

The Oslerian

A Message from the President

Earl F. Nation—Exemplary Oslerian

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Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

2 Earl Nation, a charter member of the American Osler Society,

3 was born in Zephyr, Texas, and graduated from Ft. Worth Central High School. He attended San Diego State College graduating with a B.A. degree in chemistry and history. Earl received his M.D. from Western Reserve School of Medicine (now Case-Western Reserve) in 1935. He was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha and Sigma Xi. His research thesis on "Carotenemia and its Influence on the Validity of the Icterus Index" won the AOA Prize. Following medical school, Earl returned to California for his internship and urology residency at Los Angeles General Hospital. During his residency he contracted pulmonary tuberculosis while doing a pathology rotation and spent 15 months recovering in a sanatorium. He practiced urology, first in Los Angeles and subsequently in Pasadena from 1941 until he retired in 1990. He was Associate Professor of Surgery-Urology at the University of Southern California School of Medicine, and also lecturer in urology at the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University). An active member of the attending staffs

at Huntington Memorial and St. Luke's Hospital in Pasadena for 50 years, he served as president of both. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a diplomate of the American Board of Urology, and a member of numerous professional societies. In 1978-79 Earl was president of the American Osler Society. The same year he was president of the American Urological Association (AUA). He has edited several books and has been a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Urology*, *California Medicine*, and the *Forum on Medicine* of the American College of Physicians. He gave the George Dock Lecture in 1965 and 1990. In 2002 he received the Ramon Guiteras Award from the AUA, its most prestigious honor.

Earl has had a long-term interest in William Osler and in book collecting. He is a member of the California Book Club, the Zamorano Club, the Pasadena Historical Society, the Southern California Historical Society, and the Twilight Club of Pasadena. He has published widely on various subjects in urology, particularly renal anomalies, calculi, and trauma. In 1959 he collected a number of vignettes by Osler

from the *Canadian Medical Association*, and published a volume entitled *Books and Men*, to which he wrote an introduction. His well-known article on "Osler's Alter Ego" (that is, Egerton Yorrick Davis) appeared in the *Journal of Chest Diseases* in 1969. That same year his paper on the Osler-Camac correspondence concerning the *Counsels and Ideals from the Writings of William Osler* was published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. In 1973 his papers on "Sir William Osler and Tuberculosis," "William Osler on Penis Captivity and Other Urologic Topics," and "Sir William Osler, the Master of Ewelme" appeared in *Chest Urology*, and the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, respectively. In 1976 he edited the *Annotated Checklist of Osleriana* with Charles Roland and Jack McGovern. In 1980 he edited *Student and Chief: The Osler-Camac Correspondence* with McGovern, which was given as a keepsake to students and also to members of the American Osler Society and of the Zamorano Club. Earl has written a number of other articles on Osler including "The Busts of Sir William Osler" (1989)



Marvin J. Stone

Earl F. Nation—Exemplary Oslerian (continued from page 1)

And "Trotula, Osler, and Francis" (1992) for the *Osler Library Newsletter*. In 2000 he published *Burrowings of a Bookworm* by E. Y. Davis. For 16 years he has written monthly essays for the Huntington Medical Staff Newsletter which have been termed "Nation's Notions" by his office staff. These were presented to him in a bound volume for his 80th birthday and updated in December 2001. Although retired from active urology practice, Earl continues to actively pursue his history of medicine interests. Many of you recall his participation in our AOS symposium on the Cushing and Bliss biographies, later published in the

Bulletin of the History of Medicine in 2001. Earl's publications stretch over a 70-year span and he is still going strong. He is nearly finished with a manuscript entitled *George Dock Goes West*. This work is based on Earl's personal relationship with Dock and on Dock's voluminous papers in the Huntington Library. Active as ever, Earl traveled to Baltimore in January to help dedicate the new headquarters building of the American Urological Association.

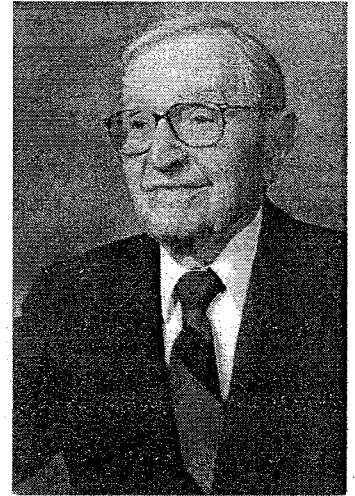
Earl Nation is indeed an exemplary Oslerian. He has played a major role in the development and success of the American Osler Society from its inception. His scholarship,

creativity, leadership, collegiality, generosity, and friendship have been highly valued by us all. We look forward to seeing him return to his native Texas in April for our annual meeting.

