

# Inter Com

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DURHAM, N. C.

## Call Maintenance!

If you periodically bemoan the endless task of maintaining your 1500 square foot home, consider what a fantastic job it is to maintain the Medical Center's grounds and over 8,000,000 cubic feet of buildings! No wonder the phrase "call maintenance" can be heard in every department of the hospital almost daily—and often in the middle of the night, too!

There is one director of maintenance for the entire University, Mr. W. E. Whitford, but the care of the Medical Center is the particular responsibility of Chief Engineer Ken Howard and his staff. The size of the work force needed to keep the hospital in good working order varies according to the number of special projects (such as the current rewiring of the Medical School building) being undertaken. In general, however, a crew of about 35 men is required.

"Maintenance" is scarcely a broad enough term to cover the many facets of this department's duties. Their responsibilities include all electrical facilities, carpentry, furniture repair, building repair, painting, elevator service, the telephone switchboard (Lee Murray is in charge of this small city-sized switchboard and its care), all of the intercommunications systems, heating, air conditioning, electronics maintenance (including radio and TV repair), plumbing, refrigeration, waste disposal (this includes running the hospital incinerator, maintaining the crematory, removing the mountains of garbage, and disposing of radioactive waste at the new underground area recently built in the Duke Forest), maintenance of vehicles and warehouse facilities.

This department handles thousands



Mr. Ken Howard, Duke University's Plant and Maintenance Engineer, has been here at Duke for many years. A native North Carolinian, he is a graduate of our School of Engineering. Since that time, with the exception of four years in the Navy during the war, he has been helping maintain, repair and expand the University in general and the hospital in particular. He returned to Duke from the Navy in 1946 as Plant and Maintenance Engineer.

Duke photo by Sparks

of jobs each year ranging from the repair of a leaky faucet to the rewiring of a whole building. This rewiring is now being done in the Medical School to meet the greatly increased demand in the laboratories for new equipment that requires more power to operate. Walls are being broken

into to allow for the heavier wires, enlarged transformers, and switch facilities.

Keeping up with a growing Medical Center is a big job and Mr. Howard and his staff do a superb job that often goes completely unnoticed and unappreciated by most of us.