

Drew: Unraveling the mystery

Continued from page A1

can magazine, and totally false since Drew did indeed receive treatment at the hospital. In fact, he received at least one blood transfu-

ever having been admitted to that hospital," Malloy recalled. "But that is understandable. When they found out who they had

office, and it becomes permanent record. Since he died in the emergency room, his card never got to the records office, so there was no record of his ever being admitted," Malloy continued.

He also stated that the rumor could not have been true since one of the three men in the car with Drew — all of whom were African-American — was treated at the same hospital for a broken arm. However, because of sensationalism on the media's part, Malloy said the myth was allowed to continue, and no one bothered to change it.

During the program, Malloy, who was called to the hospital immediately following Drew's accident, also offered his explanation as to the cause of the tragedy.

"When I got to the Burlington

area, I went under a bridge on Highway 49, and as I came out from under that bridge, the sun was coming out. And it was the most gorgeous, the most magnificent site I have ever seen. It was just an awe-striking scene," recalled Malloy. "And Dr. Drew, being a man of great sensitivity, who had an appreciation for beautiful things in life, coming down that road looked over at this sunrise and momentarily, he was entranced by what he saw, and lost control. That's my explanation for what happened."

According to Jim Haskins in the book *One More River to Cross: The Stories of Twelve Black Americans*, the accident occurred when Drew and three other doctors were returning to Washington, D.C. from a meeting at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Apparently, Drew and his companions did not leave Alabama until two o'clock in the morning, and while in Burlington, North Carolina, Drew, who was driving, fell asleep and lost control of the car. As a result, the car overturned leaving Drew with fatal injuries, and his companions only slightly injured.

Malloy had trained under Drew while a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C. during Drew's tenure there. He said of working with Drew, "He was a man that had compassion for the people under him. He was like a father."

He added that Drew was also a perfectionist in the training of his students. "Let's say I'm assigned to do an operation at 8 o'clock in the morning," explained Malloy. "If he

came and I wasn't standing there 8 o'clock in the morning with a scalpel in my hand, I didn't get to do the operation. He insisted on punctuality."

Malloy returned to Winston-Salem and worked as a general surgeon, chief of surgery, and president of the staff during various time periods at Kate Bitting Hospital. Kate Bitting Hospital was also the facility in which Malloy and Drew worked together in 1941 in the surgical training of 30 other African-American doctors.

Malloy also worked as an attending surgeon at Forsyth Memorial Hospital and Forsyth Medical Park, and as the clinical assistant professor of surgery at Bowman Gray School of Medicine before retiring from medicine in 1981.

Who was Charles Drew?

[Note: Information for this article has been taken from October 1990 issue of *The North Carolina Medical Journal* and the book entitled, *One More River to Cross: The Stories of Twelve Black Americans*, by Jim Haskins.]

Charles Richard Drew was born in 1904 in Washington, D.C., the eldest of five children. His mother, Nora, was a graduate of Howard University and his father, Richard, was the financial secretary of the Local 85 of the Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile-Layer's Union as well as the organization's only black member.

Charles attended Dunbar High School, an academically elite public school for African-Americans, and was an outstanding athlete. He was repeatedly elected "best athlete" and "most popular student." After graduating in 1922, Drew attended Amherst College in Massachusetts on an athletic scholarship.

He later entered McGill University in Montreal, after being denied admission to Howard University Medical School because of the lack of two hours of college credit in English. He graduated from McGill as one of the top five members of his class in 1933, with a Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery.

After completing a two-year residency in Canada, Drew then worked as an instructor of Pathology at Howard University. Later, he received a two-year fellowship to Columbia University, where he was assigned to work with Dr. John Scudder, who was studying blood physiology and ways of preserving blood.

Drew's talents were soon recognized and he was appointed to the surgical residency, and given teaching responsibilities. While there, he also began to research fluid balance, blood chemistry and transfusion. He later discovered that plasma, the liquid portion of blood, could be dried and stored for long periods of time without deteriorating. From his discovery, he realized that blood plasma could serve as the basis of emergency blood supplies. In 1940, he became the first African-American man in the

United States to receive a doctor of science degree — the degree of Doctor of Science in Medicine from Columbia, in recognition of his doctoral dissertation, "Banked Blood."

In 1939, he married Lenore Robbins, an instructor of home economics at Spelman College in Atlanta, and they had three children. Soon after, he became the medical supervisor of the Blood for Britain Program which was started by the Blood Transfusion Betterment Association. It was the Association, in conjunction with the Red Cross, which had the responsibility of providing plasma for Britain's casualties in World War II. It was during this time that Drew utilized his medical skills and technical expertise in setting up the collection, processing and storage procedures of blood supplies, which are still in use today. He was soon made director of the American Red Cross blood bank in New York, and assistant director of blood procurement for the National Research Council.

However, because of the fact that the U.S. Army, Navy, and Red Cross set up segregated blood banks so that white soldiers in the war would not receive blood from black donors, Drew resigned from his position with the Red Cross.

