

# TEXAS OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS JOURNAL

**AUGUST 1972**



*the new look at your state office*

★ Delegates Report on AOA House Meeting — Page 5 & 6

★ Mid-Cities Now Community Hospital — Page 12

★ TOMA Group Major Medical Insurance Now in Force — Page 19





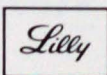
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# HEW Orders Disposal of Diapulse Devices

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

Gentlemen:

We are writing to inform you of recent Court actions involving the Diapulse Pulsed High Frequency Generator devices, manufactured and distributed by the Diapulse Corporation of America, New Hyde Park, New York.

On March 20, 1972, a Federal Appeals Court affirmed a Preliminary Injunction issued by the Federal Court for the Eastern District of New York against the Diapulse Corporation of America. The injunction restrains the firm from shipping, selling or offering Diapulse devices for sale in interstate commerce.

On June 9, 1972, the District Court granted a Permanent Injunction prohibiting the interstate shipment of the device. The Court held the Diapulse to be misbranded by false and misleading labeling claims representing that the device is effective for the treatment of a wide variety of disease conditions.

Over 4,000 of these devices have been marketed, primarily to hospitals, clinics, medical and osteopathic physicians, chiropractors and other practitioners, some of whom may be members of your association. All units manufactured to date are considered in violation of the law and subject to seizure. We are now initiating action against the Diapulse devices shipped in interstate commerce.

We are taking this opportunity, in the interest of mutual cooperation, to seek your assistance in removing these ineffective and violative products from use. We request that you convey the contents of this letter to all members of your association.

We will be glad to assist anyone who may wish voluntarily to dispose of his device(s) and avoid the embarrassment of a seizure action which becomes a matter of public information. Anyone wishing to offer voluntarily to destroy his device, otherwise render it inoperable or surrender the device to FDA may do so by contacting any HEW office.

Sincerely yours,

Larry R. Pilot, Director  
Division of Compliance  
Office of Medical Devices



Volume XXIX—No. 4  
Fort Worth, Texas— August, 1972

## TEXAS OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS JOURNAL

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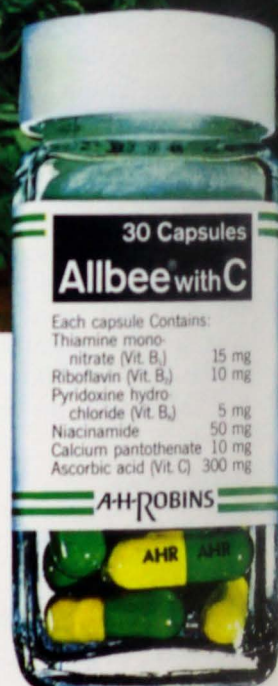
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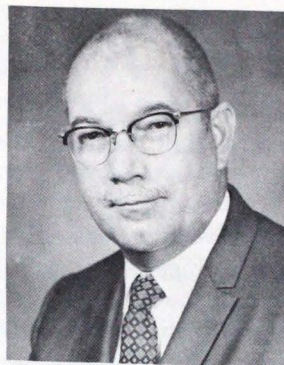
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# **Report on AOA House Meeting**



**by Dr. John H. Boyd & Dr. Bobby G. Smith**

We were assigned by the Texas delegation chairman Dr. Richard M. Hall, to meet with the House Reference Committee on Public Affairs, to express to the Committee our views on matters before it and to report back to the delegation on those deliberations.

The first resolution considered was sponsored by the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. This resolution asks the AOA to study programs available or proposed for training of osteopathic medical assistants (not Physician Assistants) and to endorse an acceptable program for use throughout the United States with the aim of training and certifying medical assistants. The Board of Trustees recommended a "no action" resolution, until such time as a program is accredited by a national accrediting agency. After discussion, the Reference Committee concurred in this Board recommendation and the House upheld this recommendation.

Our neighbors and friends in Oklahoma, in honor of their new college, had offered a resolution for the 1973 Board of Trustees and House of Delegates to meet in Tulsa. The Board recommended defeat of this resolution because of the prior commitment to the Massachusetts Association, and because of problems created by firm commitment to hotels, etc. The Reference Committee concurred in the recommendation to deny and Oklahoma graciously withdrew its proposal from House consideration.

