

## A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

July 7, 1985 will mark the 15th anniversary of the Technologist Section. It seems appropriate to reminisce and look back to see how the Section came about. Many people were involved in the formation of the Section, some of whom have long been forgotten, as well as others who are active today. Perhaps the single most important person was Dr. Thomas P. Haynie, our newly appointed Editor of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*; but first, let us review what occurred before Dr. Haynie became involved.

Long before the Technologist Section existed, The Society of Nuclear Medicine's membership was, as it is today, a hodgepodge of people with different backgrounds. Unlike today, however, there were no Sections or Councils for special interest groups to exchange ideas or work for common goals. Probably, because of this lack of a forum, an organization known as the Society of Nuclear Medical Technologists (SNMT) was formed by 12 technologists from the Chicago area in May, 1965, and later incorporated in the State of Illinois on August 18, 1965. This organization flourished and by 1968 counted 382 members. It conducted successful scientific meetings in 1965, 1966, and 1967. Despite this early success, it was alleged that the SNMT was controlled not by technologists but by outside interests. This combination of factors served as the impetus for the formation of the Section.

In August of 1966, a group of technologists in Houston organized an association under the presidency of Gary Wood. This group sought to associate itself with the SNM and approached Dr. Haynie for assistance. Dr. Haynie obliged and, along with other members of the Southwest Chapter, was instrumental in amending the Chapter bylaws to include technologist activities.

At its Midwinter Meeting, in December of 1966, the Board of Trustees approved the formation of the Committee on Technical Affiliates to be comprised of three subcommittees. They were identified as the: (a) Subcommittee on Nuclear Medicine Technologist Training to the AMA Council on Medical Education; (b) Subcommittee on Continuing Education; and (c) Subcommittee on Technologist Affairs. Previously, a Committee on Nuclear Medical Technologists had existed under the chairmanship of Dr. Ervin Kaplan of Chicago. Dr. Kaplan had long been an advocate of technologist interests and must be credited for organizing the first technologist program as part of a national meeting. This event took place at the 14th Annual Meeting of the Society in Seattle in 1967.

In June of 1967, Dr. Merrill Bender succeeded to the presidency of the Society and appointed Dr. Haynie to chair the newly formed Committee on Technical Affiliates because of his work with the technologists in the Southwest Chapter. Dr.

Haynie asked Dr. Kaplan to serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on Nuclear Medical Technologist Training to the AMA Council on Medical Education. Dr. Kaplan agreed and should also be credited for authoring the first "Essentials." In fact, Dr. Kaplan's Subcommittee report to the Board of Trustees in January 1968 stated that the Committee to Establish Essentials for Radioisotope Training had been formed within the Council on Medical Education of the AMA and that the representatives of the Society were Dr. William H. Beierwaltes of Ann Arbor, Michigan and Dr. Wil B. Nelp of Seattle, Washington.

Meanwhile, after conferring with Dr. George Taplin, program chairman for the 15th Annual Meeting to be held in St. Louis in June 1968, Dr. Haynie asked Dr. Donald Korst of Madison, Wisconsin to head the Subcommittee on Continuing Education. Dr. Korst accepted and was responsible for a successful program that included 16 scientific papers presented by technologists as well as several informative teaching sessions.

Dr. Haynie turned to Gary Wood, who had also been instrumental in technologist affairs in the Southwest Chapter, to serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on Technologist Affairs. To ensure that Gary not be a committee of one, Dr. Haynie wrote to each chapter president asking that a technologist be appointed to represent the chapter on Gary's subcommittee. The responses were slow in coming, but on June 28, 1968, the Committee on Technologists, as it was then called, met in St. Louis, Missouri. Present at this meeting were: Dr. Haynie, Subcommittee Chairmen Ervin Kaplan, Donald Korst, and Gary Wood; Chapter representatives Joseph Iacova, Gloria Sword, Charles Shannon, Dorothy Kelsey, Ruthe Miller, Vincent Cherico, Vernon Ficken, Donald Bernier, Bobbie Quandt, Rae Ellen Bower, Katie Lambert, Kenneth Day, John Mullins; and several other interested technologists. Mr. William K. Otte, Jr. and Mr. Ray W. Dielman made a short presentation on behalf of the SNMT in an effort to establish a liaison between the two organizations. In reviewing the minutes of that meeting and Dr. Haynie's correspondence, it was recorded that the Committee asked for: (a) continuation of this method of organization on a national level and that the Board of Trustees encourage formation of local groups; (b) expansion of the technologist program at the Annual Meeting; (c) standing committee status for the Committee on Technologists; (d) a special section of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* for publication of technologist scientific papers; and (e) that the chapter representative to the Committee be made a voting member of the chapter's executive committee. Needless to say, not all of the committee's requests were granted. Because the

Committee on Technologists was a special committee subject to appointment by the president, incoming President Craig Harris combined the functions of the three subcommittees into one Special Committee on Technologists with Gary Wood as Chairman, Barbara Jump as Secretary, and Dr. Haynie as Advisor.

