

## HAND CENTER DEDICATED



Dr. Brand explains the intricate functions of man's magnificent tool: the hand.

Dedication ceremonies for the Rehabilitation Unit of UMH's Raymond M. Curtis Hand Center were held on Thursday, June 8, at 4 p.m.

The new Rehabilitation Unit was made possible by a \$300,000 gift from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Heather.

Over 200 guests attended the standing-room-only ceremony held in the Rehab Unit of the Center which opened in January. Hand surgeons at UMH perform over 1200 hand operations a year; approximately 25 percent are "acute emergencies." Following surgery, intensive rehabilitation therapy helps the patient regain as much use as possible of the injured part.

Charles D. Jenkins, UMH President, opened the ceremony by welcoming everyone to UMH on such a special day and introduced Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mrs. Robert D. H. Harvey. Mrs. Harvey expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Curtis, the Hand Surgeons at UMH, the Chiefs of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy and their staffs for the excellent work they are doing in the rehabilitation of injured hand patients. She also thanked Mr. and Mrs. Heather for making the Center possible.

After Mrs. Harvey spoke, Dr. Raymond M. Curtis, Chief of the Hand Center, explained the



Mrs. Robert D. H. Harvey, (left) Chairman of the Board, presents a photo album of the Center to Mr. and Mrs. Heather.

growth of hand surgery and introduced the featured speaker.

Featured speaker for the dedication was the world-renowned specialist in hand rehabilitation, Paul W. Brand, F.R.C.S. Dr. Brand is the Chief of Rehabilitation Branch at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Carville, Louisiana, the only leprosy hospital in the continental United States. Dr. Brand has an extensive background in the rehabilitation of leprosy sufferers: helping to restore them to a useful life.

In 1946, Dr. Brand traveled to India to teach surgery at Christian Medical College. He became Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and specialized in hand reconstruction with his main research interest centered on reconstruction of healed leprosy patients. He is the first surgeon in the world to demonstrate the feasibility of prevention and correction of leprosy deformities. He was Director of Orthopaedic Surgery to the Leprosy Mission and Consultant to the American Leprosy Missions.

Following the ceremony a reception was held for the guests. Members of the UMH Auxiliary served as hostesses, and the food was prepared by the Dietary Department.

The decorations included an ice sculpture of a hand and magnificent food display.

## Students Visit UMH

On Friday, January 27, 1978, 18 seventh grade students from the Gilman School visited UMH and the Raymond M. Curtis Hand Center. Dr. E. F. Shaw Wilgis explained to the students the procedure for protecting a severed finger or hand and how hand microsurgery is performed. The students toured the microsurgical lab, the Rehabilitation Unit and other areas of the hospital. After their 2½ hour tour, the boys had lunch in the Cafeteria and then returned to Gilman.



During February a group of high school students from St. Paul School also were given a tour of the Hand Center Units by Dr. Wilgis. The students viewed most of the same areas as the Gilman students and had the opportunity to view a video-taped surgery. Dr. Wilgis demonstrated the technique of suturing under a microscope which is easy to watch but difficult to perform.

All of the students expressed great interest in hospital procedures and were disappointed that they couldn't spend more time at UMH learning and enjoying other new experiences.

## Hand Media Library at UMH

The American Society for Surgery of the Hand has designated The Union Memorial Hospital as the home of its Media Library.

The Library provides a central source for sharing videotaped lectures, observations of surgical and microsurgical procedures, rehabilitation techniques, social work practices and patient education for the physician, nurse, physical and occupational therapist, social worker and patient. The Library includes taped lectures from some of the foremost specialists in the field of microsurgery and hand surgery. Eight of the eleven tapes now in use were produced by Union Memorial using the facilities of the Catonsville Community College. Five additional topics are being planned for production in the next three months.

