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VIGNETTE I: Mobile Rehabilitation Service

Among other things, most of rural Missouri lacks the personnel and facility to provide residents with physical therapy and other rehabilitation services. With the help of a small grant from Missouri Regional Medical Program, the Springfield Baptist Hospital Rehabilitation Center sends out personnel by car and by small airplane* to small community hospitals in the Ozark region to treat patients and to train personnel in techniques of physical and occupational therapy.

Skaggs Community Hospital in Branson, a small community in the southern Ozark region, serves a population whose age is well above the national average. Before the start of Mobile Rehabilitation Services weekly visits, physical therapy procedures at the hospital averaged 30-40 a month. Because of the work of the unit, the hospital is able to perform 300-400 procedures a month providing a much needed facility for physicians and convenience and economy for the patients of the area who otherwise would have had to travel to Springfield for similar treatment.

*The pilot of the plane is the therapist herself, giving her extra mobility without extra cost.

VIGNETTE II: Southeast Missouri Radioisotope Cancer Program

Patients and their physicians in the southeast corner of Missouri are benefiting through a program at St. Francis Hospital, Cape Girardeau which demonstrated the utility of establishing a radioisotope laboratory in a rural area in terms of improved patient care and diagnosis for cardiovascular lesions and malignant disease.

This program whose MoRMP funding ended June 30, 1972, continues to serve this area. Encouraged by the success of the Cape Girardeau Program and the guidelines developed in the project, Levering Hospital in Hannibal, a town in northeastern Missouri is installing its own radioisotope facility. Some neighboring hospitals of the Green Hills Cooperative Health Care Group, a consortium of 13 cooperating hospitals in northcentral Missouri, (a project also funded by Missouri Regional Medical Program) have indicated their intention of using the new Hannibal program in a satellite capacity.

VIGNETTE III: Biomedical Information Service

Sponsored by Missouri Regional Medical Program, Biomedical Information Service is intended to provide easy and quick access for members of the medical profession to medical data, including bibliographic service, direct poison control information and comprehensive drug information, including interaction and incompatibilities. Following is one small example of how this program serves the people of the Missouri Region.

In August, 1972, in a letter to the editor of a small-town weekly newspaper, a lady gave a recipe for putting up canned corn, which included the use of two tablespoons of boric acid. One individual concerned about the use of boric acid internally reported it to an agency which was interested in the dissemination of health information, but received no response for nearly four days. Another individual, a nurse in a local physician's office, was also concerned and called Biomedical Information Service. BMIS responded within two hours warning the informant that the use of boric acid in this quantity for this purpose could be highly toxic and possibly fatal to young children, and also gave the probable correct ingredient for the recipe. The information was received in time to prevent harmful effect.