Missouri had offered a resolution that the AOA "Maintain and release information as to American Academy of Osteopathic Surgeons membership and status on request." The Board recommended denial and, after much discussion, the Reference Committee concurred. The discussion ranged far afield and much of it was obtuse to the resolution. Many comments were tinged with ill feeling remnant from past ACOS—GP battles and some of the old bitterness was very evident. Orderly conduct of the affairs of the AOA and existing bylaws won the day. The House rejected this proposal.

New York State Osteopathic Society proposed a resolution asking for a study of the registration, training and supervision of physicians' assistants. This resolution was favorably reported by the Board, recommended by the Reference Committee and passed by the House.

New Jersey offered a lengthy resolution stating a stand in favor of the present health care system, and opposing interference of physician-patient relationships. This was discussed and it was decided that the resolution was only a rewording of established AOA policy. For this reason, a substitute motion affirming the present policy was passed.

New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association presented a resolution opposing and condemning determinations by third parties as to the appropriateness and compensability of injectable medications versus oral medications. The Board recommended substitutions of less specific wording which stated "that the physician should have the sole responsibility of determining how best to render quality care . . . ." The House passed the Board-prepared resolution.

The Board recommended disaffiliation of the Association of Osteopathic Publications because this organization is no longer active. The House passed a resolution to this effect.

Many conferences and meetings were held with AOA personnel and delegates from other states. We must all be grateful for the help and counsel of more experienced leaders.

We have all tried to the best of our ability to represent you at your national House of Delegates. Honest differences within the delegation were discussed thoroughly in closed meetings involving several hours, so that we might arrive at a strong united position.

Please do not miss any opportunity to advise any delegate of your feelings and wishes on matters of policy during the coming year. We need your help to serve us all.

*[Please see following page]*



# TOMA Delegates Report

by Dr. Richard M. Hall, TOMA Delegation Chairman



From the very beginning of the pre-caucus activities and the AOA Board of Trustees meetings, it appeared that a very aggressive attempt would be made to get the AOA off dead center in trying to meet the challenges of changing times; from the changing of some personnel and attitudes of the House, to resolutions from the various state associations.

The resolutions that were proposed by a number of states generated considerable discussion — both at the Board and House level. These were expeditiously handled with adequate debate on all sides of the questions.

Early in the political arena, Texas listened to the situation and decided to give unanimous support to Dr. Sam Ganz for the office of Speaker of the AOA House, and Dr. Bobby G. Smith for a three-year term on the AOA Board of Trustees, both of whom were duly nominated and elected.

Officers elected included:

President: Dr. J. Vincent Murphy, Grand Blanc, Michigan.

President-Elect: Dr. John C. Taylor, Kansas City, Missouri.

First Vice President: Dr. Harmon L. Myers, Tucson, Arizona.

Second Vice President: Dr. Eli H. Stark, Bellmore, New York.

Third Vice President: Dr. Donald E. Woods, Grandview, Washington.

Board of Trustees (Three-year terms): Dr. Robert G. Gillson, Poteau, Oklahoma; Dr. Alfred Grilli, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Dr. Frank McDevitt, Livonia, Michigan and Dr. Bobby G. Smith, Arlington, Texas. Dr. Max Gutensohn of Kirksville, Missouri was elected to fill a one-year term.

Dr. Samuel B. Ganz of Corpus Christi was elected Speaker of the AOA House, and Dr. A. R. Fuller of Fremont, Ohio was elected Vice-Speaker. Dr. Gilbert S. Bucholz of Toledo, Ohio was named to head the Osteopathic Progress Fund.

Members of the Board whose terms continued included Dr. Marion E. Coy and Dr. J. Scott Heatherington, past presidents; Dr. A. Archie Feinstein, Dr. George J. Luibel, Dr. Henry F. Olen, Dr. Donald Siehl, Dr. Philip Adler, Dr. Earl A. Gabriel, Dr. Bernard J. Plone, Dr. Harry S. Still and Dr. Paul E. Wilson.

The delegation has requested that the TOMA Executive Director prepare a letter for the TOMA Board of Trustees for presentation to Dr. John Burnett, expressing this Association's best wishes and thanks for his number of years service on the AOA Board.

The major overall problems fell into three categories of discussion. They included AOA finances (which are still in the red), Iowa's request for AOA members' participation in allopathic medical societies, and a continuing education requirement for AOA members.