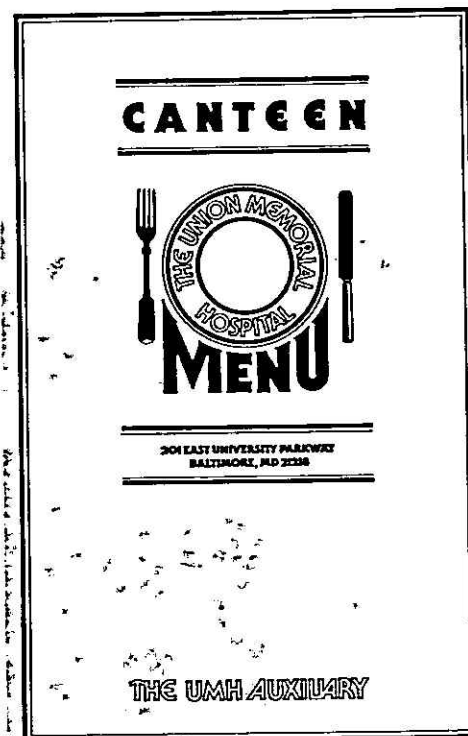
The Union Memorial, the only distribution point for the Hand Surgery tapes, has sent tapes throughout the United States and abroad. Dr. Raymond M. Curtis is the program coordinator for The American Society for Surgery of the Hand.



J. William Littler, M.D., Attending Surgeon at Roosevelt Hospital in New York City, was at UMH recently to lecture and record a video-taped presentation for The American Society for Surgery of the Hand. The tape was entitled "On Making a Thumb: One Hundred Years of Surgical Effort." UMH is the media library for the Society, and taped presentations from UMH are distributed throughout the world.

## Canteen Delights

The Canteen menus have been revised to coordinate with the new furniture. They now have an attractive green cover and green parchment menu with an enlarged list of sandwiches as well as an expanded breakfast selection. Patrons are asked to write their choice and table number on a guest check and give it to the waitress.



Ice cream and milk shakes will soon be available in the canteen. The Auxiliary Board authorized the purchase of a condenser for the freezer, and it will be installed in the near future. Located in the North Building, the Canteen is open to the public.

# INTERCOM FEATURE

## Hand Trauma Rehabilitation Unit Opens

The special Rehabilitation Unit of The Raymond M. Curtis Hand Center recently opened in UMH's South Building. The Hand Center consists of three units: the acute trauma unit, a microsurgical laboratory and the newly opened Rehabilitation Unit.

The acute trauma unit is staffed by specialists in Hand Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery, General and Vascular Surgery. These specialists provide the most advanced type of treatment available. Microsurgical teams can repair and replant cleanly amputated extremities or digits or re-establish circulation to an injured extremity.

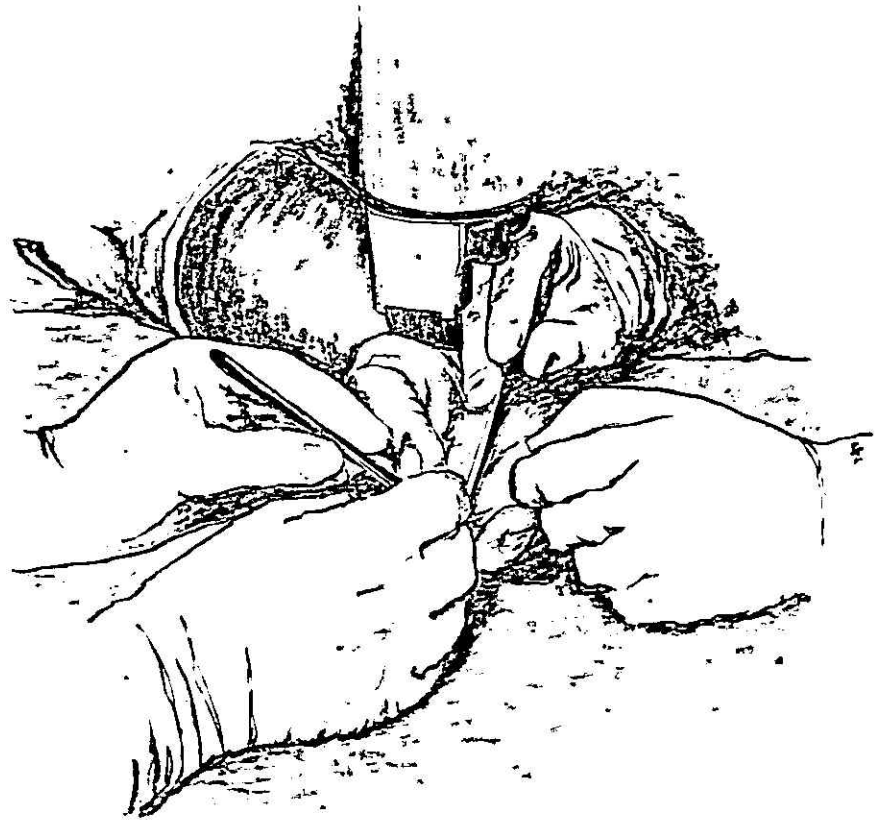
Completely severed hands or fingers usually regain at least 60 percent of their usefulness if the patient and the cleanly severed parts arrive at the Center in time. Without chilling, severed hands and fingers can be replanted within several hours; however, with the proper refrigeration techniques, a twelve-hour delay is possible.

