

11-1974

Beacon Light: November 1974

St. Cloud Hospital

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.centracare.com/beacon_light



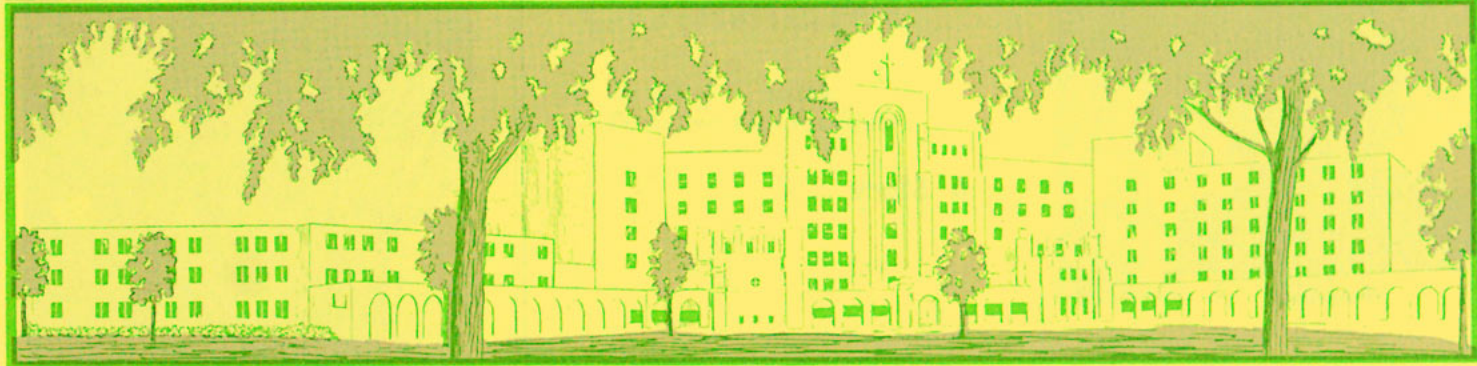
Part of the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

St. Cloud Hospital, "Beacon Light: November 1974" (1974). *Beacon Light*. 190.
https://digitalcommons.centracare.com/beacon_light/190

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the CentraCare Health Publications (Newsletters, Annual Reports, Etc.) at DigitalCommons@CentraCare Health. It has been accepted for inclusion in Beacon Light by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@CentraCare Health. For more information, please contact schlepers@centracare.com.

The St. Cloud Hospital Beacon Light



Volume XXIV, Number 3

November 1974

*Medical Staff News . . .

Utilization review: a commitment to excellence

Providing quality health care has been the goal of the Saint Cloud Hospital since its earliest beginnings. However, in today's health care environment which is burdened by rising inflation, shortages of materials and supplies, increasing government intervention, and public criticism over rising costs, the hospital's efforts to maintain high standards of quality are being expanded to protect its presently high levels of care without taking it out of the reach of the patient's ability to pay.

"That is one of the primary purposes of utilization review" said Dr. B. R. Bancroft, chairman of SCH's Utilization Review Committee (URC). "The role of the URC is to review admissions to the hospital, the duration of the patient's stay, and the professional services provided by the hospital for the purpose of promoting the most efficient use of available health care facilities and services," he added. "We want to be sure that the patient is receiving appropriate care, that the care he needs is available here at the hospital, and that the

high levels of quality are met and maintained," he said.

Utilization review is a part of the Hospital's ongoing attempts to maintain the highest standards of quality care according to Gene S. Bakke, SCH Executive Vice President. "It is a significant part of our overall Quality Assurance Program which goes beyond simply measuring and evaluating quality of care; it's a commitment to a continued program of upgrading our services," he said.

The utilization review process has been applied in hospitals for over a decade, but it wasn't until July 1, 1966, that it became a legislated requirement as a result of the Medicare amendments to the Social Security Act of 1965.

"So, in effect, the review efforts of the URC relate mainly to medicare-medicade patients," said Dr. Bancroft. "Our utilization review plan had to be approved by the State Department of Health and is now surveyed periodically by state inspectors.

"In reality," stated Dr. Stephen
(Continued on page 8)

Inside the Beacon . . .

