NIH TO ADD 500 PARKING SPACES

Additional parking spaces for 500 cars in six areas on the reservation will be available early next spring, according to C. W. May, BMB Chief. Site planning and specifications have been completed, and the contract will be awarded by the Public Buildings Service within a few weeks.

During the past two months, existing parking facilities have become acutely inadequate. This has resulted from the increase in personnel, an exceptional rise in the number of visitors, and some unexpected increase in the number of employees who drive their own cars rather than ride in car pools or use public transportation. Recent checks reveal that over 1,860 cars now park daily at NIH. It is expected that the new areas, adding over 25 percent more space, will alleviate the parking problem both for employees and visitors.

Four new parking areas will be built near the Clinical Center for employee use. Between the west end of the CC and the convent property, there will be permanent parking for 162 cars. Across Road A and west of the apartment building, a 35-car lot for employees is also planned. One existing lot in front and to the west of the main entrance to the CC will be expanded for 17 more cars. Construction of a new parking area south of and parallel to Road B will provide 116 spaces convenient for employees in Buildings 5, 7, T-10, and the east wings of the CC. The present baseball backstop will be moved about 50 feet south in order to accommodate the new parking spaces.

Additional space for 67 cars in the rear of the apartment building will service tenants and their visitors. A special parking area holding 98 cars (See Parking Spaces, Page 3)

XMAS PROGRAM IS SET FOR DEC. 23

All employees are invited to attend the annual Christmas program, to be held in the Clinical Center Auditorium on Thursday, December 23, at 11:00 a.m. The program will feature caroling by the NIH Choral Group, under the direction of Mr. John Bullough. Dr. Sebrell will give his Christmas greeting and the program will close with community singing.

The Recreation and Welfare Association is assisting NIH in presenting the program.

DR. SABIN TO SPEAK AT NIH DECEMBER 16

Dr. Albert B. Sabin, Professor of Research Pediatrics, College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, will deliver the annual NMI lecture December 16, at 8:00 p.m., in the Clinical Center Auditorium. This is the seventh of the 1954 guest lecture series. All interested NIH scientific personnel are invited.

A specialist in virus diseases affecting the nervous system, Dr. Sabin will discuss "Avirulent Strains of Poliomyelitis Virus--Segregation, Characterization, Role in Nature, and Potential Usefulness for Human Immunization."

After receiving his M.D. from New York University, Dr. Sabin joined the staff of Bellevue Hospital, New York, and two years later accepted a fellowship at Lister Institute, London, England. He served as Scientific Staff Associate for Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research before joining the University of Cincinnati. For several years he was a consultant to the PHS Communicable Disease Center.

Dr. Sabin is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Pediatric Society.
Absorption and Secretion of Drugs by the Gastrointestinal Tract

No. 130 in a Series

Mr. Parkhurst A. Shore prepares a rat for the gastric absorption study.

Many drugs have only limited usefulness because of their poor absorption from the gastrointestinal tract. A knowledge of the mechanism of drug absorption would be of great help in the development of better drugs.

Studies on drug absorption are being conducted in NHI's Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology by Dr. Bernard B. Brodie and Parkhurst A. Shore, in collaboration with Dr. C. Adrian M. Hogben of NHI's Laboratory of Kidney and Electrolyte Metabolism.

The studies originated with the observation that a synthetic opiate, Dormoran, when administered parenterally, appeared in the gastric juice in high concentration. These studies were extended to a variety of drugs, using dogs with a Heidenhain stomach pouch. It was found that basic drugs were concentrated in the gastric juice, while neutral and acidic drugs appeared in only low concentrations, if at all. The phenomenon could be explained by assuming that the stomach membrane acts as an oily barrier between the blood and the stomach interior, and that only un-ionized drugs can pass this barrier.

In studying the absorption of drugs from the stomach into the blood, it was found that acids and neutral compounds were absorbed readily, as a rule, from the secreting stomach, whereas alkaloids were not. In these experiments, rats with their stomachs clamped off from the rest of the gastrointestinal tract were used. Various drugs, such as salicylates, acetanilide, quinine, barbiturates, and narcotics were placed in the stomach, and, after one hour, the drug remaining in the stomach was analyzed. Based on the conclusions reached in this experiment, it is suggested that the acidic or basic nature of a drug may influence its rapidity of action when given orally.

The results of this study point again to the idea of the stomach lining being an oily or lipoid membrane between blood and gastric lumen. Since acids are not ionized in an acid medium, they can penetrate the oil, whereas the ionized bases are not soluble in the oil. This concept of gastric absorption of drugs is of interest because it has been the practice in the past not to consider the stomach as an important possible site of drug absorption.

At present, experiments are under way in an attempt to determine what factors are important in the absorption of drugs by the intestines.

Here and There

Decorations Needed

Decorations for the patients' Christmas trees are still needed, and contributions will be gratefully accepted. If you have any ornaments you can donate, please call June Mazer, ext. 3121.

PHS Group Meets

The annual meeting of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers of PHS was held in Washington last week. Over 100 members met at NIH December 9.

Saturday Hours

The Barber Shop and the Beauty Shop in the Clinical Center will now be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Appointments may be made by calling ext. 2765.

Toys for Tots

The Marine Corps Reserve is again sponsoring the annual "Toys for Tots" drive from November 1 through December 22. Toys collected during the drive are given to various welfare agencies in the area for distribution to needy children on Christmas. Any new, used, or repairable toys which you may care to donate should be taken to the collection boxes in Buildings 1, 13, and T-6.

