



**The *Great* Canadian
Catholic Hospital History Project**

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.



**Projet de la *Grande* Histoire
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada**

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

**St. Vincent de Paul Hospital
Brockville, Ontario
100th Anniversary
1887-1987**

***The Recorder and Times* Newspaper Supplement
Saturday November 21, 1987**

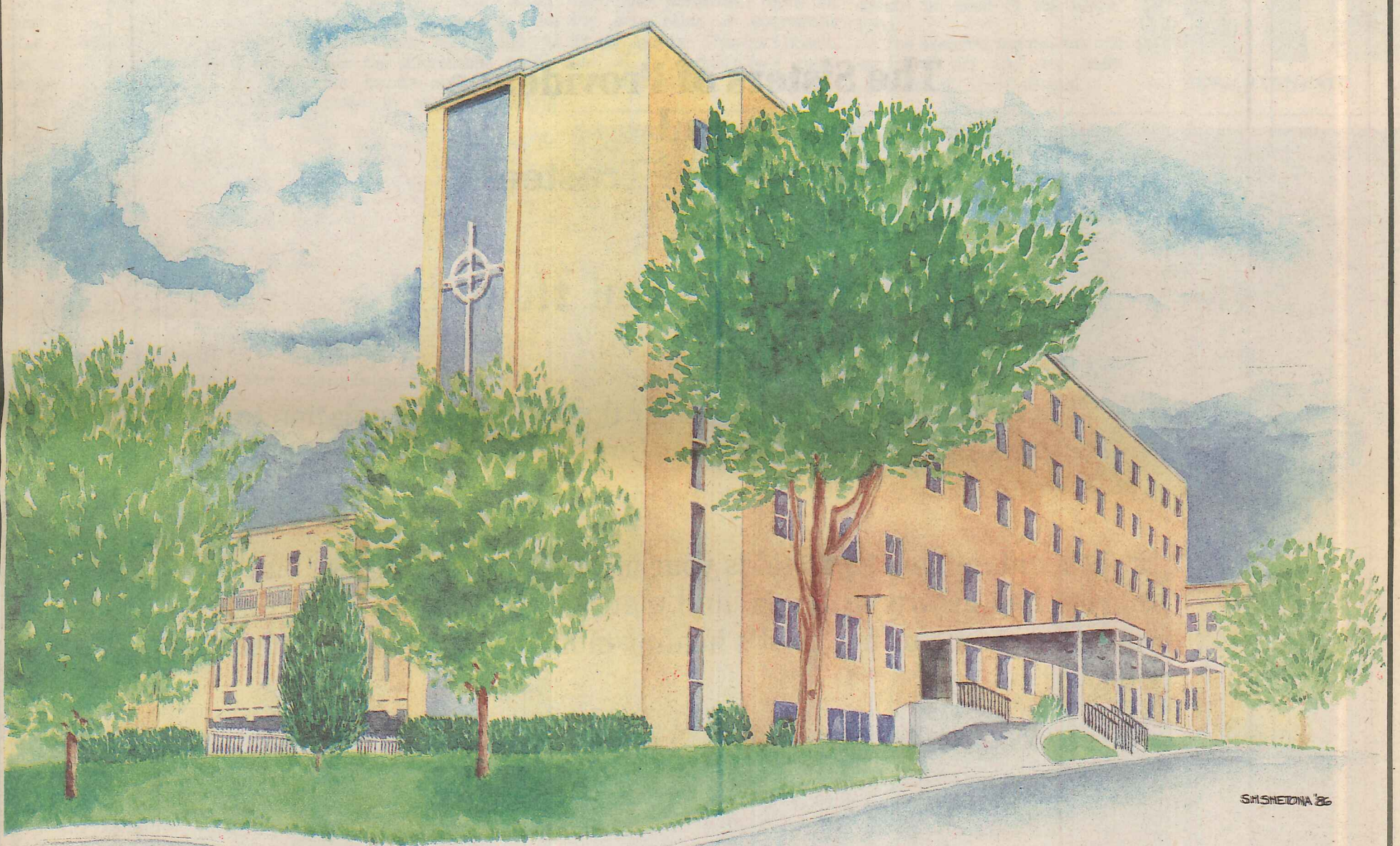
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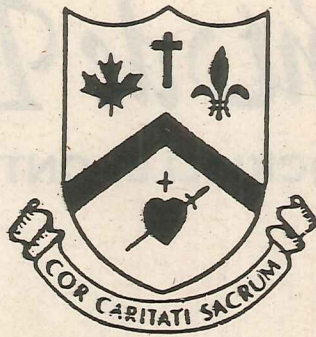
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St. Vincent de Paul Hospital

BROCKVILLE, ONTARIO



100th Anniversary
1887 ~ 1987



**The Sisters of Providence
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take this opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation to the citizens of Brockville, Prescott and area for their support and encouragement over the past 100 years.

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Sisters of Providence still providing 'care'

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

The Sisters of Providence have quietly gone about the business of running St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Brockville during these past 100 years. And although their ranks have thinned in recent years, they are still very visible in continuing the "caring" for which the hospital has so long been noted.

Two of the Sisters who are constantly "on duty" and are known by countless patients and their families, regardless of religious denomination, are Sister Josephine O'Neill and Sister Ruth Onyski, both of whom are deeply involved in pastoral care.

The two sisters have a total of 108 years of service to the Sisters of Providence — much of which has been spent right here at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

Both joined the Order in the early 1930s and have each held responsible positions in its many hospitals throughout the religious community. And although "retired" from their original roles, they are now busier than ever ministering to the patients' pastoral needs.

"Patients die at all times of the day and night — so you may be sure that one of us is always available to be at their bedside for those final moments," reminded Sister Josephine. They keep track of all the patients in the hospital, visiting each one individually at least once or twice each day.

Sister Ruth is always on call for the second and fourth floor, which are surgical and medical floors, as well as intensive care; while Sister Josephine is more involved with the fifth floor medical and palliative care.

Both Sisters have interesting backgrounds.

Sister Mary Ruth Onyski comes from a Brockville family and was Cecilia Onyski when she grew up here, attending local schools. After taking the commercial course at BCIVS, she went to work in the office at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital for three years.

"Just the example of the Sisters who I worked with seemed to inspire me. Their way of life appealed to me so much that I decided I wanted to be like them, so I entered the Order of the Sisters of Providence myself. That was 53 years ago, and I never regretted it," she stated in a recent interview.

She was posted to the Order in Smiths Falls for a year and a half, then went to Moose Jaw for six years, then to St. Vincent de Paul in Brockville for six years. During these years she was "an office person", working in medical records.



Sister Ruth Onyski and Sister Josephine O'Neill, of the pastoral care staff at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, are seen against the Sisters of Providence mural at the front entrance at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)

After her six years here, she was sent back to Smiths Falls where she was with medical records for 26 years at St. Francis Hospital and becoming Sister Superior until the hospital closed as St. Francis and became part of Smiths Falls Community Hospital. She had also been on the hospital's governing board.

Then 10 years ago she returned to St. Vincent de Paul, again working in the business office and medical records, also on the switchboard until two years ago when she began doing pastoral care.

Sister Josephine, who comes from Marmora, started out in life as Helena Bernice O'Neill, better known as Ellen, the eldest of a family of four daughters.

While she attended public schools and a continuation school in her home area, there was never any doubt in her mind that she wanted to become a religious sister, like aunts in her family. As a young teenager, she entered the Order of the Sisters of Providence in 1932, taking the name Sister Mary Josephine, making the profession in 1935 and her final vows in 1938.

Her first posting was at Heathfield, the Mother House in Kingston. "I was only there for

14 days when they sent me over to St. Mary's of the Lake to relieve a sister on retreat. I was there until September, then went to Arnprior to relieve another sister," she recalled.

In 1938 she was sent to Smiths Falls to St. Francis General Hospital, remaining there for 34 years. The nursing training school had just closed and the hospital was short of help — "so I was sent there as a practical nurse to begin with, then went to work in the lab with a sister who was a registered technologist," she explained.

Sister Mary Josephine was then sent to the Ottawa General Hospital to take a laboratory technician course, after which she returned in this capacity to St. Francis Hospital and remained there as a lab technologist until 1971.

Then for three years she was posted to the west, to St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose, Alberta where she was Sister Superior, as well as doing lab work. She was also Sister Superior during her last six years in Smiths Falls and had been chairman of the governing boards on both hospitals, in Smiths Falls and Camrose.

Sister Josephine came to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in 1974 when Sister Angelica Dunn was

in charge. She helped in the lab for a while, then "retired" and took over fulltime pastoral care.

In was Sister Josephine who was doing "palliative care" before the unit was organized here, although the name wasn't designated as such then. But families of patients remember her as always "being there when needed", doing all she could to bring peace of mind to the pa-

tients and their distressed families.

"Both Sister Ruth and I are always available for any terminal patients, no matter what the hour," she stressed. And in the early days of palliative care being formed here, it was Sister Josephine who visited different organizations, speaking on Christian care and concern for the dying and critically ill, which is also what pastoral visiting is about.

The Sisters keep in close touch with the clergy of the various denominations and alert them when members of their congregation are in need of spiritual comfort.

Both Sisters have no regrets at choosing the vocation which they have served faithfully for well over half a century. Each entered the Order just before Christmas, when very young women — Sister Josephine on December 5 and Sister Ruth on December 8. And it was six years before they could go home for Christmas to visit their families. "But the Order always made things very pleasant for us at Christmas — and in those days, we couldn't even telephone home," they both remember.

And they have seen many changes in hospitals, as well as in religious orders, but have remained steadfast to their chosen duties throughout. "Times change, probably for the best, but we carry on caring for patients as we always did," they agree.

They are both fine examples of "Sisters of Providence" and all that their Order (which is an outgrowth of the Sisters of Charity) stands for — not only providing care in the religious community, but throughout the secular community of Brockville and area served by St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

Travel package auction planned

BY PAM SALT

Should the Brockville Memorial Centre be filled to capacity on April 23, 1988, it would be a very positive sign for the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital Foundation, most especially if after the event the thermometer registering the Foundation's progress revealed that the amount collected had increased considerably.

The "special event" is a Holiday Travel Benefit Auction where all forms of holiday travel, be it weekend hotel accommodation, a bus tour or a ski package donated by Travel Promotors, local and national,

will be on the auction block.

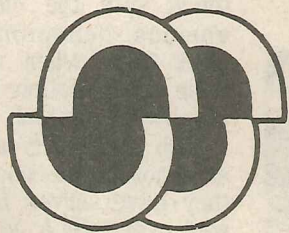
Participants will be invited to bid for the packages up for auction and each time the auctioneer lowers his hammer the dollars collected for this worthy cause will rise.

A "silent auction" is also on the agenda with travel items only being the object of the bidding.

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by the Big Band Sound of the Moxie Whitney Orchestra, so even those who are unsuccessful in their bidding will have the satisfaction of having been handsomely entertained.

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Hospital lab has undergone dramatic change

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

While some departments remain relatively the same over the years, not so with the lab at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

In the years since the present manager, Greg Moore, took over and also some of his longtime staff, there has been a 100 per cent change — in methods, equipment and modern technology.

Everything is automated now and the workload has also increased tremendously.

"If we didn't have this automated equipment, there is no way we could do the volume of work we do," he maintains.

Reminiscing over the changes they have seen, lab receptionist Ruth Martineau (who has been working at St. Vincent's since 1958 and in the lab since 1961) and Barb Hanna, a medical technologist who covers all departments of the lab, on staff for the last 20 years, say that what they are doing now in the lab was only a distant dream back in the 1960s.

"In fact, we never dreamed such time-saving devices existed, as they were unheard of!" the both agree.

The lab is a multi-disciplinary area now with many studies of work going on constantly. There is the blood bank where they do haematology, biochemistry, bacteriology, histology (study of tissues from surgery or autopsies) and urinalysis — all one very busy department in itself.

And there are other areas such as serology for study of the immune system.

