

New Gamma Camera For Duplin General

A sophisticated new medical device has been recently added to the diagnostic armamentarium in the radiology department at Duplin General Hospital. The new system, A General Electric MaxiCamera 400A utilizes small doses of radioactive isotopes to diagnose a wide variety of diseases.

In a typical examination, the patient is given a small amount of a selected radiopharmaceutical which localizes in the organ or part of the body under investigation. After an interval of a few seconds to a few days, the patient is placed in front of the machine for taking diagnostic pictures (i.e. images or scans). The diagnostic ability of the system covers a wide spectrum of diseases. Tumors, stroke, blood clots in the lungs, heart attacks, hidden inflammatory disease and traumatic injuries are some of the conditions that may be revealed by the camera.

It is a medical fact," explains Ahmed Hady Naga, M.D., radiologist at DGH, "that certain tumors, for example, have affinity for certain isotopes. As a result such isotopes concentrate in these tumors more heavily than in the surrounding healthy tissues."

The radioisotope emits gamma rays which are picked up by the gamma camera. A sophisticated computer system, built in the camera, processes these rays and displays them in the form of a picture scan which shows the tumor in contrast with the surrounding healthy tissues. Not all the tumors nor all the other disease conditions are detected in this way. Some may be displayed in a reverse order. Such lesions do not have affinity to the available isotopes. In these cases, the selected radioisotopes given to the patient concentrate in the healthy tissues of the organ under investigation.

The camera picture scan will thus show the healthy tissues in contrast with the diseased part of the organ.

"Duplin General Hospital was a first among similar size hospitals in providing nuclear medicine service to its patients," said Dr. Naga.

In 1973, the facility started with a rectilinear scanner, thyroid uptake system and all the supporting equipment, well ahead of most of the hospitals, larger or smaller, in this region. The hospital Board of Trustees has recently decided to acquire the gamma camera in response to the urgent request of the medical staff. This camera is the state of the art in technology. It provides a wide scope of diagnostic procedures far beyond the ability of the rectilinear scanner it replaced. "Besides the static 'still' pictures 'images' which the scanner could provide, we are now able to perform dynamic imaging to study

the function and the blood flow in certain organs," explained Dr. Naga. The examinations take shorter time by the camera, ensuring more comfort to the patient. "While this equipment represents a substantial investment by Duplin General

Hospital," said Richard E. Harrell, hospital administrator, "we believe it will enable our medical staff to examine their patients more thoroughly. We have always striven to provide our patients the best possible medical care and this new

installation is another example of these efforts." The camera is manufactured by the GE Company's medical systems division in Milwaukee, Wis. It was installed at DGH by experts from the company's Charlotte office.



MEDICAL PRACTICE HOLDS OPEN HOUSE - Dr. Cürzan Ngo, M.D., of Kenansville, was the first female and foreign doctor to locate a medical practice in Duplin County and that was ten years ago. Ngo and her staff held open house last Friday at the medical office and pictured, left above, is Dr. Ngo and her first Duplin County patient, Mrs. Carolyn Hall of Kenansville. Ngo is a doctor of internal medicine.

Reorganizational Public Hearing Scheduled

A special called public hearing for reorganization of Watson's Poultry has been scheduled for Friday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Chinquapin Elementary School #1. The public is invited to attend this hearing.

Special invited guests include seven federal and state dignitaries. They include

Sen. Charlie Whitley, Sen. Jesse Helms, Senator John East, Gov. Jim Hunt, Sen. Harold Hardison, Rep. Wendell Murphy, and Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham.

This special called public hearing is being sponsored by Watson Poultry growers and Watson's. All growers are urged to attend.

Photography Winners

The Duplin County Arts Council sponsored a photography competition and exhibition. This was the second competition sponsored by the DCAC and the Grassroots Arts program of the N.C. Arts Council, a state agency.

Charles and Rick Kraft of Mount Olive were the judges. They remarked that "the quality is excellent and each entrant should be encouraged to continue working with this medium of art. There are some excellent photographers in Duplin County."

Winners were awarded the following cash prizes: 1st - \$75 - Jim Strickland Jr. - "Friends" Warsaw; 2nd - \$50 - Nelson Best - "This Old Barn" - Faison; and 3rd - \$35 - Jim Strickland Jr. - "Country" - Warsaw.

Those receiving \$10 honorable mentions were: Pat Mathis of Warsaw, "Seeking"; Chris Spell of Warsaw - "Guns over Wilmington"; H.C. Precythe of Faison - "Blast Off"; Jim Strickland Jr. of Warsaw - "Serenity" and Leon H. Sikes of Rose Hill - "Gazebo on Pond."

Duplin Education Foundation Board Of Directors Named

Hilbert A. Swinson, chairman of the Duplin County Board of Education, announced the appointment of the following people to the board of directors for the Duplin County Education Foundation: Fred Archer, National Spinning Co.; Barbara Collins, C&T Sales; Harriet Farrior, Farrior's Furniture; Jerry Hamm, Imperial Spinning; William Hennessee, Cates Pickle Co.; Ed Holt, Branch Banking & Trust; Sally Ingram, Association of Retired School Personnel; Annie Mae Kenion, retired education; Bobbie Marshburn, Marshburn Electric Co.; Linda Murphy, Murphy Farms; Lester Moore, DuPenza Services; Allen Nethercutt, Duplin county commissioner; Muriel Offerman, Kramer's; Jean Stephens, Southern Bank & Trust Co.; and Gene Thompson, attorney-at-law. The Foundation Board of Directors were appointed by the Board of Education at their regular meeting on Sept. 20.