This will be my final "president's message" in *The Oslerian*. It has been a privilege and great honor to serve as your president this year. After describing the magnificent careers and monumental achievements of Jack McGovern (August), Victor McKusick (November), and Earl Nation (this issue), I realize more than ever how vibrant and enduring Osler's legacy is.

Stay well. See you in Houston!

Marvin J. Stone
marvins@baylorhealth.edu



Earl F. Nation

Oslerian Progress Notes

James B. Young has been named Chair of the Department of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic.

Philip W. Leon has had published *Nanny Wood: From Washington Belle to Portland's Grand Dame* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2003).

T. Jock Murray gave the Royal College Osler Lecture to the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine and sends along the symbol for that organization, shown at right.

W. Bruce Fye sends along the following response to the question posed in the last issue of *The Oslerian*, "Whither the relationship between the AOS and the AAHM [American Association for the History of Medicine]?" "You asked for input, and I will share a few of my thoughts. First, I think it is quite likely that W.O. would be active in both organizations if he were alive today. I have



Symbol of the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine features a portrait of William Osler

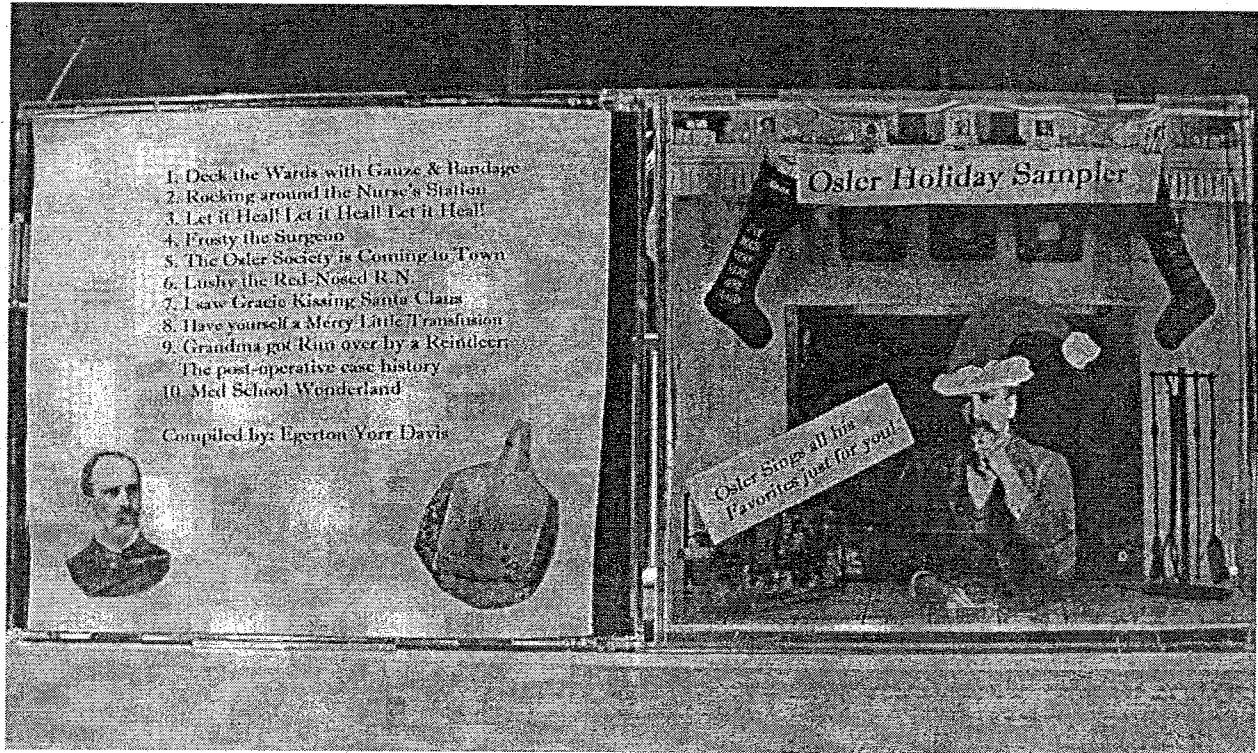
been impressed that his "circle" included many individuals who shared some of his many interests. . . . Most of us find it increasingly difficult to get away from our busy lives to attend meetings. That fact lends itself to some linkage of meetings such as the AOS-AAHM and the traditional AOS-ACP. As the AOS membership has broadened and specialization continues to