During the following year, the chapter representatives worked within their chapters to organize and were quite successful—so successful, in fact, that on June 4, 1969, Dr. Haynie wrote to President-elect Dr. George Taplin: "The time is approaching and may have arrived when it is desirable to set up a 'Technologist Section' with its own officers which would hold meetings coinciding with those of the Society and its chapters, and be administered through our New York office. In my opinion, this would do much to clear the air and provide for rapid healthy growth in this segment of our membership." This was the first time that the term Technologist Section was used.

On June 23, 1969, President Craig Harris, in his report to the Board of Trustees stated: "The experience of the past year, dealing with concerns of nuclear medicine technologists in several frames of reference, causes me to be increasingly persuaded that the interests of nuclear medicine technologists and their relationship to the field of nuclear medicine would be served by their having their own organization. I would propose that the organizational efforts at present embodied in sectional groups and in chapter technologist organizations be further extended to organizational efforts at the national level."

Gary Wood and Dr. Haynie worked diligently for the formation of a Section during the following year. On President Taplin's suggestion, they prepared a Constitution and Bylaws for a Section to be presented to the Trustees at their forthcoming Winter Meeting in January 1970. Based on comments received from the Trustees, the bylaws were revised and resubmitted. On July 7, 1970, the Trustees approved the revised bylaws and the Section was born.

President-elect Dr. Henry N. Wagner Jr. appointed the following individuals to serve as officers: James F. Cooper, Chairman; Donald R. Bernier, Chairman-elect and Membership Chairman; Barbara J. Jump, Secretary-Historian; Catherine A. Lambert, Treasurer; Vincent V. Cherico, Nominating Committee Chairman; and Huey D. Barnett, Scientific and Teaching Sessions Chairman. Subsequently, because of pressing personal obligations, Mr. Barnett resigned and James K. Langan was appointed to take his place. At this time, there was a Section with officers, a gargantuan budget of \$1,000, and no identifiable members. The membership committee was expanded by enlisting the help of Diane Regan and Donald Hamilton, and Jim Langan's committee was expanded to include Vernon Ficken, James Kellner, and Leo Lopez. During that first year, Jim Cooper worked many long hours enlisting the help of the chapters, restructuring the National Council,

preparing press releases, and corresponding with just about anyone who had a question, comment, or complaint about nuclear medicine technology. The first business meeting of the Section took place June 28, 1971 in Los Angeles. Seven hundred and thirty-seven applications had been received and approved for charter membership. There were 23 scientific papers presented by technologists, and 11 out of 16 chapters sent National Council delegates to the meeting. Election of officers for the forthcoming year, after considerable heated debate resulted as follows: Floyd Potes, Chairman-elect; Catherine Lambert, Secretary-Historian; and James Sims, Treasurer. For their efforts on behalf of the Section, Dr. Haynie and Gary Wood were named Distinguished Honorees.

Now that the Section had members it could identify, work was immediately undertaken to establish some means of communication. The first Technologist Section Newsletter was published in November 1971. The Committee on Continuing Education had been formed immediately after the Los Angeles meeting with Glenn Isserstedt as Chairman. The early efforts of this committee were directed toward improving the teaching sessions at the next Annual Meeting to be held in Boston and in identifying the educational needs of technologists. A joint committee between the Section and the SNMT was also formed. Although talks were held to affect a merger, nothing was achieved and eventually the SNMT went out of existence. The annual business meeting held in Boston went considerably smoother. Elected to serve as officers for the coming year were Leo Lopez, Chairman-elect; Dorothy Duffy Price, Secretary-Historian; and James K. Langan, Treasurer. Incidentally, with his election as a Trustee last year, Jim Langan has held every elective office in the Section.

The most significant event to occur during that year was the publication of the first *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. After working out the details for a journal with Executive Director Judy Glos, President Floyd Potes called Glenn Isserstedt and informed him that he was the Editor and that he had three months to publish a journal. The rest is history. The *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* has come a long way since then under the capable leadership of David L. Wells, Pat Weigand, and current Editor, Paul E. Christian.

Driving back to the Midwest from Boston, Glenn Isserstedt, Leo Lopez, and Don Bernier thought—"Why not have a Section meeting separate from the Society's summer meeting." With the blessing of President Potes and the organizational help of Judy Glos and Robin Kaplan, Section Administrator, a highly successful Winter Meeting was held in St. Louis in the winter of 1973. Although it was never given credit as being the "First" Winter Meeting of the Section (the following year, New Orleans was credited with being the first Winter Meeting site), it proved to be the forerunner of many more to come.

