Myra Embrey, NCI, Is Chosen Miss NIH

The judges and finalists pose with Miss NIH, Myra Embrey of NCI (center). Results of the judging were announced in a short ceremony in Wilson Hall, on October 27. From left to right are Brooke Johns, radio personality and former vaudeville star, Mrs. Morris Cafritz, prominent Washington hostess, both judges; Joan Perrell, Miss DRG; Beatrice Stream, Miss OD (BMB); Miss NIH; Patricia Kelly, Miss CC; Mary Ellen Bonifant, Miss NIH; and Al Ross, NBC radio and TV star, also a judge. The beauty contest was sponsored by R & W.

PERSONNEL GROUP CITED BY NIH AWARDS BOARD

Seven employees of the Personnel Branch's Appointments and Records Section shared a $500 cash award for superior work performance in a ceremony held November 1 in Wilson Hall. This sum represented the largest group award made in fiscal 1956 under the revised Incentive Awards Program.

Speakers at the ceremony were Albert F. Siepert, NIH Executive Officer; R. H. Henschel, Assistant Executive Officer; Scott Adams, Board on Employee Awards Chairman; and G. A. Wilbur, Personnel Officer, who also presented checks to the individuals.

BJORN EGEI RECEIVES COMMISSION FOR SEBRELL PORTRAIT

One of the Nation's outstanding artists, Mr. Bjorn Egeli, has been commissioned to paint the portrait of Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Jr., former NIH Director. Funds for the portrait were obtained from employee contributions. The painting will complete the collection of portraits of past NIH Directors in Wilson Hall.

Mr. Egeli will go to Dr. Sebrell's Manhasset, Long Island, home on November 19 to start work on the portrait.

A native of Norway, Mr. Egeli received his training at Miller Art (See Awards, Page 4) (See Egeli, Page 4)
NMI biologist Clara Horton, left, distributes cells, making new cultures, while Mina Levy, bacteriologist, refeds old cultures, in studies on nutrition requirements of mammalian cells.

Cellular changes resulting from a specifically deficient diet can be observed microscopically for the first time, according to findings by NMI investigators.

Studies on growth and multiplication of normal and malignant mammalian cells in tissue culture have been undertaken by Dr. Harry Eagle in the Section on Experimental Therapeutics, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases. Others assisting in this project are Clara L. Horton, Mina Levy, Vance I. Oyama, Ralph Fleischman, Aaron Freeman.

A number of cell lines have been under study, in particular, the single cell line of mouse fibroblasts (strain L) and a human uterine carcinoma cell (strain HeLa). It was found that these two cell lines could be propagated in a medium consisting of a small amount of serum protein, the latter supplied as dialyzed horse or human serum. This medium was found to be the missing component for the growth of both cell lines—choline, folic acid, niacinamide, pantothenate, pyrodoxal, riboflavin, and thiamine. When any one essential amino acid was omitted from the medium, degenerative changes developed after five to fifteen days, and the cells eventually died.

To date, seven vitamins have similarly proved essential for the growth of both cell lines—choline, folic acid, niacinamide, pantothenate, pyrodoxal, riboflavin, and thiamine. When any one of these vitamins was omitted from the medium, degenerative changes developed after five to fifteen days, and the cells eventually died.

Growth Requirements of Mammalian Cells
No. 151 in a Series

Both the amino acid and vitamin deficiencies could be "cured" when the missing component was restored to the medium. The function of the small amount of serum protein that must be added to the medium is under study, as are the nutritional requirements for the propagation of viruses by the cells.

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Publication Preview

The following manuscripts were received by SRB Editorial Section between October 1 and 11:


Axelrod, Julius. Cellular mechanisms in the metabolism of narcotic drugs.

Brodie, Bernard B., et al. Evidence that serotonin has a role in brain function.

Brown, Murray C. (c) The use of television by the biological research organization—pilot study.

Buck, John, et al. Disparate O2 and CO2 transfer rates in insect respiration.


Goffman, Erving. Notes on deference and denouement in a mental hospital setting.

Helpert, Harold P. Information services on mental health problems of later life.

Hayaishi, Osamu. An experiment describing C14O2 fixation by a microorganism.

