

# Heart Pioneer To Small-Town Dr.

(Continued from page 1)

idea of heart transplant grew so great that it influenced his avocation, painting.

In 1959, when he spent a year on Block Island, the doctor painted a picture symbolizing his hope, and showing the sensitivity of Mauricio Golberg, the man.

On one side of the canvas is a rocket ship pointed skyward, symbolizing the progress and potential of Man. On the other is an atomic mushroom cloud, symbolizing his destructive alter ego. Between them stands a heart-lung machine and a heart, ready to be transplanted to one of the other planets, at the top of the canvas, as a gift of life from one world to another.

"So great was my dream," Dr. Golberg says of the painting, which he still has.

The son of European immigrants to Argentina, Dr. Golberg was born on his father's wheat farm on the pampas. By the time he was 12, he says, he knew he wanted to be a doctor.

After his graduation from medical school he came to the United States on the advice of his teachers, where he spent eight years in numerous hospitals training to become a thoracic surgeon.

Shortly after his historic transplant operation in 1957, he returned to his native coun-

try, but its political instability "made work there impossible."

He returned to the United States after a year, where he practiced on Block Island and then was associated with Dr. Leland Jones, a thoracic surgeon in Providence.

In 1963 he opened his practice in South Kingstown, and later moved to his present office in the medical associates building on Kingstown Road, Narragansett.

On the active medical staff at South County Hospital, the doctor also practices general surgery, but has thoracic cases only occasionally.

His 1957 transplant experiment, now more than a decade old, was very similar in technique to the recent operations performed on human beings in South Africa and the United States.

As was the case in the recent operations, Dr. Golberg and his team cut away the very top of the donor heart, and fitted it to the small area of the recipient's heart left in place.

What were his feelings when the transplanted hearts began to beat?

"I was very calm in those days, but not Berman and Akman (for whom his admiration is undisguised). Berman said 'Mauricio — Success! It is working!'"

Dr. Golberg describes the recent history-making transplants as "great steps forward."

With the confidence of a self-confessed "dreamer," who even attempted to build his own heart-lung machine when none was available in Argentina, he added "There are no problems which human beings cannot solve. We must think optimistically."

Dr. Golberg, who lives in Peace Dale with his wife, Claire, and children Mark, 11, and Jane, 5, admits he thinks now and then of a return to transplant work, but notes that "you must be young for that kind of work. Suddenly you're not 35 any more, you're 45."

"Besides, I am very happy here. I work at something useful. What is the difference whether I save a life by curing a pneumonia or by transplanting a heart?"

Then the interview was concluded, and once again Mauricio Golberg would be home late for dinner, this time for