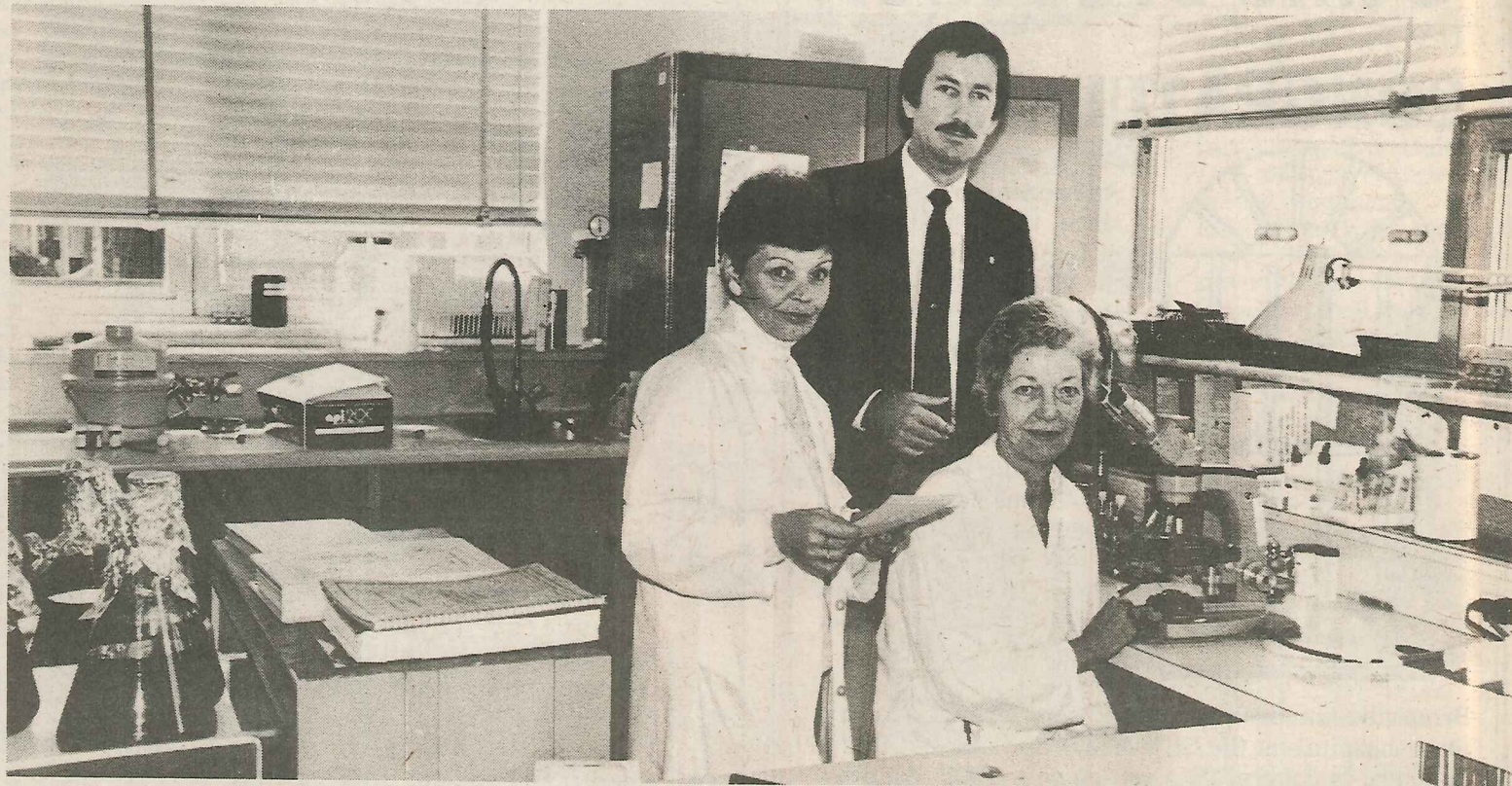
They also do toxicology and therapeutic drug analysis, making sure patients have the correct levels of a prescribed drug in their bodies, such as for heart problems, or for asthmatics. This way they help to keep control of overdoses, particularly if the patient is not being careful of his dosages.

The lab checks for white cells, seeing if a system is sensitive to antibiotics, and determining if they have an infection.

The workload at St. Vincent de Paul is particularly heavy, as they also do all the lab work for Brockville Psychiatric Hospital, and have since 1971.

AIDS testing is done in Toronto, but some samples sent there have come back positive, Mr. Moore readily admits.

Commenting on this worrisome disease, he says, "Our position is that it should be as restrictive of the people who handle the testing, as those who have it. We have as much right for protection as do the victims. We should know if a specimen is infected and there should be stickers used for special handling. Lab people



Greg Moore, chief technologist and manager of the lab at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, is seen with two longtime members of the lab staff — Ruth Martineau, the receptionist who started as a lab

should have the right to know what they are dealing with," he insists.

Confidentiality is strictly carried out in the lab, and other staff members in the hospital are not permitted to come in and look up results on patients.

Lab personnel have always dealt with hazardous specimens over the years, and this is part of the training technique in handling dangerous samples.

But a virus is something else, very difficult to control, he reminds.

Lab workers are now using gloves to handle all specimens — urine and stool samples, as well as blood. "You never know — and this is the only way to protect yourself," Greg reminds.

The gloves now used in the lab are comfortable, made of latex, and are of a type that can fit either hand. There is not the resistance found in older type rubber gloves — and the long wearing doesn't exhaust the hand.

Lab workers also try to avoid spillage and keep disinfectants handy. And all the disposable equipment now used, such as gloves, needles, tubes, etc., all must be sterilized before being sent to the garbage.

"Back in the 'old days' there was a more relaxed atmosphere in the lab — but of course we didn't have the same workload then. We're really a lot more conscious of safety now — it's a wonder we all survived, when you stop to think of it," Ruth Martineau commented.

When Barb Hanna started 20 years ago, of the six staff

members none of them were blood collectors. Now two collectors go to the floors every day. "We used to have to wash, sterilize and vacuum the tubes, as everything was reusable," she remembers.

Tubes now are all color coded and disposable. But now it's a "different world" for collecting blood. One test that took an hour and a half to do has been so simplified by a machine that, while the tests still have to be done, it takes only 10 minutes to do 20 tests.

Now, instead of only 15 to 20 patients going through lab processes in a day, the average is 60 to 70 outpatients and 30 in-patients, for an average of at least a hundred. "And we're putting away at least 200 specimens every evening (with some patients having anywhere from five to seven tests) — so it's easy to see how much more advanced we are," Hanna noted.

The lab is also a little like an educational facility, with so much going on, like identifying parasites, worms, rashes, culturing bacteria, identifying viruses.

"There's a tremendously wide variety of things that we do — and we try to keep up to date by taking courses, and also have experts come and talk to us. We must maintain quality control, and it's most important to keep all the sophisticated equipment up to date," Mr. Moore pointed out.

Back in the 1960s, an important piece of equipment for the lab would cost in the neighborhood of \$4,000 — but now they are looking at expenditures of \$100,000 — "beyond

all imaginings of 20 years ago!" technician in 1961, and Barb Hanna, a medical technologist covering all departments in the lab, on the job there since 1967.

(Photo by Betty MacDowell)

Greg Moore, who came from Nova Scotia, is chief technologist as well as lab manager — but his role now has become more paper work, he admits. There are 23 full and part-time workers in the lab doing 16 jobs, some on a sharing basis.

In the 'old days', the Sisters worked in the lab — such as Sister Josephine, Sister Eunice and Sister Mary Kevin, who was in charge (and later returned to the hospital as administrator, known as Sister Irene Forrester). There were racks of glassware hanging all around in those days, too.

"We have better technology and are far more efficient now. And training has changed drastically," they all admit.

Ruth Martineau, who spent years as a lab technologist, remembers when pregnancy tests were done with toads — and the staff had to inspect them regularly. The Humane Society would never let labs get away with the way they used animals, such as rats and rabbits, for tests in former days, she realizes now.

"Those toads used to hop out at night and get lost in the hospital corridors — we had an awful time rounding them up," she remembers — but insists that the staff never really became fond of the toads, as they were so ugly, and they caused such a lot of trouble.

"There was a time in pregnancy testing that if you found out the results in a week, you were happy. Now it only takes about five minutes," she noted.

One of the most significant

changes is in the level of the quality of the work, manager Moore pointed out, "and in Ontario we have a proficiency testing program from the ministry of health and the OMA.

"As a result, the government has closed down the poor labs and brought everyone up to the same level of skills — very costly, but worth it. Tests are now very reliable, but will continue to be costly. And if we don't perform well, then we can lose our licence," he explained.

Processes are much speedier — and because of this, lives are being saved, he reminded.

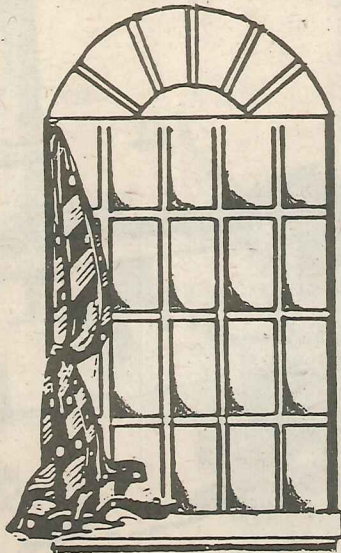
Thinking back over some of the staff members they have worked with over the years, the two long-service women lab workers remember Dr. W. J. Wyatt, Jacob Nieuwenhuizen, Jean Jagersma (who took over from Sister Mary Kevin), and Marina Misola, who came from the Philippines. Lab technicians used to travel around a lot, going all over the Commonwealth, seeing the world as they performed their duties.

Barb Hanna came to St. Vincent's from Belleville when her husband was transferred here. She received her training at Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

Working in the lab is much busier now than 20, or even 10 years ago — and they don't have time for much of the fun they used to have. But that spirit of "doing their best work" is still very much a part of their day — even if the new state of the art methods have taken out a lot of the uncertainties. "We keep busy — all day long!" they all agree.

Otma Draperies

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Robert W. Korthals
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November 5th, 1987

Mr. John D. Simpson,
Chairman,
St. Vincent de Paul Hospital,
42 Garden Street,
Brockville, Ontario.
K6V 2C3

Dear Mr. Simpson:

It is a great pleasure to extend to you and the Sisters of Providence warm congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

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Tom Barr heads purchasing dep't

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

In charge of purchasing at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital for the past 18 years, Tom Barr presides over a busy area of the institution and has noted quite a few changes since he started there in 1969.

In his opinion, the introduction of "materials management concept" is one of the major improvements.

"When I started here, many of the products were re-usable with reprocessing many times — such as surgeons' gloves, and needles and syringes. And often the needles needed sharpening, especially when using 40,000 in a year. Now we buy completely disposable needles and syringes, at a cost of eight cents each," he explained.

"We had to look at what it costs to reprocess equipment, and these disposable plastic gloves, needles, syringes are proving their worth," he added.

Barr also pointed out that back in the days of reprocessing, the CSR (central supply room) was a much larger department, constantly reprocessing a lot of goods.

"We've saved on labor (which is increasingly costly) but have increased our supplies — hopefully for the benefit of the patient," he explained.

Another big change since he started is that purchasing has become a system of contracts, with a search for a supplier once a year.

"There's such a rapid advancement in the health care system now, that we are buying products which didn't even exist 10 years ago," he remarked.

And an example of this is the intraocular lens (a lens implant) which, while it existed in the market place for airline pilots and train engineers, was not available for hospitals 10 years ago.

"Now, with all the eye surgery here, we budget each year for 330 such lenses at \$180 apiece. This is a completely new expense over the last decade, to complement the lens implant procedure," he pointed out.

Ophthalmologists are now asking for lasers for surgery, and these will become a reality at St. Vincent's within the next six months, Barr predicted.

Tom Barr is a Brockville native, being born and brought up here, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Barr. He worked in stores at Phillips Cables and Brockville Chemicals (now Nitrochem) before moving to purchasing and joining the staff at St. Vincent de Paul in 1969. At that time he took over from Sid

