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FORMER SUNY COBLESKILL PROFESSOR DONATES HISTORIC SCALE TO BASSETT HEALTHCARE

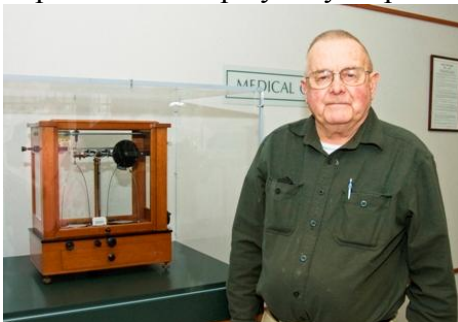
Cooperstown, N.Y. – Cobleskill resident and professor Dr. Everett Merrill, 80, was a popular fixture in SUNY Cobleskill’s biological sciences department from 1954 to 1957 and 1963 to 1992. His classes included microbiology, biology, food sanitation and water chemistry. A central element in his water chemistry laboratory was a Christian Becker laboratory scale.

Called a “Chainomatic Analytical Balance,” the instrument precisely measures to five places beyond the decimal point. It also is a handsome piece of equipment encased in beautiful woodwork.

Christian Becker and his father Christopher were pioneers in scientific balances and other scientific instruments. The Becker companies contributed to the development of the assay balance, the analytical balance and the bullion balance, as well as other specialized and general scales and balances. The chainomatic system of weighing was one of their best known innovations.

“I have a lot of affection for the scale,” explained Mr. Merrill, “having used it for so many years in my laboratory classes at SUNY Cobleskill. When it was declared surplus by the college, I used it in my water-testing business after my retirement.” Mr. Merrill has several ties to Bassett Healthcare and its affiliate, Cobleskill Regional Hospital. He is a former meningitis patient who credits Bassett with saving his life. For eight years, Mr. Merrill transported patients between Cobleskill and Cooperstown, as well as to other area hospitals for the American Cancer Society. He also is a longtime volunteer at Cobleskill Regional Hospital.

“I’ve admired the displays of antique medical equipment and farm equipment in Bassett’s Cooperstown facilities, and wanted my scale to go to a good home where others could view it and appreciate it,” he said. “In addition to building many accurate and very well-made balances and scales that were so important to trading in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Christian Becker also gave others the opportunity to learn. I hope that this display may inspire others in some way.”



Dr. Everett Merrill, retired SUNY Cobleskill professor, stands in front of the Christian Becker laboratory scale he donated to Bassett Healthcare. The historic scale is on display in the Medical Clinic foyer, which is on the second floor of Bassett’s Clinic Building in Cooperstown.