The Iowa resolution proposing the right of members to join AMA affiliated societies and the rescinding of the AOA's present policy in this regard was defeated decisively in the House of Delegates. The policy of the AOA is restated and is firmed as far as the association of allopathic physicians and D.O.s is concerned.\*

AOA membership dues were raised \$25 to \$125 per year, beginning this next year.

The AOA again reiterated its policy on AOA association in postgraduate education with allopathic institutions. That is, where educational programs are not available within the AOA, a mechanism is established whereby, on individual request, a D.O. may take postgraduate training in an allopathic institution to acquire skills in specialties or subspecialties, the training for which is not available in osteopathic institutions.

Student representation at the AOA was continued by the presence of four student council presidents representing KCOM, COMS, KCCOM and PCOM. They monitored discussions of the House and the Board and also gave their opinions on some of the current AOA educational policies.

I think one of the most interesting outcomes of the entire House of Delegates meeting was that a program of continuing education was adopted by the AOA which will be tied in with the requirement in some states for relicensure, and may become a requirement for maintenance of AOA membership: That is, a certain amount of postdoctoral training must be carried on each year by the doctor in order to maintain his status as an active member of AOA.

All the Texas delegates and the first alternate were present for all meetings. The alternate delegate, Dr. Ralph Merwin of Orange, was seated for experience in the House. The TOMA delegation was a harmonious working group in all aspects.

\* The AOA policy concerning D.O. membership in allopathic societies follows:



"WHEREAS, the American Osteopathic Association has constantly reaffirmed that the osteopathic profession can best make its contribution to the public health by remaining a separate, distinct school of the healing arts, and

WHEREAS, the American Osteopathic Association has as its objectives and purposes the advancement of knowledge of osteopathic medicine and surgery and the advancement of the profession of osteopathic medicine and surgery for the benefit of mankind, and

WHEREAS, proffers have been made by some of the components of the American Medical Association to attract members of the American Osteopathic Association and its components by tendering some form of affiliate membership, and

WHEREAS, the individual physician member of the American Osteopathic Association can best serve the public and advance the knowledge of the care and treatment of patients by adhering to the osteopathic concept, and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association in the past has consistently adhered to and condoned policies and practices opposed to those of the American Osteopathic Association and not in the best interests of this profession and said society is now attempting to convert osteopathic colleges to allopathic institutions, and

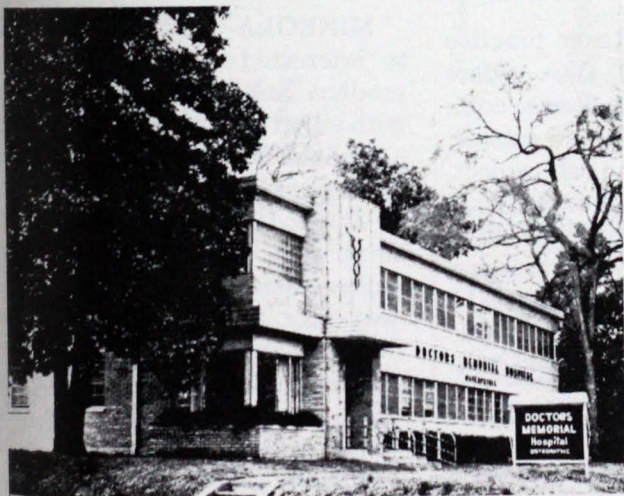
WHEREAS, any member of the American Osteopathic Association accepting any such form of membership in the American Medical Association or any of its POLITICAL DIVISIONS could be placed in a position of divided loyalty and conflicting interests,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Delegates of the American Osteopathic Association declare that any member accepting membership in any form in the American Medical Association or any of its POLITICAL DIVISIONS is acting contrary to the best interests of the American Osteopathic Association and shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Osteopathic Association take appropriate action by Bylaw amendment or otherwise to implement and enforce this policy."

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**AMARILLO**—Needs G.P.s and internist. Offices open with practice waiting. New, modern 56-bed hospital with expansion plans. Professional staff now includes certified D.O.s in radiology, proctology, surgery.

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**ALTO**—Garden spot of East Texas, has desirable location within reach of big cities, big hospitals. Write Alto Improvement Corp., P.O. Box 57, Alto, Texas 75925; or call (day) 713-858-4311 or (night) 713-858-4478.