- COMMENT: by Gene S. Bakke . . . page 3
- The Laundry: Part of the team . . . page 4
- New equipment in ECG & X-Ray . . . page 5
- Recipe page 6
- All time United Way Campaign . . . page 7



Pictured above is Mrs. Mary Buhl, newly appointed Quality Assurance Nurse Coordinator (QAP Nurse). Mrs. Buhl's appointment is intended to help the hospital effectively meet regulations and requirements under Federal PSRO legislation . . . see page 6 for details.

*Medical Staff News are articles submitted for publication in the BEACON LIGHT which have been written, reviewed and approved for publication by the Hospital's Medical Staff.

The Chaplain's Corner

by Fr. Al Stangl



Fr. Stangl

A Story

During November we celebrated Respect Life Week (November 10-16). This letter by a young girl to her parents who accepted her in their home is most fitting.

Once upon a time, in a charming castle in the Kingdom of Cloud, there lived a royal family. In this family could be found all the elements necessary to make up a normal royal household. The King and his Queen somehow managed to take their three handsome, yet mischievous princes and their sometimes highlighted princess (not to mention a few "extras" picked up over the years . . . a puss-in boots, and a royal dog) and hold them all together.

Perhaps they didn't always realize it, but this family was very special for one could always feel a magical warmth inside their castle.

There were days of course when the magical "glow" would fade slightly. For example, the King did not always face the morning with a majestic smile, and one of the princes could put up quite a royal fuss when his bicycle lock was missing, but the warmth was always there.

This Family did many things together. They traveled to other kingdoms, they shared feasts, and under the supervision of the Queen, they worked together. With every shared event, the warmth grew.

The years passed quickly (as they often do in fairy tales) and suddenly amidst jumpropes, pigtailed, and ghost stories, the princess (who was the oldest of the children) found herself growing up into a world of football games, dances and clubs. Before she knew it, it was time for her to leave the Kingdom of Cloud and magical castle where she grew up and travel to the Land of St. Paul, where she would go to school. It was hard to say good-bye to her royal family, but the princess knew she would be coming back to visit.

The princess liked her new life in St. Paul. She met many wonderful people, she saw new sights, and did new things. But most important, she learned things that would help her give to others some of the wonderful things that had been given to her.

And she realized just how magical the warmth of her castle at home was. For when she returned to visit, she could feel the warmth surround her once again and it was a good feeling to know that no matter where she went, she could always find this feeling at home.

And although the story is not yet finished, the princess wanted to take time to tell her royal family - especially the King and Queen, that they are wonderful - the best royal family a princess could ever have.

Thank you for your love,

Your Princess



ABOVE: Esther Merklng (left), chr. of the Annual Retired Employees Banquet presents Beatrice Lemmerman, retired RN, who worked on 5 South, with an electric "crock pot". Associate Administrator, Harry Knevel (right) was Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The event is held each autumn to honor retired employees for their years of dedicated service to the hospital and to keep them up-to-date with current hospital activities.

Credit union news

by Perky Burke

The annual Credit Union Day Dinner, Oct. 17th, was attended by approximately 60 members from Credit Unions throughout the county. Several political candidates attended, and it was also brought out that national legislation is now very friendly toward credit unions.

Our \$1,000 certificates, (7% per annum) are still being issued. (That's a terrific investment, you know!).

And plans are going full speed ahead for our ANNUAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY.

If you don't belong—JOIN! THE CREDIT UNION IS ONE MORE OF OUR TREMENDOUS FRINGE BENEFITS! AND YOUR WHOLE FAMILY IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP—SO SPREAD THE WORD!!!

Alumnae elects officers

The Saint Cloud School of Nursing Alumnae met on Tuesday, October 15th to determine its leadership for the upcoming Homecoming Year, 1975. The Alumnae Association celebrates Homecoming with special events every five years, and the officers for the coming year are:

JoAnn Zschetsche Bautch
(4 South), President
Sandy Rupar (A & C),
President-Elect
Barbara Silznoff Schiffler
(MHU), Secretary
Brother Luke Dowal, O.S.B.,
Secretary-Elect
Sandy Mecklenburg Johnson
(4 South), Treasurer

J. Buford Johnson was the invited speaker at this election meeting. Johnson reviewed the history of, and the present objectives and function of the St. Cloud Opportunity Training Center (OTC). In tracing the beginnings of OTC, Johnson stressed the important part that contributed services of community-minded people of the St. Cloud area played in making the program possible. The goal of the program, he said, is placement of its trainees in employment positions in the community.

