Elizabeth M. Moss

IF YOU ASK ME

God bless hospital workers

Hospital employees have to be special. It takes an unusual sense of caring, understanding, and above all, patience, to work in hospitals where people are sick, often disagreeable, and even inconsiderate. Ask us, we were there.

A week before Christmas, the doctor took one look at our abdomen x-rays and said we'd have to enter the hospital "immediately." That is how we landed in Lutheran Hospital, where we were glued to bed, fed intravenously, liquid diet only.

And during the five days and nights when we couldn't leave that tiny bed, we developed a firsthand understanding of the unpleasant tasks hospital workers perform, and even greater respect for their ability to keep their pleasant dispositions and perform in a professional manner.

The loving care started at the front door. Even though we were in pain, we remembered the helping hand of the admitting officer. We learned later she was Mrs. Annette Hart.

There was equal concern by the attendant who put us in bed and inserted the needle for feeding and handled other preliminaries under the direction of the third floor supervisor, Mrs. Carolyn Bell.

During the 120 hours when we couldn't get up, there were so many pleasant faces inquiring how we felt, administering medicines, checking temperatures, changing the bed and bed pans and giving other comforts.

Helping hands

Among them: Kevin Morant, the young technician who gave the ekg (heart exam), and the very professional young man who took the chest x-ray, and the x-ray technicians, Mesdames Nina Willett and Shirlene Briscoe, and the so sympathetic orderly — a native of Ghana — Emanuel Odenena, who urged us, "don't cry, everything's going to be all right."

He didn't understand why his kind words brought more tears. Wouldn't he be surprised if he knew then that the wet eyes were because we were missing the party of the year!!)

And, we remember the kindness of Dr. Paul Roman, who supervised the x-rays, the solicitude of physicians' assistant, Jean Radtke, and that of the dermatology consulting physician, Dr. Clyburn Soden, who grew up in West Baltimore, has recently gone into private practice after longtime service in the Army.

If all the people who work in hospitals are like the physicians, nurses, nurse's aides, orderlies, physicians' assistants, unit clerks, dietary helpers et al we met at Lutheran Hospital, then the care of sick in Baltimore area hospitals is in good hands.

And more

Before we were discharged, we called the office of the hospital's chief executive officer, William L. Jews. Here again, the office secretary, Miss Debbie Brown, responded her pleasure at our good word and promised her boss would get the message.

Mr. Jews, a young black man, (he turns 33 on Jan. 30), is highly respected by fellow hospital administrators as well as his staff. A Baltimore Sunday Sun feature highlighted his "in charge" attributes the week we were there.

Last day visitor to our room was the hospital's assistant marketing and public relations director, Miss Portia Badham. She got her start on our AFRO City desk. When we confided how pleasant our stay was, she reminded us, "That's nice, but remember you taught us, don't talk about it, write it."

So that is how this column on hospital workers originated. We couldn't let Portia down. (By the way, she takes a new post at WBAL next week. Her boss, Emerson Goodwin, is looking for a replacement).

650 employees

Lutheran Hospital, located in the 700 block Ashburton St., in West Baltimore, is a 192-bed facility. Employees total 650, some 60 percent of whom are black. Half are female.

Chair of the 15 - member board of directors is Stephen Asendorf. Black board members include, Grover McCrea, William Curtiss, vice chair, and Councilwoman Agnes Welch, who is the community liaison person.

Lutheran Hospital union workers make an average of $6 to $7 an hour. When the Hospital and Nursing Home Employees Local 1199E had a job action in area hospitals last month, Lutheran was among the first to reach terms with union head, Ron Hollie, and other negotiators. New rates for 1985 and 1986 carry a 2.25 percent increase for the first year, and 2 percent more for the second.

God bless hospital workers. They deserve every cent they get!!

18 years ago

The following item appeared in this column in November 1966:—

"Another youngster making good is 15 - year - old Darrell M. Gray, an honor student at City College. His semester average was 93.5. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Gray (Williemae) of Shirley Ave. Keep your eye on this youngster. He's going places. And you read it here first."

At the beginning of this piece on hospital workers we mentioned that a doctor ordered us to the hospital. That doctor is the same Darrell Gray about whom we wrote the above prediction about 18 years ago! !

