

All but research, specialization

Community hospitals offer basic care

By DAN VECCHIONI

GARDEN CITY—So you need an operation to have your tonsils removed. Or you've just received word your appendix must be extracted. Or you're an admitted alcoholic and seeking help.

There's no need to pack a suitcase and drive out to Ann Arbor and check in at University or St. Joseph Hospital. The facility you need is the community hospital.

"The community hospital is that institution providing a community with 85 to 90 per cent of its medical needs," says Allan L. Breakie, executive director of Garden City Osteopathic Hospital.

"It provides all the basic health care services. The university hospital (such as University or St. Joseph in Ann Arbor), besides providing the basic services to its community, is also equipped to handle the rare and unusual cases."

Garden City Hospital handles about 50,000 patients a year. Breakie notes. It also boasts the largest emergency room service in the area (larger than Eastford in Farmington, Annapolis in Wayne and St. Mary in Livonia).

"We are able to meet the medical, surgical, obstetrical, orthopedic and pediatric needs of the community," Breakie says. This includes operations such as hysterectomies, appendectomies and tonsillectomies.

"But though we provide a full scope of service to the community, we can-

not, for example, perform brain or open heart surgery." Breakie adds. "Operations such as these are done where the volume warrants the specific facilities and staff that are needed."

"Garden City Hospital may get one such case every 1 1/2 to two months. The Ann Arbor hospitals perform about 25 such operations every month. It is just not economically feasible for a community hospital to staff the specialists for those operations."

THOUGH GARDEN CITY Hospital operates on an annual budget of about \$18.5 million, the funds are provided by the billing of services rendered, Breakie says.

The operating budget covers payroll, supply and food costs and does not take into account improvements and expansion.

Remodeling and equipment costs are provided for by restricted and unrestricted gifts to the hospital, Breakie adds. Garden City Hospital is a non-profit institution.

"University Hospitals can provide services for rare conditions because the hospitals' specialists doubt as faculty members" for the medical programs at the universities," Breakie continues.

In this way, medical students are offered the opportunity to specialize under the instruction of gifted physicians in their fields. The consolidation of doctors at the university enables the local hospital there to seek their services creating the university hospital, he says.

ANOTHER FEATURE of the university hospital is its research programs, Breakie adds.

Because all the specialists are centered in the university locale, it facilitates the research. Community hospitals lack the sophisticated staffing and the university funding to undertake this type of research.

"But Garden City Hospital, because of its standing as a community facility, seeks to strengthen its ties with the community by offering programs that university centers, because of their size, are sometimes unable to undertake," Breakie says.

"For example, we provide 12,000 to 14,000 doses of methadone a month to area drug prevention clinics. We offer prenatal classes, a diabetes testing program and work in conjunction with county programs to offer free blood-sugar tests and immunization shots during weekly drives.

"We run a continued care center where patients on the verge of being released from the hospital are allowed a greater freedom of movement, such as getting their own juice or medication instead of waiting for a nurse to bring it to them."

"In this way, we can observe a patient's response to his illness or surgery. And soon we will include an alcoholic treatment program."

Garden City Hospital presently has 33 beds for patient use. It is Garden City's second largest industry in investment of manpower and resources next to education.

In 1951, because of community needs, the maternity hospital was changed into a stock general hospital with a staff of 14 osteopathic physicians. In 1955, the doctors moved to a 110-bed facility near Ypsilanti.

In 1960, construction was completed on the building Garden City Hospital now occupies, located at 6235 Inlet Road. At that time it provided beds for 104 patients but additions in 1961, 1963 and 1972 brought the hospital to its present 360-bed capacity.

Breakie minimizes the differences between the osteopathic (DO) and allopathic (MD) professions. At one time osteopathy was looked at as a kind of cult, group because its approach to the treatment of illnesses differed from techniques utilized by the allopathic doctors.

The osteopathic doctor in treating a patient utilized the concept of total health and this sometimes used to involve manipulation of muscles as a means of preventing illness and disease. But the osteopathic physician today relies less on manipulative techniques than his predecessor, says Breakie.

"The difference today, if you're looking for one, is probably in the outlook toward the type of practice each profession seems to seek in its doctors," Breakie says. "The allopathic tends to specialize and the osteopathic to generalize. But this does not mean there are not osteopathic specialists or allopathic general practitioners."

It should be noted both professions utilize the same high standards of quality to achieve the rank of doctor and that the American Medical Association (which represents allopathic doctors) has sought to amalgamate with osteopathic physicians, says Breakie.

Both professions also share the same facilities at many hospitals and universities, and often one will find allopathic doctors at an osteopathic hospital and vice versa.

"As for the differences in service I would side with the idea that the osteopath offers a more personal form," Breakie says. "First, osteopaths due

to their training give a better job of direct patient care. Second, the osteopathic doctor is more interested in his hospital because he used to have to support it financially before osteopathy received public acceptance."

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THE HOSPITAL employs a staff of nearly 1100 people. This includes 150 staff physicians, 350 medical technologists (nursing personnel) and other sophisticated technicians that require a post-high school education and 600 patient care supportive personnel (aids, ward clerks and orderlies).

Garden City Hospital was founded in 1940 by a group of osteopathic physicians who rented the top floor of a building at 30548 Ford Road in Garden City. The building was used as a maternity hospital but has since been torn down.

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College students end 1,100 mile state bicycle trip

By MAURIE WALKER

REDFORD—An 1,100 mile trip these days, isn't much of a journey, as far as motoring goes. But when a person travels that distance on a bicycle, that's a different story.

Just ask Michael Burelle, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Leandre Burelle of 1367 Woodbine, and his friend, Ted Theodoroff.

Michael, 20, and Ted, 18, took off recently on their 10-speed bikes, headed for Lansing, Grand Rapids and Muskegon and then followed Lake Michigan to the Upper Peninsula.

The young men decided on the trip this summer as a vacation prior to entering college this fall. Michael will be a freshman at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Ted is entering Michigan State University.

THE TRIP, which took 14 days, allowed the cyclists to "see a lot of the country side you don't see in a car."

"We didn't travel every day. A couple of times we just took life easy and enjoyed swimming," Michael said.

They cooked their own meals most of the time, and camped in a tent (which they had to evacuate one night because of a heavy rain).

Some days they traveled more than 100 miles, but, as Ted said, "Not often."

"There were a few times when persons we'd meet along the way would put us up for the night. It's good to know there are so many friendly persons around," Michael said.

THEY DID FIND, however, that there are some motorists who are inconsiderate of cyclists.

"Sometimes it appears as if they want to run you off the road," Ted remarked.

"I think it would be a good idea if more persons took bike trips. That way they would have a better appreciation of what cyclists go through with some motorists."

The boys had no trouble with the bicycles for the first 1,000 miles, "but when we got to Bay City, I got a flat and Ted hit some gravel and wiped out," Michael laughed.

"The trip certainly taught us self-reliance and made us appreciate home when we got back," Ted said, adding, "however, I'd like to start out on another trip tomorrow."

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