Future plans for alumnae members include a Christmas celebration. On December 10th, the alumnae will host a Christmas Caroling Party, with senior students of the School of Nursing as guests. The alumnae and students will carol at local nursing homes, followed by dinner at La Chateau Villa.

COMMENT

by Gene S. Bakke
Executive Vice President



Mr. Bakke

In conjunction with the 1974 "Respect Life" program of the United States Catholic Conference, the week of November 10-16 was designated as RESPECT LIFE WEEK by the Catholic Hospital Association. During this week-long observance, Catholic health care facilities throughout the nation focused attention on the dignity and sanctity of the human person, the right to health care and the preservation of the voluntary health care system.

Here at St. Cloud Hospital, the incalculable value of human life receives maximum emphasis as a continuing, on-going principle. Even though this is true, it is appropriate that we give particular and special emphasis to the dignity and sanctity of human life, particularly in these days when human life is being degraded — as witness the following.

In the November 4 issue of the "St. Cloud Daily Times," Opinion Page, there appeared an article describing an amendment to a military authorization bill passed overwhelmingly by the United States Senate calling for a ban on the use of "funds appropriated pursuant to this or any other act" for the testing of poisonous gas upon dogs. A week later, several senators introduced another amendment which would have placed a ban on the use of "funds appropriated pursuant to this act or any other act" for abortion referral services, performing abortions, transporting women to abortion clinics, or providing medical assistance or supplies to be used in performing abortions. This latter amendment was overwhelmingly **rejected** by the same United States Senate.

That there is a need to promote the value of human life seems hardly debatable.

Catholic health care facilities, such as the St. Cloud Hospital, recognize that to take a positive, pro-life stance and to promulgate it in the hope of stimulating community interest involves some risks. The ultimate risk, of course, is to see whether or not the Catholic health care institutions can survive as a viable element in the delivery of health care.

But with a cause so great, and with the interests and well being of so many people at stake, who would do otherwise?

OUR RECORD OF SERVICE

September, 1974	1,344	157	512	4,133	29,856	1,098
Year to September 30	12,901	1,220	5,325	37,617	235,961	9,531

The Laundry: a part of the team

"As we try to meet the comfort needs of the patient, we realize the important role we have here in the laundry," said Sister Quidella Kollman O.S.B., Laundry Supervisor. "We are an important part of a team of dedicated people who are caring for the patient here at our hospital," she added.

Sister Quidella has worked in the laundry since 1954 and has employees with her that "were here when I came". "This shows a fine, long-lasting working relationship in an important part of the hospital," she observed.

Clean linens are supplied to patients throughout the hospital by the Laundry. In addition they furnish linens for the convent and pillow slips for the hospital's School of Nursing. Laundry personnel make gown packs for Surgery and Obstetrics. They do the required mending for the hospital and with the Linen Cart exchange system, deliver all linens to the patient floors.

"About ten years ago we began the linen cart exchange system," relates Sister Quidella, "and this has resulted in more efficiency with less handling."

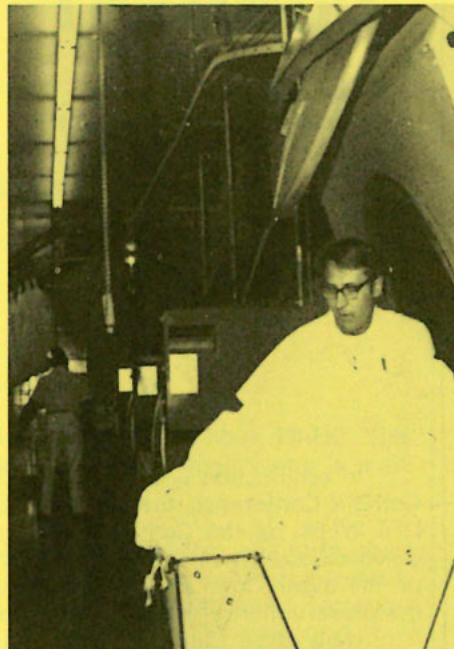
The linen distribution used to be separate from the laundry. Clean linen would be carted back to the floors, unpacked upstairs and put on shelves with the old linen closet system.

"Today we sort the laundry at the ironer, place it on carts and it is wheeled to the nursing units and departments on the carts." She also explained that the bag system of returning laundry from each unit now allows sling loading into the larger machines. This speeds up the laundry service and requires less heavy lifting by the Washman.

