

A Conversation with Mrs. Jane Post

Peter Southorn, M.D.



Mrs. Jane Post

Mrs. Jane Post has known every leader of our department and has worked with the majority of them. This remarkable and wonderful lady led our department's office staff from 1955 to 1994. She was known for her loyalty to the consultants she worked for and her probity and formality in which she ran this office. Recently, she kindly agreed to meet me in her Rochester home to talk about her career.

Jane joined Mayo after graduating from Zumbrota High School. Almost immediately, she was substituting in the Legal Department for the secretary of Harry Blackmun (prior to his appointment to the United States Supreme Court.) At this time, she also interacted with Dr. Charles (Chuck) Mayo. Within two months of her joining Mayo, Dr. Albert Faulconer, Jr., interviewed her and selected her to be his secretary. His only requirement was that Jane give him a two-year commitment. Albert Faulconer had become the chair of the department in 1953 when his predecessor, Dr. Charles Adams, had to step down because of ill health. Jane recalls that even though ill, Dr. Adams shared Dr. Faulconer's charm and was also a wonderful pianist. Another person around at that time was Dr. John Lundy, a former chair. It would be several years before he left Rochester and perhaps this was not a happy time in Dr. Lundy's life. Apparently, Dr. Lundy could be a bit brusque and demanding. Fortunately for Jane, Dr. Lundy had another secretary. Jane also remembers other anesthesiologists of that era including Dr. John Osborn, the father of Mr. Steven Osborn, the current Chief Nurse Anesthetist at Mayo Clinic Rochester. In addition to Albert Faulconer, Jane also became Dr. Richard Theye's secretary when he joined the staff. As such, she had a wonderful insight into Dr. Theye's and others involvement in developing open heart surgery with the surgeon, Dr. John Kirklin. Dr. Theye's dislike of formality persisted even after he was appointed

chair of the department in succession to Albert Faulconer. One day he had come to work without wearing a tie (a "no-no" in those days) when he was summoned to a Board of Governor's meeting. He promptly sent Jane out to the men's store, Hanny's, to buy a tie, and thereby, she saved the day. Apparently, he hated the tie and never wore it again but kept it forever in his desk drawer.

Jane used to earn extra pocket money during her lunchtime by proofreading papers for Dr. Harry Seldon, the editor of *Anesthesia and Analgesia*. Jane also took care of and supported Dr. John Martin who was head of the Methodist section of the department and a trustee of the International Anesthesiology Research Society. Dick Theye's appointment as department chair was unfortunately cut short by illness, and he was succeeded by Dr. Alan Sessler. Jane had a high regard for Dr. Sessler and his accomplishments during his long tenure in this position. She says he was a dreamer, always looking to the future, seeking to expand the role of the specialty and the department, in particular. After Alan Sessler, Jane was also the department secretary for the next two department chairs, Dr. Roy Cucchiara and then Dr. Duane Rorie. Roy Cucchiara's term was brief, and Jane recalls it as being one of rapid changes. She had been Duane Rorie's secretary in his capacity as head of Methodist Anesthesia prior to his assuming the chair position. She found Dr. Rorie to be a straight shooter, always busy trying to sustain the department while maintaining his own laboratory research. He was a person who demanded instantaneous attention and gave his thank you's only after a job was well completed.

Jane retired in 1994 while Duane Rorie was still chair. Although she did not work with our last two department chairs, Drs. Mark Warner and Brad Narr, she remembers them well from their first days in residency.

Jane virtually knows everyone who has been through our department, and she is a treasure trove of information about people. It was a pleasure to meet with her again. She is

enjoying her retirement with her husband, Darrel (Babe), children, and grandchildren here in Rochester. We wish her many more years of happiness.

Anesthesiology Residency News

Timothy Long, M.D.



Dr. Timothy Long



Dr. Steve Rose

Mayo Clinic Rochester

Following more than 13 years of displaying unparalleled excellence, Steve Rose recently stepped down as program director of the Mayo Anesthesiology Residency program in Rochester. After having worked closely with Steve in education over the last seven years, I am honored to have been selected to replace him as program director. Steve, no doubt, left big shoes to fill, but I rest assured knowing that I can knock on his door any time for advice regarding the program. He has served not only as a mentor for many of our fine residents over the years, but he has mentored me and will continue to mentor me in this new position. Steve continues to serve in his role as Vice Dean for Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education (MSGME) and as the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Designated Institutional Official (DIO). Mark Warner, of course, serves as MSGME Dean and Renee Caswell serves as MSGME Associate Dean for Surgery and Surgical Specialties at Mayo Clinic Arizona, so anesthesiology remains well-represented in graduate medical education at Mayo. Steve has done a tremendous job with the program over the years. Although our training program is one of the best in the country, we can always be better. I plan to continue on the course that Steve has set, always striving to be the best in the world.

Currently we are in the middle of a new (and busy) interview season. The applicants are extremely competitive this year, and I anticipate having another outstanding group match with us in March, 2008. Although I do not anticipate any immediate major structural changes in the program, there are several issues we will consider over the next few months. The traditional didactic curriculum

that we provide remains excellent. One way that we will be looking to enhance the didactic training is through computer technology. Specifically, I would like to set up online course modules for residents to complete either before or during each rotation. The goal is not to replace our faculty lectures as time with the faculty in this setting is a critical educational component. This will be a very large undertaking and will take cooperation from our entire faculty.

In recent years, we have hired many of our graduating residents and fellows (a constant reminder of the importance of recruiting good resident candidates.) These young faculty members are very energetic and have many great ideas. We will be looking to restructure our Education Executive Committee in Rochester in the near future. The goal is to maintain a core group of people who are actively involved in education, constantly looking at ways to make our program better. We know we have an excellent program here, but I think it is important to avoid complacency in any program.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of our residents who took the ABA/ASA In-Training Examination this past July, 2007. All of our residents who took the exam for credit passed. Our goal is to be at or above the 90th percentile nationally as a program, and I am happy to say that we have once again accomplished this. Of note, two CA-1 residents (with two weeks of training at Mayo) scored high enough to pass the examination. We have a tremendous group of residents. I'm excited to work with our current residents and I'm optimistic about the future success of our program and, thus, our department.