fragment us into ever narrower areas of endeavor, the linkage with the ACP is less compelling that it was a decade ago. I conducted a survey of the members on some of these points in 1988 or so, but I donated all the information to the AOS. I would urge us to maintain cordial relations with the AAHM because there are many areas of shared interest. This does not mean that the meetings have to be linked every 2, 3, or even 4 years. If the AOS gets better participation as a stand-alone meeting, then that should be the preferred model. This is a rather rambling letter, but I know each of you understands the points I am trying to make. It might be valuable to consider a luncheon devoted to this topic at the AOS 2005 meeting."

Francis A. Neelon writes that he is the ringleader of a meeting called "Vital Lines/Vital Signs" to be held in Durham, North Carolina, 23-26 April 2004, or right after the AOS meeting. Full information about this meeting can be obtained not only from Frank (neelo002@mc.duke.edu)

but also from a special website, <http://PoetryandMedicineConference.mc.duke.edu>.

The idea of simultaneous parallel sessions for one or more segments of our annual meeting was by and large rejected by the several people who responded to this query. One wrote, "I am a dinosaur about these things, but I think one of the best aspects of our meeting is that EVERYONE hears EVERY paper. So I am unalterably opposed to simultaneous sessions. I would much rather add a poster presentation and let everyone talk to the authors. I learn much more from hearing papers that I did not know I wanted to hear than vice versa. I say fewer papers, all plenary sessions." The other point of view is that we should try to accommodate as many presenters as possible. This question will be put again to participants at the annual meeting in Houston as part of the follow-up assessment. Let us hear from you on this!



Richard E. Golden forwarded the elaborate Holiday Poster shown above, attributed to Egerton Yorrick Davis, wherein it is advertised that William Osler will sing the following favorites just for you: "Deck the Wards with Gauze and Bandage," "Rocking around the Nurse's Station," "Let it Heal! Let it Heal! Let it Heal!", "Frosty the Surgeon," "The Osler Society is Coming to Town," "Lushy the Red-Nosed R.N.," "I saw Gracie kissing Santa Claus," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Transfusion," "Grandma got Run over by a Reindeer—the Postoperative Case History," and "Med School Wonderland."

He Shook the Hand that Shook the Hand of Sir William Osler

Dr. Robert E. Holman, a retired family practitioner in Elloree, South Carolina, who has written a charming memoir entitled The Black Bag, sent me the following essay written about an experience when he was young. It occurred to me that Oslerians would enjoy it especially since the 2004 meeting in Houston and Galveston will afford us many opportunities to at least "shake the hand that shook the hand that shook the hand of Sir William Osler." It's my understanding that the 1970 meeting in Galveston, which led to the formation of the AOS, was the last major occasion on which persons who knew Osler met for this specific purpose. —CSB

In the early 1960s when US 301 and US 15 were on the same stretch of pavement through

the Santee, numerous motels along this much traveled route from New York to Miami did a booming business. The Elloree doctors were the house physicians for these rest stops, and we made numerous house calls for the travelers' ailments ranging from car fatigue to life threatening heart disease.

One night I was called to the Carolina Moon, one of the most popular inns, to see an elderly gentleman. He was in no obvious distress, and after introductions and a history and a cursory physical examination, I concluded that he was suffering from road fatigue. He was pleased to hear that, and I told him that he could continue his journey after a good night's rest. I recommended that he continue at a much slower

pace. He nodded and asked me to sit down for a brief chat.

He said he was from Indianapolis, and he had been the attorney for the Eli Lilly Company for forty years. Further, his dad had been a member of President Taft's cabinet. His father had a serious illness while on the cabinet, and his family physician called Sir William Osler from Johns Hopkins for consultation. Sir William came down from Baltimore the next day. After examining the old gentleman, Sir William told the family that he agreed with the family physician's diagnosis of pneumonia. He reassured them that the patient had passed the crisis and should

be all right.