Today, Dr. Darrell M. Gray, a graduate of the University of Maryland Medical School, is a specialist in internal medicine and the Assistant Chief of Medicine at Lutheran Hospital, where he is also director of medical education.

His private practice is in the heart of west Baltimore where he grew up — on Arunah Ave. There he keeps long hours and is painstaking in seeing and counseling patients — much in the mold of veteran family physicians like Dr. Samuel R. Owings and Dr. Uthman Ray, who, like Dr. Gray, grew up in the city and remain to serve its residents as he does.

Dr. Gray and his wife, Felicia, a childhood sweetheart, are members of Sharon Baptist Church. They have two youngsters, 3 - year - old Darrell 2nd, and 17 - month - old Danielle Felicia.

Party of year

The 50th birthday party for Dr. Lois Young, the eye doctor. It was on December 23, at the World Trade Center. Some 200 guests gathered in the 21st floor of the downtown - building where the view of the city is breathtaking.

Things were just as beautiful inside, with guests arriving to find the honoree's hubby, Attorney Joe Thomas, had arranged for a television recording of the entire evening and gifted his wife with a video cassette recorderer.

Guests oohed and aahed at the photos which showed the honoree when she was a little girl growing up in East Baltimore where her parents, the late Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Young, (Addie), were beloved residents, and followed her through her days at Dunbar High, Howard University and until the present. She is now staff physician at the University of Maryland Hospital.

Guests danced to the music of Dennis Fisher, with vocals by Jennifer Jones, and dined on a variety of dishes served by Bluefeld.

Among guests

Out - of - towners about were Lois's Howard U. roommate, June Lockhart Rosser, and her hubby, Dr. Samuel Rosser, of D.C. Also from D.C., Henrietta Edmondson, Richard Dotson, the Nathanial Stradfords, the Bill Raymonds, (she's the former Miriam Hughes of our town); Patricia Press and her hubby, Joe; the Raymond Holts (Jackie), and her mother, Mrs. Bernice Holland of Seattle.

And, the William Sykeses (Delores), formerly of our town, now residing in Columbus, Ohio. From Newark, N.J., came the Ronald Owenses, and from W. Orange, N.J., Judith Young, and Joe's daughter, Laura Thomas, from Mt. Prospect, Ill.

Cuff note: William Sykes, mentioned above, is no. 1 executive to Ohio governor Richard Celeste in his role as director of the Department of Administrative Services with offices on the 39th floor of that state office building, just as breathtaking as the World Trade Center here.

Also in the crowd, Dr. Eric Jones, San Francisco. He's the young surgeon who moved here last month to begin practice. Also there, Dr. Helen Davis, Detroit, a young eye doctor, who is also settling here. Welcome!!

Looking back

Looking back on the year 1984:—

Surprise of the year — the 35th birthday party honoring Del. Larry Young. When he walked in the Belvedere suite for what he thought was a meeting on Nov. 25, he found family, friends and associates there to yell the glad tydings.

Continued on Page 12.

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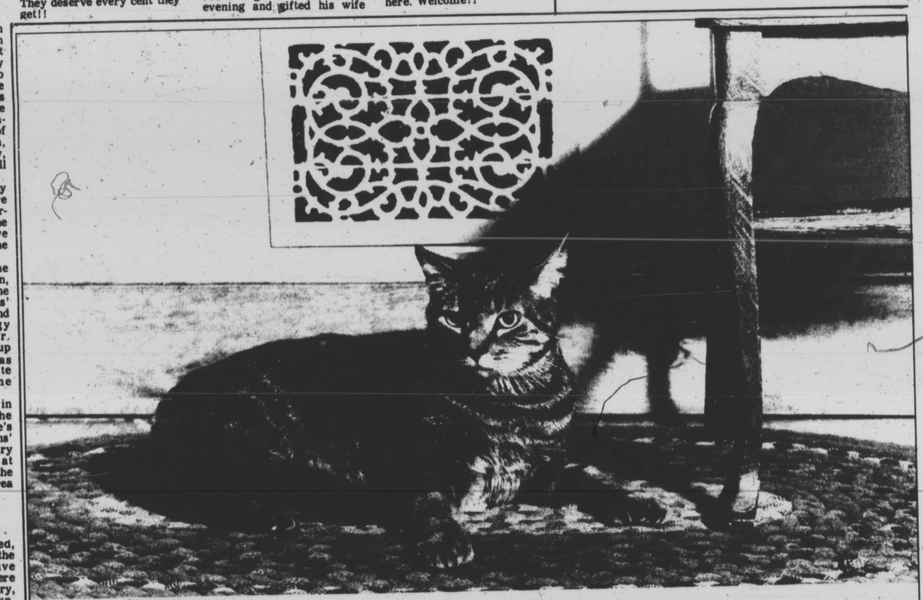

