

HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL NEWS

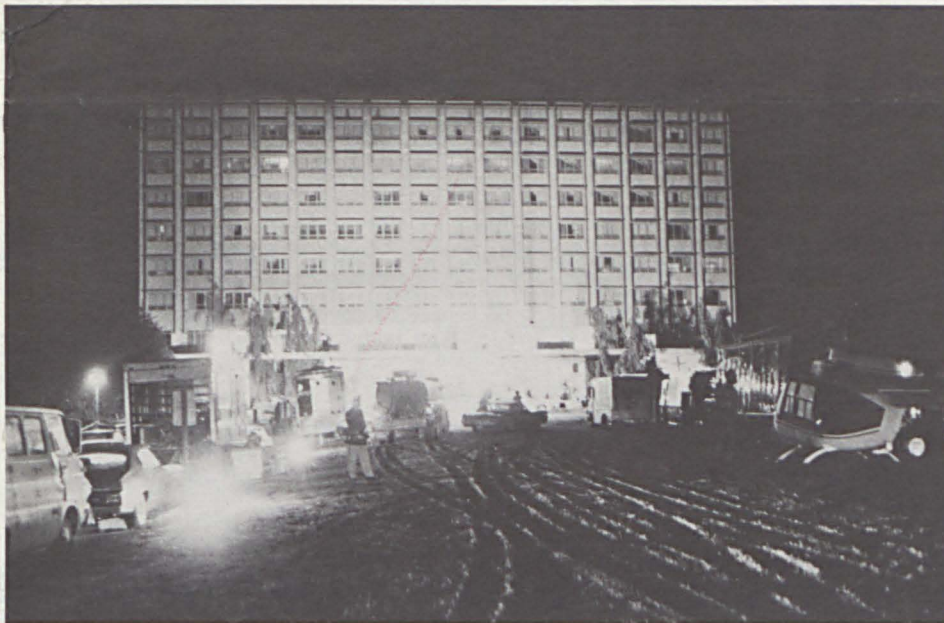
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SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

JUNE 1972

Our Finest Hour

Hospital Takes Crisis In Stride



Network TV camera crews with their big vans and portable generating equipment took over the mall in front of the hospital within an hour of Gov. Wallace's arrival. Two Maryland State Police-operated helicopters (one at right) also used the mall as a heliport.

Those early hours following the arrival of Governor Wallace in the Emergency Room can only be described as bedlam.

Perhaps the best analogy would be to compare those first frantic hours to a hurricane. Tremendous energies were unleashed as hundreds of people converged on the hospital within a short space of minutes. Yet, as in a hurricane, the eye of the storm, the ER, was a haven of relative calm as the professionals — the physicians and ER staff — went about the business of examining and providing emergency treatment to Gov. Wallace, Alabama State Police Capt. E. C. Dothard and Wallace supporter Mrs. Dora Thompson.

The eye of the hurricane, that

unique area of calmness and professionalism moved through the building as Gov. Wallace was wheeled to the Operating Room, where the "pros", the surgeons and the OR nursing staff, worked with quiet efficiency and deliberation.

Finally, in the early hours of the next morning, the calm "eye" of the storm settled in the Seventh Floor Intensive Care Unit where Gov. Wallace was moved for the long, slow recuperative process following almost five hours of surgery and four hours in the Recovery Room.

As Assistant Administrator Herbert H. Bell said the next morning:

"From the medical standpoint, the
WALLACE (Cont'd. on page 2)



Mrs. Wallace with her husband in the Intensive Care Unit.

Administrator's Message

Dear Employees, One and All:

My gratitude and pride know no bounds for your very fine performance during the emergency following the attempted assassination of Governor George Wallace of Alabama and his subsequent arrival at Holy Cross with the other victims of the shooting.

Your lightning-quick response to the need of the moment, and your courteous and gracious support in assisting in the handling of the many persons who came to our hospital that evening has brought much praise to Holy Cross. The kindness which you have continued to show the Wallace family and staff as well as the numerous security officers long will be remembered.

The Sisters of the Holy Cross, and the Board of Trustees extend our deepest gratitude to those of you who have had a part in the care of the Governor or the others injured in the tragic event and to all others who directly or indirectly have contributed to the uninterrupted high quality care to all our patients.

God bless you, one and all.

Sincerely,
Sister Helen Marie, C.S.C.
Administrator

WALLACE (Cont'd. from page 1)

hospital staff responded as it always does, doing the things that need to be done expertly and efficiently. It could have been just another shooting case insofar as the manner in which the medical care was provided."

Outside the ER, in the corridors, the parking lots, the hospital lobby, the front mall, and the second floor auditorium the full force of the "hurricane" was felt as perhaps upwards of 200 news media representatives gathered and began the frantic business of piecing together bits of information from assorted sources: the Wallace campaign staff, State Police, Prince Georges County Police, witnesses to the shooting who followed the Laurel Rescue Squad ambulance to the hospital and the VIP's who came in numbers as word of the assassination attempt was broadcast to a stunned and sympathetic world.

Administration's decision to set up a press center in the Boys Club of Silver Spring building just down Forest Glen Road from the hospital grew out of necessity — the need to restore order within and outside the building for the protection and well-being of all 340 patients.

The decision was vigorously contested at first, but with assurances from hospital administration that a timely and steady flow of medical data would be provided in the press center, including interviews with surgeons and medical consultants, the press corps made the move — amid a persistent, soaking rain.

