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**Missouri
Minutes**

**"TO LIVE AND GROW
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**OFFICIAL
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ISSUE**

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NUMBER 3

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MISSOURI SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS

Affiliated with the American Society of Radiologic Technologists

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Edited by
SIXTH DISTRICT
M.S.R.T.

NAMES OF
ASSOCIATE
EDITORS WILL
BE
ANNOUNCED
LATER

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Opinions expressed in this journal are those of the writers and do not reflect official opinions of the Missouri Society of Radiologic Technologists unless so stated.

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Please feel free to contact this publication at any time. Your opinions, criticisms and suggestions are appreciated.

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

September 10, 1967

To Executive Committee, Officers and Membership:

The word President is a little word with tremendous pleasures and responsibilities attached. He represents Radiologic Technologists in his thoughts, words and deeds. It is a great honor to hold this office, to think that you, the membership, have enough faith in one person to represent you as a group. A President should be just in his criticisms and stern. He should always think in the best interest of Radiologic Technology and of the MSRT membership. When making a decision he must consider the past, present and most of all the future. The President's first and most important thoughts should be Radiologic Technology and its advancement. This is a big order and it takes a person with an uncluttered mind.

I recently became engaged, and plans for my marriage in April will entail many hours of planning. Also being President of the Missouri Society of Radiologic Technologists with the convention here in May will need many hours of preparation. Our plans are for a honeymoon in Hawaii and I am not sure I will be here for the convention. I feel that the Society will suffer an injustice and I will not be able to devote the time needed to this important office. I am not happy to give up this honor, but I think it is best for the Society. This is my resignation and I hope that you will understand my action. I hope to continue to be a helpmate to the Society and also your friend.

Sincerely,



Katherine DeBlase, R.T.

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	Balance in Bank of Chaffee	\$ 353.88

CLARA SMITH, R. T.

Wage, Status Pressures SURVEY SHOWS TECHNOLOGISTS RESTLESS

The average radiologic technologist is a young woman in her 20's. She's been an r.t. for five years or less, graduated from an AMA-approved school of radiologic technology and now works in a hospital. She puts in 40 hours a week—with overtime pay the exception—and for handling as many as 30 patients a day, she receives \$350-\$499 a month.

She's convinced there's little chance for advancement in her field and if you were to ask her what her biggest problem is, she'd almost certainly say "low pay."

She's dedicated to her work—but economic pressures are making her restless.

This is a profile of the typical r.t. as drawn from a national survey carried out recently by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists among more than half its members. The survey, which covered such topics as work load, pay scales and general radiation protection policies, was designed to pinpoint more closely the problems of the radiologic technologist. The 40-question survey was formulated and conducted for the ASRT by Industrial Relations Staff Services, a Detroit testing firm.

NOT SO SURPRISING

The results of the survey, while hardly surprising, furnish a number of points of which members of the radiologic profession should take notice.

The biggest problem confronting the r.t. today is the low pay—and this problem knows no geographical boundaries. Average pay in Philadelphia is \$388, \$393 in Atlanta and \$421 in Denver. Not surprisingly, when respondents in the survey were asked to rank several general problems in the order of importance, low pay was ranked highest. Opportunities for advancement and poor benefits were next.

There appeared to be a significant difference in pay between male and female r.t.'s doing the same work, and with similar education and experience. The average man receives \$446 a month average pay; the average woman, \$401. Women outnumber men in the field two to one, according to the survey.

BENEFITS UNEVEN

When it comes to benefits, the number of r.t.'s receiving them is noticeably higher for unionized hospital employees than for other employees of hospitals. For instance, almost 35 per cent (34.6 per cent)

of all hospital union r.t.'s have at least partly paid life insurance, compared to just 14 per cent in non-unionized hospitals. The technologist in the office of a doctor other than a radiologist receives the fewest benefits per person—only 9 per cent, for example, reported they are paid for overtime.

Radiologic technologists are generally dedicated to their work—only 13 per cent said they plan to leave the field in the next year. But more than 10 per cent of them supplement their regular income with a part-time second job. And a number of the male r.t.'s referred to their inability to support a family on the pay currently being received. A male respondent in Connecticut said the minimum r.t. rate had just been raised from \$76 a week to \$88—but that a sweeper in industry is paid \$104 a week.

LOW STATUS?

The technologists are painfully sensitive about what they feel is the low status of their profession. A 48-year-old man in New York suggested that "classes" be defined in the profession, and an Illinois woman commented that so-called quick training courses hurt the radiologic technologist's status.

Regarding a possible bargaining union for r.t.'s, the respondents were split—but vehement on both sides. One person answered, "I'd leave the profession before I'd join

a union." But a California man said, "We need a bargaining agent with teeth and an organized group with force." Only 3.5 per cent of the r.t.'s said they are presently members of a union.