Most hand injuries treated at the Center are the result of accidents with power saws, lawn mowers or other machines that can cut, crush or break hands.

Hand surgeons at Union Memorial perform over 1200 hand operations a year; about one-fourth are "acute emergencies," and the remainder are follow-up reconstructive surgery.

Following initial surgery the patient begins physical and occupational therapy to help him return to a normal lifestyle in the special Rehabilitation Unit of the Hand Trauma Center. The Unit consists of physical therapy and occupational therapy departments. The Unit includes whirlpool baths, a splint and bandage area, P.T.-O.T. Suite, a therapeutic recreation area and a heavy-duty workshop. Certain features of the Unit have been designed by the architect to meet the needs of specialized hand cases.

The human hand has enabled man to set himself apart from all other creatures. This fact, coupled with his concern for economic loss or his contribution to society, explains the psychological disturbances associated with crippling hand injuries. For this reason the Social



Work Department plays an integral part of the organizational structuring of the unit helping the patient and family deal with this traumatic experience.

When patients with this type of injury are brought together for therapy under the direction of the Hand Social Worker each motivates the other toward regaining hand function. This greatly decreases the period of disability and loss of time from work.

Recent advances in the replanting of amputated parts of the hand and extremities as well as nerves and tendons have stimulated the use of microsurgical techniques for this type of surgery. Since the surgical teams of doctors, nurses and technicians are not performing such procedures daily, a microsurgical laboratory is available where the techniques of repairing these minute structures can be practiced as often as deemed desirable.

The establishment of this specialized regional referral center for the care of hand injuries to serve a large population area makes it possible to supplement the facilities of the Emergency Medical Service (DEMS).

Working with the Hand Center, the only one of its kind in this part of the country, DEMS has developed protocols for the preparation of the patient and/or his severed part, as well as transportation

arrangements. These protocols have been distributed to hospitals and ambulance companies throughout the State. Ambulance crews throughout the four-state area served by the emergency medical system have been instructed to wrap severed arms, hands, fingers and other parts in gauze and place them in a plastic bag. Put ice or another coolant in a separate water-tight container and place the ice and part together in a third container with the ice on the bottom. Ice or ice water should not touch the tissue.

The establishment of this specialized regional referral center for hand injuries and its incorporation within the DEMS system has enlarged the options for specialized care presently offered through the neo-natal programs at the University of Maryland Hospital and Baltimore City Hospitals, the pediatric trauma center at the Johns Hopkins University, the burn care facilities at Baltimore City Hospitals and the adult trauma unit at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medicine. In addition, it is consistent with the basic philosophy of the Maryland Emergency Medical Services System, e.g., "to assure every citizen the right to the best emergency medical care that science can provide, regardless of the type of illness or injury, its severity, the citizen's personal circumstances or his geographical location."

NEW SPECIALTY REFERRAL CENTER ANNOUNCED

M/R final copy  
approved by  
RAC & Dr Yeager  
HEC  
10/17

The Union Memorial Hospital Raymond M. Curtis Hand Center has been established, according to George H. Yeager, M.D., President of The Union Memorial Hospital. The only one of its kind in this part of the country, the Center will serve as a specialty referral center for the Division of Emergency Medical Services. Working with the Center, DEMS is now in the process of developing protocols for the preparation of the patient and/or his severed part, as well as transportation arrangements, which will be distributed to hospitals and ambulance companies throughout the State.

