 16.

Nearly half of fifth-graders had tried smoking, the study found, although only eight per cent considered themselves smokers. In the 12th grade smokers had reached 31 per cent.

Parents' smoking habits, however, had almost nothing to do with whether the children smoked. Among smokers, 70 per cent had fathers who smoked. But 63 per cent of the nonsmokers also had fathers who smoked.

BY FAR the most important spur to smoking was friends, reports Dr. Eugene E. Levitt, psychologist at Indiana University School of Medicine, who directed the study.

Other results indicate information programs on health hazards may be a waste of time. Few of the children were unaware that smoking is dangerous to lungs and heart. Smoking withdrawal clinics at Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, achieved only a 17 per cent cure among 1,800 volunteers from 1964 to 1966, Dr. Charles A. Ross, chief of thoracic surgery, reports.

In the withdrawal program, which employed a combination of education and drugs, men were more successful in breaking the habit than women. Among the men, those over 40 were more successful than younger ones.

## Percolators Handy During Warm Months

A jumbo coffee percolator will come in handy when entertaining out-of-doors during warm weather months.

One popular model holds 25 cups and has an insulated carrying handle and a second one for easy pouring.

It is available from U.S. Stamping Co. in two patterns, a traditional Blue Maltessa and a gaily colored Fiesta. Both have white backgrounds and interiors.

Both jumbo perks are fashioned of heavy gauge steel and sheathed in gleaming ceramic. They won't stain or trap odors and the designs will never wear off.

## BATHUB PILLS

Sixty years ago, aspirin was made in bathtubs because pharmaceutical manufacturers could not find any economical alloys that could provide the required corrosion resistance. Today the purity of the product is taken for granted because aspirin is made in vessels of nickel stainless steel.