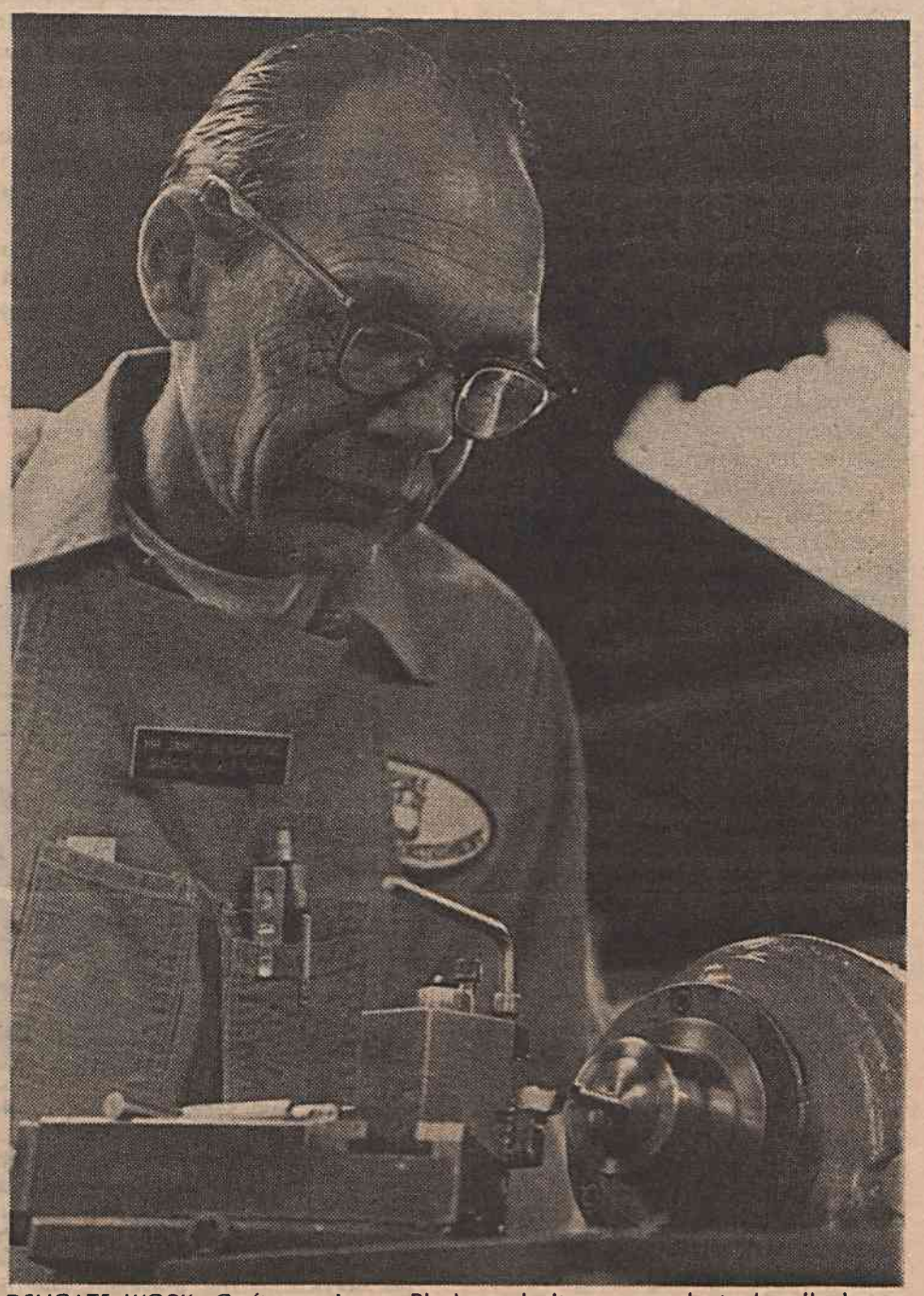
Intercom
Duke University Medical Center

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 16 | APRIL 22, 1977 | DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA



DELICATE WORK—Craftsman James Blackwood alters a nozzle to handle larger surgical suction tubes than those furnished by the manufacturer. The Surgical Instruments Shop can modify commercially available equipment or build new items to meet physicians' specifications. *(Photo by Jim Wallace)*

Eye Cancer Cures Bring Need of Genetic Counseling

By William Erwin

Cancer specialists can now cure almost nine out of every 10 children with retinoblastoma, the most common eye cancer of childhood.

But that success has brought a new challenge.