SCH's laundry has all new equipment except two dryers and three presses, which are 10 years old.

"The new washer-extractors are a real work-saver," said Sister Quidella, "because they extract much of the water from the linens before being placed in the dryers."

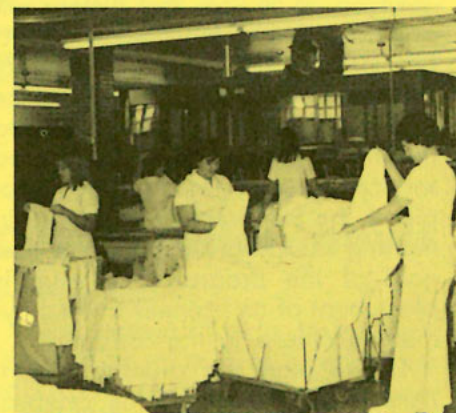
Equipment includes three 44 lb. washer-extractors, one 50 lb.



LEFT: Herb Bechtold, center, empties one of the large tumblers used in the Laundry while Chris Hilsen checks on the operation of one of the washers. Bechtold has worked in SCH's Laundry for the past 12 years; Hilsen has been here for the past 13 years.

CENTER: Laundry staff members sort and prepare linens to be processed through the folding machine.

BELOW: Eldora Dingmann prepares surgery packs while Sally Marek mends gowns worn by other SCH staff members. Sally has worked at the Hospital since 1951, Eldora is a relative newcomer to the Laundry, she has been there only four years.



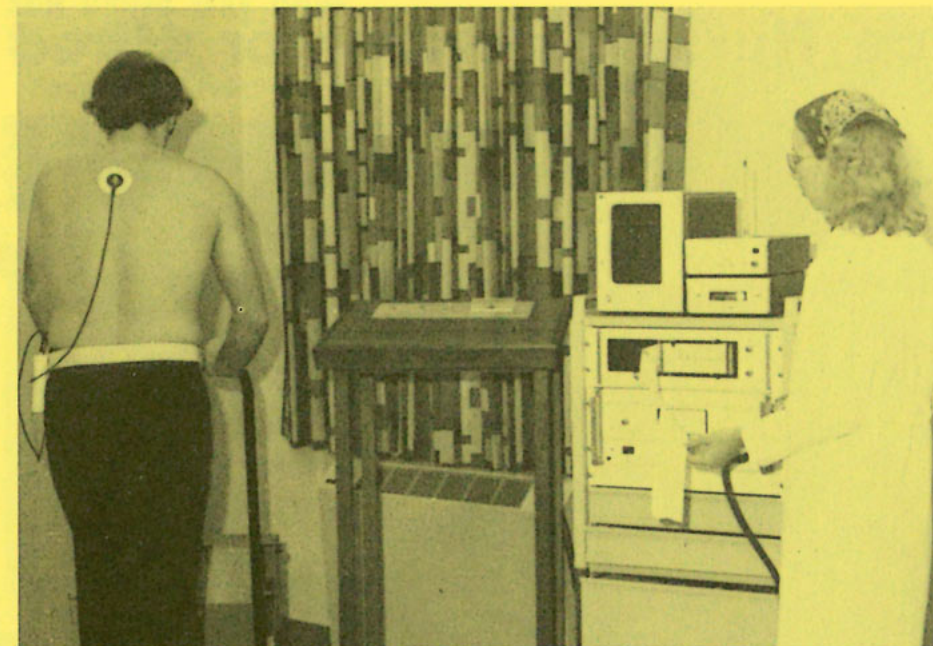
washer-extractor, two 100 lb. dryers and one 200 lb. dryer. The dryers are steam and gas. A new high-speed ironer increased the output from eight sheets a minute to an all-time high of 16 sheets per minute. Some of the newer sheets replaced cotton with polyester, which adds to the drying speed.

Folding has also taken a turn, from hand to machine folding. The automatic folder does the sheets, spreads, pillow slips, blankets, gowns and laundry bags. The turkish towels and bath robes are among the hand-folded items.

The SCH laundry uses 650,000 gallons of water per month. They process 2,200 towels per day, plus 750 gowns, 1,000 sheets, 700 to 800 pillow cases and about 500 blankets. The pounds of laundry processed per month in 1973 varied from 140,00 to 170,000 lbs.