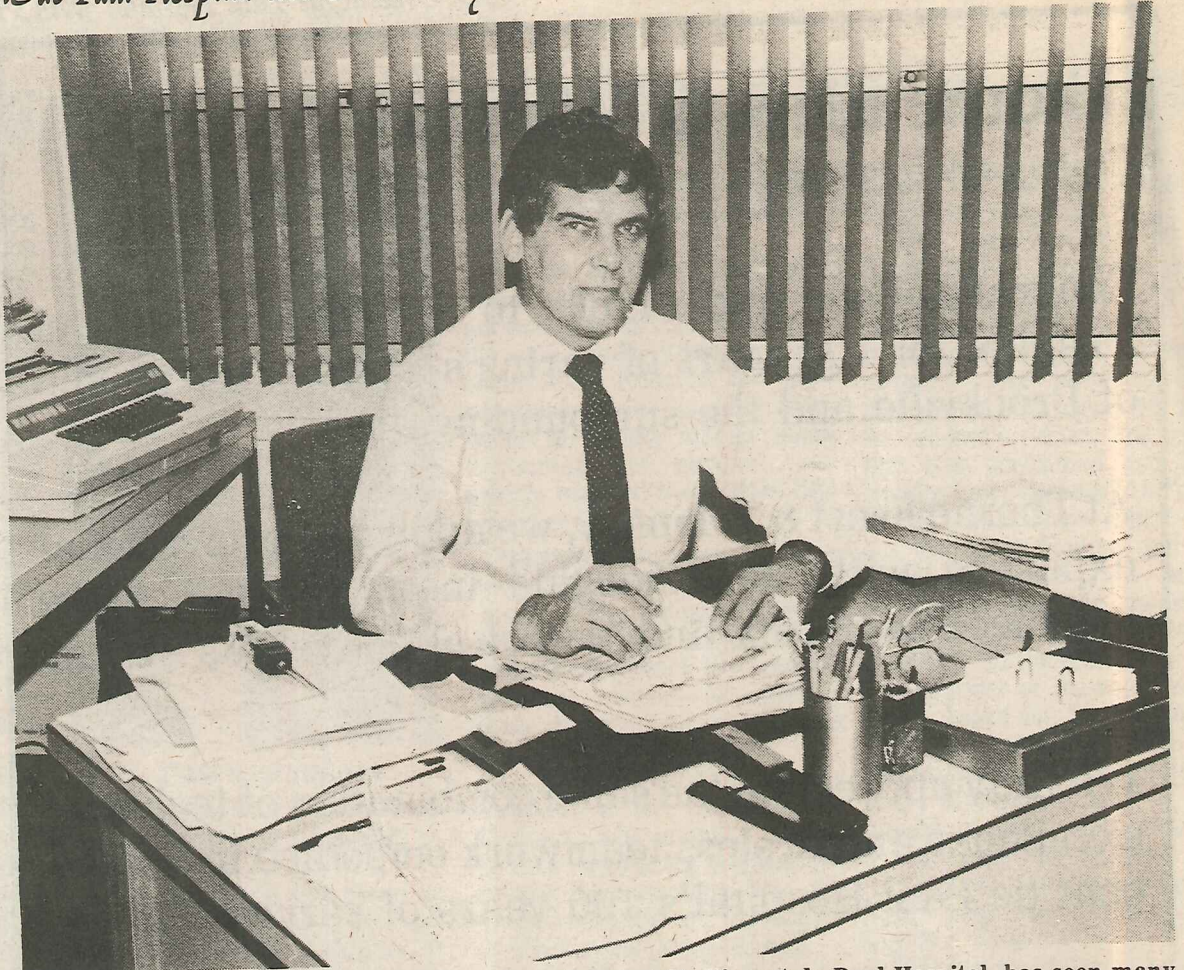
Bell, and Sister Angelica Dunn was the business administrator.

He states with a bit of pride that not only were his five children born at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in the old maternity department, but he, too, was born there.

"There's a special feeling we all have, working here. And it's all over the hospital, in all departments. No one is concerned with just their own little area, but everything is inter-related. And, like everyone else here, I really look forward to coming to work here every morning," he states.

Among his outside interests, Tom and his wife and family enjoy downhill skiing, going to areas in the Ottawa Valley or Adirondacks just about every winter weekend.

He also did a long stint on the County School Board as a separate schools representative, terminating his work with the board in 1986.



Tom Barr, in charge of the purchasing department at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, has seen many changes in this area since he joined the staff in this capacity in 1969. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)

Hospital 'home' to Donna Gifford

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

A former instructor in obstetrics, Donna Gifford has been employees' health nurse at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital since 1971 — and she has a fierce loyalty to the hospital.

"I really came to work here as a young post-graduate in 1954 — and St. Vincent has been 'home' to me ever since!" she proudly states.

The former Donna Robertson, born and raised in Brockville, she was a star on the BCI girls' basketball team before she entered the nursing program at Brockville General Hospital's old school of nursing, graduating in 1952.

She worked on the staff of BGH for two years, then was advised to take a post-grad course in obstetrics in Boston, Mass. for six months.

"When I returned to Brockville there was an opening here at St. Vincent's for me. This was my first experience in working in a Catholic hospital — and I didn't know what to expect. But I just loved it from the beginning. Sister dePazzi was the nun in charge of obstetrics and she gave me a lot of responsibility. I still keep in touch with her — and now she's known as Sister Olive," said Donna.

That same year, Donna married George Gifford, also a Brockville native, who has now taken an early retirement from his Canada Customs job.

"One of my early cases was in 'specializing' Senator Hardy (in

his older years) who was in a private room in maternity, of all places! And I remember that he wouldn't go to bed until he saw all the babies every night," she recalls with a chuckle.

Donna has fond memories of those big front rooms with their windows facing Pine Street. "The patients were allowed to bring their pets — goldfish, canaries, budgies — they were all there with them. And if they wanted a drink before dinner, then ice and glasses were always ready. They were cozy rooms, complete with fireplaces. It sure was fun nursing patients in those rooms!" she readily admits.

Yet she insists there was always "a special feeling of caring — a sort of spiritual feeling which came from the nuns who were always there, quietly looking after everyone," she reminds.

In later years, after her children started to grow up, Donna would bring them to the hospital when she dropped in — and when they "disappeared" she could always locate them in the various sisters' offices.

She taught nursing students from 1963 to 1971 and did clinical work at St. Vincent de Paul with her students, always pointing out to them that this was where she had done many years of service herself.

"I think it's that overall atmosphere of spirituality and guidance that persists in this hospital that makes it a more



Donna Gifford has been at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital since 1954, the past 16 years as employees' health nurse. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)

caring institution — it's a really nice feeling," she states.

As health nurse for the employees of the hospital, it is her responsibility to see that all government safety regulation are met and follow up on all these safety factors.

"We have to make sure that our staff remains healthy, that all immunizations, etc., are kept up to date. It's the same idea as industrial nurses in large fac-

ories. But here the staff has to be in the best of health to make sure the patients get the best care," she reminds.

During her vacation periods, Donna and her husband George enjoy travelling and just recently returned from a three-week trip to England, Scotland and France.

"It was great to get away — but it's even better to return to good old Canada," she says with conviction.

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Congratulations and thanks to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital for 100 years of caring service to the people of Brockville and the surrounding area.

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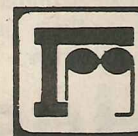
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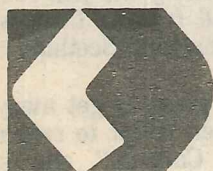
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MAITLAND SITE

Dr. Arthur Hudson was chief of staff in 1948

A longtime familiar figure at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital was Dr. Arthur H. Judson, a former chief of staff in 1948, and whose home was located almost across the road at the south-east intersection of Pine Street and Victoria Avenue.

Dr. Judson went through the doors almost daily for 55 years, visiting patients and performing surgery.

Born in Westport, he grew up in Lyn where he attended public school then came in to Brockville to the collegiate.

From BCI he went on to McGill University in Montreal to study medicine, following in the footsteps of his father, Dr. George Judson, village doctor in Lyn for many years (who had also given anaesthetics for Dr. Cornell many times at St. Vincent).

Dr. Judson graduated from McGill in 1904 then went to England for a year of post-graduate studies, returning to practice medicine in Mallorytown until 1918.

In the meantime he married Lena Mallory, of Mallorytown, coming to Brockville to take up residence at 25 Victoria Avenue (where his daughter Frances continues to reside). The gracious old home was previously occupied by Dr. Cornell, who was also a noted family doctor and surgeon at both local hospitals. Dr. Cornell later moved to Garden Street, the same location now occupied by Dr. Jack McDougall.

"Dad did just about everything, as they all did in the old days — there were no specialists then — but he seemed to like surgery best," his daughter recalls.

And he kept up with the latest procedures by going back to Montreal to observe his medical friends (particularly Dr. Guy Johnston) while they performed surgery there. "He watched, and learned from them," Frances remembers.

Her father continued his practice of medicine almost until the time he became sick. He died in 1973.

Looking back over the years, Frances recalls her father as the type who didn't care at all for publicity. He liked to travel and frequently went to Montreal to hockey games — as well as taking his



DR. A.H. JUDSON

wife and daughter to New York every summer to attend ballgames, being a longtime Brooklyn Dodgers fan.

After her mother died in 1948, Frances took over the driving (as had her mother before her), chauffeuring Dr. Judson on his rounds.

"It wasn't that he couldn't drive, he just didn't like it — found it too boring. But he did enjoy winter driving, strangely enough, and loved to drive on ice!" she recalls.

She remembers her father working with all the well-known local doctors over the years — at both hospitals, but his preference was always St. Vincent de Paul.

Another recollection is of her grandmother Mallory "living" at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital. "She seemed to be there in one of the big rooms for years — at a cost of \$30 a month!"

Many of the longtime nursing staff have fond recollections of Dr. Judson — "he was practically a fixture here — and I can still seem him trudging up those long staircases in the front hall," head nurse Loretta Culhane says.

Joyce Bradley head technician in hospital's x-ray department

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

Joyce Bradley, who is head technician at the x-ray department at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, has a background of over 25 years in that department at the hospital, having trained here as a technician in 1961-62 under Sister Mary Rodriguez.

While she has certainly seen a lot of changes at the hospital over the past quarter century, one outstanding constant is the fact that St. Vincent has remained "patient-oriented", no matter what.

She credits much of this feeling to the atmosphere created by the nuns, the Sisters of Providence, who headed all the departments throughout the hospital until a few years ago.

"The staff has picked up on their special caring attitude for the patients," she points out.

Joyce had a three-year break from the local hospital a few years after becoming an x-ray technician, working in a Montreal hospital during that time. Then she went to Cardiff, Wales for several months, to work in a hospital with some British nurses she had previously met in Brockville.

She returned home for Christmas that year and resumed her position at St. Vincent in January of 1969; remaining to head the department. Joyce Bradley's family live on River Road, Prescott, and while she enjoyed travelling, she missed the good times at home.

Changes in technology are the major ones at the hospital, especially the acquiring of ultra-sound for diagnostic purposes. Everything is now "state of the art" and the staff has also increased to 9.5 fulltime employees to use the equipment. The two x-rays and one ultra-sound machine are in steady use all day and there is also a portable x-ray machine which can be taken to the bedside of patients too ill to come down to the department.

The purchase of Diagnostic Ultrasound and Doppler Ultrasound equipment for the department of radiology was made possible by a significant donation from a local philanthropic benefactor — and Bradley reminds that the hospital is most grateful for the opportunity to provide this enormous benefit to the community.

Explaining the diagnostic ultrasound, Bradley says "It carries our imaging procedures on the abdomen, pelvis, extremities, thyroid and other accessible glands or 'lumps and bumps', as well as providing assistance in needle guidance



Joyce Bradley, head technician in the X-ray department at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, at her busy desk.

(Photo by Betty MacDowell)

for biopsy and drainage procedures."

The department also specializes in Echocardiography (the study of the heart, its valves and function) and vascular diagnostic assessment.

"Echocardiography," she explains, "assesses the heart valves and features of the heart muscle. With the doppler capability we can measure flow velocity measurement of blood through the valves and ventricles, etc."

Vascular procedures include visualization and doppler assessment of carotid arteries and the arteries and veins of the legs and arms. "This specialty assesses arteries for abnormalities such as atherosclerosis which cause narrowing of the vessel and thrombosis. Prompt and appropriate referral and treatment can be expeditiously pursued to the patient's benefit," Miss Bradley points out.

In the early days, before ultra-sound, the x-ray department did around 5,000 cases a year — "today we are doing 19,000!" Bradley notes.

"The technology in x-ray has changed so rapidly in the last 10 years, with the greatest change being in diagnostic procedures,

it is necessary to take post-graduate education to keep up and be constantly aware of the latest advances," she reminds.

The x-ray department at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital is one of five affiliated hospitals which make up the Eastern Ontario School of "X-ray Technology and, as such operates a training school for x-ray technicians.

"Our students have done very well, especially during 1984, '85 and '86 when we had award winners in all those years, including two gold medallists in three years," Joyce Bradley proudly points out.

"The staff here are knowledgeable, hard working and very loyal to the hospital — and that makes life really easy, and a pleasure to work here," she states.

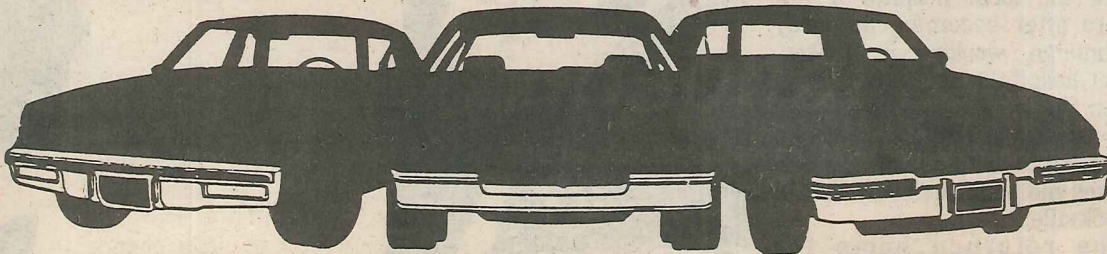
She has kept in touch with past employees, including Sister Elizabeth Cassidy now in Belleville — and who was Sister Mary Hilarian, hospital superior and formerly in charge of the X-ray when Joyce started at St. Vincent de Paul in 1961. Along with the late Dr. Jack Lanthier, who was medical director of the X-ray department, Sister Hilarian greatly encouraged Joyce Bradley when she first began her studies in this department "away back when".