Survivors of the disease can pass it on to their children. As more young patients grow up and have kids of their own, more and more cases are appearing. Stepped-up genetic counseling may be the only answer.

One person concerned about the disease and its legacy is Dr. Joseph A.C. Wadsworth, professor of ophthalmology and head of the Eye Center.

"In 1930, about half of all children with retinoblastoma died," Wadsworth said. "Now, with pediatricians watching for the disease and with better methods of treatment, we can save about 85 per cent of them."

Workshop on Eye Cancer

The professor, also chairman of the medical center's Ophthalmology Department and a member of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, will lead a workshop on cancer of the eye and surrounding tissues Saturday morning (April 23) at the Eye Center. Eight other Duke eye specialists will make presentations.

As parents learn at the center, retinoblastoma (ret-i-no-blas-TO-ma) starts growing in the back of the eye. It looks like a flesh-colored cauliflower to a physician peering through the eye's black pupil; sometimes flecks of calcium can be seen on the tumor.

The disease is found most often in children between one and two years old and almost never occurs after age seven.

Cat's Eye

In about half of all cases, the child will have a whitish pupil, caused by light reflecting off the tumor. Physicians call this a "cat's eye" appearance.

Another symptom can be crossed eyes, resulting when the cancer destroys central vision in an eye. That eye, no longer focusing, wanders out of line.

"We try our best to get pediatricians to be suspicious" about crossed eyes, Wadsworth said. Any child with this problem should be checked for retinoblastoma as a first step, he pointed out.

Pediatric Referrals

"Pediatricians aware of changes in the eye and referring these children for further study are saving a lot of lives," the professor said.

Specialists usually treat the disease by removing the affected eye. This must be done without delay, Wadsworth said, because the tumor

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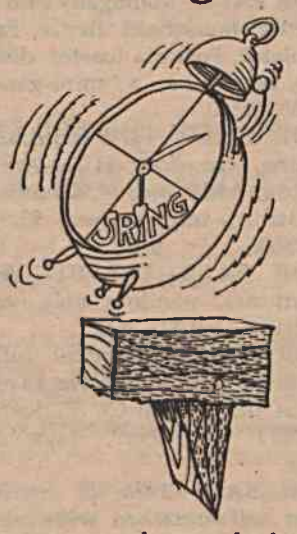
Turn Clocks Ahead Before Going to Bed



When your alarm clock rings Monday morning, you may wonder why it's so dark outside. At least, you may if you remember to set your clock ahead one hour.

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, April 24. University clocks will be turned to 3 a.m. at that time.

The change in time may result in an hour reduction in work schedules for some employees. Any employee whose regularly scheduled work falls within the affected shift will have the opportunity to work a full shift, according to Richard L. Jackson, assistant vice president and director of personnel. Employees will be paid only for the hours actually worked.

From Sharpening Scissors to Building Stretchers

Surgical Instruments Shop Fills Requests

By Ina Fried

"Sometimes we get sketches but most of the time we get handwaving," Billy R. Barber said about the instructions for work in the Surgical Instruments Shop. For 30 years and several patents he has been manager of the shop in the basement of the Bell Building.

Established in 1947 by Dr. J. Deryl Hart, first chairman of the Department of Surgery and president emeritus of the university, the shop employs skilled craftsmen to produce instruments or equipment to meet physicians' specifications.

"We had a lot of research going and we frequently needed complicated things in a hurry so we set up a way to get them," Hart recalls.

"We first tried to get surplus equipment from the government," he said, "but they were pretty well taken up." Instead, he sent the shop's first manager to New York with $15,000 to buy as much second-hand equipment as he could.

Getting Started

One of the first jobs in the shop was building equipment for Dr. Joseph W. Beard, first head of the Division of Experimental Surgery, for his studies of leukemia in chickens.

"The shop built a rotating table around which several people could work," Hart said. "One could catch the chicken, the next one could draw blood and do a smear, and the next person could check the slide under the microscope."

An anesthesia inhaler designed in the shop was patented and sold, bringing enough profits to pay for two large pieces of equipment to cut and bend ¾ inch (1.91 centimeters) steel plates. Weighing 75,000 pounds (24,020 kilograms) each, these pieces of equipment were brought down from Washington, D.C., with the cooperation of the Virginia and North Carolina highway departments, Hart said. Once they were in position, an addition to the Bell Building was built around them.

Only One in Captivity

The steel-bender, which exerts 400 tons (364 metric tons) of pressure, is "the only one in captivity" in this part of the country, Barber said. The shop also has the only machine on campus that can cut thick plastic smoothly enough to be used without

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