The laundry is an integral part of the hospital. It is a clean, pleasant area to visit with good working relationships and fellowship. "We're all needed!" Sister Quidella added. "We relate as part of the hospital team."

We are an important part of patient care and we do realize that we have an important role in the patient's comfort."



New stress exercising equipment has been added to the ECG/EEG Department. Pictured above, Mike Patton, head of the ECG/EEG Department demonstrates the use of the new equipment. Reading the telemetry monitoring is Pat Weitzel, ECG Technician. The new equipment costs approximately \$10,000 and was used to conduct 15 stress tests during the first two weeks after its installation. The test incorporates telemetry monitoring and treadmill exercising. The telemetry monitoring equipment includes a visual presentation of ECG wave form via oscilloscope, a heart rate meter, ECG recorder and defibrillator, all mounted on a mobile cart. It is manufactured by the Hewlith Packard Co.



LEFT: Radiologic Technologist, Mary Pikus, uses a new x-ray imaging system recently added to SCH's Department of Radiology. The new system is known as xeroradiography and has been developed by the Xerox Corporation. It is used with present x-ray equipment and represents a new concept in recording high quality x-ray images on paper. This eliminates the need for conventional x-ray film and a darkroom. This equipment is used primarily for mammography (x-ray examinations of the female breast) at SCH.



Dr. Carlson

Dr. Gilchrist

The photographs and information referring to Dr. Gary Carlson and Dr. David Gilchrist which appeared in last month's edition of the BEACON LIGHT was inadvertently reversed. Dr. Carlson is a pediatrician associated with the St. Cloud Medical Group. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School and served his residency at the University of Minnesota Hospitals.

Dr. Gilchrist is an orthopedic surgeon associated with St. Cloud Orthopedic Associates. He is also a graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical School. Dr. Gilchrist served his residency at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Minneapolis.

In addition, the number of dependents claimed by each of the physicians was inadvertently listed as the number of children in their families. Dr. Gilchrist and Dr. Carlson both have two children.

Beacon Light

published by
The Public Relations Department
of
The Saint Cloud Hospital

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jeff Blair	Marie Hoppert
Pernina Burke	Bea Knuesel
Sr. JoAnn Bavier	Ann Lintgen
Agnes Claude	Agnes Moeglein
Barbara Erickson	Donna Strack
Sally Grabuski	Sam Wenstrom
Robert J. Cumming, M.D.	

Quality Assurance Nurse Coordinator Hired

In response to new requirements on health care which were brought about by the Social Security Amendments of 1972, now known as Public Law 92-603, the Saint Cloud Hospital has established the position of Quality Assurance Nurse Coordinator, according to Dale J. Stein, Director of the Nursing Division. The position will be filled by Mrs. Mary Buhl, who had previously worked as a Registered Nurse in the hospital's Ob/Gyn unit and on 5 South.

"The amendments contain 95 provisions that directly effect Medicare and Medicaid programs, and many of these relate to subjects that bear directly on managerial and operational aspects of the hospital and its medical staff," Stein said.

Section 249F, one of the 95 provisions mentioned by Stein, establishes Professional Standards Review Organizations (PSRO's) throughout the country. "The PSRO's," according to Stein, "will have the responsibility for determining—for purposes of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement—whether care and services provided by health care institutions are medically necessary and provided in accordance with established professional standards."

"The principle function of this



ABOVE: Dr. Cumming and Mrs. Buhl review length of stays at the St. Cloud Hospital noting how they compare with figures compiled by the CPHA.

new position will be to carry out the daily functions of the hospital's Quality Assurance Program in an effort to meet the regulations spelled out under PSRO," according to Mrs. Mary Buhl. "Because of its close association with Quality Assurance the position has become known throughout the hospital as the 'QAP' Nurse," she said.

Generally, the responsibilities of the Q.A.P. Nurse will include length

of stay evaluation, in-hospital (concurrent) review of the patient's progress as it relates to the standards of care set up by the hospital's medical staff, and discharge planning.

"The job will involve a lot of attention to record keeping and detail in an effort to assist the physicians in meeting the requirements under PSRO," said Mrs. Buhl.

"The information I record and document will be submitted directly to the chairman of the Utilization Review Committee, and it will be used in determining the quality of medical care delivered here at the hospital," she said. In her new position, Mrs. Buhl will be medically responsible to the chairman of the Utilization Review Committee and administratively responsible to the Director of Admissions, Sister Marion Sauer, O.S.B. Her office will be located in the Admitting Department.