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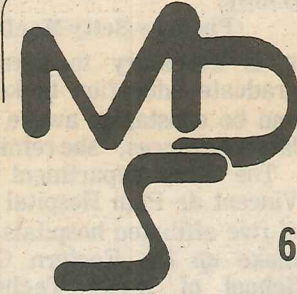
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Loretta Culhane started nursing career in 1947

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

Although Loretta Culhane was presented with a gold pin for 20 years service to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital recently, she actually started her nursing at the hospital in 1947, which is 40 years ago.

A lot of the earlier years were "part time" — and the pin was for being head nurse on the surgical floor for two decades.

Mrs. Culhane is a native of the Ottawa Valley, near Renfrew, and a graduate of the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston. She did a lot of special duty and also part-time duty at both hospitals in Kingston, the Dieu and KGH, before coming to Brockville in 1947. Her husband was a veteran of the Air Force and was sent here for a course after the war — so they ended up settling here and raising their family.

But she vividly remembers when she walked through those big front doors of the "old hospital" with the entrance off Pine Street. She was hired by Gertrude Hourigan, a longtime Prescott resident who was a supervisor at St. Vincent de Paul for many years.

"I'll never forget Mrs. Hourigan, a tall, stately woman — and I can also still see in my mind's eye Mrs. Muldoon sitting in that little switchboard booth — and that great staircase that extend up three flights of stairs!" she recalls.

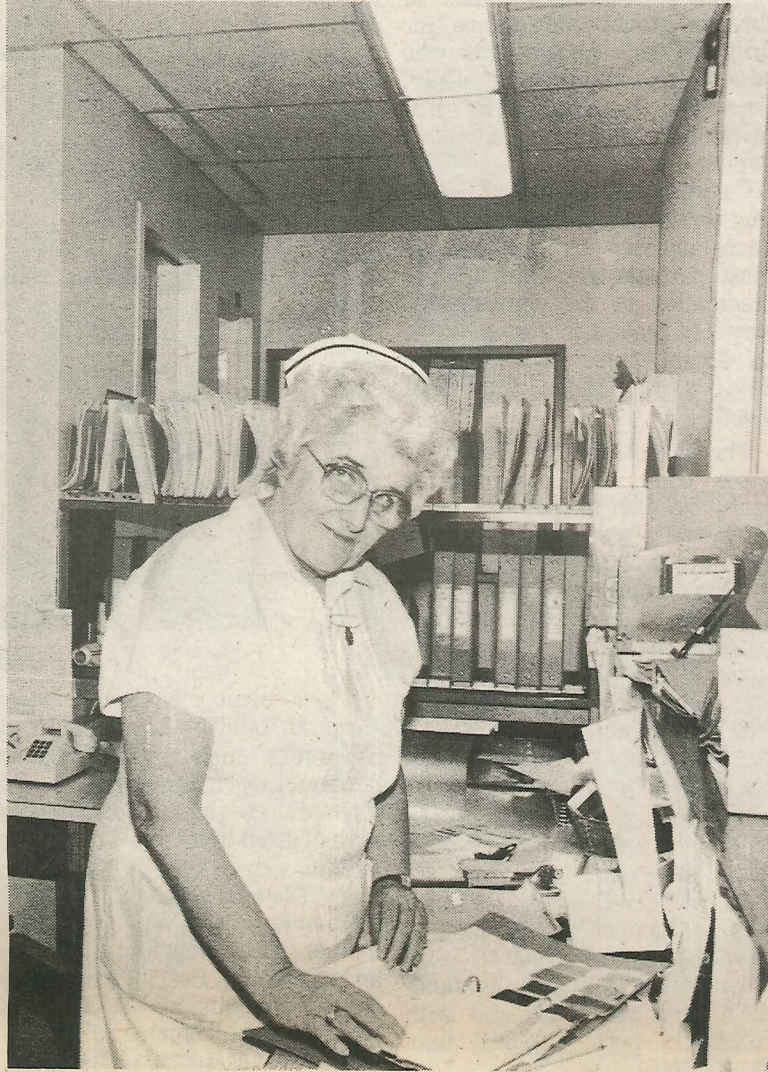
And she remembers how the older doctors used to have to trudge up those stairs to get to the various floors. "You could look down over the balcony rails and see everything in the front lobby," she reminds.

One of earlier "special" cases was for Miss Jessie Bowie, who was in one of the large rooms in the west wing. After a while, for variety, Mrs. Culhane would spend four days on maternity, then go back for four days with Miss Bowie.

She also spent three years on staff at Brockville General Hospital, then after her last child was born, returned to nursing at St. Vincent de Paul after working on and off as a relief nurse over the years.

Looking back now, she says she is glad she never really left nursing for any length of time, because of the changes over the years. It's a lot easier to just continue along with them, she admits.

"But we don't have the fun we used to, in the old days — there's too much paper work involved now. With such a patient turn-over, and so much health-teaching involved, they no sooner get admitted than



Loretta Culhane, head nurse on the surgical floor at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital for two decades. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)

you have to start their discharge planning. A lot of this is making sure they will know how to cope when they get home, such as with eye-drops, etc. because of all the eye surgery going on here," she explains.

In the "old days" she remembers when all the head nursing positions were taken by the nuns (the Sisters) — and she can rhyme off many of their names and the floors in which they were in charge. Most of them are now retired and living in different parts of the country with the Order.

And she also remembers many of the older medical staff — Dr. Joe Williams, Dr. Doug Code, Dr. J. R. McAvoy, Dr. Harold Preston, old Dr. MacPherson from Prescott — and Dr. W. J. Gibson, who was the chief surgeon when she started in 1947.

"I remember admitting Dr. MacLeod's first patient to a bed in the old sunroom on the third floor — even in those days there was always someone waiting for a bed," she stated.

(Dr. Hal MacLeod succeeded Dr. Gibson, taking over his practice after Dr. Gibson's sud-

den death, and also his office on Garden Street.)

Mrs. Culhane has vivid memories of the huge private rooms on the main floor, complete with fireplaces and comfortable furnishings — more like a living room in a private home than a hospital room. Many of Brockville's leading citizens ended their days in those rooms, some of them being patients there for several years.

Another thing she recalls is when she and fellow staff nurses would be coming over to the hospital from the residence and would have to go up and down stairs, passing through the laundry and other adjoining areas. "And every morning we would see a large table set up with lots of steaming porridge and eggs — it was for the 'tramps' (wandering hobos) who would be passing through town. The Sisters always had a hot breakfast for them, especially during chilly weather!"

"Yes, this has been a great place to work over the years — and I'm glad I took up nursing — there is really nothing like it," maintains Loretta Culhane, who has seen St. Vincent's through so many of its changes.

Old annual reports interesting reading

BY PAM SALT

Taking a look at the high technology at work today in St. Vincent de Paul Hospital — the laser surgery techniques in the department of ophthalmology, the forbidding giant cameras baring, if not our souls, then certainly our vital organs, constantly taking pictures in the department of radiology — perhaps warrants reflection on earlier years and the limited resources which were available to the medical staff and the nursing Sisters of Charity in the year 1898.

In the annual report of that year there was praise indeed, hinting at an even greater potential for the Sisters of Charity and their Superior by Dr. A. J. Macaulay, chairman of the medical staff, as he wrote: "In their hands its work of mercy has been well, though unostentatiously performed, and limited only by its resources."

In 1987 the sensational medical headlines alert us to the almost miraculous feats of surgical skills being performed daily in our hospitals which a few decades ago would have been only theoretical prospects with almost a science fiction connotation.

In 1898 the medical staff at St. Vincent's, although they may have dreamed of such achievements, had their feet planted firmly on the ground and were very much into basics. The surgery performed at St. Vincent de Paul in this year included several most interesting cases. Listed among many others was a single case of acne, six cases of bruising and two of syphilis. Unspecified treatment was administered to one patient suffering from constipation, two plagued by insomnia and two by insanity, without doubt a challenging list with which to contend.

The following year, 1899, brought little change in terms of numbers of surgical and medical cases. Anemic patients remained fairly constant at about 20, alcoholism cases were also fairly stable and around 18, but two cases of ingrowing toenails, a painful affliction to say the least, were added to the list. Interestingly enough, heart disease dropped from six cases to a mere two. Stress, to which we attribute so many of our physical and emotional problems in the 1980s, was obviously a condition of the future in 1906.

Lack of government funding, it seems, was as much a problem in the early 1900s as it is today. The Ladies' Auxiliary became champions of a case and through various fund raisers provided invaluable electric lighting in the Operating Room, Emergency Ward, Old Building and Galleries and an ingenious means of keeping the patients scrubbed and shining — a portable bathtub.

Two years earlier, in 1904, the Ladies' Auxiliary were employing themselves with fervor and not only aiming for, but attaining many of their goals. Their foremost objective was "to place the institution generally on a plane equal to the demands of the age, and one not surpassed by that of any other hospital in the province." Their crowning achievement was the installation of a steam laundry.

In 1904 private rooms were available in the hospital and as the photograph shows apart from the distinctly uncomfortable looking bed, they were furnished in a way which would be the envy of many of today's Yuppies ferreting the flea markets for Victorian furniture on a shoestring budget. Whatever happened to those fine dressers which graced the bedsides of the elite?

The 1906 report opens with a quote taken from a nursing journal listing the Qualifications of a Good Nurse: "To be Loyal, to be Honorable, to be Just, to be Generous, to be Pure, to be Upright, to be Trustworthy," a tough set of standards to meet — but it is hoped the final qualification, lamentably worded, was not be taken too literally, "and not a meddler in other men's matters." The feminists would have had a field day!

Palliative Care program depends on public support

BY PAM SALT

The Palliative Care Unit at the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital has grown steadily since the appointment of Mrs. Wilma O'Connell in April of 1979 as co-ordinator.

Today there is a palliative care team of doctors, nurses, a volunteer co-ordinator, a community nurse, pastoral associates, and many volunteers who give long hours of service to the unit.

Wilma O'Connell, the team co-ordinator, explained that the compilation of this team was a gradual process and as monetary resources increased so did human resources. The nursing care has increased in duration from four hours a day with part-time nurses to the situation where a nurse is constantly available for 12 hours each day.

Palliative Care services receive no specific government funding, so the salary of the volunteer co-ordinator and those of the nurses are all paid through the generous donations of the community.

There are 40 willing and active volunteers who work week days and weekends usually for a shift of three to four hours at a varied number of tasks. Some are directly involved with the patients, some provide emo-

tional support to the family and others give their assistance in the office by performing secretarial duties. Mrs. O'Connell stressed that those working at the patient's bedside are at all times under the direction of a nurse.

Fund raising is an integral part of the team's job. Mrs. O'Connell admits "There is a real need to be creative and innovative. New ideas, new concepts, original ways of making money are always at the back of one's mind."

There are annual events such as the Skiathon and a new event which was successfully launched this year on October 4 — the Bikeathon in which all ages participated and raised a substantial amount of help run the Palliative Care Unit.

Occasionally, instead of a general donation, an organization will provide a specific piece of equipment. Such is the case of the Telephone Pioneers of America who generously gave a VCR and a 14-inch television set exclusively for the use of patients who may request any favorite films they wish to see, or record favorite television shows.

The May Court Club of Brockville made a considerable contribution, and alongside that of an anonymous donor

for a total of \$3,500, were responsible for the purchase of three computerized pumps for drug delivery for patients who cannot take medication orally, who are bedridden or immobile, or who have excessive pain.

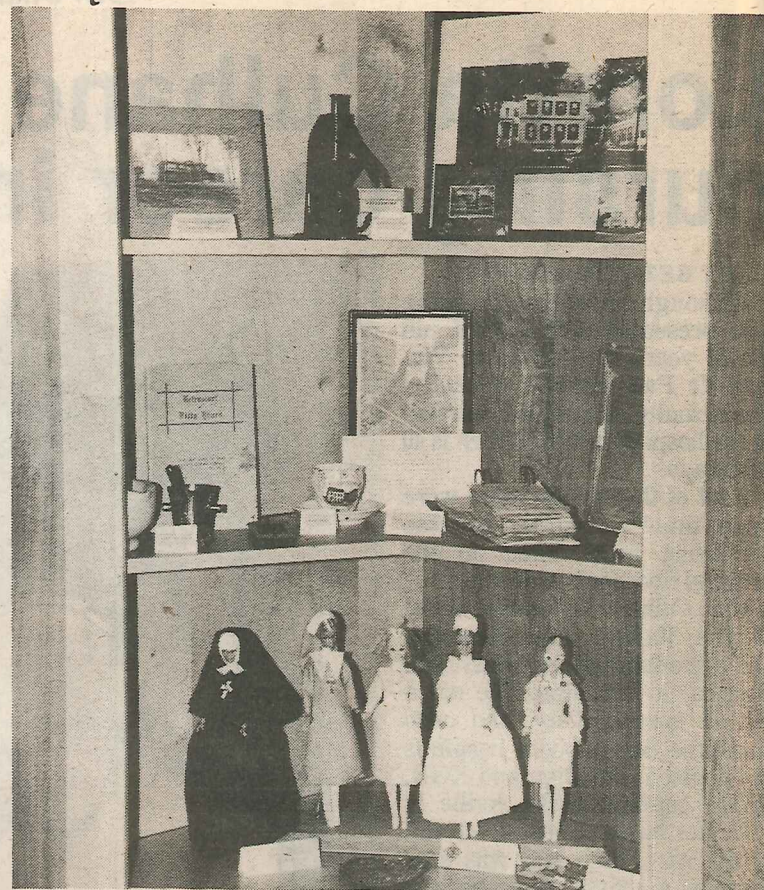
Co-ordinator O'Connell feels that three such pumps is an adequate number for the unit as most patients are able to take medication in the conventional way, but feels it is a great asset to have these ambulatory devices for those who will benefit.

