

## Dr. Paul Stoxen, Medinah Noble and Patient Recruiter *Par Excellence*



Long-time Medinah Noble Burt Polk recalls the trying years of the 1970s for SHC - Chicago. "We had," Burt remembers, "only about 400 patients and most of them simple procedures, which did not challenge our medical staff." Members of Imperial Board called a meeting of Chicago Shrine leaders, including Burt, to "make noise about moving" the Chicago Shrine medical program to a Wisconsin medical school campus, where, it was thought, recruiting patients would be more successful than in the Chicago setting.

Dr. Paul Stoxen (left), a Medinah Shiner since November 23, 1956, attended the meeting and accepted the challenge by Imperial to increase Chicago patient population and keep SHC in Chicago. "It was like he was fired from a gun," Burt recalls of Paul Stoxen's response. He became the major force in patient recruitment for SHC - Chicago, through his clinic work in the greater Chicago area between 1974 and 1994," Burt says. Through his leadership for energetic recruiting programs, more than 1,622 children became patients here.

Dr. Stoxen recalls: "We would send out notices by radio and newspaper, telling people a clinic for children was being held at such-and-such a place. We would have between 50 and 75 children at each clinic." Working through Shrine Clubs, whose members participated with him in both recruiting and operating clinics, he brought in new Shrine members and enlivened club programs. "Involved in the clinics," he says with a smile, "Shriners knew, first-hand, what we were about in the Shrine."

Burt remembers well some of the special things Paul would do. "He got reports from around the area of new patients being brought to the hospital, and Paul would go to his office and send the successful recruiter a special pin he had developed. He made people think about children, and he became the prime force in patient recruitment. He would go *anywhere* to interview prospective patients!"

Paul worked with clubs in Elgin, Palos Heights, Joliet, the southwest suburbs, Park View, and throughout the city of Chicago. Each club set an annual schedule to hold spring and fall clinics. Under his inspiration, even our hospital doctors and nurses participated in the clinics throughout the Chicago area.

Medinah Noble Jim McGilvray, chairman of Medinah's Hospital Committee, remembers Brother Paul with fondness. "Everybody loved Dr. Stoxen--he brought such enthusiasm to the work that it became infectious." "Dr. Stoxen started the Hospital Committee," Shirley McGilvray recalls. "To be a member of his committee, you had to conduct a clinic to prove you could do it," she said with a laugh. Dr. Stoxen remembers his active years with great fondness and pride, "We offered at least 20 clinics a year through the greater Chicago area, and we averaged 300 patients a year. These numbers explain why, today, SHC - Chicago is a 60-bed facility," he remembers with a smile.

He and his Lady Betty (photo left) maintain busy lives today, with family, friends, and fellow Nobles. We salute Dr. Paul Stoxen, a Shiner whose extraordinary impact in the lives of children is without equal, and whose role in the success and stability of our hospital over the years deserves remembrance and celebration. Thank you, Noble Paul!