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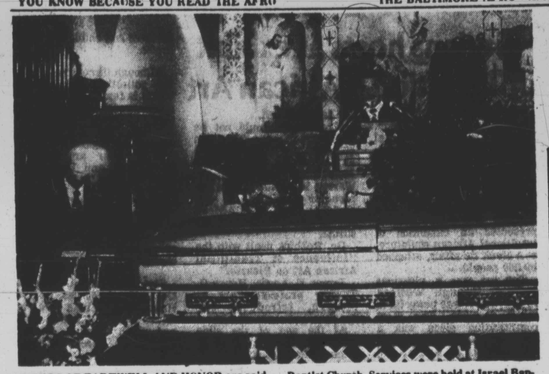

WORDS OF FAREWELL AND HONOR are said of the late Rev. Edmond D. Meade at funeral rites for him Thursday morning. At rostrum is the Rev. Dr. A.D.C. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church. Services were held at Israel Baptist Church where Rev. Meade was pastor emeritus.

—Rev. Meade eulogized

(Continued from page 1)

tion in Virginia. He also studied in Rochester New York and learned theological studies in Washington, D.C.

He was licensed to preach at the Escobrook Baptist Church in Elmson, Va. in 1928 and he was ordained at Israel Baptist Church in Baltimore in 1929. He was pastor of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church for seven years and he became pastor of Israel Baptist Church in 1938 and served until retirement in 1976.

Rev. Meade died, December 29. He is survived by his wife, Bernice West Meade, a daughter, Bernice Meade Waker.; a son Edmond David Meade Jr.; one granddaughter, Andrea Elizabeth Michelle Waker and a host of other relatives.

North Ave. to get face lift

The entire length of North Avenue from Leakin Park on the west, to the Baltimore Cemetary on the east, will undergo extensive renovation and rehabilitation.

The facelift is expected to yield 400 new or rehabilitated housing units, and revitalize commercial districts along the throughfare including North and Walborook, Charles - North, Montford and Druid Heights.

New businesses will open on the street such as the Design Center, a one-stop shopping place for designers and decorators at North and Howard, several fast food restaurants, and the renovation of the old Poly-Tech High School (also known as Calvert Adult Ed.) to house the Department of Educations' administrative offices, will also enhance the "new" North Ave.

This move is expected to bring an additional 750 workers to the area.

Eventually, 1,000 trees will be planted from the east to the west, adding to the totally new look of the corridor.

—Community Calendar—

Weight Control Program

"Be Trim" — a highly successful weight control program — is being sponsored by Mercy Hospital with free introductory sessions held Monday, Jan. 7 and Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the hospital's Marian Room.

"Be Trim" is a lifestyle program that teaches participants how to control weight without deprivation or sacrifice. Most importantly, the program examines the psychology of eating in an effort to help people make positive behavior choices.

For more information or to register contact Mercy Hospital's Health Promotion Department at 333-9758.

"Sweeten Your Life"

The City Department of Recreation and Parks is embarking on a big project — the sale of 4½ tons of chocolate bars. They will be conducting the campaign from Jan. 28 through Feb. 11 to bolster the activities budgets of their recreation centers.

The product being sold is the $1.00 "World's Finest" chocolate bar, made of pure milk chocolate with whole roasted almonds. The bars are being manufactured on Jan. 23 in Chicago and then rushed, fresh, to Baltimore to the many recreation center directors for distribution to their sellers.

You will be able to recognize the bars, for the department's name will be imprinted on every label. This is the second year that the Department has conducted such a sale, and it is a very important project toward the goal of allowing each recreation center to assist the department in its funding.

For further information, call 396-7989.

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