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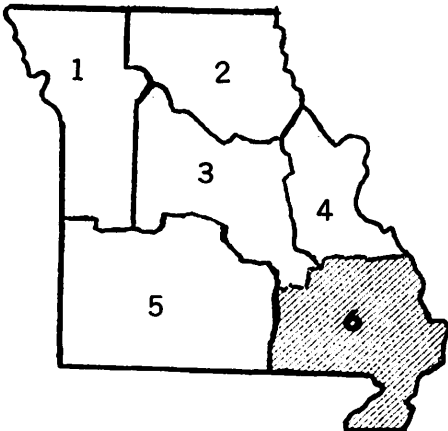
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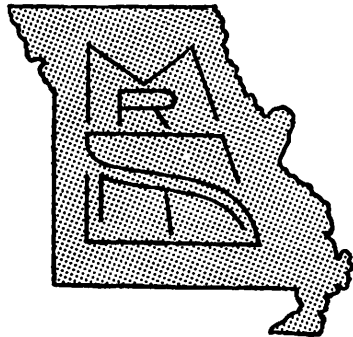
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AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY NEWS

CHICAGO—Many Americans have been alarmed unnecessarily by the statement of a prominent health physicist that “thousands of deaths” are caused annually by radiation exposures from routine diagnostic X-ray examinations, the chairman of the American College of Radiology said Wednesday (August 30).

Dr. Joseph D. Calhoun of Little Rock, Ark., said that there is no known instance in which a routine X-ray examination was found to be fatal to a patient directly because of the radiation exposure involved.

Dr. Calhoun's comment was issued following an assertion that 3500 to 29,000 deaths a year were caused by radiation damage from diagnostic medical exposure. The claim was made August 28 to the Senate Commerce Committee by Dr. K. Z. Morgan, director of the health physics division of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

“What was not brought out was that Dr. Morgan's figure was admittedly his own guess and represented a statistical extrapolation of hazy data, rather than actual patient figures,” Dr. Calhoun explained. “Even with the qualifications contained in Dr. Morgan's 40-page text, we still dispute seriously many of his conclusions about the relative safety of medical X-ray procedures.”

Dr. Calhoun pointed out that no other witness before the Senate group supported Dr. Morgan's assertions. On August 31, Dr. Lauriston S. Taylor of Washington, a physicist and president of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, told the Senate Committee that Dr. Morgan's claims were “based upon pure speculation, without any clinical facts to support them.”

Dr. Antolin Raventos of Philadelphia, chairman of the College's Commission on Radiologic Units, Standards and Protection, pointed out that a recent national survey by the U. S. Public Health Service concluded that medical X-ray uses account for only about half as much exposure as the average American receives annually from natural background sources. The medical exposure to reproductive organs was estimated at 55 millirems (thousandth parts of a basic unit of absorbed radiation) and the average background exposure of Americans at 120 millirems per year. Background radiation comes from natural radioactivity in the soil, in cosmic rays from the sun, in food and in body substances.

“Our concern as radiologists for safe uses of X-rays goes back much further than Dr. Morgan's efforts,” he said. “While we have much regard for Dr. Morgan as a physicist, we cannot accept the kind of generalizations that he made in his testimony to the Senate Committee. His omission of the relationship between the natural burden and man-made radiation represents a regrettable distortion.

“There is no conclusive proof that radiation exposure at low levels have caused injury to humans. We all concur that there is a probability that any measurable radiation is more likely to be injurious than helpful. Thus, radiologists have long led efforts to achieve more effective and safer uses of X-rays in medicine and elsewhere. Based on these efforts, we see no cause for the alarmist attitude expressed by Dr. Morgan.”

Dr. Calhoun pointed out that the need for diagnostic information by a patient's own physician is the only sound reason for subjecting a patient to an X-ray examination. “We feel a direct responsibility to see that our examinations are done efficiently and safely so that the maximum benefit is attained with the minimum risk to all concerned.”

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We wish to inform the membership of the resignation of Mrs. Elva Falknor, R. T., who has been editor of Missouri Minutes for a number of years. Elva has devoted many hours of her time in publishing a journal that has become outstanding among the journals of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.