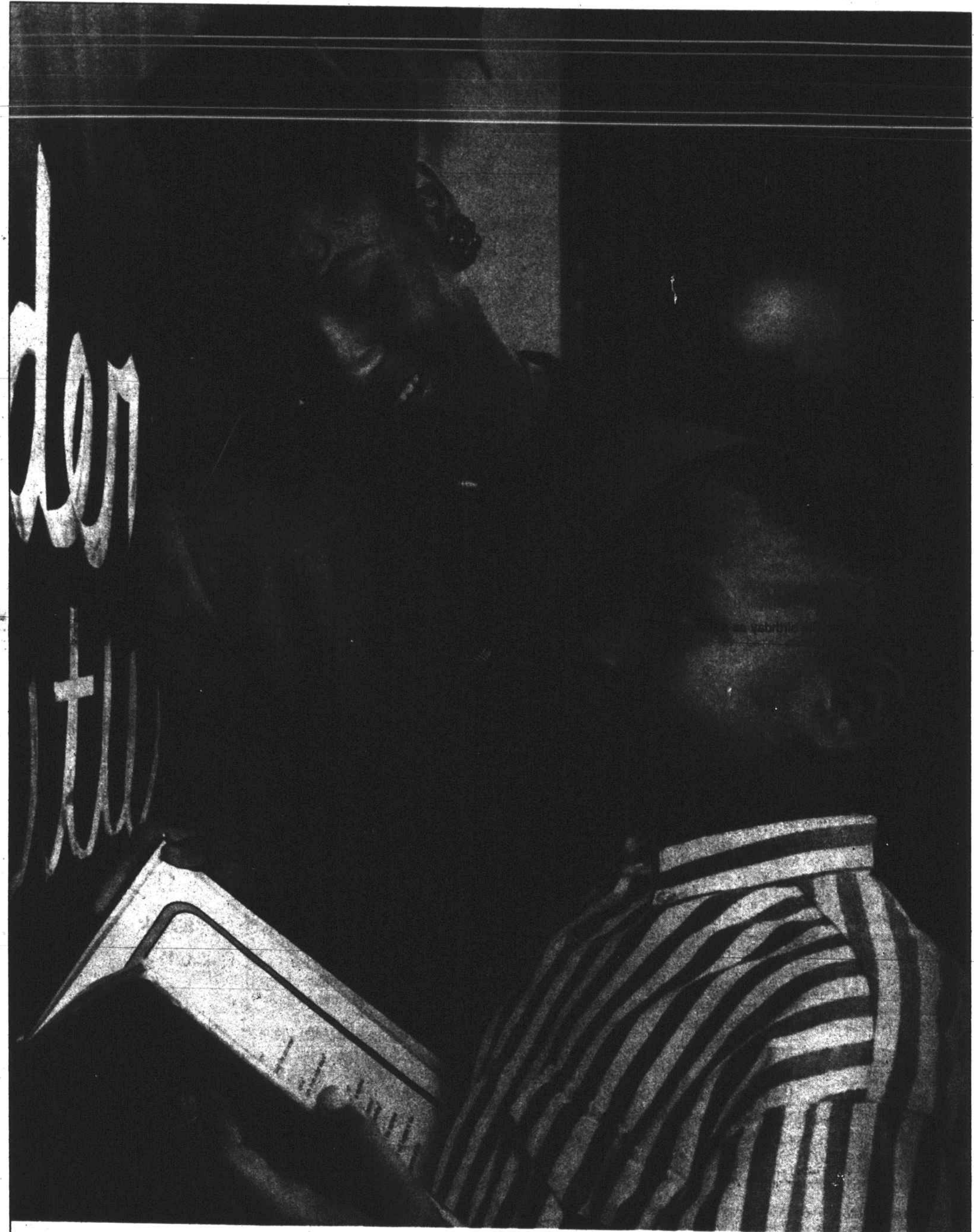
He then returned to Howard University where he established a surgical training program. He also received numerous honors for his customary style — his exam for certification by the American Board of Surgery in 1941 led to his appointment as an examiner for that institution, and he was promoted to full professorship at Howard.

He later became chief surgeon, then chief of staff and medical director at Freedmen's Hospital. He was also appointed to the American-Soviet Committee in Science, chairman of the Surgical Section of the National Medical Association, Fellow of the International College of Surgeons, and consultant to the United States Surgeon General.

In 1950, at the time of Drew's death, two-thirds of the African-American surgeons in practice in the United States, who were certified by the American Board of Surgery had been trained at Howard University.

sion. "There was a black magazine published out of Charleston, SC. It was the forerunner of *Ebony*. And the reporter, somehow, must have been in this area, because in the very next issue, the following week, they had it in there that he was refused admission. And it is true that there is no record of him

there — the most prominent black doctor in the country — these people became quite excited. They went helter skelter trying to do something for this great man. So they made a note on the emergency room card of his name. Now the usual procedure is that when they admit the person, the emergency room card goes to the business



Dudley's Cosmetology University
 900 E. Mountain St. Kernersville NC 27284
 (919) 996-2030

Services Offered

Manicures	Sculptured Nails	Curls
Pedicures	Hair Coloring	Cut & Styling
Facials	Perms	Relaxers

Service available
 Monday - Friday 9:45AM - 3:45PM

10% Senior Citizen Discount

All work performed by supervised students.

Bring A Friend!
 One service at full price, the second at half-price!
 (919) 996-2030 expires 2/28/92

Appointments Not Always Necessary

In celebration of African American History
 watch WFMY TV as we salute our "Leaders for the Future"
 The Winston-Salem/Forsyth Middle Schools essay contest winner

Beginning in February

Mechanics & Farmers Bank

Believes That Leaders for the Future
 Prepare Today.