



## Musician-Barber Washell Now in 5th Decade Of Loyal Service to Columbia-Presbyterian



Arthur Washell bestows tonsorial skills upon John Campbell, Head Cashier, PH.

It was just a half century ago that a fresh-from-school, ambitious young barber carefully placed a towel around the neck of his first customer as he prepared to shave that customer, a patient, at the old Presbyterian Hospital on 71st Street, between Park and Madison Avenues.

The year was 1923; the customer/patient was Dr. David Chapman Bull, member of Presbyterian's surgical attending staff; and the barber was Arthur Washell.

It might be termed a planned accident that found him working as a barber at Presbyterian, for Arthur had not specifically planned on a tonsorial career. He worked as a bank teller at the Old Mechanics & Metals Bank, later incorporated into the Chase Manhattan Bank, and, being an adventurous soul, did a stint as a cook aboard a

Norwegian freighter. Finding cooking aboard the freighter more work than adventure, Arthur finally decided to enter barber school. When Arthur completed his apprenticeship, his father, who had already been barbering at Presbyterian for five years, encouraged him to come work there. He was just 18 years old. And when Presbyterian moved to its present location in 1928, Arthur moved right along with it.

Today, a very young and active 68, he has given absolutely no thought to retiring. "I'd never be able to live on my Social Security," he quipped. "Seriously," he continued, "why should I quit? I still enjoy my work and find it stimulating."

Barbering is not Arthur's only talent. He is also a musician, accomplished on the accordion and viola. He no



Meet PH surgical staff of 45 years ago. This photo, treasured by Arthur Washell, was taken in the operating room of old Hospital in March, 1928, just prior to move to the new buildings of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

longer plays the accordion often, but as an honorary member of the 25-Year-Club, he "digs it out annually" to entertain at the club's pre-banquet cocktail hour. He is also frequently asked to play with the orchestra when the P&S Club presents one of its plays

Basement, and has been with Presbyterian eight years.

Arthur is married to the former Marie Ostermann and is the father of one child, Joan, a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital. The Washells live in the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

Arthur recently brought in one of his most treasured possessions, a photo, taken in

Also called arrhythmiss, the abnormalities are disturbances in the electrical impulses that cause the heart muscle to pump

coronary artery disease—a leading cause of death among Americans—will be the target of a long-term study at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, and as many as 200 patients may be invited to take

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All Presbyterian Hospital old-timers are invited to see how many faces they can remember and identify.

Front row: 
wilder Penfield,

Hugh Auchincloss

Bill Clarke (Surg.,

4 Allen Whipple Path)

5 Johnny St. John

6 Fred Van Beuren

7 Barclay Parsons

BackRows

8- wm. cone

9 Beverly Smith

10 Johnny Hanford

ll Virginia Frantz

12 Dr. Bauman

13 head nurse

14

15 Miss Penland (anaes

16 Ruddie Schullinger

17 Frank Meleney

18 Dave Bull

19 A. Purdy Stout

\*Father of Mrs. J. Chorobski. Belgian Surgeon

Picture taken in the operating room of the old Hospital in March, 1928,
Old Presbyterian Hospital, N.Y.C.

1 Pr.P.

2 Hugh Auchin closs

3 Bill Clarke (Pry. Sury. Path)

4 Allen tohipple

5 Johny St. John

6 Fred Van Bouren

7 Barclay Parsons

8 Bill Cone 9 Johny Hanford 10 Smith (Beverly) 11 Virginia Frantz Dr. Bauman head murse 13 Belgeau Surgeon (Fatheroz Mrs Jerzy Miss Pendand - anaesthetist Chorobsky) 14 15 Ruddie Schullinger Frank Meleney 17 Dave Ball 19 a. Purdy Shout



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Kugh Auchincloses.

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William blanke Man O. Mupple Darly 1885 John. The Sand January



