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**SILVERTON**—Excellent opportunity in osteopathically minded community for a D.O. who likes to live where there's no smog and you don't lock your doors at night. New clinic under construction. Call John H. Boyd, D.O. at 806-823-4421 or 817-336-0549.

**WHITESBORO** — Large practice of recently deceased D.O. offers opportunity in north Texas community of 3,000, with new school, completed urban renewal project, no ethnic problems. Clinic has large waiting room, private office, X-Ray, lab, three treatment rooms, modern, experienced employee available, 15 miles to Sherman or Gainesville. Contact Mrs. Dorothy Banfield 214-564-3097 or 564-3076.

**SPRINGTOWN**—Fully equipped clinic for lease. Can expect an annual gross of more than \$60,000. Terms to suit. Located 25 miles from Fort Worth. Contact Keith G. Winterowd, D.O. and Associates, Box 215, Springtown, 76082.

**DALLAS**—Will build to suit tenant. Leases being accepted in new professional building in north Dallas near Richardson, across from developing \$150 million Park Central Complex. Contact Ronald Regis Stegman, D.O., 214-233-9222 or 214-369-2233 or Coit-Central Bldg. Suite 119, 12011 Coit Road, Dallas, Texas 75230.

**CLARENDON**—Donley County Hospital District needs two physicians to have office space in newly constructed 20-bed hospital and 22-bed nursing home. Will make necessary arrangements to get physicians to Clarendon. Write or call Wes Langham, Adm., P.O. Box 1007, Clarendon, Texas 79226 or call 806-874-3533.

**MINEOLA** — Dr. C. W. McCorkle is interested in sharing his new, modern and well-equipped Clinic with either a General Practitioner or a General Surgeon. McCorkle Medical & Surgical Clinic was completed in June, 1971, and has the latest equipment in both Laboratory and X-Ray departments. The Clinic is next-door to an open staff thirty-five bed hospital which is approved by both Medicare and Medicaid. Salary or percentage available immediately and partnership to follow within one year. Contact Dr. McCorkle, 715 Mimosa Dr., Mineola; Phone 569-5371.

(For information call or write Mr. Tex Roberts, Executive Director, TOMA Locations Committee, 512 Bailey, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, 817-336-0549.)



# LETTERS

Dear Pres. Haman:

I wish to commend the spirit of your "Open Letter to Members of TOMA" in your current Journal. Using different words, you effectively recommend that TOMA members dedicate themselves anew to the real fundamentals of our professional success: commitment to principles, honesty between colleagues, and unswerving service to our public.

For 10 long years we in California have witnessed what it really means to the public and doctors to exist under a monopoly in medicine: only one legislative voice, only one "scientific approach", only one fee schedule (a spiral), only one examining body, and only one academic viewpoint of how to become a doctor. The handwriting (not ours) is on the wall for other States to read; may they do so, carefully!

We on the Coast are proud of Texas' contribution to our osteopathic heritage, and we know that you have just begun.

Fraternally yours,

Richard E. Eby, D.O.  
Pres. - Elect, OPSC

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Direct inquiries to: Paul A. Stern, D.O., Director of Medical Education

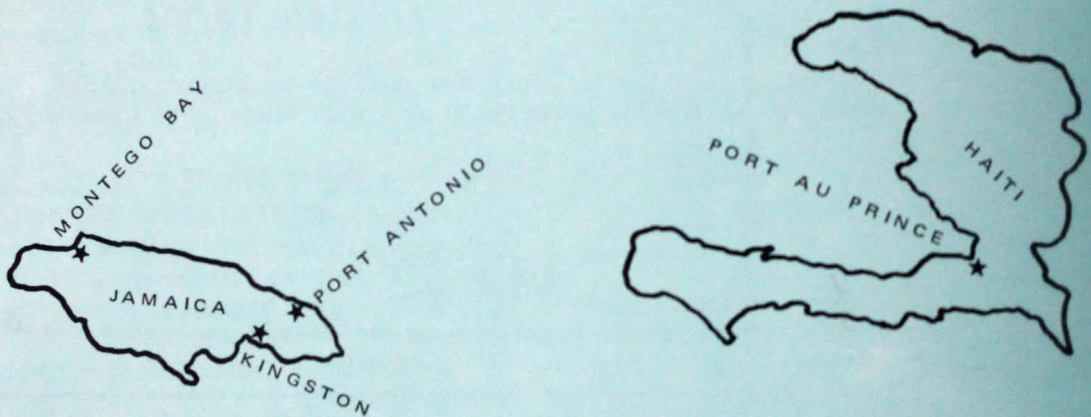


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# COMBINED SEMINAR PLANS MADE BY TWO SOCIETIES

Dr. J. Dudley Chapman, widely-known D.O. and editor of "The Osteopathic Physician", will be the featured speaker at a combined seminar of the Texas Society of General Practitioners and the Texas Osteopathic Obstetrical and Gynecological Society next month, it has been announced by Dr. Donald M. Peterson, president of the Texas G.P.s.