The success of the Palliative Care Unit, the co-ordinator feels, is due largely to team work and stresses that the volunteers need recognition.

"The community," she added, "is an excellent source for volunteers. Not everyone is cut out to work with patients, but there are many office jobs for those who are willing and people who can provide new ideas are always welcome."

She stressed that everyone feels deeply about the program and its success.

As a vision for the future, Mrs. O'Connell would like to see a separate unit cut off from the medical floor, totally funded around the clock and with volunteers better utilized than they are now.



Display case

A new display case in the waiting area at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital (built by Borden Shire of the maintenance staff) has been attracting much attention during the hospital's 100th anniversary observances. It includes old photos of the hospital dating back to its humble beginning a full century ago, then the first large building with glassed-in sun parlors fronting Pine Street, to the present new buildings completed in the early 1960s. There is a photo of Mother Mary Clement (Shea), a longtime Superior who was one of the co-founders of the hospital, as well as other interesting memorabilia, including prescription pads from Dr. J. R. McAvoy and Dr. W. H. Perrin, and instruments and syringes from earlier days. Four dolls, all dressed by Sister Susan Pye, director of nursing, show the changes in the Sisters' habits and also the nursing uniforms over the past 100 years. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)

Fifth floor staff has lots of experience

BETTY MacDOWELL

The staff on the fifth floor at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital have all been on the job for many years — and when patients return medically to this busy medical floor they invariably remark how nice it is to see all the familiar faces.

"It seems to mean a lot to them — we all become friends over the years and patients and their families obviously like the atmosphere here, from what they tell us," head nurse Madeline Chevrier admits.

The former Madeline Poole from Rockport area (her family have long been associated with Grenadier Island), Madeline is married to Roger Chevrier and has been busy nursing at St. Vincent since 1969. She graduated from the school of nursing at Brockville General Hospital in 1953 and worked at BGH for the next

10 years.

She and Roger moved to the Maritimes for six years, during which time she was trained in ICU (intensive care unit nursing). When they returned to Brockville, there was no ICU at BGH at that time, so she applied for work at St. Vincent de Paul in their unit, then went to fifth floor in 1973, becoming a head nurse the following year.

Fifth floor is mainly medical, plus palliative care patients. It's a busy place, as many of the patients are quite ill, with lung cancer, liver cancer, strokes, heart attacks, diabetes, pneumonia, etc. "Anything that isn't surgical comes to fifth floor," Chevrier explains.

Some of her longtime nursing staff include Ann (Cipra) Duperron and Lois Dickson, who was on obstetrics for years, both

on fifth floor since 1973. And ward clerk Frances Commerford Pitman (a native Brockvillian who was Frances Cancilla) has also been on the job for at least 20 years.

Others who have been on Fifth since graduating as nurses or RNAs are Bobbie Annable, Pam Hunter Saunders, Yvonne Stein, Jane Harper, Jo-Anne Bell, Mary Bailey, as well as orderlies Dave Fournier and Rick Lessard, all from at least 10 to 15 years.

"It isn't just that these are all good nursing positions to have — and jobs today aren't that easy to come by — there seems to be more of a spirit of caring for the patients, a continuity that carries on year after year. We lose a lot of patients, because so many are terminally ill, but at least they get to know us as friends, as well as nurses, and for many who come in repeatedly they

say it's like a second home for them here," Mrs. Chevrier, in describing that

special feeling on her floor — and throughout St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.



Head nurse on Fifth Floor, Madeline Chevrier is busy with reports at the nursing station while ward clerk Frances Pittman checks the patients' daily menu choices. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)



Two familiar faces on the nursing staff in emergency at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital belong to Shirley Powers, left, who has been at her post there for 16 years, and Ann Cameron, a 23-year veteran of the staff, in charge of the department since 1964.

(Photo by Betty MacDowell)

Emergency room staffed by nurses with long service

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

If the nurses who man the emergency department at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital always looks familiar to the public, it's because most of them have been on duty there for many years.

For example, Ann Cameron, head emergency nurse, has been on the job for 23 years — and Shirley Powers for 16 years.

Head nurse Cameron is the former Ann Lagan, a Brockville native, who graduated from St. Mary's Hospital in Montreal and married Wayne Cameron, another Brockville native. And Shirley Powers was Shirley Dunham of Perth, and a graduate of the Brockville General Hospital School of Nursing in 1960.

Yet another Brockville native in emergency is Lorna Ball Johnston, a graduate of Toronto East General, and wife of Laird Johnston, a Brockville native.

More longtime emergency staff are Florence McCann, who is an RNA, and part-time staff nurses Laura Noonan, Gail Woods, Cathy Commerford Bouwhuis (whose mother Frances is a ward clerk on the fifth floor), Debbie Dougan and Lynne Kirkby.

Before joining St. Vincent de Paul Hospital staff in 1964, Ann Cameron had nursed two years in Toronto, but when she and her husband returned to Brockville, she became the first fulltime nurse in emergency.

The emergency department was at first looked after by the Operating Room — instigated by Sister Mary Geraldine who had seen the need for meeting the

emergency needs of the public.

"While we're no longer getting the accident victims coming by ambulance (they now go to BGH) we are still very busy, with more clinics for 'lumps and bumps' on the upswing. And another busy area here is colposcopy, which is a follow-up to Pap smears," she noted.

Two dermatologists from Ottawa are also working out of emergency three times a month and there are also regular ear, nose and throat clinics as well as eye clinics going on, as well as doing regular blood pressure checks for the public.

Another important area getting started at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital's emergency department is sports medicine and knee clinics every Tuesday afternoon.

"St. Vincent de Paul Hospital still provides a 24-hour emergency service," Ann Cameron reminds, adding: "It's up to the emergency patients to state to which hospital they prefer to be taken, or for their doctors to say. We're here, ready to serve the public."

"We may be small, but it's a really nice place to work — and there is a lot of quite sophisticated equipment. It's very important to keep up-dated — and people (individuals and service clubs) have been very generous in giving us the latest equipment available. The staff here are always ready and willing to help each other out, whenever necessary. St. Vincent's is a really super place!" she states with fierce conviction.

Dr. Joe Williams served hospital for many years

The late Dr. E. J. F. Williams was another prominent Brockville doctor who served St. Vincent de Paul Hospital over the years, his last post as chief of staff for 1946-47.

Dr. Williams died suddenly at his home on Victoria Avenue on August 4, 1947, from a heart attack at age 68 after practising medicine here for 41 years.

Born in Kingston, Dr. Edward Joseph Fox Williams spent nearly all his life in Brockville where he was brought up by an uncle, the late James Williams. He attended the public schools and collegiate institute here and, proceeding to Queen's University, Kingston, received his degree in arts and that in medicine in 1904. He then continued with post-graduate studies in Vienna and in New York, following which he entered into practice in Brockville.

For a number of years he had been a coroner for Leeds and Grenville counties and also surgeon for the Canadian National Railways at this terminal, as well as serving on the medical staffs of both local hospitals.

While attending Queen's University, Dr. Williams gained considerable fame as a football player, a sport in which he excelled. He was a member of the Queen's team which won the intercollegiate championship. Also of interest was the fact that Dr. G. F. Weatherhead, also of Brockville, was captain of this team and its other members in-



DR. E. J. F. WILLIAMS

cluded Eddie Richardson and R. Ted Etherington, Brockville men, Dr. W. P. Shirreff (another Brockville man who moved to the States later) and Chaucer Elliott.

In his younger days, Dr. Williams was also known as a swimmer and oarsman, retaining a deep interest in athletics all his life.

He was predeceased eight years before by his wife, the former Lillian Pearl Spencer, formerly of Glenburnie.

His funeral service was one of the largest attended in Brockville in many years, with members of the medical profession, the nurses' alumnae associations and the boards of governors of both hospitals well represented. Among the friends calling at the residence were Rev. Mother Anselm, Superior General of Mother House, and Rev. Sister Mary Oswald, of Heathfield, Kingston.

Younger medical associates recall him as being a stalwart fan of all the hockey games of the original Magedoma team in the old arena.

When Dr. Jack McDougall began his practice before World War Two, Dr. Williams sort of took him under his wing and frequently sent patients "to the new young doctor in town."

And Dr. McDougall also recalls that Dr. Williams gave a lot of anaesthetics for both Dr. Judson and Dr. Robertson over the years.

Another thing he remembers is that after Dr. Williams died, his housekeeper (who had inherited his estate) gave a large sum to fix up one of the big front rooms in the old section, in memory of Dr. Williams. But that room disappeared when the old portion was demolished to make way for the new wings.

Dr. Williams' home (and his office) was at 12 Victoria Avenue, now the home and office of Dr. M.G. McGuire.



Sisters enjoyed skating

Sisters from St. Vincent de Paul Hospital staff used to take their exercise by going to the old Memorial Centre for an afternoon of skating — and this jolly group was snapped in action in the late 1950s. Many are still with the order, but now wear more modern outfits.



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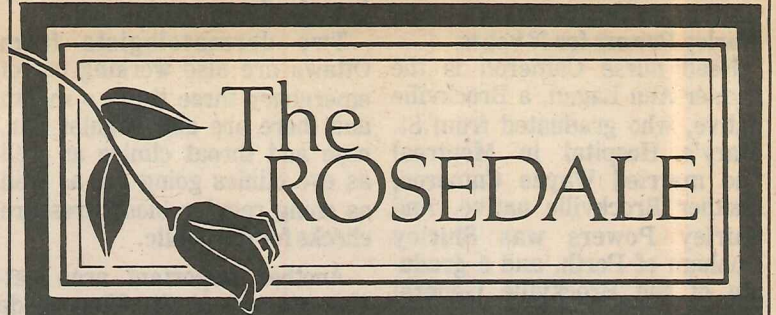
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Mother Clement Shea, co-founder of hospital

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

There's a photo of Mother Clement Shea in the display case at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital — and rightly so, as she was a former Superior of the hospital and has family members still in Brockville and area.

Long remembered by the community as one of the co-founders of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, she was the aunt of Genevieve and Helen Shea, of North Augusta Road, and a sister of their father, the late Patrick James Shea.

Later, Mother Clement was Superior General of the Order of the Sisters of Providence for

18 years at the House of Providence in Kingston.

Not only is she revered by the Order, by her nieces here have fond memories of "auntie" as they have always called her.

Born Catherine Shea in 1856 on the family farm at the little settlement known as Sheatown, near Ballycanoe (between Lyn and Mallorytown), she was the daughter of Michael and Mary O'Shea. Somewhere along the way, the O' was dropped from the surname. The Shea homestead was later moved to Brockville and is still standing as a home on Schofield Hill in Brockville.

Catherine entered the novitiate of the House of Providence in 1885 and became known as Sister Mary Clement. She was elected Mother General of the Order in 1918.

In the meantime, both she and her brother came to Brockville to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, she as Superior, and Patrick as hospital engineer. Mr. Shea was married with a family of seven children and they lived on the hospital property immediately adjacent to the hospital at 42 Garden Street.

Not only was Patrick Shea the right hand man at the hospital, but the entire family helped out in various capacities there while growing up.

"Every fall, dad would drive the nuns to the country, taking two every day for a week, renting a horse and wagon from Michael Higgins. And they would come back every afternoon laden with fresh vegetables," Genevieve Shea recalls.

Helen's first business experience was minding the front door at the hospital and looking after the phone during the summer. "Our whole family worked there, for no pay of course, we were there helping Dad out — running errands for auntie or dad, etc. If a doctor was needed and was over at the General Hospital, then one of our brothers would hop on his bike and go and get him," Helen recalls.