The events of the days and weeks that followed have been well-chronicled by the ever-present TV and still cameras and the large number of "attending" writers who maintained a patient, sometimes fruitful, often boring vigil on the hospital's front steps.

What is clearly apparent to all who were close to the events from the first moment is that the entire hospital family rose to the occasion enabling all of us to say with conviction:

"This was, indeed, our finest hour."



Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel, State Police Superintendent Col. Thomas Smith and State Attorney General Francis Burch (l. to r.) were among those who briefed the press in the second floor auditorium.



Dr. Joseph F. Schanno, at microphone, and Dr. Joseph W. Peabody conduct the first full-scale medical briefing following surgery. This scene is in the Boys Club of Silver Spring building and shows only half of the huge crowd of news media representatives.



The entrance drive and front mall of the hospital became clogged with people and vehicles almost immediately.



President Nixon (above) and Vice President Agnew shown chatting with Sister Helen Marie, C.S.C., hospital administrator, were among the many national leaders who visited Governor Wallace.



Senator and Mrs. Ted Kennedy made an early Monday morning visit on May 29.



Hospital Board Chairman Judge John P. Moore arrived at the hospital within minutes of the first broadcast to assist Administration in dealing with the emergency conditions.

A Sampling Of Comments

Scores of letters and phone calls have been received at the hospital congratulating the entire staff for its performance during the hectic days following Gov. Wallace's arrival in the Emergency Room. A sampling of excerpts from some of the written communications follows:

"... I am proud of the manner in which all of you at Holy Cross Hospital responded at a time of great crisis not only from a professional point of view, but also from the broader perspective of extending solace and comfort to all of us who were involved by that senseless act."
Maryland Gov. Marvin Mandel

"I... empathize with you in regard to the privilege of taking care of Governor Wallace, recognizing the many administrative problems that must accompany the caring for an important public official. We are

proud that your hospital was selected to be of service in this most tragic event. From everything which I have read and seen on the news, all appears to have gone well as your staff must be performing capably."

**Sister Mary Maurita, RSM
 Executive Director
 Catholic Hospital Association**

"Special Agent Campbell... has advised that the gracious cooperation, courtesies and hospitality extended to him and his fellow Agents by you and your staff have been of immeasurable value in carrying out the responsibilities of this Bureau in the investigation in connection with the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace. Each of us in the FBI wishes to express our gratitude."

**L. Patrick Gray, III
 Acting Director, FBI**

"I am taking this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and respect for the efficient manner in

which the staff of Holy Cross Hospital conducted themselves following the tragic shooting of Governor George C. Wallace. From personal observation, it was clear that the efforts of the hospital staff in coordinating, cooperating and providing information to a concerned public forestalled what could have been a chaotic situation.

"I am sure that the pride I feel for Holy Cross Hospital is shared by all County citizens."

**James P. Gleason
 Montgomery County Executive**

"In your time of crisis, I am sure the success of your disaster program is tightly linked to the dedication of two exceptional Holy Cross men, Doctors Merrill Cross and Thomas Edison. I am sure they prepared all to rise to the occasion."

**John Cassidy, Jr.
 Former Director, Materials
 Management, HCH**

Consultant Study Begun In Hospital Departments

A consultant study designed to develop budgetary and performance levels for all hospital departments has been undertaken by Lybrand, Ross Bros. and Montgomery.

The firm earlier had performed similar studies for the nursing units in the hospital with excellent results.

Purpose of the program is to assist each department in achieving optimum service and operation. Administration and departmental supervisors will be able to utilize the data assembled to relate the work performed in a department to the personnel, equipment and space needs so that all activities required to provide the highest level of patient care is maintained.

The results of the study also will assist in the development of realistic and timely budget in formation.

Mrs. Shirley Nastick, R.N., of the Nursing Service Division, and Richard Huck, of the Personnel Department have been assigned to work with James McNally of the Lybrand firm in the development and implementation of the study.

Parttime nursing and college students will provide additional manpower during the summer months in order to expedite and conclude the program within the next 14 months.



Volunteer service awards were presented last month to (left to right) M. Esther Dean, 5,000 hours; Beatrice McCarthy, 2,000 hours; Helen Stack, Mary Curtin, Marie Grezzo, Helen McGinness, Maxine Tuve, Doris Hansen and Mary Barker, all with more than 200 hours; and Mrs. Anne Banville, 5,000 hours. Sister Helen Marie, C.S.C., administrator, presented the awards.

Volunteers Cited For Service to Hospital

In addition to the Volunteers photographed above, the following were cited for volunteer service to the hospital during the quarterly meeting of the Auxiliary last month:

Mary Louise Grimes and Linda Phillips — 2,000 hours; Mary R. Caw, Frances Dugan, Martha Fabey, Teresa E. Hallam and Betty McKain — 1,000 hours; Myrtle Esender, Pat Jones, Elaine Pellenberg, Doris

Smith and Carolyn Summer — 500 hours.

Also, Cathie Bruwelheide, Ruth Cass, Frances Collins, Mary Craig, Mary Higginson, Amelia S. Karam, Margaret Long, Sally McGrail, Elaine Pollin, Clarissa Reifentuhl, Eunice Shea, Julia T. Smith, Alice Stephenson, Vickis Trisansky, June Vaughan, Eileen Weber, Dorothea Welch, Betty Widmayer and Betty Yurow, all with 200 to 500 hours.



**HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL
OF SILVER SPRING**
1500 Forest Glen Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910