The meeting is scheduled to be held in Dallas at the Hyatt House September 23 and 24 and, in addition to Dr. Chapman, will feature panel discussions as well as individual speakers.

The first session will be on Saturday, the 23rd, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. to be followed by a cocktail party. The Sunday session begins at 9:00 and is expected to adjourn by noon.

Dr. Peterson says that a program will be mailed to members of both participating societies as soon as it is complete.

He does not have the football schedules for the Cowboys or SMU Mustangs at this time, but says that normally one of those teams will be playing in Dallas September 24 and the seminar schedule will allow those interested in attending a football game to do so.

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## Noted Speakers to be at AOHA Convention

Nationally prominent attorneys Ralph Nader and Melvin Belli, and Georgia Lieutenant Governor Lester Maddox will headline the panel of speakers scheduled to address the 38th Annual Convention of the American Osteopathic Hospital Association in Atlanta, October 28 — November 2.

Theme of the six-day meeting in the Hyatt Regency Atlanta hotel will revolve around the "Consumers' Idea of Health." Melvin Belli will speak on "Law and Health," Lt. Governor Maddox on "The Impact of Health Care in the Community," and Ralph Nader on "The Consumers' View of the Health Care System."

A topic of paramount concern to the health care industry today — Health Maintenance Organizations — will be aired by a panel chaired by Congressman Paul Rogers. Appearing with him will be William J. McLeon, director, Division of Training & Technical Assistance, Washington, D.C., Dr. George Reich, HMO regional program director, Atlanta, and James Rich, HMO regional director, Kansas City, Missouri.

Another panel discussion on the "Needs of Health Manpower—Today and in the Future" will be moderated by Myron S. Magen, D.O., dean of Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Appearing on the panel will be faculty members Joseph Patterson, D.Ph, and Gerald Faberman, M.A., and William Cruikshank, Ph.D. of the Institute for Study of Mental Retardation, University of Michigan.

Also addressing the convention audience will be William Ready, Esq., national chairman, American Association of Comprehensive Health Planner, Meridian, Miss., who will cover "Consumer Trends through Comprehensive Health Planning," and James Delaney, executive director, Committee on Health Services Industry, Washington, D.C., whose topic will be "Health Regulations, Phase II."

## Mid-Cities Becomes Community Hospital

Mid-Cities Memorial Hospital, established in 1959 by a D.O. — man — and — wife team, is destined to become part of a \$5,000,000.00 medical complex in the Grand Prairie — Mid-Cities area, according to announcements in recent weeks by J. Natcher Stewart, D.O., FACOS, Harriette M. Stewart, D.O., administrator of Mid-Cities, and the Grand Prairie Hospital Authority Board of Directors.

The Stewarts announced recently in this *JOURNAL* the installation of a cobalt unit and beginning of construction of a \$1.5 million clinic building near their hospital. The community-based Hospital Authority has voted to buy Mid-Cities Memorial Hospital and plans call for immediate addition of 100 beds to the 54 beds currently available.

The Hospital Authority is to pay \$1.25 million to Mid-Cities Building Corporation for the present hospital and it would take over administration on completion of the additional 100 beds.

According to Dr. Stewart, Mid-Cities will follow through on all its commitments to conduct osteopathic medical education every Friday this coming academic year for the junior class of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the hospital intern training program for D.O.s will continue.

D.O.s and M.D.s will have equal rights as to professional staff privileges in the new hospital and medical complex that will eventually include a nursing home, and extended care facility, as well as the new clinic that can house as many as 32 physicians when completed.

Hermann H. Plattner, D.O., and Dr. Nat Stewart are members of the Hospital Authority board, along with two M.D.s, over health professionals and the lay public for a total of 20 board members.