Hatt, Howard H., et al. Dietary requirements in a strain of Alcaligenes hermannii.


Jellison, William L. On the nomenclature of Besnoitia besnoiti, a protozoan parasite.

Jones, Jack Colvard. Comparative anatomy of the heart: man and selected animals. Anatomy of the insect heart.

Kohls, Glen M. Concerning the identity of Amblyommata visible.


Leighton, Joseph, et al. Spontaneous transformation of a strain of normal human fibroblasts into histologically malignant tissue in sponge matrix tissue culture.

Lépine, P., et al. Étude morphologique de la cellule polynucléaire au stade initial de l'infection.


Russel, A. L. Longitudinal techniques in the study of oral disease.


Shirk, Michael B. Hormones and neoplasia.


Stassen, DeWitt, Jr., et al. The metabolism of the adrenal gland of organ in the intact rat.
Coronary heart disease, the underlying cause of coronary thrombosis, or more commonly called "heart attack," results from thickening and hardening of the walls of the coronary arteries—a network of arteries attached to and surrounding the outer surface of the heart. Scientists at NIH and throughout the world are attempting to learn the nature of this hardening process, technically called atherosclerosis.

But now, even before all the answers are known, the picture is far from discouraging. Much can be done in treatment and prevention of coronary heart disease. Periodic physical examinations provide one opportunity to uncover early signs and symptoms, but cannot be relied upon in all cases.

Completely effective prevention must await more scientific understanding of the disease. However, moderation in all things is good common-sense advice. Eat sensibly—a well-balanced diet—and avoid becoming overweight. Get regular rest; avoid worry, fear, and anger. Cultivate a serene way of life; and above all, see your personal physician at once if you have any suspicions or fears of having coronary heart disease. Chances are you will be given a clean bill of health, for very few cases of chest pain are related to the heart. Eliminating early a fear of heart trouble may in itself actually help prevent true heart disease in the future.

**Group Hospitalization Treasurer Jobs Open**

Several openings are available for hospitalization treasurers, particularly in Bldg. 10. Employees interested in collecting and transmitting group payments are urged to get their supervisors' approval, and contact Mrs. Dorothy Wipf, ext. 2454.

Few diseases stir up as much public interest as cancer. At NCI, approximately 250 inquiries are received each month from individuals and groups not only in this country but all over the world. Most of these inquiries—both letters and phone calls—are referred to capable, soft-spoken Becky Speicher, of the NCI Cancer Reports Section.

While much of her time is spent answering requests for information about new treatments and tests for cancer, Becky reports that many people write in to offer varied and often bizarre "cures" for the disease. In answering the inquiries, she may have to do some research of her own into literature, or consult with other NCI staff members before drafting a reply.

Becky has been at NIH since 1946, when she came as a secretary in the NCI administrative office. Before assuming her present job, she fell heir to a variety of assignments, including assistance on setting up of the cancer reference file, now a valuable source of information for the entire Institute. She gradually worked into answering public inquiries, and that has been her full-time job since 1949.

A native Marylander, Becky was born and grew up in Accident, Md., a small town in the western part of the State—"the Switzerland of Maryland," she proudly calls it. The town acquired its unusual name in the colonial days, when the King of England gave a 600-acre tract of land to the second Lord Baltimore. The colonial and the royalist surveyors found that their measurements coincided exactly, and "Accident" was named.

After attending State Teachers College in Frostburg, Md., for two years, she taught elementary schools in Garrett and Frederick Counties. She then decided to switch fields, and enrolled in the Business College at Parkersburg, W. Va. Her first experience in the public health field came with her next job, as secretary in the Garrett County Health Department, where she worked for almost ten years. Prior to coming to NIH, she served as secretary to the Dean of Women at the University of Maryland.

An active and enthusiastic member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Becky was a charter member of the Garrett County Club, and has been secretary, treasurer, vice president, and president of the Prince Georges County Club. She is currently second vice president of the State Federation, and formerly served as the first state chaplain. At NIH, she was elected 1955 R & W Division Representative for NCI.