S-D Day

Oveta Culp Hobby, DHEW Secretary, has asked all NIH employees to participate in the nationwide observance of "Safe-Driving Day" on December 15. Sponsored by the President's Action Committee for Traffic Safety, it is a day to demonstrate that traffic accidents can be materially reduced when each motorist and pedestrian observes the letter and spirit of all traffic regulations. The goal of S-D Day is for every community to go accident-free for the 24-hour period of December 15.
G. A. WILBUR NAMED PERSONNEL OFFICER

The appointment of Glenmore A. Wilbur as NIH Personnel Officer was made effective November 22. He has been serving in an acting capacity for the past year and has been Assistant Personnel Officer since joining NIH in January 1948.

A native of Sedro Woolley, Washington, Mr. Wilbur has 15 years of government experience. He has held Personnel Officer positions in the Navy Department, Bureau of Aeronautics; Office of Scientific Research and Development; and the Farm Credit Administration. As a naval officer during World War II, he was assigned to personnel and classification.

PARKING SPACES Cont'd

will be built between the apartment building and West Drive, with an entrance on Road A in front of the CC. This space will be available only for NIH visitors, night duty staff, and errand stops with official or personal cars. A dangerous traffic obstacle will be minimized by widening West Drive at the intersection of A Road to provide a "pull-off" stopping lane for loading and discharging passengers.

Employees are reminded that all cars entitled to park regularly on the NIH grounds must display the NIH tag. This can be obtained at the Guard Office, Building 1, Room 119.

M. F. GETTINGS, NIH, RECEIVES CASH AWARD

Mrs. Mildred F. Gettings, NIH, received a $20 cash award November 26 for her suggestion recommending periodic and final audits of Commissioned Officer leave records. Dr. Robert W. Berliner, NIH Associate Director in Charge of Research, presented the award. Mrs. Gettings is secretary to James F. Monahan, Administrative Officer for the research activities of NIH.

HOLIDAYS

In accordance with the President's Executive Order concerning the Christmas and New Year holidays, NIH will be closed for business December 24. On December 31 employees will be excused at 12:30 p.m.

NIH Spotlight

Being "normal" has been a full-time occupation for Bill Miller, who has now completed almost seven months as a volunteer patient in the Clinical Center. Bill is one of a group of twenty young men and women who have served as normal volunteers as a part of the public service program of the National Board of Religious Objectors.

A member of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Bill started his public service in September 1953, when he entered the Church of the Brethren's Volunteer Service Training program in New Windsor, Md. His first assignment took him to Castaner, Puerto Rico, where he worked in a community recreation center. After hearing about NIH from a friend serving here, he returned to the States and reported at the Clinical Center in May 1954.

For the first few months, Bill participated in a nutrition study which required him to eat four bowls of enriched rice with fruit and tea each day for six weeks. At the end of each week, the volunteers were given basal metabolism and blood tests. In another study, Bill received daily injections of cortisone and ACTH while on low- and high-sodium diets, to determine the effect of these substances on the sodium-retaining hormones produced by the body.

Tall and soft-spoken, Bill was born in Baltimore, Md., 26 years ago. He attended the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and worked for two years following his graduation as a draftsman for an air-conditioning firm. During this period, he attended the Quaker Institute for International Relations and became interested in peace church work. Setting his sights on becoming a high-school science teacher, he enrolled for a four-year course at State Teachers' College in Towson, Md. After his graduation, Bill was called into service.

During his stay in the Clinical Center, he has been able to take a course in the NIH Graduate School, which he hopes will help him when he starts his teaching career. Bill and his friends are kept busy with a variety of activities. His favorites are model-airplane building and basketball. He has appeared in two of the plays produced by the patients' theatrical group, and has written articles for the patient newspaper. On weekends, he attends church in Bethesda, and occasionally goes home to visit his family.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH NOTES

Although the death rate from tuberculosis has been reduced considerably in the past 30 years, control of existing sources of infection remains a real problem.

Many persons have healed or arrested tuberculosis, often unknown until a routine chest X-ray is obtained, and they run the risk of breakdown or reinfection at any time. Such individuals, as well as contacts to active cases, should have periodic chest X-rays. In addition, employees exposed to tuberculosis in their work should obtain periodic chest X-rays.

Because of the number of employees on the periodic chest X-ray list, it has become impossible to continue the practice of telephone reminders. Instead, a system has been inaugurated, utilizing appointment slips sent to an employee through his supervisor. All employees on the periodic list are urged to report promptly to the X-ray Department at the scheduled time of their appointments.

Anyone not on the list who feels he should be may call the Employee Health Service. Employees working with monkeys are particularly cautioned to receive periodic chest X-rays. Monkeys are an extremely serious source of tuberculosis infection because of the rapidly progressive, fulminating type of disease they contract, and because of the difficulty in maintaining sanitary living conditions in their quarters.
**SCENES FROM THE HAMSTERS’ PRODUCTION OF “OKLAHOMA!”**

Ruth Rea and Marty Bacon in the dream ballet from the production, which was given in the Clinical Center Auditorium on December 1, 2, and 3.

Aunt Eller (George Ann Johnson, right) speeds Laurey (Rosalie Kasabo) and Curly (Erv Liljegren) on their honeymoon.

Jud Fry (Murray Getz) sings "Lonely Room."

Ali Hakim (Joel Vernick) peddles his wares to Ado Annie (Carolyn Smith), Laurey, and Aunt Eller.

The Oklahomans gather for the box supper auction.

Will Parker (John Clausen) proposes again to Ado Annie.