Some of Mrs. Buhl's specific responsibilities will include: identifying patients who are to be monitored by the URC; determining the level of care necessary for the patient and documenting changes when necessary; offering assis-

(Continued on page 8)

FROM THE ST. CLOUD HOSPITAL KITCHENS

HOLIDAY CRANBERRY MOLDS

- 1 9 oz. can (1 cup) Pineapple, crushed
- 1 package Gelatin, cherry flavor
- 1/4 cup Sugar
- 2 tablespoons Lemon juice
- 1 cup Cranberries, fresh, ground
- 1 Orange, small, ground, unpared
- 1 cup Celery, chopped
- 1 cup Walnuts, chopped

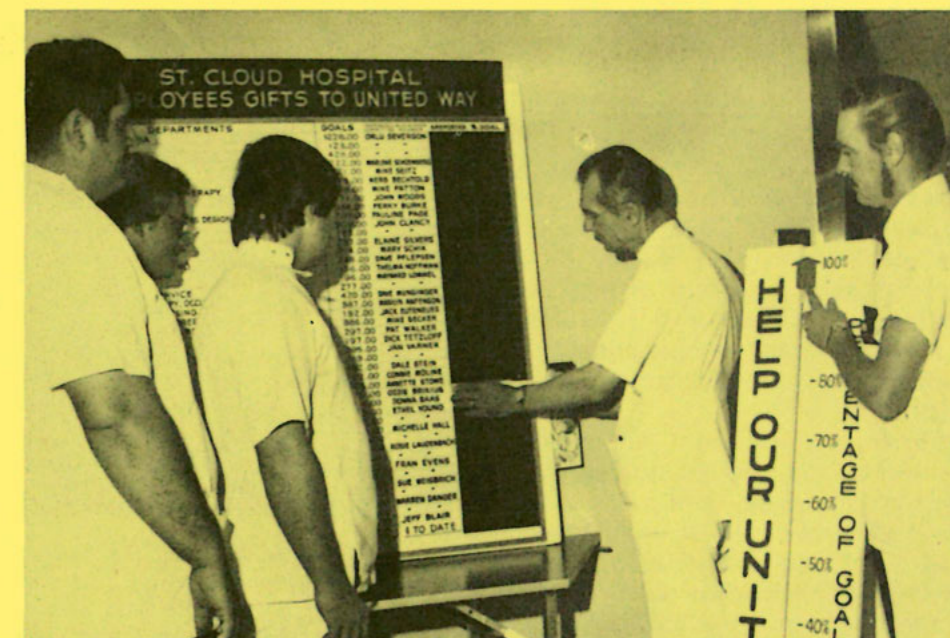
Drain pineapple reserving syrup. Add water to make 2 cups. Combine gelatin and sugar in saucepan. Add syrup mixture. Heat and stir until gelatin dissolves. Add lemon juice. Chill until partially set. Add ground cranberries, orange, celery and nuts. Pour into 8 individual molds. Chill until set.

SCH United Way Drive hits \$20,000

Saint Cloud Hospital employees pledged 133% of their quota to reach an all-time high of \$20,017 in the 1974 St. Cloud Area United Way campaign. Mrs. Connie Moline, Director of Nursing Services and chairman of this year's fund drive, reports that each of the Hospital's six divisions reached over 100% of their goal. They include: Nursing, General Service, Professional Services, Fiscal, Personnel and Public Relations, and Rehabilitation Services.

The Orderlies led all goal areas with 350% of their quota. This year's impressive campaign brings Saint Cloud Hospital's total contribution to over \$100,000 in the seven years it has been participating in the United Way drives.

Saint Cloud Hospital employees enthusiastic support for the area United Way is best shown through their response to this year's campaign. Mrs. Moline reports that 38% of the goal was reached three days after the kick-off; 83% within nine days and 100% within eleven days. Out of 44 goal areas, 34 were over 100% and five areas had 100% participation.



Pictured above: SCH Orderlies were the first to register their progress on the Campaign Charts during the United Way Drive. The Orderlies led all other reporting areas

with 350% of their goal. Pictured from left to right are: Duane Eiyk, Tom Fagerholm, Ron Jenderseck, Chief Orderly, Ozzie Brixius and Jerry Kobenia.