This new specialty center is to consist of three units; the acute trauma unit, a microsurgical laboratory and an extended care facility which will contain special facilities and therapists specializing in the care of injuries of the hand and upper extremity. Comparable functioning centers are located in Durham, North Carolina (Duke Medical Center), and Louisville, Kentucky (University of Louisville affiliated Hospitals).

The acute trauma unit will be staffed by specialists in Hand Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Vascular Surgery. These specialists will provide the most advanced type of treatment. Microsurgical teams, are available for the re-implantation of an amputated extremity or digit or the re-establishment of circulation to an injured extremity.

A specialized care facility consisting of ten beds to which patients can be transferred from the acute general hospital following their acute treatment is being established. This unit will be separate from the general hospital Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Departments. Special therapeutic facilities will be concentrated in this unit as well as light and heavy duty workshops to retrain the impaired hand.



The human hand has enabled man to set himself apart from all other creatures. This fact, coupled with his concern for economic loss or his contribution to society, explains the psychological disturbances associated with crippling hand injuries. For this reason the Social Work Department will be an integral part of the organizational structuring of the unit.

When patients with this type of injury are brought together for therapy each one motivates the other toward regaining hand function. This greatly decreases the period of disability and loss of time from work.

Recent advances in the re-implantation of amputated parts of the hand and extremities as well as nerves and tendons have stimulated the use of microsurgical techniques for this type of surgery. Since the surgical teams of doctors, nurses and technicians are not performing such procedures daily, a microsurgical laboratory is available where the techniques of repairing these minute structures can be practiced as often as deemed desirable.

The establishment of this specialized regional referral center for hand injuries and its incorporation within the EMS system will enlarge the options for specialized care presently offered through the neo-natal programs at University Hospital and Baltimore City Hospitals, the pediatric trauma center at the Johns Hopkins University, the burn care facilities at Baltimore City Hospitals and the adult trauma unit at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medicine. In addition it is consistent with the basic philosophy of the Maryland Emergency Medical Services System, e.g., "to assure every citizen the right to the best emergency medical care that science can provide, regardless of the type of illness or injury, its severity, the citizen's personal circumstances or his geographical location".

The need for quality care for hand injuries can be readily understood when we realize the magnitude of these emergencies. In 1969 there were 2,200,000 work related injuries in the United States and approximately one-third of these involved the upper extremity. If we add to this the non-industrial injuries, it can be estimated that there were 1,000,000 patients requiring primary surgical treatment for upper extremity injuries in that year.

The Center is to be a major teaching unit where residents and other physicians at a postgraduate level will be given an opportunity for training in this sub-specialty of surgery. A few Fellowships are available to general surgeons, orthopedic surgeons and plastic surgeons who have a great interest in this special area of surgery.

# THE UNION MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

## NEWS

for immediate release

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& Public Information  
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Baltimore, Maryland 21218  
235-7200, Extension 2266

## NEW SPECIALTY REFERRAL CENTER ANNOUNCED

The Raymond M. Curtis, M.D., Hand Center <sup>has been</sup> ~~is being~~ established at The Union Memorial Hospital, according to George H. Yeager, M.D., President of Union Memorial. The Center ~~will be incorporated into~~ is to serve as a specialty referral center for the Division of Emergency Medical Services and is the only one of its kind in Maryland.

This center ~~is to~~ consist of three units; the acute trauma unit, a microsurgical laboratory and an extended care facility which will contain special facilities and therapists specializing in the care of injuries of the hand and upper extremity. Comparable functioning centers are located in Durham, North Carolina (Duke Medical Center), and Louisville, Kentucky (University of Louisville affiliated Hospitals).

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MORE

training procedures etc will be worked out

Dr. C. verification needed before pub.  
(SK)

4200 characters room for 4600

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pediatric trauma,

The establishment of this specialized regional referral center for the care of hand injuries ~~to serve a large population area makes it possible to~~ <sup>will complement existing</sup> supplement the facilities of the <sup>neo-natal,</sup> ~~Emergency Medical Services~~ <sup>adult trauma and burn centers.</sup> This is feasible since it has been

shown that several hours delay will not materially jeopardize the outcome of the injured hand, provided special care is taken of the patient and the injured or amputated part. In addition it is consistent with the basic philosophy of the Maryland Emergency Medical Services System, e.g., "to assure every citizen the right to the best emergency medical care that science can provide, regardless of the type of illness or injury, its severity, the citizen's personal circumstances or his geographical location".

