



FRIENDS OF HISTORIC VINELAND



Memories Of The Past In Medicine

A History of Cardio-Pulmonary Services At Newcomb Hospital

By: Frank De Maio, M.D.

As we go about our daily lives, it is often difficult to imagine that things were not always the way they are today. This is especially true in medicine if we stop to think how much progress has been made in recent years.

As each new doctor comes to Vineland he/she often brings new ideas and procedures. This is true today, and was especially true "in the old days" when our local hospitals were

"country hospitals."

When I took my residency in pulmonary medicine in Hahnemann in 1961, the head of pulmonary was a man that had studied the then new field of Pulmonary Physiology. Hence, my training was mainly in that area. We started a Pulmonary Lab at Hahnemann which was the first in Philadelphia, and when I came to Vineland I was interested in doing the same here. We soon did start one, which made it unique because the field was so new. Of course, in a few years, everybody had one like we did, but we were the first for miles around.

Mr. Pepper, the administrator of Newcomb at the time, did not have money

to buy the equipment (remember the old days when patients instead of insurance companies paid for their care??) so to get the equipment, we had to raise the money. Mrs. Cannino (the mother of Joanne Pettisani) ran some bus trips to Atlantic City and used the profits to get us started. As I recall this was about 800 dollars, equivalent to 10,000 dollars today.

When I started charging to read the test, the money was donated back to the hospital to raise more money for more equipment.

A few years later they came out with equipment that could actually do a blood gas analysis. Now this was like a miracle.

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But, the equipment was complex and always breaking down. We were constantly calling some company that was located in Massachusetts to come down and fix the equipment. They kept sending a man with the strange name of Maung Maung. He was a genius at fixing medical equipment. So, the administrator felt it would be better to hire him rather than pay the company to send him all the time. Mr. Maung took the job and moved to Vineland and started one of the first Biomedical Departments in the area. After the untimely death of Mr. Maung, Mr. Mike Mastro, the current director, took over the department.

In the "old" days, if there was trauma to the chest, there was no way to keep you alive. Then they came out with a new machine that could be hooked to the patient and breathe for the patient. This respirator was called "MA-1." Now it was really a very simple machine, but in the good old days, it was considered a medical marvel. The problem was that none of the nurses knew how to use it and there was no 24 hour-a-day pulmonary department to run it. So, at the change of every shift, I would come in the hospital and show the nurses how to run the machine. Eventually they all knew how to use it. It was amazing how the patient would recover when previously the situation was hopeless.

To hire a respiratory therapist was impossible in those days as there were few courses and even fewer students. One of the orderlies wanted to learn, so every day I would spend an hour with him explaining the field. He was a bright guy, and he actually took his boards and passed them first time around. I forget his name but I do remember that he was bald. Looking at his bald head every day for an hour must

have made an impression on me! The oxygen in those days was not piped into every room. Oxygen tanks were rolled into the rooms and hooked to the patient. The orderlies would roll them by kicking them along. Because the tanks were painted green, when they wanted the orderly to bring a tank, they would page for "Mr. Green."

Later, when a great guy by the name of Mr. Peter Gaboda became the head of the greatly expanded Pulmonary Department, we decided to go into teaching. We therefore started a clinical section for the students at Gloucester Community College that were studying to be Respiratory Therapists. Pete was the guy that spent most of the time with the students. But, we decided that it would be well to make a whole series of slides to be used for teaching. Now, in the good old days, slides were placed on transparent film and placed between two glass slides and taped together. We were now in the "modern" age and could actually take a picture with a camera on actual slide film, and show this slide with the "new" projectors. What progress!! Unfortunately, we knew nothing about photography. We took a stab at making the slides, and they came out terrible. But--we heard about the Nikon Camera course that they were holding in Princeton, and decided to attend. We signed up (somehow I recall that you got a better price or something if there were three people) so Pete Gaboda, Marlene my daughter, and I went to Princeton. Of all the great surprises, we found that Judge Stanley Brotman was also attending the course as he too wanted to become more proficient in photography. (Remember now, those were the days when you actually had to know how to use a camera to take a good picture—no point and shoot.)

I would like to report to all that Mr. Brotman was a great guy and actually took all of us out to supper in a great restaurant in Princeton

At any event, back at the ranch, we threw away 500 slides that we had taken and started all over again. The trick was to meter off of neutral gray and then take the pictures. It worked great.

We turned out a bunch of great students, and always offered the top student a job at Newcomb. We made them understand that we expected them to eventually move on, which they did, and a number of them became the heads of departments in nearby hospitals.

In the past, one of the things that they did was use "positive pressure breathing" in patients with emphysema. The insurance companies did pay for this treatment and all the hospitals used it. It was a good source of income. Also, there were actually clinics in the area where patients went there every day for a treatment. Unfortunately, there was ample scientific evidence that the treatments were of no value. Because of that, we used the simple expediency of a nebulizer to deliver medicine to the patient instead of the expensive machines that others were using. The cheap nebulizers that we used were called "HandiVents." The other hospitals ridiculed us for using this and referred to Newcomb as "HandiVent Heaven." Some of the students graduating from nearby schools actually did not want to work for us because they thought we were so far out to use such a thing. But, eventually, the insurance companies found out that the scientific evidence did not support the use of positive pressure breathing and stopped paying for the treatment.



The “Old And The New!” No, not the machine. Dr. De Maio next to Heather Anderson, a “New” CardioPulmonary Whiz Kid!