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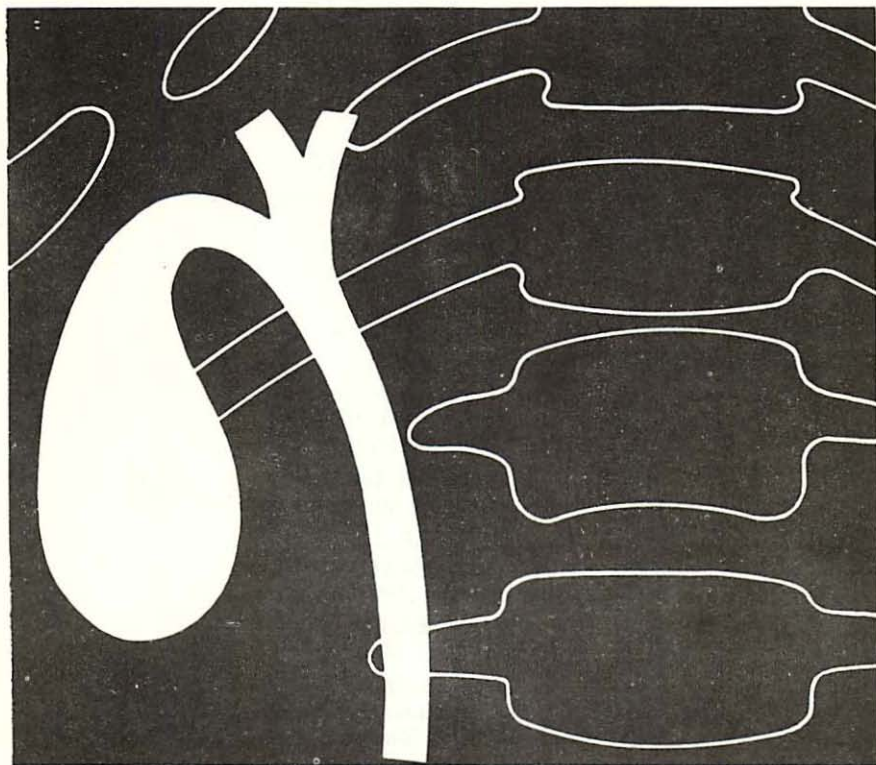
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OCTOBER 19, 20, 21

Radiologic Technology Symposium
University of Kansas School of Medicine
Kansas City, Kansas

NOVEMBER 5

Second District Meeting

NOVEMBER 14

First District Meeting
Third District Meeting
Sixth District Meeting

NOVEMBER 16

Fourth District Meeting

DECEMBER 12

First District Meeting
Third District Meeting

DECEMBER 21

Fourth District Meeting

MAY 17, 18

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Kansas City, Missouri

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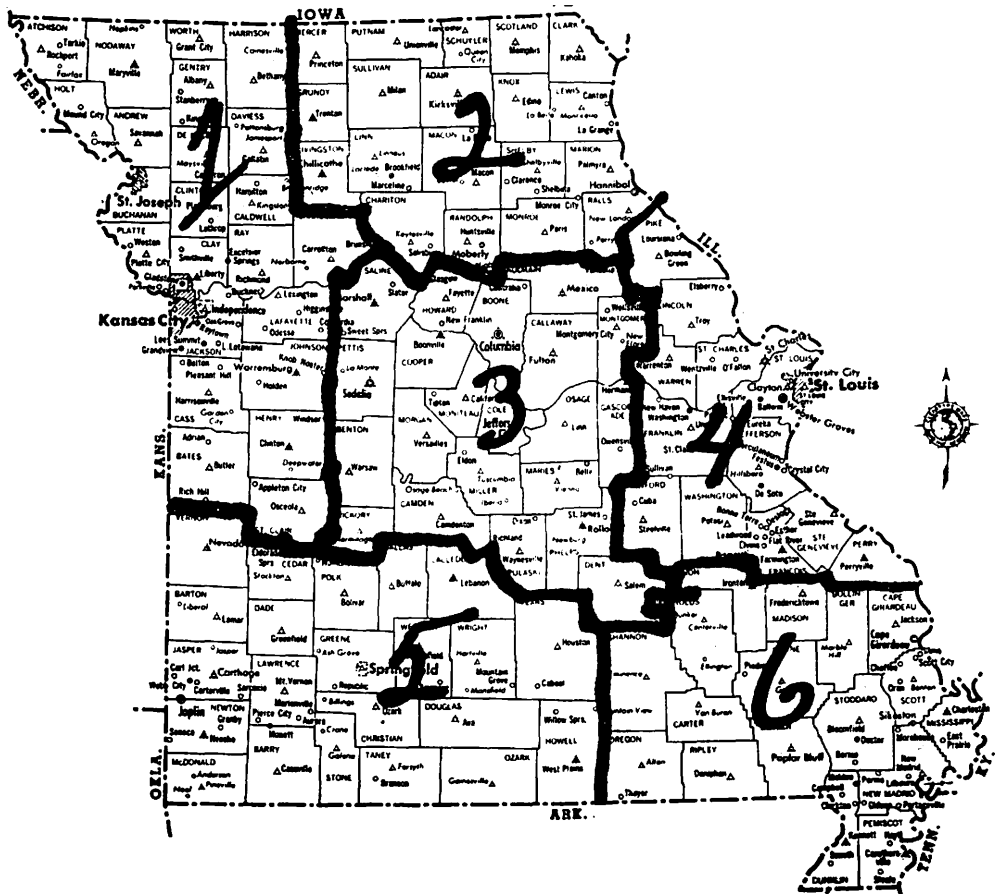


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