My patient, then a lad of six, was introduced to Sir William. The great doctor tousled the lad's hair, shook his hand, and commented on what a fine lad he was.

The traveler's face brightened and he repeated, "He shook my hand!" Suddenly he sat up in bed, extended his hand, and with a winning smile stated, "Young doctor, shake the hand that shook the hand of Sir William Osler!"

Life is full of surprises, and I never realized when I got up that morning that I would shake the hand that shook the hand of Sir William Osler.

Robert E. Holman, M.D.
P. O. Box 340
Elloree, SC 29047-0340

AOS Secretary-Treasurer's Report

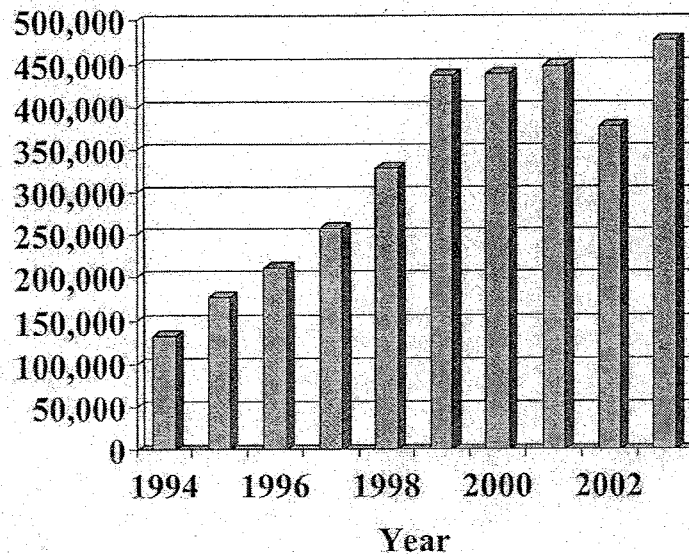
Income, Expenses, and Liquid Asset Balances, 1997-2003

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
START BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	210,257.84	256,832.87	328,415.54	437,635.88	439,237.65	447,236.97	377,566.91
<i>Income</i>							
Dues and initiation fees	6,750.00	7,700.00	9,775.00	6,400.00	9,900.00	14,865.00	14,535.28 ¹
Meeting income	21,355.00	14,180.00	39,875.00	33,945.00	33,575.00	39,060.85	49,547.88 ²
Latchkeys, ties, T-shirts	1,040.00	990.00	1,095.00	830.00	1,329.00	805.00	1,303.55
Book sales and royalties	380.00	190.00	180.00	135.00	85.00	5,831.50	15,247.45 ³
Educational Endowment Fund	8,313.82	9,897.45	13,154.34	975.00	20,855.00	540.00	1,320.00 ⁴
Friends of 13 Norham Gardens	485.00	450.00	200.00	355.00	355.00	185.00	345.00
Friends of Osler Library	365.00	350.00	200.00	455.00	460.00	160.00	195.00
McGovern lectureship/contributions	9,462.89	15,200.88	46,662.66	26,000.00	36,849.20	10,000.00	
Miscellaneous income			20,053.39	30.27			750.00 ⁵
Appreciation of equities	26,569.53	48,497.45	40,546.44	-13,001.98	-22,233.11	-48,670.55	91,610.34
Total Income	74,721.24	97,455.78	171,743.83	56,123.29	81,175.09	22,776.80	174,854.50
<i>Expenses</i>							
Administrative assistant				1,500.00	6,000.00	4,500.00	4,500.00 ⁶
Supplies and postage				273.40	293.85	1,247.87	4,514.71 ⁶
Printing	1,592.47	368.12	497.18	1,502.58	1,677.64	1,566.28	1,038.01
Latchkeys and other merchandise	2,603.00	1,170.00	700.00	1,606.04			
<i>Persisting Osler I, II, and III</i>			9,894.00		882.00	3,789.58	
Meeting expenses	14,191.73	14,286.19	20,660.60	27,233.93	37,134.72	30,835.87	43,510.82 ⁷
McGovern Lectureship Account	3,312.93	3,019.42	5,731.88	3,790.89	6,162.21	4,830.00	3,740.00
Wm. B. Bean Educational Endowment	3,783.58	1,590.00	4,691.80	3,775.60	4,388.00	3,309.05	2,738.07
Deposits for future meetings	2,000.00	800.00	2,545.00	4,500.00	1,271.18	19,457.03	
Friends of Osler Library		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	610.00		Note ⁶
Friends of 13 Norham Gardens		500.00	1,000.00	500.00	480.00		Note ⁶
Subventions for books			12,000.00		4,199.20	17,000.00	7,294.71
Web site			245.00		1,195.00	600.00	
Refunds	662.50		325.00	1,275.00	790.00	1,630.00	45.00
Money management fees		3,079.38	2,851.03	3,567.64	3,460.02	1,661.18	3,107.87
Miscellaneous expenses		60.00	380.00	3,996.44	4,631.95	2,020.00	4,385.34
Total disbursements	28,146.21	25,873.11	62,521.49	54,521.52	73,175.77	92,446.86	74,874.53
END BALANCE, DECEMBER 31	256,832.87	328,415.54	437,635.88	439,237.65	447,236.97	377,566.91	477,546.88