Many other events of considerable significance have taken place over the years. Verification of Involvement in Continuing

Education or VOICE (named by that master of acronyms, Glenn Isserstedt) came into being as well as the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB)—again named by Glenn. The NMTCB probably evolved more out of frustration than anything else. Several years before the NMTCB came into existence, the Society and the Section favored a single certifying body for technologists. Today we still have not achieved that goal, but the NMTCB is alive and well and is recognized as THE certifying agency by the nuclear medicine community.

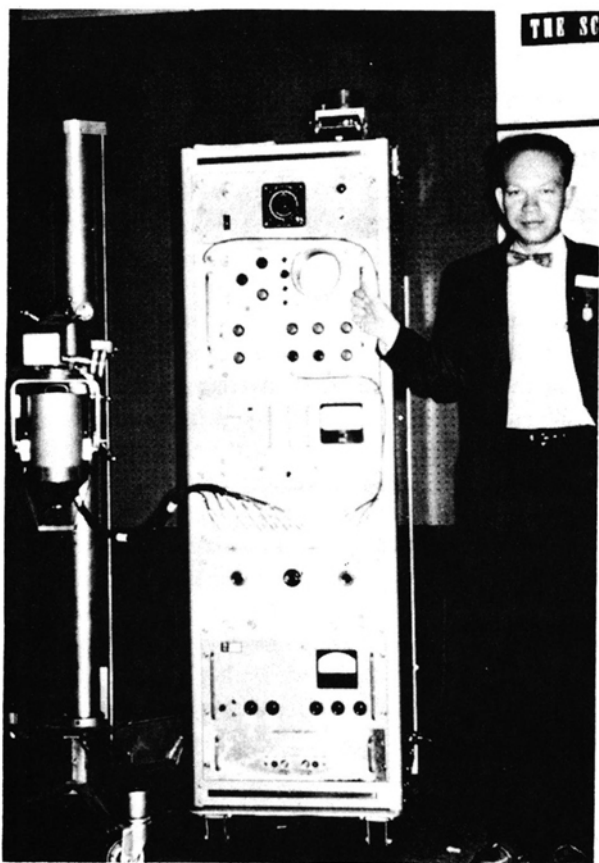
Indeed, the Section has come a long way in 15 short years. Dr. Haynie expressed it best, when in May 1977, he wrote a letter to Section President Mark Muilenburg that said: "I have had the pleasure of sitting on the sidelines over the past seven years, watching the Technologist Section grow stronger and stronger and more and more effective in its job of serving tech-

nologists. In June of 1971, the Technologist Section honored me by presenting me with a beautiful sculpture of a seagull. I thought this most appropriate because of the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull. That story tells it all, in my opinion. 'You are, and can do what you are willing to really believe you are and can do.' Keep that faith . . ."

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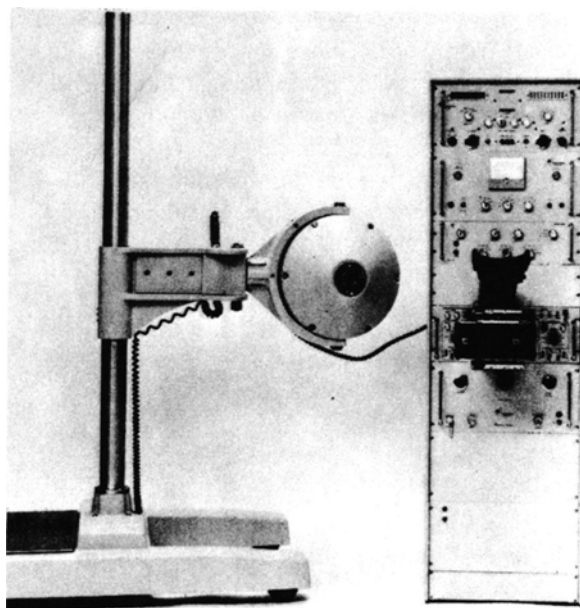
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## EARLY INSTRUMENTATION



**FIG. 1.** Hal Anger and his first scintillation camera, which he displayed at the Fifth Annual Meeting of The Society of Nuclear Medicine in June 1958, in Los Angeles.

*The instrumentation of nuclear medicine and nuclear medicine technology has certainly undergone tremendous changes as evidenced by figures 1 and 2.*



**FIG. 2.** First industrially-fabricated scintillation camera, photographed at the factory in 1962. One-fourth-inch (6 mm) diameter pinhole is pointed at the viewer. Equipped with 19 1.5-inch (3.8 cm) diameter multiplier phototubes and NaI(Tl) crystal 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter and ¼-inch thick. It was installed in The Ohio State University Hospital in September 1962. Donated to The Smithsonian Institution in Washington in 1971.