

T E C H ' S T A L K

No. 17

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April 1963

At the time of this writing, the snow has disappeared, robins have been sighted, roller skates have appeared, and tulips and crocuses are making their presences known. However, as all loyal alumni know, the true harbinger of spring is the receipt of this annual message from the good old U.

Of course we want to tell you about the annual banquet which is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 1963, at 6:15 p.m. in the Main Ballroom of Coffman Memorial Union. The program includes some numbers by the students, the announcement of the new Orbs members, awarding of scholarships, and a talk by Dr. Rodney A. Briggs, Dean of the University of Minnesota at Morris. Dr. Briggs will speak on "A Piece of Rope" (an intriguing title, you'll agree, and Dr. Briggs is bringing his own rope!)

For your convenience (and ours) a stamped addressed postcard is enclosed for you to indicate your presence at the banquet and your method of purchasing tickets. We also need the information on names and addresses to keep our files current. If matters are such that you cannot attend the banquet in person and support the O'Brien Scholarship in that way, we will be pleased to receive any and all contributions. Last year two students received this particular award. Checks should be made payable to the University of Minnesota and sent to the Division of Medical Technology, Box 198 - Mayo, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.

Please complete the enclosed card and mail it. Do it now! Don't waste the taxpayers money by letting that stamp go unused.

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We have several items of interest to report to you.

The Graduate Program proudly announces that it has two successful candidates. Sister Danile Kiley, presently teaching at Mary College in Bismark, North Dakota and Evelyn Bergh, now chief technologist (including administration and teaching supervisor) at Sioux Valley Hospital, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Two other graduate students, Sister Francis Regis from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Jennie Seaton, a transplant from Knoxville, Tennessee, will finish their studies by fall. Boone Mora from Illinois and Florida is also enrolled as a graduate student.

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On the other end of our teaching - training scale: There have been some interesting developments in the Medical Laboratory Assistant program. A program started last fall in northwestern Minnesota. Fergus Falls Junior College and Lake Region Hospital in Fergus Falls offer a two year program of liberal arts courses plus MLA training.

The area Vocational School in Hibbing plans to start a one year course in July. There is considerable interest in a similar program at the Area Vocational School in Alexandria. By creating these programs in non-metropolitan Minnesota, the needs of the outlying areas for trained laboratory personnel will, we hope, be better filled since, at present, students tend to gravitate to the Twin Cities.

RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

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A program for Certified Laboratory Assistants is in the planning stage on a national scale under the combined auspices of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and the American Society of Medical Technologists. As one can imagine with 50 states involved, there are several problems to be resolved and the solutions are not easy. Whether or not an effective national program is possible, the mere fact that these two professional groups have recognized that there is a place and a need for sub-professional laboratory personnel is a progressive step. Minnesota was the first state to recognize this situation and to do something about it. You may not agree with our position but results have shown the correctness of our decision. A Medical Laboratory Assistant, properly trained and supervised, can be a useful member of a laboratory service and enhances and makes more valuable the contributions of the professional Medical Technologist. We shall now temporarily retire from the soap box and stop editorializing!

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In many parts of the country the examination for certification by the Board of Registry of ASCP is considered one of the major criteria for competency in the profession. Some of you remember when the university did not encourage its graduates to take the examination. Since representatives of ASMT are now members of the Board and requirements for eligibility for the examination have increased, we now suggest (but apply no pressure) that our graduates do take the examination. The designation, M.T. (ASCP), is recognized and understood by pathologists, physicians, and hospital administrators and, therefore, is encouraged as a measure of professional responsibility. A survey of our files indicates the following information:

Years	No. eligible for examination	No. taking examination	No. failing examination	per cent failures	Per cent of eligible taking examination
1947-1951	236	173	6	3.5	73
1952-1956	144	138	3	2.3	96
1957-1961	126	121	0	0.0	96
1962	34	30	0	0.0	88
Totals	540	462	9	1.95	85.5

You will note that since 1957 there have been no failures which, of course, is what you'd expect!

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Reunions:

The class of 1952 held a reunion as scheduled at Jax Cafe in June. Sixteen loyal alums met with some guests to exchange pictures of families and to reminisce about those good old student days.

The class of 1953 is planning a tenth year anniversary on Friday, August 16 at Jax Cafe. The affair is limited to Med Tech's only, the organizers reasoning that husbands and wives would be bored with all the gossip related to U days. Peggy Hirt Smith 4360 Oakdale Avenue South, Minneapolis 24, WA 2-5929 is in charge of sending out more information but reserve the date now!