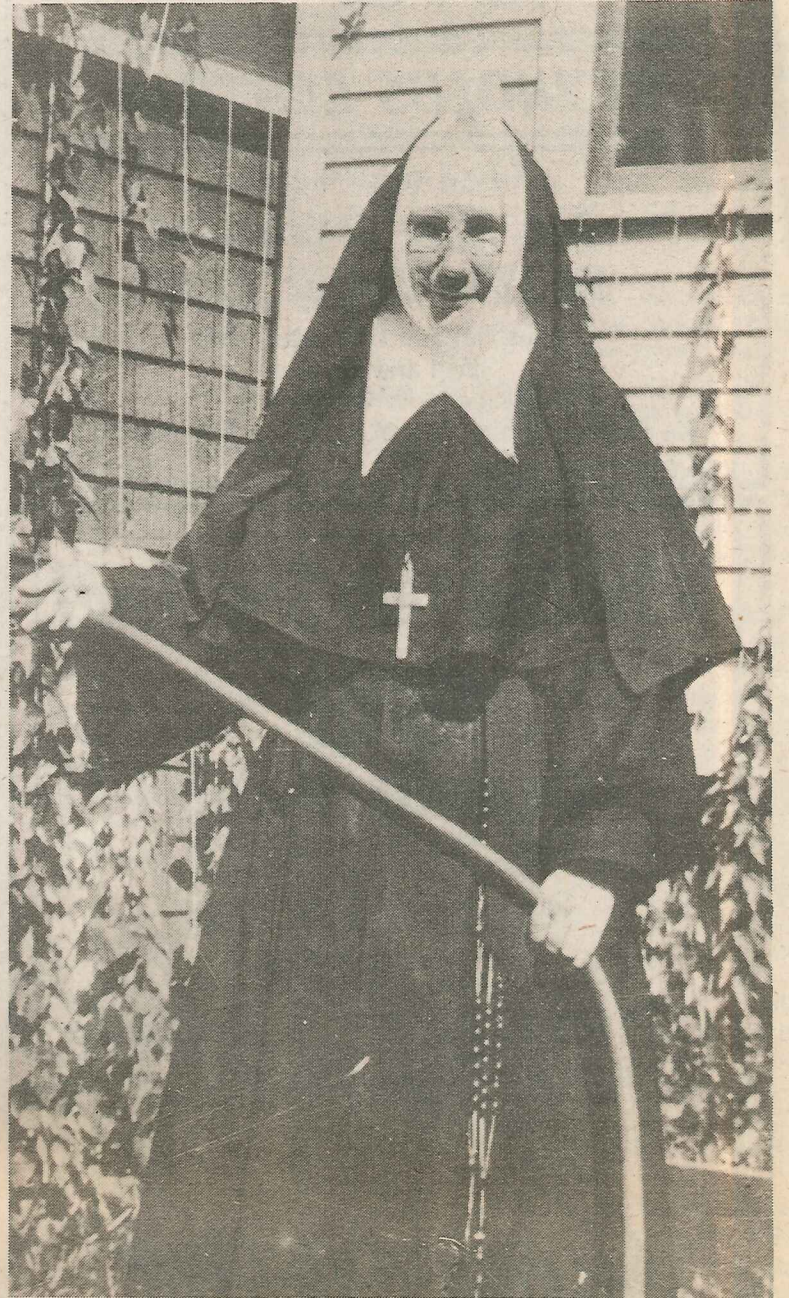
The Shea sisters recall their aunt as being much the same type of person as Sister Josephine in character. "She really had charisma — everyone loved her! She would go all through the hospital every day, visiting all the patients, often carrying the trays herself," Genevieve Shea remembers.

"And she would walk downtown to do shopping for the hospital. She was always very diplomatic and set a great example for her staff. I remember hearing that sometimes the sisters didn't always like working in the laundry, but auntie would go in and do a stint, catching the folded sheets as they came out of the big presser. If she could do it, then they would too!" recalls Helen.

"I guess that's where Father Tim gets his charisma — he must take after Auntie," Genevieve remarked.

Father Tim O'Shea is their nephew and is parish priest at Elgin. He is also captain of the Flying Fathers Hockey Team, which played here in a fund-raising event for St. Vincent de Paul Hospital two years ago.

The Shea home on Garden Street was moved intact when an additional hospital building, quarters for the sisters, was



MOTHER CLEMENT SHEA

erected. The house was taken to George Street, near the old arena, and was occupied by the George Hall family for many years and is still there. Mr. Hall's brother Jack, a former mayor of Brockville, was married to Ethel Shea, eldest daughter of Patrick Shea and a niece of Mother Clement.

Mother Mary Clement, after she left St. Vincent de Paul Hospital following 20 years as Superior, spent another 18 years in Kingston as Mother General. It was she who was responsible for buying the farm property for Heathfield for the order which became its Mother House.

"She bought the property just before she died," her nieces recall.

And her death was sudden and entirely unexpected. Apparently she had been going through some old clothing and must have picked up a streptococcus germ. It was the first case encountered of a strep throat — and she choked to death. That was in 1930 and she was 74 years of age.

The Patrick Shea family left the hospital in 1932 and moved to 34 North Augusta Road, where Helen and Genevieve have resided ever since. Helen is retired from working in a local insurance office and Genevieve from the Bank of Nova Scotia. They both have fond memories of their early childhood "when we lived at the hospital!"

Not only do they remember their aunt, but so must many others in the city of Brockville. "Mother Clement Shea will long be remembered for her kindness, understanding and love by the community," the text beside her photo states.

Paid on the spot

On October 14, 1887, the deed of conveyance of the Schofield property to the Episcopal corporation of the diocese of Kingston for the new St. Vincent de Paul Hospital was executed.

The stipulated sum of \$2,000 was paid on the spot with the balance to be paid within three months.

Dr. McAvoy headed staff three terms

Dr. J. R. McAvoy, who was chief of staff at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in 1945, 1948 and 1958, was a longtime family doctor and prominent surgeon, dearly loved by his patients who came from all over Brockville and area.

While he served on the medical staff of both local hospitals, his name is particularly synonymous with St. Vincent de Paul.

Born in Napanee, Jim McAvoy attended high school at nearby Newburgh, entered Queen's University and graduated from that medical school in 1924.

He went to Baltimore, Maryland, for post graduate work for a couple of years, then spent a year at Marysville, outside Belleville.

Dr. McAvoy came to Brockville in 1925, opening a general practice in the Harding Block over the old Bank of Nova Scotia (now Harringay's Store), with his office next to that of Dr. Harding, another prominent local doctor of days gone by.

The year that Dr. McAvoy was married, 1927, Dr. Harding died — and Dr. McAvoy moved his office to his new home on Buell Street, which had been the family home of his bride, the former Carmel Cavanagh.

He continued his long practice there, but periodically went to New York for post graduate studies in surgery and bone work.

Even after he retired in 1976 at age 79, he continued to read all the medical journals that came out.

"He thoroughly enjoyed his work and, as he loved people, took a real interest in all the patients and their families. For him it wasn't work, but a labor of love," his wife Carmel states.

During World War Two, Dr. McAvoy was attached to the Of-



DR. J. R. McAVOY

ficers' Training Centre here as a surgeon for the army.

Aside from his vast medical practice and belonging to all the hospital medical societies, he served on the Separate School board for 25 years. But his main means of relaxing was to go fishing on his beloved St. Lawrence River.

He dearly loved the river and, after retiring, enjoyed his summers at the family home on Sabine Road east of Swift Waters. He and Mrs. McAvoy spent frequent winters in Florida.

In failing health for the last few years, Dr. McAvoy is now residing at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital in Kingston, where he observed his 90th birthday this past September.

His daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Orville Mooney, recently moved into the first floor apartment in the McAvoy family home at 35 Buell Street. He has two sons, Rev. Father Paul McAvoy and Peter McAvoy. A third son, Joe, was killed in a car accident shortly after completing his university education.



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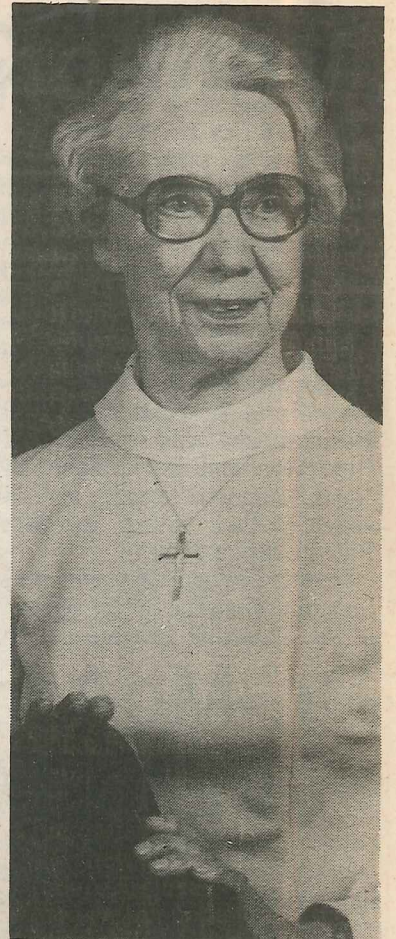
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**SISTER ELIZABETH
CASSIDY**, known for many years
as Sister Mary Hilarian.

**Sister had long
association
with hospital**

Sister Elizabeth Cassidy's (formerly known as Sister Mary Hilarian) connection with St. Vincent de Paul Hospital goes back 50 years to September 17, 1937 when she came to Brockville from Smiths Falls.

After arriving here, she completed her training as a registered nurse at St. Vincent de Paul and later studied radiology and received her certification as a registered technician in 1947.

Sister Elizabeth was always ready and willing to do what had to be done and over the years held many jobs. Besides being a nurse, she worked as technical director of radiology, purchasing agent for the hospital, Sister Superior and served as vice-chairman of the governing board of the hospital. She filled these jobs off and on over a period of many years.

When not in Brockville, Sister Elizabeth worked in Kingston, Smiths Falls and Moose Jaw, Sask.

She retired from a very active life in the medical field from St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in August of 1978.

Amidst all her accomplishment, the staff at St. Vincent de Paul remember her best for her sincere warmth, love and care. She gained a deep respect from all who knew her.

Today, Sister Elizabeth is living at St. Michael's Convent in Belleville, Ont., and is serving in the Pastoral Care field.

Colleen Chwalek thinks of hospital as second home

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

Head of Central Supply at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Colleen Chwalek (formerly Doyle) has been around the hospital since her early teen years.

She was raised by the nuns at Heathfield Mother House in Kingston, then came to Brockville to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital to take a course as a nursing assistant in 1959.

"And I've stayed here ever since, with a break now and then, but I always came back. Now I intend to stay and collect my pension!" she states with a laugh.

Colleen considers St. Vincent as a second home and is quick to point out that she has had a lot of fun while working there. She remembers when there were at least 17 sisters on staff "and they really ran everything!"

She can't begin to count up all the Sisters Superior who were in charge over her years at the hospital — but she does remember a lot of amusing incidents that happened.

"We're all like a big family here, always were — helping each other out when needed, and that means a lot," she reminds.

When Colleen started at age 16, the late Annie Brassor (who was the first nursing graduate of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital)

was still on staff and in charge of Central Supply.

"She was a character all right — everybody in Brockville knew her!" Colleen remembers. After Annie retired, the position was taken over by another registered nurse, Dorothy Coleman (now retired), who organized it to its present degree — and, for several years, Colleen lived with Dorothy and her husband Joe.

Colleen now works under Tom Barr, head of purchasing, which took over the running of Central Supply, and which keeps track of all the stock that goes through the hospital for all departments, doing O.R. packs for sterilization and keeping track of inventory control. And she took a Central Supply Course from the province of Ontario, a necessity, in 1980 — and her certificate hangs on the wall, near the big sterilizer.

In the meantime, Colleen Doyle was married to Carl Chwalek in the old hospital chapel in 1971. They live at RR 2, Brockville, and have a son, Mike.

But she looks back fondly on the days when she "boarded" at the hospital in the old residence and "we all got into a lot of devilment — all good, clean fun of course," she hastens to assure.

And while she has seen many changes in her long association, she is quick to point out, on a more serious note: "The hospital has pretty well stayed within its mission — to care for patients — that's the primary concern. Caring — just like a family for all the staff!"



Colleen Chwalek, an RNA at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital since 1959, is in charge of Central Supply and is caught by the camera inspecting O.R. packs from the sterilizer. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)

Graduates of St. Vincent de Paul's nursing program

1911: Miss Anna Brassor, Miss Marcella Hyland, Miss Helen Feeney, Miss Kathleen Pelow.

1914: Miss Rebecca MacEchern, Miss Beatrice Fraser, Miss Alice Turley (Sr. M. Barbara), Sister M. Maurice.

1915: Miss Hannah Donegan, Miss Mary Macdonald.

1916: Miss Bessie O'Sullivan, Miss Mae Hogan, Miss Marie Lavelle, Miss Mamie Tangney, Miss Ethel Matheson.

1917: Miss Frances Hamilton, Miss Cecelia McAvoy, Miss Mae Gleeson.

