

Airman Whitman Awarded Medal

USS MIDWAY (CVA-41)
June 10 — Airman Ray Whitson, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Whitson of Route 4, Burnsville, N. C., has been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, while serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Midway, currently operating off the coast of Viet Nam.

He received this award for having served 30 or more consecutive days as a crewmember aboard the Midway in a designated combat area.

Aircraft from his ship have been making daily strikes against military installations in North Viet Nam and Viet Cong concentrations in South Viet Nam.

Sgt. Radford Promoted

LINCOLN, Neb. — Sam L. Radford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh A. Radford of Cane

River, N. C., has been promoted to staff sergeant in the U. S. Air Force at Lincoln AFB, Neb.

Sergeant Radford is a training specialist in a unit that supports the Strategic Air Command mission of keeping the nation's intercontinental missiles and jet bombers on constant alert.

The sergeant, a graduate of Fald Creek (N. C.) High School, attended Mars Hill (N. C.) College.

His wife is the former Carol J. Kaspar.



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N. C. CANCER INSTITUTE STAFF DISCUSSES WORK

LUMBERTON — "Rewarding," is the word used by members of the staff of North Carolina Cancer Institute near here as they discuss their work.

From Dr. J. A. Martin, the medical director, down to the janitorial staff, the main ingredient is love.

For 13 years, the unique hospital has lived up to the purpose for which it was established — to offer comfort and care to patients in the last stages of cancer.

The goal from the beginning has been to combine medical skill and drug relief with tender love.

A hospital atmosphere prevails but there is also an atmosphere of homeyness. Nurses go beyond their trained skill in showing love and concern for the patients.

Hospital silence is often broken with gay laughter.

The hospital was opened March 24, 1952. Even now, it

is the only such hospital between Richmond, Va., and Atlanta, Ga. Its sole purpose is to care for patients with terminal cancer.

Establishing such a hospital had its problems. It was a new concept and money was adequate. Thus the North Carolina Division of the American Cancer Society carried most of the financial load.

With the state's physicians unaware that such a hospital existed and patients few in number, a staff had to be maintained around the clock. It wasn't easy to recruit a staff under such circumstances.

Yet, today there is an average of 40 patients. Funds come from both the state and the county. Personnel is more easily recruited. Volunteer workers help out.

Dr. Martin sums up the feelings of those who serve:

"You go to the hospital to help the patients and find they help you." Patients, on the otherhand, seem to blossom under the skill and love of the nurses. Many live longer than their conditions are supposed to allow.

The idea for such a hospital goes back several years before its actual opening in 1952.

The hope then was to develop a place to care for patients with terminal or incurable cancer who, otherwise, could not afford hospitalization.

It was to be a home for cancer patients after all treatment and surgical methods had failed and only death remained. This was to be a home to provide comfort, relief from pain, and loving care for those beyond help.

Such is still the hospital's goal.

Patients are certified by their local welfare departments and payment comes both from welfare sources and state money at the rate of \$10 per day per patient.

Original incorporators were Mrs. Nancy Marshall of Mt. Airy, Dr. D. H. Bridger of Bladenboro, Dr. James R. Robertson of Wilmington, Dr. H. Max Schiebel of Durham, John W. Rankin of Wilmington, and Dr. Robert J. Ruark and Joe T. Martin of Greensboro.

Current officers are Dr. D. E. Ward, Jr., of Lumberton, President; David M. Britt of Fairmont, Vice President; Mrs. E. H. Alexander of Red Springs, Secretary; and John S. Ayers of Lumberton, Treasurer.

Half the trustees are physicians and half laymen. All sections of the state are represented on the board.

Mt. Airy almost got the hospital. Then, Durham was considered but a wing of the old county home here was finally selected.

An organizational meeting was held in Lumberton in April of 1951 with members of the Cancer Society, the State Nurses Association, and physicians and laymen meeting to make plans for the hospital.

The Robeson County Commissioners cooperated by leasing the building for 99 years for \$1. The General Assembly voted money and donations came from the American Cancer Society and from individuals and clubs across the state.

Thus, the hospital actually opened on March 24, 1952, as a nursing home under the Department of Public Welfare. It opened with one patient.

Then, there were more patients and a staff of 17 employees. By October 5, 1953, 61 patients had been admitted.

Of that number, 34 had died and, miraculously, seven had been discharged. Twenty four were still hospitalized.

In August of 1957, the nursing home officially became the North Carolina Cancer Institute, a chronic disease hospital specializing in the care of cancer patients. It was only the fifth such hospital in the United States.

The first full-time staff physician was added. He was Dr. D. W. Biggs, Jr., Lumberton. Dr. Martin now holds this job.

With the change came financial help from the General Assembly. Now, the hospital has 64 beds and an average daily census of 35-40 patients.

The patients range in age from pre-school, through the teens, to the aged. All types of cancer are treated.

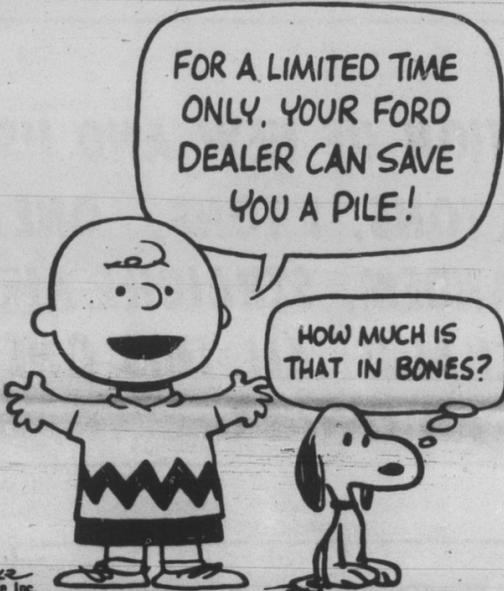
There are now 52 employees on the payroll.

The North Carolina Cancer Institute is still young and growing and the future promises an even better tomorrow — thanks to the efforts of the Cancer Society.

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