The Stewarts broke ground for Mid-Cities Memorial Hospital in 1959 and have expanded it four times since. Dr. Nat Stewart is immediate past president of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons and is a fellow in ACOS as well as being on the clinical faculty of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The man — and — wife team is donating several acres of ground to the Hospital Authority to go along with the hospital.



Dr. J. Natcher Stewart



Dr. Harriette M. Stewart



# Texas Ticker Tape

## DR. LESTER J. VICK NAMED FELLOW

Recently named a fellow in the International Academy of Proctology is **Dr. Lester J. Vick** who has practiced in Amarillo since 1928. A certified proctologist, he also is a fellow and past president of the American Osteopathic College of Proctology. Dr. Vick was awarded honorary life membership in TOMA at the 1972 annual convention.

## DR. JAMES FLEMING OPENS NEW PRACTICE

**Dr. James M. Fleming**, a 1971 graduate of KCOM has reciprocated from Michigan where he served his internship at the Carson City General Hospital in Carson City, Michigan. He is announcing the opening of his practice at The Family Medical Center in Italy.

## DR. PROFFIT JOINS DR. BRISCOE

**Dr. R. W. Briscoe** is announcing the association of **Dr. Paul Q. Proffit**, a 1971 graduate of KCCOM. Their office is located at 5126 Wichita Avenue in Fort Worth.

## TEX ROBERTS ELECTED TO AOSED BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TOMA Executive Director, **Mr. Tex Roberts**, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Association of Osteopathic State Executive Directors at its meeting immediately preceeding the AOA House of Delegates meeting in Minneapolis last month.

## DR. RANN CLARK RETURNS TO TEXAS

Returning to practice in Texas after serving an internship at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, is **Dr. Rann Clark**, a graduate of KCCOM, who was raised in Beaumont.

He will practice in Fort Worth with recently graduated interns Drs. Jarvis Bull and Ray Denson.

## KCOM STUDENT RECEIVES AWARD

**Henry Norrid** of Amarillo, a student at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, was selected as the recipient of the William M. Giltner Memorial Fund Book Award. The award, in memory of the late William M. Giltner, a longtime manager of the KCOM College Store, is made annually to a third-year student. Norrid is a member of the undergraduate chapter of the American College of General Practitioners in Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, the undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy and has served on the KCOM Student Council.

## NEW OFFICERS FOR DISTRICT II

District II of TOMA has elected **Dr. William R. Jenkins**, president; **Dr. Raymond E. Beck**, President-Elect; **Dr. William T. Giles**, Secretary and **Dr. Bill H. Puryear**, Treasurer.

## TAOMA ELECTS OFFICERS

**Betty Latimer** of Groves was installed as president of the Texas Association of Osteopathic Medical Assistants at a meeting recently held in Corpus Christi.

Other new officers are **Mrs. V. L. Holstead**, also of Groves, vice president; **Lillian Lloyd** of Houston, president-elect; **Irma Parker** of Dallas, secretary; and **Mary Ann Wahoff** of Fort Worth, treasurer.



## In Memoriam

### Mrs. Carl Everett

Mrs. Carl E. Everett, wife of Dr. Carl E. Everett of Fort Worth, died here July 10. Funeral services were held at Ridglea Presbyterian Church and she was buried at Greenwood Mausoleum July 12.

Mrs. Everett had undergone successful heart surgery June 24 and had been released from the hospital. She was at home when she was fatally stricken.

She had been active in the District II Auxiliary to TOMA for a number of years and had worked on arrangements for the 1972 convention in Fort Worth.

A memorial has been established at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in her memory and contributions by the many friends of Dr. and Mrs. Everett may be sent to TCOM at 3600 Mattison Avenue, Fort Worth 76107.

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## Basic Sciences Exam Set

The next examination of the Texas State Board of Examiners in the Basic Sciences has been set for Friday and Saturday, October 13-14, 1972 in Austin, Texas.

Details as to time and place may be obtained by writing to the Executive Secretary, Texas State Board of Examiners in the Basic Sciences etc.

Applications for the October examinations must be complete and in this office by September 15, 1972 and all necessary information and documents required of examinees by the Board must be completed and in the applicant's file by that date. Those interested in participating in this examination should act immediately.

It should be noted that the certificate which is acquired by examination is the only one which is valid for reciprocity with other state basic science boards. The Texas Basic Science Board has reciprocity with the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.