The Foundation was established to work together with the public schools by coordinating, encouraging and assisting the schools in providing special learning opportunities and promoting scholarship in the school

system. The Foundation will work toward the improvement of education in the county by assisting with education projects, student scholarships, and by providing additional resources needed by students. It will promote the development of character, integrity, leadership and scholarship of young people in the schools.

Volunteers will be sought by the foundation board to assist it in achieving its goals. The public will be kept informed of the activities and functions through the news media.

The Foundation has been developed as a result of the business and industry conferences held for several years in the county. During these conferences, representatives from the business and industrial community recommended a formal organization by which they could work with the schools particularly in providing addi-

tional educational opportunities for the youth of the county.

L.S. Guy, superintendent of Duplin County Schools, declared, "The establishment of the Duplin County Education Foundation is an exciting partnership with the community which will, through cooperation together, allow children of Duplin County to have educational opportunities which would not otherwise be available. We are grateful to each of the persons appointed for their willingness to serve the children in such a special way. Working together has become a trademark of the school of Duplin County and the business community. The partnership has been strengthened by the establishment of the Duplin County Education Foundation. Working together, we can achieve new goals for the benefit of young people in Duplin County."

CARD OF THANKS

May we take this opportunity to thank all our friends, relatives, and professionals for their many acts of kindness during the illness and death of our beloved mother, Carolyn G. Outlaw.

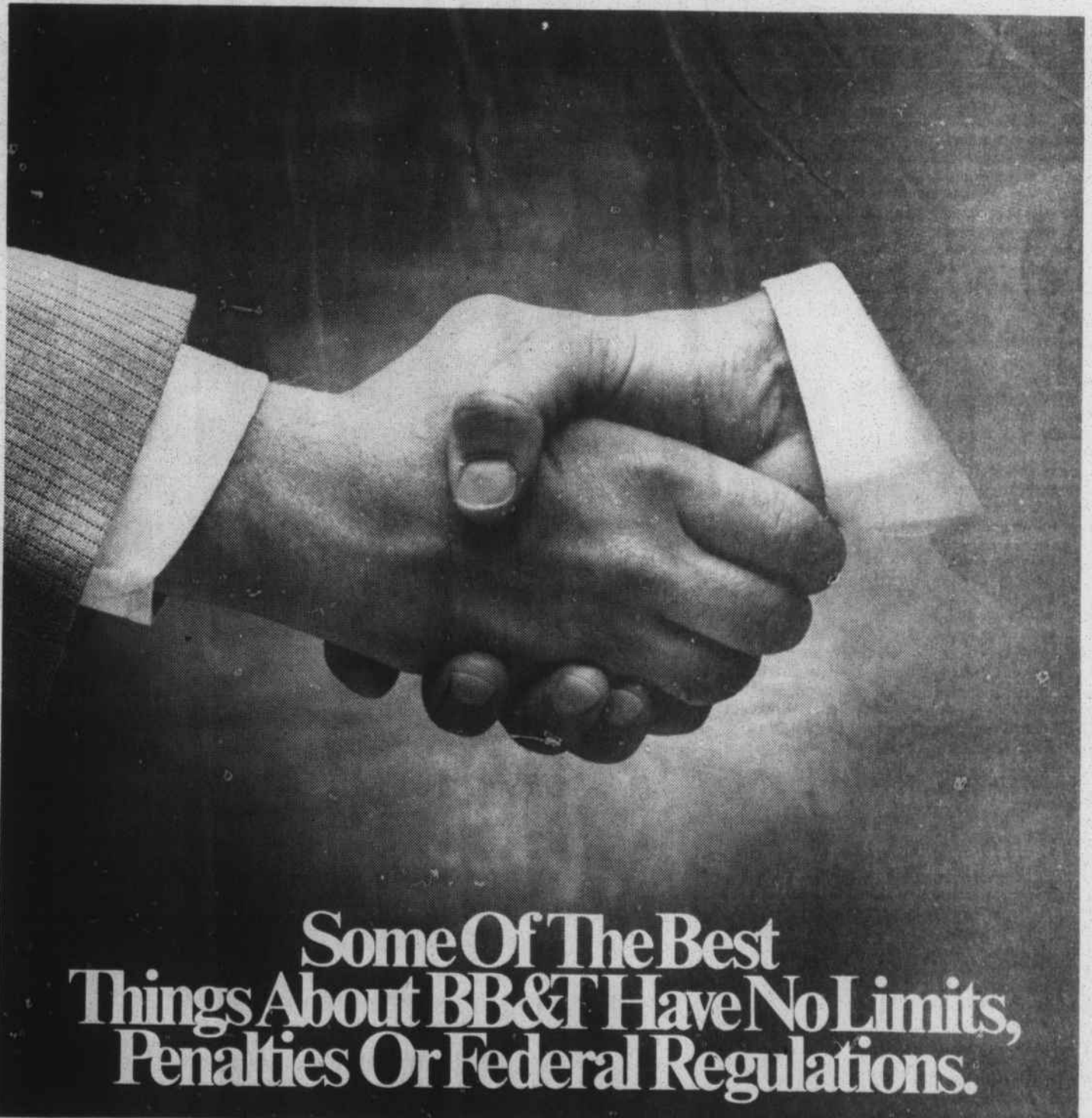
Sarah O. Johnson
A. Timothy Outlaw, Jr.

Invitation Issued

The children of Hayes and Bessie Maready invite you to share with them, their parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration on Sunday, Oct. 23, from two until five o'clock in the afternoon at Mill Swamp Community Building, near Chinquapin.

Reunion

The James Kenan High School Class of 1971 is planning a class reunion for November 26th. If you have not been notified of this reunion and are interested in coming, please write to Sherry Powell Stokley at 718 Ramblewood Lane, Wilmington, NC 28405. Reservations are needed by November 1st.



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