

# Celia Bast Young—Her Vision Pays Off

Whenever a question comes up about the history of Holladay Park Medical Center, someone is bound to say, "Just ask Celia." That's because Celia Bast Young, founding member of the Holladay Park Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees, has been an integral part of the hospital's history since the early 1930s.

Trying to sum up Mrs. Young's many contributions to Holladay Park Medical Center and the City of Portland is no small task. But Dorothea Lensch, treasurer of the Medical Center Foundation Board, put it very well: "She is one of Portland's outstanding women, a pioneer in the field of hospital administration. She is a woman who cares a great deal . . . about medicine, the arts, and about people."

When Holladay Park Hospital (then called Hahnemann Hospital) opened its doors to Portlanders on May 15, 1934, Celia Bast had already been on the job for a year. By the time she retired in 1953, she and the Board of Trustees had established a clear direction for the hospital—a proud tradition of quality patient care, openness to medical innovation, and responsiveness to community needs—a tradition that continues to guide the hospital to this day.

As the hospital's first administrator, Celia Bast had the task of completely furnishing the hospital from kitchen to surgery on a budget of \$25,000. "Everything was the finest we could buy—and, because of the depression, everything was cheap. They were practically giving things away." She remembers purchasing Simmons mattresses, all-wool Pendleton blankets and Gorham silver for food service. She also recalls insisting that such utensils as bedpans and pitchers be made of stainless steel rather than enamelware, which was much less expensive but tended to chip easily. She laughingly recalls being teased about wanting "silver bedpans."

She also interviewed all the nursing applicants for the refurbished hospital, insisting that only registered nurses be hired. As was the custom then, the nurses lived at the hospital and were paid \$65.00 per month, plus room and board.

Mrs. Young says it was not at all unusual for a woman to be an administrator of a hospital at that time. In fact, because Oregon law then required that hospital administrators be registered nurses, all hospital administrators in the city were women.

## Diabetes Classes Slated

A series of Diabetes Education classes is planned Monday through Thursday, June 22-25, at Meridian Park Hospital, Tualatin.

Scheduled from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the hospital cafeteria conference room, the series is designed to teach diabetics the skills necessary to manage their illness, to help adapt these management skills into already-existing lifestyles, and to help set realistic goals for diabetes control.

Cost is \$110 per client, or \$27.50 per session, and with physician referral, is covered by Medicare and most major insurance carriers. Family members are welcome to attend at no additional charge.

This session is taught by hospital Diabetes Educator Cindi Ballas, R.N., Dietitian Martha Hirsch, R.D., Physical Therapist Pat Quintana, R.P.T., and Staff Physicians Kenneth Martin, M.D. and Donald Bouma, M.D.

Celia Bast grew up in Everett, Washington. She had planned to study pharmacy at the University of Washington, but when World War I intervened, she decided she could better serve her country by becoming a nurse. She graduated from the Good Samaritan School of Nursing in Portland in 1920.

But she never practiced nursing after graduation—"I just couldn't do it," she says. She credits Emily Loveridge, administrator of Good Samaritan when she was a nursing student, with recognizing that her talents lay elsewhere. Miss Loveridge gave certain students special responsibilities in the hospital and Celia Bast was one of those chosen. When she graduated, Miss Loveridge hired her as night superintendent of the hospital, a post she held for six years.

She was then offered an administrative position at the Portland Open Air Sanatorium, where tuberculosis patients were treated. After four years she had to resign this position when she developed lung problems herself. She did not work for about a year while she recovered her health.

While she was recuperating, Dr. John Besson, the secretary to the Board of Trustees of Hahnemann Hospital, came to her and asked her to look over the plans for completing the hospital. "I understood plans very well because my father was a building contractor—he would bring blueprints home and he taught me how to read them." After looking over the hospital blueprints, she told Dr. Besson that she felt the arrangement of the surgery was a mistake. Later, Dr. Besson told her that both he and the architect agreed, and so the plans were changed.

It was after this that Celia Bast was offered the position as administrator of the new hospital. She said she turned it down at first because she felt it was too much responsibility, but Dr. Besson insisted the board wanted her for the job. She finally acquiesced and was hired for \$125 a month.

Celia Bast continued as administrator of Holladay Park Hospital until 1953, when she resigned after 20 years of service. She explains that in 1952 money was raised for the new building—"I felt a new building should have a new administrator." But the hospital she helped to build will always have a special place in her heart and she has fond memories of its many accomplishments.

In 1982, Celia Bast Young was instrumental in organizing Holladay Park



Left to Right: Dr. Margit A. Jay, Celia Bast Young.

Medical Center's Foundation and served as the first President of the Board of Trustees. She continues to serve Holladay Park Medical Center today as a member of the Board of Trustees and as Chairperson of the Donor Recognition Committee of the Foundation Board.

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## NEWS

### OF SAFETY



These children are missing. They suddenly disappeared, just as more than 150,000 other children do each year. Some of these children are runaways. Others have been kidnapped by a parent. Many have been stolen to be abused, sold into prostitution, murdered. It could happen to your child. Take steps now to ensure your child's safety. One place to find out more is at your neighborhood pharmacy.

Till now, posters of missing children such as the one above have been hit or miss. They are plastered in bus stops by anguished parents or seen briefly on television...not given enough coverage or time for identification. Now such posters are displayed regularly at neighborhood pharmacies across the nation, places where almost everyone goes frequently. It's part of the Child Care program, created by the Society For Young Victims and sponsored by the Parke-Davis Division of Warner-Lambert Company.

Pharmacies participating in the program display a Child Care bulletin board with photos and descriptions of missing children, regularly up-dated. A toll-free hot-line number will be displayed that you can call if you think you recognize a child. Also featured are free booklets, with tips for parents and youngsters that can help prevent a kidnapping or child abuse.