Hiking, picnicking, and cooking rate as her favorite leisure-time occupations, and she admits to enjoying "minor" sewing projects. She also attends the theatre and the National Symphony concerts as often as she can fit them into her busy schedule. Her summertime travels have taken her to the West, the Canadian Rockies, and Nova Scotia.
Bjorn Egeli—a self portrait

EGELI Cont'd

School in New York City and at Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington. He also studied at several schools in Paris and in his native land. His portrait painting career dates from 1929, and he estimates that he has completed between 450 and 500 paintings since then. Among those on the list of his portraits are Crown Princess Martha of Norway, Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, the famous naturalist, Maj. Gen. Paul H. Streit, former Commanding General of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, several Supreme Court Justices, university presidents, clergymen, labor leaders, and many members of prominent Eastern families.

He has been honored by one-man shows at the Corcoran and I.F.A. Galleries, and has been the recipient of several prizes for his work. Mr. Egeli lives with his wife and five children in St. Mary's County, Md.

AWARDS Cont'd

The Section was cited for sustained work performance during a steady increase in the workload as a result of a continuing expansion of NIH programs, and new Federal employee legislation providing for mass changes affecting the salaries, positions, and/or appointments of all employees. Although there has been no increase in the number of employees assigned to this section, the workload has doubled during the past year.

Employees honored included: Margaret A. Norris, supervisor; Mary A. Walmsley, Bessie M. Corbin, Rosemary H. Dwyer, Mary Anne C. Hennigan, Carol Rose, and Isabel E. Wester.

ECKART WIPF NAMED TO NINDB POSITION

Eckart Wipf, former NIH Classification Officer, has been appointed NINDB Administrative Officer, effective November 1.

Mr. Wipf joined NIH in June 1948 and became Head of the Personnel Branch's Classification Section in April 1951. He recently completed a three-month assignment in Iran with the International Cooperation Administration, during which time he helped develop a permanent position classification program for Iranian Government employees.

Prior to NIH, he worked for two years in the branch office of the Veterans' Administration, St. Paul, Minn., both in personnel work and as an administrative assistant to the Branch medical director. In 1945-46, he studied at the National Institute of Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., where he obtained training in public affairs and orientation to Federal Government operations.

Born in Freemont, S. Dak., he graduated from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, and received his M.A. degree in Public Administration from the University of Minnesota in 1947.

Library Homecoming Week

The NIH Library is making a special drive during the week of November 7-11 for the return of books and journals which are overdue or which have strayed from the shelves. According to Scott Adams, Librarian, the absence of some 1,500 overdue books materially affects the Library's ability to satisfy the information needs of the Institutes.

COUNCILS Cont'd

University of Chattanooga; Mr. Arthur Mag, prominent Kansas City attorney; and Dr. Leonard S. Cottrell, social psychologist of the Russell Sage Foundation, New York.

Dr. Leo G. Rigler, of the City of Hope Medical Center, Duarte, Calif., and Dr. Robert A. Moore, Vice Chancellor of the Schools of the Health Professions, University of Pittsburgh, were named to the National Advisory Cancer Council.

Four appointees to the National Advisory Neurological Diseases and Blindness Council are Dr. David G. Cogan, Director of Eye Pathology Laboratory, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston; Mrs. Abraham Pinanski, Brookline, Mass.; Mrs. Edward W. Johnson, Wayzata, Minn.; and Mrs. Thomas W. Braden, Oceanside, Calif.

CSC Management Intern Nominations Due Nov. 10

Nominations for the Fifth Senior Management Intern Program must be submitted to the Personnel Branch by Thursday, November 10.

Details of this U.S. Civil Service Commission program, which helps develop Federal employees who display management potential, were outlined in a memorandum distributed last month to Institute Directors, administrative officers, Division and branch chiefs. Federal employees in grade GS-8 through 12, or equivalent, are eligible. For additional information, call ext. 2454 or 2673.

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These employees of the Appointments and Records Section, Personnel Branch, last week shared a $500 award for superior work performance. Front row, Mary Anne Hennigan, Isabel Wester, Margaret Norris. Back row, Carol Rose, Mary Walmsley, Rosemary Dwyer, Bessie Corbin.

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