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# Teachers of Year Named at FWOH

As has become tradition at Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital, the graduating interns announced their choices for teachers of the year at the Intern Banquet held Saturday, June 24 at Colonial Country Club. Chosen as the general practitioner who most exemplified the ideals they respected in a physician and who had done the most to teach this intern class was Dr. P. P. Saperstein. It was the second time Dr. Saperstein has won this award. A similar honor for the hospital-based specialist who represented the same ideals for the interns and who had worked closely with them over the year went to Dr. Gary Cooper. Dr. Lynn Powell made the presentations for the interns.

Speaker of the evening was Dr. Marion Coy, President of the American Osteopathic Association and Administrative Dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Centering his remarks on the relationship of the individual physician to the American Osteopathic Association, Dr. Coy reminded the interns that the national association is only as strong as its members make it and admonished them to maintain a strong, national affiliation.

Dr. George Luibel was master of ceremonies, and certificates of internship were presented by Dr. Phil R. Russell.

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The front cover shows the Office from the front in the two top views, from the side and back in the lower views. We're proud of the landscaping and the "new look" we've acquired.

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To your family doctor who has taken such good care of you all these years, what can you say but a warm, sincere, thank you. Again.

To the nurse who woke you up to give you your sleeping pill, just a simple thanks will do.

To the orderly who pushes you in the wheel chair after you've been released, tell him you'd rather walk, but you won't because you know it's hospital rules.

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# Talk to me, Doctor

by George W. Northup, D.O.

*[Editor's note: In the July issue we published an article written by syndicated columnist, Sidney J. Harris, with the headline reading, "Physicians Need to Listen." The following editorial release from the AOA shows another side of the same coin. But it all comes back to the same thing: communication—or lack of it.]*

One of the most common complaints made by patients about their physicians is that the doctors are uncommunicative. Although it certainly is not a problem for all doctors, the complaint is so widespread that there must be some truth in it. Today, the patient wants to be told. What he wants to be told depends on the background and personal make-up of the patient. But the need for easy communication between patient and physician requires more than passing attention. One must remember, however, that communication is more than just a good idea; it is an imperative.

Many doctors claim that they do not have "time" to talk. Yet, often if communication with the patient were better there would be fewer phone calls from relatives and friends wanting to "know what is going on."

Recent research has shown that when diagnostic and therapeutic procedures are thoroughly explained to the patient, the doctor has a much easier task in performing them. Fear of the unknown is greater than fear of the known, and it is applicable in medical practice.

Communication and understanding in medicine not only promotes good patient-physician relationships but can equally well prevent the opposite.

The modern patient no longer stands in awe of his doctor, and he becomes impatient when he feels the doctor has returned to Mount Olympus and seems unwilling to share information with the "common people."

Every physician should seriously evaluate his ability to communicate with his patients and increase that ability so that he may more effectively render both comprehensive and compassionate health care.

## NOTICE

The next meeting of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners when examinations will be given is scheduled for December 11, 12, 13, 1972, at the Sheraton-Crest Inn, Austin, Texas.



# TOMA Group Major Medical Insurance Now in Force

July 1 was the effective date of coverage for D.O.s who enrolled earlier in the TOMA group major medical insurance program administered by the State Office and benefits provided by contract with Prudential.

Mr. Ray Fails of Fort Worth is the Prudential representative and he is available to explain the plan and enroll D.O.s, their families and employees. Major Medical coverage for the doctor is available with either a \$100 or \$300 deductible per year with 80 per cent of eligible expenses in or out of the hospital paid to \$5,000 and 100 per cent paid to \$50,000.

Benefits paid are based on usual and customary and not on fixed-fee schedules, in or out of the hospital, semi-private or intensive care if necessary.

Mr. Fails says that in calling on D.O.s he has found that some existing policies owned by them are limited to \$5,000 per illness and \$10,000 per lifetime and

include other limitations. He said some have \$500 deductible per illness with a 90-day accumulation and then pay only 80 per cent of the total.

The TOMA group major medical plan has one deductible per year for all illnesses and covers medical expenses to \$50,000 per person. Following an illness the policy has an automatic benefit restoration clause.

Under Texas law, group life insurance, in connection with the major medical plan, must be extended to employees (at low cost and deductible expense for the doctor) and employees deductible on major medical is \$100.

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