Notes

- The income is not an even-dollar amount because of a new policy of accepting checks from international members at the going exchange rate, which results in minor adjustments by the bank.
- Meeting income includes \$49,547.88 for registration fee, meals, and banquets, and continuing medical education.
- Book sales includes \$244.00 for sales of *Persisting Osler II and III*, \$12,396.30 for sales of *The Quotable Osler*, and \$2,609.85 in royalties received from the American College of Physicians for *The Quotable Osler*.
- Contributions from emeritus members were credited to the Educational Endowment Fund.
- Refund of meeting expenses.
- Liabilities carried into 2004 included \$1500.00 for Administrative Assistant, \$530.00 to Friends of 13 Norham Gardens (now the Green College Fund) for contributions made during 2002 and 2003, and \$355.00 to the Friends of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine at McGill University for contributions made during 2002 and 2003. As of February 2003, these liabilities have all been paid.
- This includes \$4,378.33 for postage and \$136.38 for supplies. The unusually high expenditure for postage was largely due to the mailings required for the international meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, and for mailing cartons of *The Quotable Osler*.
- This includes \$42,011.72 for meeting expenses and \$1,499.10 for continuing

Year-end Liquid Assets American Osler Society, 1994-2003



- medical education expenses.
- Miscellaneous expenses include \$80.00 for constituent society dues to the American Association for the History of Medicine; \$1,000.00 for review of financial records and \$3281.04 (most of which is to maintain an escrow account) for legal expenses pursuant to retaining an attorney to assist in clearing up financial matters pertaining to the 2003 annual meeting—specifically for resolving the difference between income (\$55,437.75) and expenses (\$64,940.97) for the 2003 meeting in Edinburgh.

Comments

Year-end financial balances for the past decade (1994-2003) are shown in the figure above. As of 31 December 2003, the liquid

assets were distributed as follows: \$428,952.65 in an investment account with Fidelity Investments, Boston Massachusetts; \$26,977.19 in a money market account with Fidelity Investments, Boston, Massachusetts; and \$21,617.04 in a checking account with Bank of America, Columbia, South Carolina.

2. The year-end balance of the William B. Bean Endowment Fund is \$83,649.66. This includes 12 percent interest on the 2002 year end balance.

3. The year-end balance of the McGovern Lectureship Account is \$202,779.21. This includes 12 percent interest on the 2002 year end balance.

4. The year-end balance of uncommitted funds (that is, liquid assets after subtraction of the balances in the William B. Bean Endowment Fund and

the McGovern Lectureship Account) is therefore \$191,118.01.

5. Inventories as of 31 December 2003 amounted to \$20,848.50. Thus, the total net worth of the Society is \$498,395.68. Inventories consist of *Persisting-Osler II and III*, neckties, latchkeys, posters, and T-shirts. (Presidential plaques and McGovern medals are not included in this tabulation).

6. Our investment portfolio currently consists of 70% stocks and 30% bonds, managed by Mr. Pel Stockwell of Fidelity Investments, Boston. The Finance Committee, chaired by Paul Dyment, advises Mr. Stockwell concerning our investment strategy. Should our long-term strategy be made more conservative at this point? Your input is welcome.