Remember last year we enclosed a questionnaire and asked your assistance in compiling information about our graduates? Did you do it? We don't know if you did but several people did. True to our word, here are some of the results.

We find that in retrospect we are not the best devisers of questionnaires; we have had to interpret some of the answers to get any meaning out of some of the results. For the purpose of saving space, we have grouped the answers into broad categories of years.

Table I - Completeness of questionnaire returns

Years of graduation	No. of grads.	No. deceased	No. address unknown	No. address known	No. replies	per cent known address replying
1923-29	37	1	20	16	6	38
1930-34	100	1	30	69	38	55
1931-39	200	6	103	91	51	56
1940-44	274	1	143	130	72	55
1945-49	288	3	97	188	112	60
1950-54	171	7	33	131	80	61
1955-59	116	0	12	104	61	59
1960-61	56	0	3	53	18	34
Totals	1242	19	441	782	438	56
% of living			36	64		

The following data are, therefore, based on 56% of the total possible.

Table II
Present location (438 replies)

Minnesota	256	Ohio	5	Kansas	1
California	32	Florida	5	Louisiana	1
Illinois	16	Pennsylvania	4	Virginia	1
Washington	15	Utah	4	Arkansas	1
Wisconsin	14	Maryland	4	Massachusetts	1
Iowa	9	Missouri	3	North Carolina	1
South Dakota	8	Arizona	3	Kentucky	1
North Dakota	8	West Virginia	3	Washington, D.C.	1
Colorado	7	New Mexico	2	Thailand	1
New Jersey	6	Montana	2	Saudi Arabia	1
Texas	5	Nevada	2	Vienna, Austria	1
Michigan	5	Indiana	2	Rio de Janerio,	1
New York	5	Alabama	1	Brazil	

Thus, Minnesota remains dear in the hearts of the greater portion of graduates with representatives in 32 other states, the District of Columbia, and four foreign countries. We can only feel sorry for those states and countries which are not so blessed!

Table III
Employment (438 replies)

Years of graduation	No. replying	Currently employed				No answer	Fulltime	Parttime
		Yes	%Yes	No	%No			
1923-29	6	4	67	2	33		3	1
1930-34	38	14	37	22	58	2	10	4
1935-39	51	22	43	29	57		21	1
1940-44	72	27	38	44	61	1	18	9
1945-49	112	36	32	74	66	2	25	11
1950-54	80	33	41	47	59		24	9
1955-59	61	33	54	27	44	1	26	7
1960-61	18	10	56	8	44		10	0
Totals	438	179	41	253	58	6	137	42

41% are currently employed. Of those currently employed, 77% are on a fulltime basis; 23% are on a parttime basis.

Table IV
Marital status and employment

Years of graduation	No. replying less males and deaths	Married						Not married	
		Not employ.	Employed		With child		Employ. Not		
			FT	PT	PT	PT	FT	PT	employ
1923-29	6	2	1				2	1	
1930-34	38	22	5		4	3	4		
1935-39	51	25	6		4	2	14		
1940-44	70	41	6	1	2	8	12		
1945-49	111	69	4		4	16	17		1
1950-54	75	49	2	1		10	13		
1955-59	58	24	4		10	10	10		
1960-61	18	5	3				10		
Totals	427	237	31	2	24	49	82	1	1

Total married group - 243 (80%)

69% of this group are not employed

Of the 31% of the married group that are employed, 69% have children.

Unmarried group - 84

99% of this group are employed. (Editor's note: This is one of the more stupid statistics seen; what else would they do?)

The groups with the highest percentages of working mothers are the 1930-34 group (18.4%); the 1945-49 group (18%); and the 1955-59 group (29%). One can speculate on the bit of Americana that these figures reflect. The 1930-34 group have raised there families and need something to occupy the time; the 1945-49 group have youngsters in high school and college and need to supplement the family income; the 1955-59 group have husbands just getting a foothold or very young families. The real reason we know is that you just love to work!

Table V
Years of Employment, fulltime and parttime

Years of graduation	No. answering this item	Number of years employed												
		0	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-	
1923-29	6			1		1						1	2	1
1930-34	36	1			1	2	15	4	3			7	1	
1935-39	51		2	7	3	5	12	3		12		7		
1940-44	71	1	1	5	8	8	14	14	13	7				
1945-49	110	1	6	9	10	11	36	24	13					
1950-54	80	1	10	6	7	3	42	11						
1955-59	60	3	5	8	14	13	17							
1960-61	18	5	10	3										
Totals	432	12	34	39	43	43	136	56	29	21	15	3	1	

Clearly, most of the people replying worked 5-9 years. When an average is calculated, we find that the average working time for technologists is 8.2 years. However, this figure must be used carefully because the people who did not reply or with whom we have lost contact could well fall in the lower tenure groups.

