FIFTY YEARS AGO, DECEMBER 1959

In “Athletic Injuries to the Upper Extremity,” A.A. Savastano, MD, focused on injuries to the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, upper arm, and shoulder.

In “Transient T-Wave Inversion after Paroxysmal Ventricular Tachycardia in Normal Adult Hearts,” Joseph B. Karas, MD, and Frank B. Cutts, MD, described the case of a 28 year-old woman, who smoked two packs of cigarettes a day, and the case of a 26 year-old man. The authors found the prognosis “usually excellent” in such cases.

Robert M. Lord, Jr, MD, and Lester L. Vargas, MD, described the uncommon but urgent problem” of “Tension Pneumothorax in a Newborn Infant.” The full-term baby boy, born to a 28 year-old gravida I para I mother by cesarean section because of cephalopelvic disproportion at the Providence Lying-In Hospital, was later transferred to Rhode Island Hospital for a closed thoractomy. The baby was discharged on the 18th hospital day.

Lieutenant Ralph L. Nachman, MC, described “Unilateral Renal Disease with Hypertension,” the case of a 42 year-old man admitted with a cough, headache, and pulmonary infiltrate to the US Naval Hospital. After diagnosis, he had a left nephrectomy.

Edward S. Cameron, MD, and Warren W. Francis, MD, in “Total Glossectomy for Carcinoma, describe the case of a 89 year-old patient at the Rhode Island Tumor Clinic. The authors reported that, post-procedure, the patient’s “difficulty with eating and speech has been moderate.”

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, DECEMBER 1984

Seebert J. Goldowsky, MD, in “Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy,” discussed a recent presentation by Dr. George Pfister, radiologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital, on the new procedure. “The equipment (currently available only from Philips) costs about $1.25 million. Preparing the room and…the necessary support systems brings the cost to about $2 million. Considering the limited number of cases for which this new modality will be indicated, we wonder how the health planning groups in RI will respond ….for a Certificate of Need…”

John I. Sandson, MD, Dean of Boston University School of Medicine,” presented “Medical Education: Past, Present and Future” at the Oration of Medical Education at The Miriam Hospital. The Journal reprinted the talk. He noted: “Medical education must be adequately funded to provide efficient high quality health services to all.”

Stephen R. Smith, MD, in “An Analysis of the Fourth Year of Medical School,” reported: “Medical students appear to choose their elective courses reasonably and generally avoid premature specialization.”

H. Denman Scott, MD, Director, Rhode Island Department of Health, in “Should We Welcome for-Profit Hospitals to Rhode Island?” answered No.