MOBILE UNIT - A mobile unit houses the \$2.5 million C.T. Scanning equipment which Kings Mountain Hospital now has available to patients in need of the service. Twenty-one patients have used the scanner since it became available 10 days ago. Ted McMichael of the National C.T. Diagnostics Inc. demonstrates.



Photos by Lib Stewart

TECHNOLOGIST DEMONSTRATES - Jane Petterson sits at one of the terminals used in the C.T. Scan equipment which Kings Mountain Hospital is now offering to patients who need the special kind of x-rays that produce 3-D pictures of a cross section of a part of the body.

## Hospital To Show Off Scanner

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Technicare 2060 Scanner is a Fourth Generation C.A.T. Scanner which produces as fast as two seconds and as slow as eight seconds, providing information on the x-ray on tape and disc and also provides a permanent x-ray for hospital files. A valuable diagnostic tool, according to technologist Jane Patterson, C.T. scans are able to detect some conditions that conventional x-rays cannot since C.T. scans show the 3-D view of the particular section of the body being studied. C.T. scans are able to detect some conditions that conventional x-rays cannot since C.T. scans show the 3-D view of the particular section of the body being studied.

C.T. scans, she said, can often replace exploratory surgery and can save the patient discomfort and inconvenience. Scans are also useful for monitoring a patient's progress during or after

treatment.

Technician Bill Albrecht said that head scans can detect or rule out tumors, blood clots, enlarged ventricles, and other disorders, which conventional x-rays cannot. C.T. scans can be especially important in diagnosing enlarged lymph nodes, pancreatic disease, back problems and lung cancer.

How does the C.T. Scanner work? After the patient is nplaced on the examination table, an x-ray tube focuses a narrow beam of x-rays across one layer or slice or the body. The x-ray's energy is absorbed differently by structures of different density. Receptors, located opposite the x-ray tube, detect the number of x-rays remaining (after the x-rays have passed through the body) and this information is relayed to a computer and stored there. The x-ray tube rotates around the body, scanning it. Thousands of readings are taken by the receptors and recorded in the

computer. The computer analyzes the receptor's readins and calculates the x-ray absorption at thousands of different points. The calculations are converted into an image on a video screen. The radiologist can study the image and determine if more tests are needed. This image may be photographed or stored on video tape.

A technologist positions the patient on the examination table. The patient's head is secured in a head cradle with a strap. This painless procedure helps keep the patient from moving, since even slight movement blurs the results. If a contrast medium (injection) is to be given, it is administered immediately or after the first set of scans. The patient is moved into the scanner but a technologist controls the procedure from an adjacent room, while still observing the patient.

At a recent demonstration, three people were with the patient at all times and that particular patient was wearing a necklace which had to be removed.

As the x-ray equipment scans your head, you hear the whirring sound of machinery but the patient is advised not to move his head. After the "Contrast Medium", which may be given orally or by injection, if the patient feels an itching sensation or feels short of breath he should let the technologist know. A temporary flush, wave of nausea or a metallic taste in the mouth are common reactions but should be reported to the technologist.

If you are undergoing a body scan, you will be asked to hold still and may be asked to hold your breath for only a few seconds.

After an examination, the C.T. scan is evaluated and your physician can then make a diagnosis and explain what the findings mean for you in terms of health and treatment.

Unless you are already a patient, you won't have to be admitted for a C.T. scan. Before you have a C.T. scan, it's important to discuss the procedure with your doctor and you should consider risks and benefits.

## Holiday Hints

Extraordinary Watch

For everyone on your Christmas list who needs to manage time and information more efficiently, the Seiko Datagraph System is the perfect gift. It consists of a wrist module, pocket keyboard and controller which offers CPU and printer capabilities.



A timely present can be a new product that's a watch, calculator and computer.

Besides having a complete list of timekeeping functions, the wrist module can function as an alarm to remind you of a very important appointment or that you are about to sleep through your train stop. It can even be used as a calculator when month-to-month sales and income figures are needed. Then, use the wrist module to compare the calculations with projections that were stored in the module's memory the week before.

When the wrist module is attached to the keyboard, you can input notes, calculations, phone numbers, appointments or even plane schedules. World travelers can use it to tell the cab driver they want to go back to the hotel... without searching for their pocket dictionaries. The uses are practically limitless!

Memory stored in the wrist module can be transferred to the controller for safekeeping or printed using the micro dot-matrix printer. Even computer programs can be written using Microsoft BASIC. Prospective home buyers can use the controller to figure monthly mortgage payments or stockholders can use it to project the value of their holdings 5, 10 or 20 years from now.

The Seiko Datagraph Sys

The Seiko Datagraph System, with all three components carries a suggested retail price of \$340.



The word puppy comes from the French "poupee", meaning a dressed doll or plaything.



In parts of Germany, white mice were considered good luck.



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