Table VI
Type and Place of Employment;
Highest Position Attained

Years of graduation	Type of work		Place of work			Highest position		
	Teaching	Research	Hospital	Clinic	Physician's office	Acad.	Chief	Section head
1923-29	1		5	2			5	
1930-34	13	7	24	10	10	4	9	2
1935-39	7	10	36	14	14	3	7	5
1940-44	27	27	52	10	8	9	16	14
1945-49	34	40	86	17	12	13	11	11
1950-54	24	25	53	12	6	5	15	8
1955-59	25	14	39	14	1	4	4	9
1960-61	7	5	14	1				1
Totals	138	128	309	80	51	38	68	51

Don't try to make the totals add up to the number of replies; it won't work because there is overlap in this category. We designed this part of the questionnaire very poorly and deserve the sort of information that we obtained. A few things can be concluded and interpreted, however.

1. The greater number of technologists are or were employed in hospitals.
2. In more recent years, physicians' offices have had the least appeal for employment of technologists.
3. Of the 435 replies from persons now living, 157 or 36% have achieved positions of responsibility. This is not to say that all technologists do not carry responsibility but these people are responsible for more than their own professional work.
4. 32% of the total indicate that at sometime in their employment they have been involved in teaching activities.

As we indicated in our request last year one of our major interests in asking for this information was to get some measure of how well our concept of an educational and training program in Medical Technology is succeeding. We are pleased (but not complacent) about the evidence that our graduates are tending toward the positions where we think they belong.

Table VII
Highest salary obtained

Years of graduation	No. replying this item	Highest salary obtained				
		Under \$4500/yr.	\$4500-\$6000	\$6000-\$8000	\$8000-\$10,000	Over \$10,000
1923-29	5	1	2	2		
1930-34	21	9	10	1		1
1935-39	34	15	9	5	3	2
1940-44	51	12	25	10	4	
1945-49	83	19	43	17	4	
1950-54	64	8	39	14	2	1
1955-59	58	1	40	12		5
1960-61	13	1	12			
Totals	329	66	180	61	13	9

Yes, Virginia, salary levels have improved.

Table VIII
Certification and Advanced Degrees

Years of graduation	No. replying this item	Currently Certified ASCP				Ever been certified ASCP		Advanced degrees	
		Yes		No		Yes		No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	M.S. &/or Ph.D.	M.D.		
1923-29	6	3	3	1	2				
1930-34	36	9	27	12	15	4	2		
1935-39	50	15	35	10	25	3	2		
1940-44	71	32	39	15	24	4	2		
1945-49	111	59	52	36	16	7	1		
1950-54	80	58	22	14	8	7			
1955-59	60	54	6	2	4				
1960-61	18	16	2	0	2				
Totals	432	246	186	90	96	25	7		

78% of the graduates reporting have been certified at some time in their professional careers. Starting with the 1945-49 group, there is a sharp increase in the number of eligible technologists who complete the certification (which we already indicated in the material on the Registry).

The honored Silver Anniversary class at this year's banquet will be the class of 1938. Presenting:

Harriette Anderson	Abner Neeley
Lorraine Bardsley	C. Rosemary Nostdal Longmire
Martha Bowler Waterstradt	Ann Nylander Broadwell
Arlene Burglove Frost	Marjorie Pagenkopf Hines
Louise Combs Weber	Mildred Patterson Deans
Betty Comfort	Miltza Peinovich Luper
Frances Fletcher Moore	Ione Presnall Yarbrough
Marcella Frazee Peterson	Betty Rich Copeland
Ruth Gibb Barron	Ruth Robinson
Marilyn Greenberg Koff	Jane Hoedell Bayliss
Ruth Hovde (whatever happened to her)	Erika Rogalsky
Helen Johnson Osborne	Frances Rosenblum Firestone
Lois Johnson Bailey	Ethel Segal
Goldie Kozberg	Margaret Stevens Loyd
Artis Leistiko Lott	Margaret Taylor
Barbara Lewis Moen	Anitra Vadheim Maves (deceased)
Mary Inez Long Ness	Marjorie Ward Lostetter
Dora Jean McClintock	Fern Waterson Wagner
Betty Mitchell Kendall	

One of the members of this class who has some inside contacts, is attempting to organize the group to make a table or two at the banquet.

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