At this point, the rest of them converted to the small nebulizers that we had been using and joined Newcomb in HandiVent heaven!!

One other thing that we did was to combine the cardiology people with the pulmonary people and have them work in both departments. That meant that the people had to be able to do Pulmonary work, and also take EKG's and so forth. We were checked out one year by some group and the people were so impressed by this system that they told every hospital that they checked

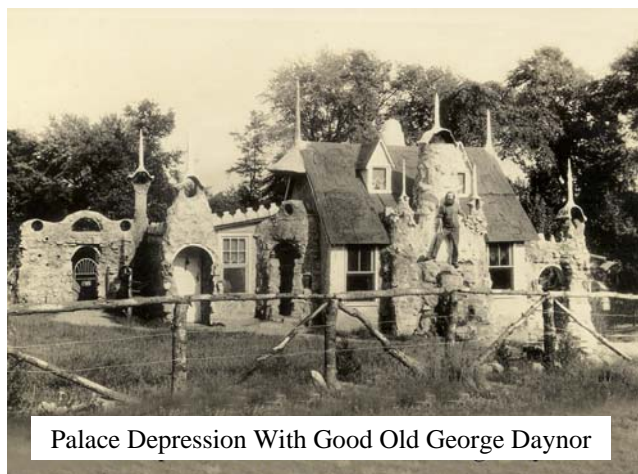
that they should do the same thing. This started the concept of the CardioPulmonary sections in this area.

Today, at Newcomb, the section at Newcomb is run by Mr. Matt Fisher a solid guy with a great Vital Capacity (he never smoked). The overall section for the South Jersey Hospital System is run by George Williams. What a pleasure it is to have 24 hour coverage with highly skilled, highly trained, and devoted people to help with the very very sick people that we treat!!

So How Are Things Coming Along At The Palace Of Depression??

As most of you know, we used to have a Palace of Depression in Vineland that was pretty well known in America. But, it's gone—but not for long. It's in the process of being rebuilt and I thought it might be nice to show a picture now and then of how things are coming along. The ground has been cleared and some of the original structures uncovered.

The picture below is that of the ticket booth when you used to enter. On the left is how it used to be, and on the right is how it looks today



The picture on the left above of the Palace Of Depression shows the Palace in all of it's original glory during the hey day of George Daynor. The palace was built by George and his wife, although he would never admit to anyone that she helped and had her stay out of the eye of the public. The Palace deteriorated when George became old and not able to care for it. The city actually covered the site with dirt to make sure that no one, particularly children, would be harmed walking around the ruins.

Today, the site is being restored by Mr. Kevin Kirchner. The site has been cleared, and the original foundations are being sought out so that the area can be reconstructed as closely to the original as possible. We expect to see more progress as soon as the weather permits and winter is over.

Founder's Day Is Coming!! Founder's Day Is Coming!

Will it rain?? Will it snow?? Will the sun shine?? So far, we have been lucky. If we are lucky again, the day promises to be better than ever. We will again have a host of historical characters that will talk about history in general, and Vineland in particular. It should be great for the kids. We will again allow them to "join the army of Northern Virginia of the South, or the Army of the Potomac of the North. The first hundred to join will be given a free civil war soldier's cap.

Periodically, there will be events on the field, such as civil war battle engagements, musical entertainment, and of course the Women's Club's fashion show. We invite as many women as possible to dress up for the day and enter the show. Each will be given a small gift to show our appreciation.

We also hope to have an antique car show, antique dealers, food, and a bunch of other things!!

The event is scheduled for Sat., May 11 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, again on the Training School Grounds.

KEEPING THE TRADITION ***ENGLISH CUSTARD CAKE (ZUPPA INGLESE)***

This is Mary Polmonari's recipe for English custard cake and she got it from her mother-in-law who was born in north Italy in the town of Lizzano in the area of Bologna. Mary was told that the dish was used in Italy during the holidays, and she kept the tradition here in America. The recipe brings back memories of family reunions and also brings back the memory of the first time that she made it when the pudding curdled. (So, pay attention to what she tells you and don't let that happen to you!)

In case you are not sure who Mary is, get out one of our calendars for 2002 and look at the picture for the month of April. That's the family we are talking about!!

INGREDIENTS:

1 package of ladyfingers (I suspect this is the American version of what was used in Italy!)
Rum or whiskey 2 tablespoons of sugar 6 eggs 1 quart of milk 1 can of condensed milk

PREPARATION:

Place the ladyfingers in a large bowl and saturate with the rum or whisky (Mary advises you not to skimp on this, but--)

Mix the sugar and eggs with a beater, add the milk then heat, being careful not to burn the mixture. Stir this constantly in **ONE DIRECTION ONLY, NOT BACK AND FORTH AND DO NOT OVERCOOK**. Continue this until the mixture is rich and creamy. Then pour this into the bowl of ladyfingers. The ladyfingers will float to the top. Push them down into the mixture (with a spoon, not your fingers--let's keep it clean!)

Cover the bowl with a lid, place in a refrigerator and allow to cool. It is then ready to serve. Make sure you have a designated driver before serving to your friends!

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN??

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| BENEFACTOR..... | \$100 |
| SPONSOR..... | \$50 |
| FAMILY..... | \$35 |
| INDIVIDUAL..... | \$30 |
| STUDENT..... | \$5 |

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