

NO INTRODUCTIONS NECESSARY



From left to right: Mrs. Mary Jane Crawford talking with Parker Leigh McDonald, who came to Duke in 1941, Christine Hines in 1948, and Ruth Suitt in 1950.

Everyone who has been around the hospital awhile knows Ruth and Chris and Parker, all three just appointed, in October, as Food Service Technicians for the Unit Administration Project. Ask anybody... Clarence Cobb, Bus. Mgr., Medical PDC, said Chris "strikes me as being a very conscientious and pleasant person." "She is an excellent worker", Gertrude Fields, Nursing Supervisor, Ob-Gyn, remarked. "She never became ruffled when patients were demanding, and anyone who can deal with 43 patients daily and not become ruffled, must be outstanding!" Nancy Curtis, Admin. Dietician, and her supervisor in ADR, told us that "because of her outstanding abilities, Chris was given the responsibility of serving psychiatric patients on Cabell, and besides that, she would pitch in on her days off when some of the tray girls were out sick."

"I first met Parker back in 1948, but I'll never forget how impressed I was at the interest she had in the patient; she took so much pride in preparing each tray. When I was doing private duty," said Turk James, In-Service Ed., "and assigned to a polio patient in an iron lung, one of his few pleasures at that time was food. He would put in a special request for foods like 'Brains and Eggs'. They would have to send out of the hospital for this and Parker would see that he received his request."

"I had a fractured hip and my arm was strapped to my side, so feeding myself was next to impossible. Ruth saw to it that all my food was cut into bite size pieces," Margaret Hazard, Admin. Asst. to Dr. J.S. Harris, related. Pat Walsh, Head Nurse on Cushing told us: "One morning Ruth made her usual check on Mr. A. during breakfast. 'Look', he greeted, 'they didn't even bother to serve the oleomargarine I ordered!' Silently, but quickly, Ruth obtained the oleo and served it to him. Mr. A. looked at Ruth for a moment, as a smile crept over his face, 'You really do care if I eat well, don't you!'" Ruth, and Chris and Parker have made many patients happy over the years. We could all learn something about P.R. (patient relations) from their shining examples...keep smiling, ladies!

What is it like to be a Pioneer?

by Vic Germino

The new graduates of Duke's Physician's Assistant Program found both excitement and frustration during the past two years. At first there were agonizing months of adjustment - they to their position and the medical center to them. "Physician's Assistant, what's that?!" was not an uncommon if ungracious remark and the pains-taking polite-even-when-it-got-to-be-annoying explanations to nurses, doctors and other personnel were a daily occurrence. Orientation programs made it easier, but the old adage about change being threatening was holding.

Then the group started their series of rotations through various areas in the hospital, community, and state, and began to apply what they had learned. There was a clearer picture of their potential usefulness, contributions to research, in screening patients, in relieving the physician of many hours of patient care. Their background of physiology, pharmacology, nursing, electronics, physical diagnosis and laboratory techniques which prepared them was built on a background with the Navy's medical corps, years of experience, and some college for each student. Practical experience was provided ranging from the electronics laboratory and renal dialysis to work with general practitioner groups in Ahsokie, N.C. and in Durham.

At the end of the first two-year program, three students proudly accepted certificates from Dr. Harvey Estes, new medical director of the Physician's Assistant Program, and took on their assignments in the medical center. Ken Ferrell is clinical associate working in chest diseases with Dr. Sieker, Dick Scheele is clinical



associate with Dr. Liebowitz in Endocrinology, and Vic Germino is research associate in pulmonary diseases with Dr. Kilburn at the V.A. and Duke (pictured right to left above, as Dr. Anlyan signs their certificates). The future of the program and its graduates looks bright, according to Dr. Estes; there are nine students now in the second year group and fourteen who started the program this fall.

IN MEMORIAM

Sgt. Goler J. Williams Jr. was killed in Vietnam on November 12. He had worked as an orderly in Nursing Service at the Medical Center from April 1963-66 when he joined the service.