The concept of Regional Hand Trauma Centers for the treatment of the upper extremity injuries was established during World War II in the nine Army Hand Centers under Dr. Sterling Bunnell. These Centers greatly influenced the overall care of the injured hand throughout the world and lead to the establishment of such regional centers for hand trauma and re-implantation of amputated limbs and digits in several European and Asian countries, such as the very advanced Hand Centers in Sweden and the Re-Implantation Centers in China.

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MORE



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who have suff  
pats w/ sev. multiple inj trauma & who  
also have have mangled hands, pat will  
be adm to MIEM where consult. will  
be prov by hand center, as to fut  
defin. care / children

patients who do not have sev mult  
trauma but <sup>finger, hand arm</sup> who have suff. severe  
hand injury will be flown trans  
by MSP helicopter if that is approp  
to MIEM heliport & where patient  
will be met by ambo & transp  
directly to Un. Mem - Access to  
transport system will be made  
in routine usual manner by  
calling 545COM no ~~Regor~~  
~~3~~ transcripts may be by ambo  
and coordination by EMRC -

for adults & children

Ed. Note. Specialty Centers unique to Md -  
Opening of new hand center another addition  
to development of spec center conc &  
Most people have to be flown to  
distant places, initiatv. taken w/in our  
I by far-sighted indiv to provide  
this type of care not only for



PROCEDURES

for transfer of patients

~~with amputated~~

Adult

Patients who have suffered severe multiple trauma, and who also have, an amputated

suffered

digit or hand will be transported to, and admitted to, the Maryland Institute for Emergency

Medicine (MIEM), where consultation will be provided by the Hand Center regarding definitive care, <sup>and future therapy</sup> Juvenile patients with severe multiple trauma, <sup>who also have suffered an amputated hand or digit,</sup> will be transported to the

Johns Hopkins Pediatric Trauma Unit, where again, consultation will be provided by

the Hand Center physicians.

Adult and juvenile

Patients who are not suffering from ~~severe~~ multiple trauma, but who have suffered

severe hand injuries will be transported by Maryland State Police helicopter, where

this mode of transportation is appropriate and available, to the MIEM heliport, with

immediate land ambulance <sup>transfer</sup> ~~transportation~~ to Union Memorial. SYSCOM will coordinate

such requests in the usual manner. Within the local metropolitan <sup>Baltimore</sup> area, ambulance

transportation ~~may be provided directly~~ <sup>the</sup> to Union Memorial, <sup>Emergency Department</sup> by the EMRC in coordination

~~with SYSCOM.~~ may be coordinated by the EMRC and SYSCOM.





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# Maryland

# Briefs

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## City Man \$50,000 Winner

George M. Stitzel of Baltimore last week won the state lottery's top prize of \$50,000. Other local winners were \$5,000, James A. Jenkins and James R. Blackiston, both of Baltimore; \$1,000, James McLaughlin, Roy C. Kroh, Tennie T. Glass, Dorothy C. Holland, Elon Cousar, Jr., Wally J. Ward, Steve A. Nagrabski and Mark Lubinski of Baltimore; William R. Hanzlik, Jr., Edgewood; Milton J. Iampieri, Ellicott City; Sam L. Stricklen, Salisbury; and Phyllis G. Zepp, Laurel.

## Hand Center Given Grant

A grant of \$300,000 has been given to the Raymond M. Curtis Hand Center of the Union Memorial Hospital by Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Heather. Under the direction of Dr. Raymond M. Curtis, the hand service at Union Memorial offers the reimplantation of amputated digits by microsurgical techniques as well as occupational and physical therapy help for hand-injured patients. Mr. Heather is the retired chairman of the board of Peterson, Howell & Heather; his wife, Louise, is a former Union Memorial Hospital nurse. The grant will further the continued development of the hand surgery center.