1918: Sister M. Felix, Sister M. Adalbert, Sister M. Flavian, Miss Mary MacNamara, Miss Marjorie Dolan, Miss Myrtle Shields, Miss Constance Millar, Miss Anna Mulroney.

1920: Sister M. Demetria, Miss Mary Forest, Miss Catherine Walsh, Miss Catherine Scanlan, Miss Olive Cloughesy, Miss Lillian Patterson, Miss Eileen Donoghue.

1921: Miss Loretta Bruyca, Miss Helen McGarvey, Miss Nora Berry, Miss Margaret Donahue, Sister M. Vincentia, Sister M. Aileen, Sister M. Ethelbert.

1922: Miss Bernice Carroll, Miss Muriel Patterson, Miss

Agnes Hearty, Miss Teresa Higgins, Miss Mary Williams, Miss Nan Sullivan, Sister M. Eleanor.

1923: Miss Helen Masterson, Miss Beatrice DeMarsh, Miss Mabel Brickley, Miss Gertrude Maloney, Miss Carmel Murphy, Miss Josephine McCann, Miss Mae Macdonald, Mrs. Minnie Quinlivan.

1924: Miss Hilda Gaulin, Miss Eileen Flynn, Miss Marie Traynor, Miss Jeanette McLellan.

1925: Miss Isobel Orrill, Miss Kathleen Foley, Miss Jane Macdonald, Miss Geneveive Elliott, Miss Margaret Halpin.

1926: Miss Gertrude Foley, Miss Gertrude Cosgrove, Miss Marguerite Fitzpatrick, Miss Kathleen McGinn, Sister M. Teresita, Miss Gertrude Maloney, Miss Madeline Bertrand, Miss Ethel Macdonald, Miss Mary A. Quinn, Miss Violet Forrester.

1927: Miss Mary Daley, Miss Marie Kenny, Miss Mary Fitzgerald, Miss Rosaleen Sullivan (Sr. M. Blandina), Miss Helen Herbert, Miss Mary Cox.

1928: Miss Sadie Flemming, Miss Aurelia Connerty, Miss Mazie Rupert, Miss M. Ella Macdonald, Miss Mary Lemenchick, Miss Mona Woloszick,

Miss Frances Flemming, Miss Mary O'Connor, Miss Margaret Kearns, Miss Gertrude Beamish, Miss Margaret Crowley, Miss Edith McAvoy, Miss Mary LeSage.

1929: Miss Elizabeth Mcgrath, Miss Rose Hanlon, Miss Helen Webb, Miss Helen Howard, Miss Grace Macdonald, Miss Dorothy Foley, Miss Hildred Young.

1930: Miss Cora Slack, Miss Marie Hamilton (Sr. M. Robert), Miss Rita Coughlin, Miss Nellie O'Reilly, Miss Helen Littlejohn, Miss Freida MacKenzie.

1931: Miss Margaret Barff, Miss Isobel Nelson, Miss Catherine Ferrigan, Miss Mary Jordan, Miss Muriel Christley, Miss Jean Macdonald, Miss Bernadette Scollard, Miss Catherine Casey, Miss Catherine Carlin.

1932: Miss Ruth Muldoon, Miss Ella Zink, Miss Catherine Consitt, Miss Marie Gormley, Miss Anna Grice, Miss Alice Grooms, Miss Rubena Cook, Miss Kathleen Walsh, Sister M. de Pazzi, Sister M. Veronica.

1933: Miss Catherine O'Brien, Miss Helen McKeown, Miss Leotta Scott, Miss Patricia Reilly.

1934: Miss Cecelia Reid, Miss Gladys Flood, Miss Margaret Beamish, Miss Helen Conway, Miss Josephine Laton.

1935: Miss Laura Bird, Miss Marie La Garde, Miss Hazel Eady, Miss Margaret Dailey, Miss Marian Madden, Sister M. Melanie.

1936: Sister M. Maureen, Miss Patricia Tully, Miss Genevieve McDonald, Miss Dorothy Devaney, Miss Loretta McSorley, Miss Helen Cassidy, Miss Dorothy Durack, Miss Grace Weber, Miss Margaret LeMarche, Miss Rita Hart, Miss Evelyn McElligott, Miss Winifred Presley.

1937: Miss Anastasia Helferty, Miss Gertrude O'Reilly, Miss Eva Stubinski, Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald.

1938: Miss Bernice Garvey, Miss Marjorie Lynch, Miss Elizabeth Speagle, Miss Mary Byrnes, Miss Patricia Leeder, Miss Olga Leeder, Miss Mary Renshaw, Sister M. Lalemant.

1939: Sister M. Clare, Sister M. Rosaire, Miss Agnes Morrissey, Miss Irene Shanahan.

1940: Sister M. Patrice, Sister M. Alphonse, Sister Miriam, Miss Agatha O'Brien, Miss Rose Hamilton, Miss Jane Elliott, Miss Monica Laton.

1941: Sister M. Hilarian, Miss Kathleen Kerr, Miss Angela Leeder, Miss Margaret Higgins, Miss Margaret Ellis, Miss Catherine Penny, Miss Margaret Beach, Miss Dorothy Cirtwell, Miss Pauline Donovan.

1942: Miss Maybelle Redmond, Miss Bernice Brady, Miss Harriette O'Dette, Miss Margaret Walsh, Miss Henrietta Cormier, Miss Dora Chambers, Miss Dorothy Tierney.

1943: Miss Margaret Bolger, Miss Monica O'Connor.

1944: Miss Helen Dogherty, Miss Juel Patterson, Sister M. Laurentia, Miss Dorothea Flood, Miss Frances Brown.

1945: Miss Evelyn Coligan, Miss Frances Goodison, Miss Fern Gregory, Miss Margaret Laughlin, Miss Betty McAvoy, Miss Mary O'Neill, Miss Anna Potvin.

1946: Sister M. Honora, Miss Nancy Lefave, Miss Shirley Patterson, Miss Kathleen Perraton.

1947: Miss Gloria Goodison, Miss Bernice Finley, Miss Teresa Cavanagh.

The training school closed on November 7th, 1947.

St. Vincent de Paul Hospital had humble be

A railway accident here in 1887 alerted local citizens to the need for a hospital. The closest medical centre at the time was in Kingston, a long distance to cover in a horse and buggy.

Archbishop Rev. James Vincent Cleary of Kingston encouraged the local Catholic congregation to set up a medical facility and appointed a committee to find a suitable location. He said the property must have good elevation, proper drainage, an abundance of fresh water and room for expansion.

Although the committee looked at a number of properties, none proved suitable for a hospital. Enthusiasm waned and, on Saturday, October 8, the Archbishop and his secretary came to Brockville to see what could be done.

While Cleary was here, he heard of a property on Schofield Hill that might be suitable. After early Mass the following day, the archbishop and three members of his committee inspected the property, owned by Mr. Fowler, owner of Fowler and Company, furniture dealers.

Reports in *The Evening Recorder* described the property as follows: "It is situated on an eminence over the town at the northwest angle. It consists of two acres of land, on which stands a good-sized stone building in sound condition, supplied with abundant and wholesome water and free drainage to an adjoining creek."

The archbishop returned to church and addressed the congregation after High Mass. He told them what he had seen, what he thought and how he felt about the property. Committee members met after Mass and voted unanimously to buy the Fowler land.

The archbishop and his committee met Fowler the next day and a deed of sale was drawn up and signed. The purchase price was a handsome \$4,250.

When the plans were finalized for the Schofield Hill property, Archbishop Cleary contacted the Sisters of Charity in Kingston and asked them to run the facility.

Shortly after the sale was completed, the Rev. Mother arrived in Brockville to make some arrangements. Aided by the local superior of the hospital, the Mother Superior set about gathering supplies and readying the stone building for occupation.

The hospital opened a few weeks later with room for 12

patients. There were seven doctors and 17 nurses on staff with the Sisters helping in any way they could.

In officially dedicating the hospital November 20, 1887 Archbishop Cleary asked God to bless the "devoted and noble-hearted daughters of St. Vincent de Paul" so they could "take charge of the sick and surround them with tender care."

The house on Schofield Hill soon proved to be too small to accommodate the hospital.

The number of patients often strained the facility and extra beds were regularly set up in the Sisters' community room. The Sisters themselves on many occasions gave up their beds for accident victims and ailing townsfolk.

The Sisters travelled to town homes and nearby farms to help the ill, pray with the dying and treat those afflicted with the many contagious and deadly diseases of the time. They acted as midwives and often visited homes to help new mothers. They dutifully travelled to comfort families who had lost a loved one.

About five years after the hospital opened, Archbishop Cleary and Very Rev. Vicar Gauthier decided the Schofield Hill property was no longer suitable. The land was sold to Mr. Gillerlain and stories about the original hospital refer to it being located on the Gillerlain property.

The hospital officials scouted around and decided the old convent occupied by the Sisters of Notre Dame would be a suitable location for the hospital. The convent was at the corner of Pine and Garden Streets.

A new convent was built for the Sisters and the hospital opened its door November 1, 1892.

The hospital operated for several years in the old convent but officials decided in 1896 that the facility was again too small. Instead of moving, though, plans were drawn up for a new wing.

The wing, opened later that year, included a surgical unit and an obstetrics ward. It brought the total number of patient beds to 60.

Total construction costs were pegged at \$7,500.

Many additions have been made to the hospital since it moved to its present location in 1892. Besides a new wing constructed in 1896, the hospital saw a new nurses' residence.

In 1909, Dr. Bruce Smith in-

spected the hospital and found everything satisfactory except the accommodations for the Sisters of Providence. He insisted a new residence be built at once and, in 1911, the Sisters moved into a new three-storey convent.

The new convent included sleeping quarters, a dining room, common room and a chapel that could seat 50 people. The convent served the Sisters until 1973 when it was demolished.

The hospital was again expanded in 1950 and 1953, bringing the number of adult beds to 87 and adding 13 bassinets. The expansions also included fireproof surgical and obstetrical units, shock-proof x-ray installation and new mechanical laundry services.

In 1955, a Toronto architect was hired to draw up plans for a new wing to face Garden Street. Two years and \$900,000 later, the new four-storey addition was opened.

The addition, officially opened June 4, 1958, brought the number of patient beds to 109 and included 20 surgical beds. It also provided new laboratory and x-ray facilities, a new emergency operating room, improved maternity facilities, a new pediatric ward and new laundry facilities.

Local MPP James Auld was named head of the hospital's fundraising committee with honorary chairmen Judge Don Lewis, Mayor Jack Langmuir, Senator A.C. Hardy, local lawyer J.R. Maclaren, city businessman J.C. Udd and Kingston Archbishop J.A. O'Sullivan. At the hospital's official opening, Auld thanked the close to 400 people who worked on the fundraising committee and thanked everyone who contributed to the campaign.

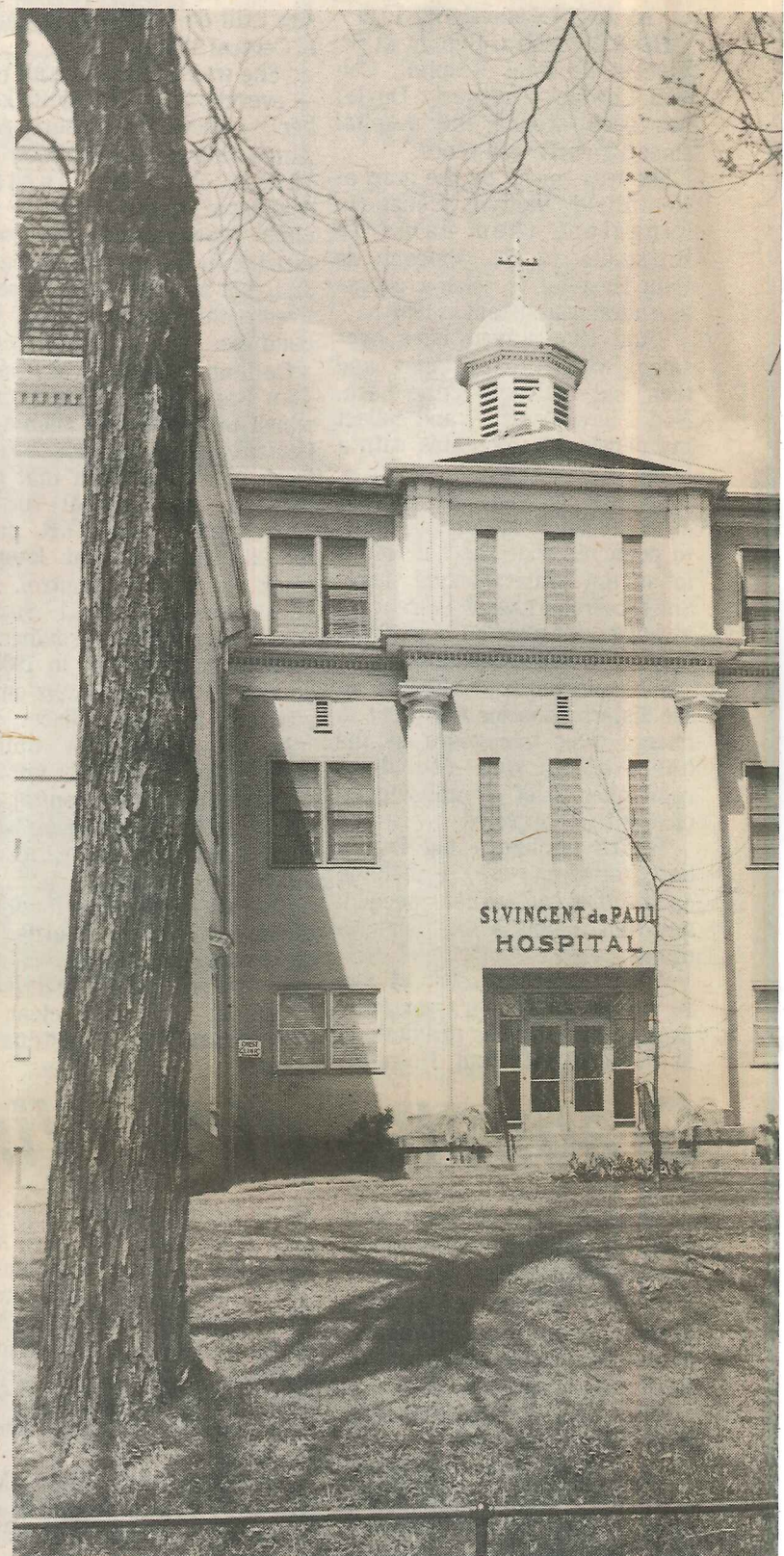
Auld also placed a cylinder containing local historical artifacts in a time capsule under the addition's cornerstone.