Special Christmas gifts on sale at SCH Gift Shop

This Christmas season the St. Cloud Hospital Gift Shop is featuring a variety of unique and imported articles including hand made wood carvings from Ecuador, beautiful music boxes with genuine Swiss movement, and figurines from England and Germany. A beautiful selection of Christmas trims, original candles and creches from Italy and Germany are also available. The Hospital Shop is open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. weekdays and from 11:00 a.m. till 7:00 p.m. on weekends. It is staffed by members of the St. Cloud Hospital Auxiliary.

LEFT: Auxiliary member Mrs. William Oelschlager displays one of the many unique imported gifts on sale in the Hospital's Gift Shop.

commitment to excellence

(Continued from page 1)

Sommers, Chief of the Saint Cloud Hospital Medical Staff, "the utilization review process benefits all patients because it adds up to an appraisal process which measures the quality and type of care provided against the needs of the patients using the hospital. It is also a means of peer review and continuing physician education," he added.

"Since the program is implemented by the medical staff of the hospital, it can be used to provide the individual physician with standards developed by the medical staff regarding the medical care needs of the patients in the hospital," he observed.

The utilization review process begins the moment the patient enters the hospital. All patients are categorized according to their medical diagnosis upon admission to the hospital by Quality Assurance Program Coordinator, Mrs. Mary Buhl (see story page 6), and an expected length of stay is assigned using guidelines provided by the medical staff. The Quality Assurance Program Coordinator also provides input into the URC for determining the need for alternative forms of care such as Public Health Nurse assistance, Home Health Aide, outpatient care services, or even transfer to a nursing home.

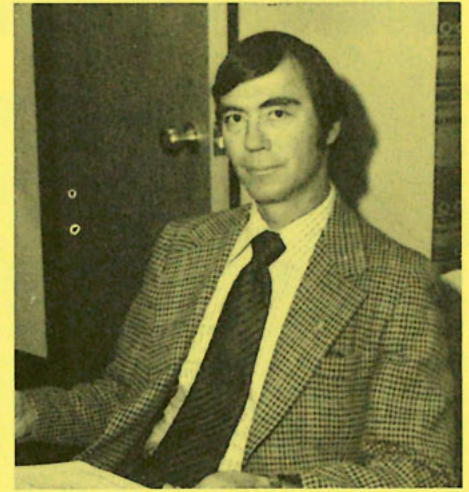
"The length of stay is one of the key areas of utilization review," stated Dr. Robert Cumming, the hospital's Director of Continuing Medical Education. "The Medical Staff determines the expected length of stay for a particular diagnosis by using figures compiled by the Commission on Professional Hospital Activities (CPHA), demonstrating their experience at the St. Cloud Hospital," he added.

"Currently, the average length of stay for all patients at the Saint Cloud Hospital is 7.5 days compared with 8 days regionally and nationally," he said. The Utilization Review Committee is a standing committee of Saint Cloud Hospital Medical Staff and is composed of six physicians and seven members of the hospital's professional staff.



We want to be sure that the patient is receiving appropriate care, that the care he needs is available here at the Hospital, and that the high levels of quality are met and maintained.

Dr. B. R. Bancroft,
chairman of the
Utilization Review Committee



In reality, the utilization review process benefits all patients because it adds up to an appraisal process which measures the quality and type of care against the needs of the patients using the hospital.

Dr. Stephan Sommers,
Chief of Staff

QAP Nurse (Continued from page 6)

tance in discharge arrangements; and keeping records of patients who may need extended care services or home care coordination. Many of these responsibilities will become effective as PSRO regulations are further delineated.

"Basically we will be following the American Hospital Association's Quality Assurance Program to meet the requirements of Section 249F of Public Law 92-603," said Stein.

"We are committed to quality assurance here at the hospital," he observed, and then went on to de-

fine quality as "having the characteristics of excellence."

"These characteristics of excellence are the accepted standards of care against which the care being provided is measured resulting in an evaluation of the quality of care," he said.

According to Stein, the standards of care are developed by each clinical department of the Medical Staff of the hospital and these are applied along with utilization review activities to insure that the standards are met.

Beacon Light

ST. CLOUD HOSPITAL
1406 6th Avenue North
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
St. Cloud, Minn.
Permit No. 389

SISTER GUIDELLA KOLLMAN OSB

ST CLOUD HOSPITAL

ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA 56301

Return & Address correction requested—Postage guaranteed.