CSB

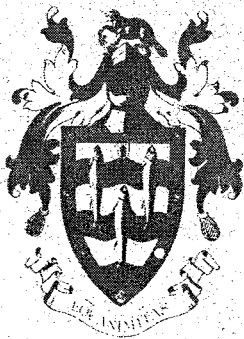
AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

American Osler Society
Charles S. Bryan, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer
2 Medical Park, Suite 502
Columbia, SC 29203

Phone: 803-540-1000
Fax: 803-540-1075
Email: cbryan@richmed.medpark.sc.edu

Spend the last half-hour of the day in communion with the saints of humanity.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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Aequanimitas

The Oslerian is published approximately four times a year by the American Osler Society, Inc., a non-profit organization. Members of the American Osler Society are encouraged to send news items of interest, including but by no means limited to their personal activities and accomplishments and accompanied by photographs or other illustrations. For distribution of reprints and other materials of possible interest to AOS members, please send 180 copies. Your ideas for The Oslerian are of course most welcome! Direct all correspondence by mail, fax, or e-mail to the Secretary-Treasurer.

The American Osler Society has been founded for the purpose of bringing together members of the medical and allied professions who are, by their common inspiration, dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness and the ethical example of **William Osler** (1849-1919). This, for the benefit of succeeding generations, that their motives be ever more sound, that their vision be on everbroadening horizons, and that they sail not as Sir Thomas Browne's Ark, without oars and without rudder and sails and, therefore, without direction.

Some Added Attractions for the Upcoming Annual Meeting in Houston and Galveston, Texas, 18-21 April 2004

The Local Arrangements Committee (Robert E. Rakel, chair), the Program Committee (Chester R. Burns, chair), and many others have been hard at work on this year's Annual Meeting, which is shaping up as one of our best ever. A special treat will be the afternoon and evening in Galveston, site of the 1970 meeting that led to the formation of the American Osler Society. Registration for the meeting has been brisk. Here are some of the special things that will take place:

Sunday, 18 April 2004

Frank Neelon will again lead a Literature and Medicine seminar, which will take place in the Presidential Suite of the Warwick Hotel from 3:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon. The reading list will consist of "Arrogance" by Franz Ingelfinger (*New Engl J Med* 1980; 303: 1507-11); "The Journey" by Mary Oliver, and "A Doctor's Visit" by Anton Chekov. Those of you who are interested in participating should contact Frank at: neelo001@mc.duke.edu.

Monday, 19 April 2004

1. From 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon, spouses/accompanying others will have a special tour to the Museum of Fine Arts. This, the sixth largest art museum in the United States, is located across the street from the Warwick Hotel. There are also a number of other museums within easy walking distance of the Warwick.
2. The afternoon session will end with a short video entitled "The Power of a Dream," which is about the Texas Medical Center. Beginning at 4:30 p.m., buses will leave for a tour of the University of Texas Medical Center ending at the Houston Academy of Medicine Texas Medical Center Library. Participants can visit the rare book collections in the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center. There will be a cocktail reception, and individual members will have the opportunity to have their photographs taken in an "Osler Pose" at the reconstructed fireplace from 13 Norham Gardens.
3. The evening will feature a banquet in Le Grand Salon de la Comtesse at the La Colombe D'Or hotel and restaurant. After dinner, Rob Stone will show his videotape on the history of the American Osler Society. The banquet will conclude with Texas music and a dancing demonstration.

Tuesday, 20 April 2004

1. Buses will leave for Galveston beginning at 12:15 p.m. Spouses and guests will be able to take a guided tour of the 1859 Ashton Villa, followed by a light tea and a style show featuring Victorian fashions.
2. From 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., members will take guided tours of the McGovern Hall of Medical History in "Old Red" at the University of Texas Medical Branch. There will also be an exhibit in the foyer of the Moody Medical Library, and members can visit the History of Medicine Collections.
3. At 4:30 p.m., members, spouses, and guests will be transported to the Texas Seaport Museum for evening events. The following venues will be available from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.: A visit to the Texas Seaport Museum; a tour of the 1877 *Elissa*; films about the *Elissa* and about Galveston's 1900 hurricane; and a narrated tour of Galveston Harbor aboard the *Seagull II*.
4. At 7:30 p.m., a buffet dinner in the Harbor Room of Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant.

Y'all come! —CSB