In 1965, the hospital again experienced some growing pains.

Officials at the institution decided to demolish the only remaining part of the original hospital on Pine Street and replace it with a new building. A Toronto architect was hired to draw up plans for the addition and tenders were called in early 1966.

Amid much fanfare, the new section officially opened May 15, 1968.

The four-storey addition included 51 beds, bringing the total number of patient beds at the facility to slightly more than



100. It included three operating rooms on one floor with an acute intensive care unit down the hall. It also boasted two new obstetrical rooms, complete with beds for delivery and recovery.

The new section boasted a dietary department and a coffee shop for patients, visitors and staff. It also had a waiting room for expectant fathers.

An innovative idea incorporated into the addition was a nursery playroom where children could play with toys, watch television or listen to the radio.

The project price tag topped \$2 million. The Sisters of Pro-

vidence contributed \$509,929 to the building fund and the hospital borrowed another \$460,000 from the bank. The federal government contributed \$151,314, the province kicked in \$355,106, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville provided \$75,000, the city of Brockville raised \$150,000 and the town of Prescott also contributed.

The institution borrowed another \$255,000 from the Hospital Service Commission and used some of its own securities and bank deposits to make up the total. Local citizens, businessmen and corporate officials also contributed to the fund.

Innings "Sister Tom" a break from tradition

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

Following in the footsteps of a long line of Sisters Superior, who ran St. Vincent de Paul Hospital for years as combined business and nursing heads, Tom Harrington was a brave man to become the first male business administrator.

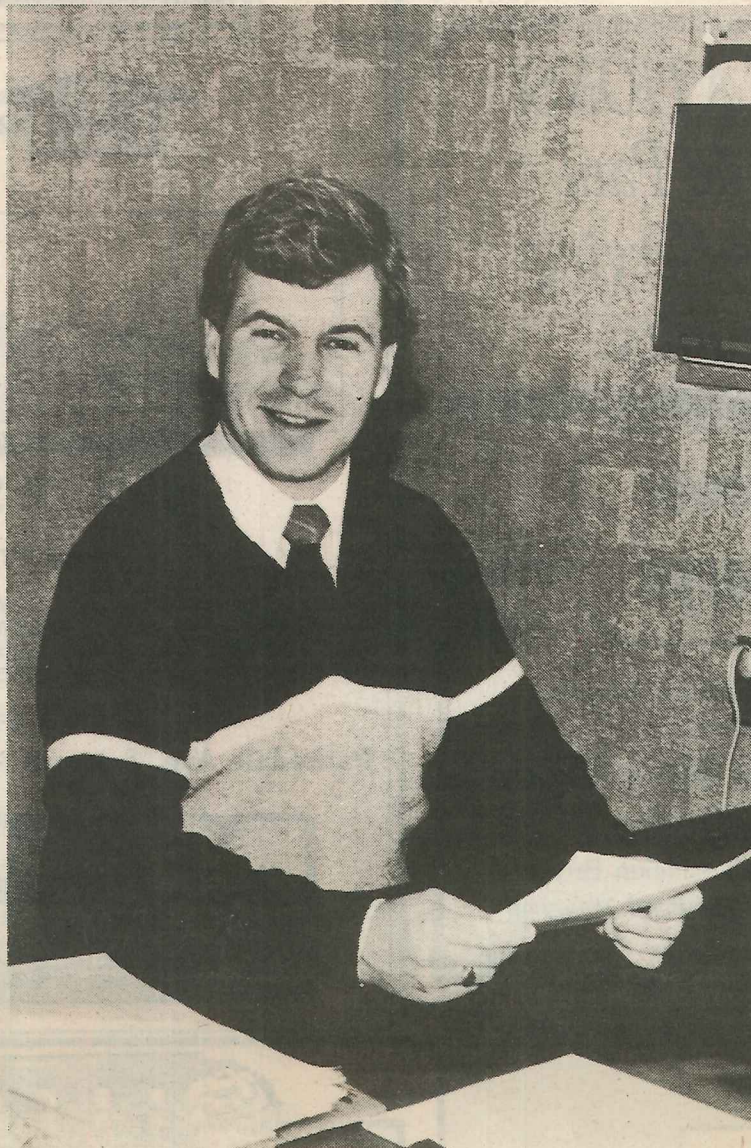
"No one seemed to know what to expect at first — and for a while the staff got a kick out of calling me "Sister Tom", he chuckles.

The personable young administrator was appointed assistant to Sister Irene Forrester in May of 1985, after she had held the post for the past eight years. Then he became acting administrator in January of 1986, then his appointment to full administrator came through at the end of May last year. Sister Irene is now in an administrative post in Kingston with her order, the Sisters of Providence.

Mr. Harrington is well qualified for the busy position at the hospital. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from University of Ottawa and also a Masters degree in Health Administration from U of O.

Born in North Bay, he grew up in Pembroke which he considers his home town, working in private industry for a while. "I was originally going for my Masters in Business Administration (MBA), but then became interested in health administration instead," he explains. He did project work for a number of hospitals in the area, including Ottawa and the Hotel Dieu at Kingston.

"I knew I wanted to be involved in Catholic health care, as it seemed to parallel best my own philosophies and expectations. My mother was sick at the time, too. When I heard there might be an opening coming up here, I talked to Sister Irene and I knew this was where I wanted to be," he recalls.



TOM HARRINGTON: He became the hospital's first male business administrator in 1986.

And he hasn't been sorry, despite the fact that he is breaking new ground — "This is the first time where there isn't a sister, or a woman, in the role," he says, admitting that it could be much like women taking over as bank managers.

"There is a lot of challenge in this job, and it's an interesting time to be here — especially during these 100th anniversary celebrations this year," he says.

The staff from all departments have made him feel very welcome, also the Auxiliary members. Tom was married last November and the Auxiliary gave him a "shower" for the occasion. His bride is Angela Magermans, originally from Sarnia, and they met in Ottawa. She is employed by Canada Post as a systems analyst.

Mr. Harrington finds his job an interesting blend of working

with medical staff and governing board, as well as the Sisters and also the community. "You might say that I have a number of 'masters' in this position," he explains.

"The whole relationship between us is being examined now, because of the diminishing number of Sisters available for these positions. The Order is trying to bring more lay people into the operation of their hospitals while trying to keep the key positions for themselves. It's quite a challenge with so much change, for all concerned — and quite demanding for them as individuals," Mr. Harrington readily admits.

There was a bit of hesitation at first, he feels, as both he and the hospital people were not just sure what kind of chemistry would develop between them.

"But I'm pleased to say everything seems to be working out very well. This has the best atmosphere of any place I've ever seen. Rather than high tech, the staff at St. Vincent definitely take the 'high touch' approach with patients. They are all very aware of the Sisters' philosophy and adherence to Christian values.

"You have to respect the philosophy portrayed here. I could tell when I first came in that this hospital was something special. I knew right away that this is where I wanted to be!" he states with conviction.

The fact that he also did some checking in the community and found only the highest praise for St. Vincent de Paul Hospital and its Palliative Care program which was going great guns — and also the eye surgery which has become such a big thing — only convinced him more than ever that he had made the right choice.

"Yes, it's been a busy, interesting year — and a real delight to be here!" he maintains.

Nursing director well-known in Brockville

BY PAM SALT

Sister Susan Pye has been the Director of Nursing at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital for the last 10 years.

She has a quiet, unassuming manner but undoubtedly her concern for the well-being of her patients and her enthusiasm for the prosperity and accomplishments of the hospital is unmistakable.

Sister Susan emerged from the Providence Mother House, Heathfield, in Kingston as a novitiate in the late 1960s and became a young Sister in obstetrics, known then by her religious name, Sister Jane Marie. Many "old-timers" on the staff remember her when she was nursing in obstetrics during that earlier period.

After two years here at the hospital, she was transferred to Montreal where she nursed for five years at St. Mary's Hospital, then went to McGill University for two years, graduating in 1973. Later she was posted to Moose Jaw, Sask. and Camrose, Alta.

After her stint in western Canada, Sister Susan succeeded Sister Margaret Rose Fardella as director of nursing when she returned to St. Vincent's in 1977.

Sister Susan has become a familiar figure in the community, as well as at the hospital. An avid downhill skier when time permits, she is also seen on cross-country trails in the area, taking part in the cross-country ski-a-thon each year to

raise funds for palliative care.

Sister Susan Pye exudes a quiet charm which frequently bubbles over — especially so on receiving the news that her niece had just given birth to a baby girl.

She also displays an infectious enthusiasm about the contribution she made to the model dolls in the foyer display case, pointing with pride to the tiny stethoscope around the neck of one of the diminutive nurses.

As she modestly, but wholeheartedly, talks about the fund-raising events organized for the centennial, she extols the virtues of her helpful hard-working and co-operative staff and the roles they have played in the design of the celebrations.



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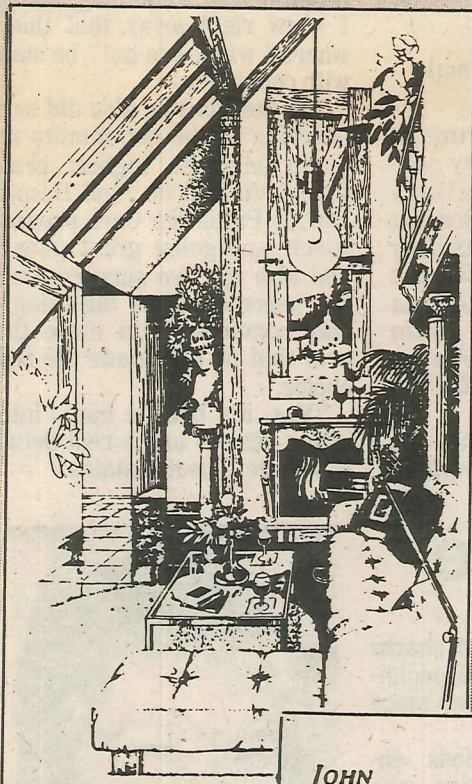
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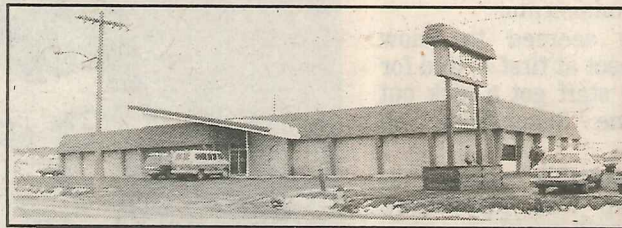
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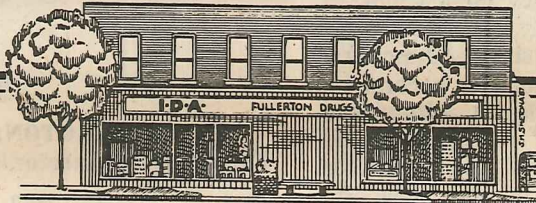
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The Recorder and Times

Hospital had fine nursing school

Rev. Dean Murray came to Brockville in 1901 to take over supervision at the hospital. He was diligent and hardworking, and insisted on perfection in every aspect.

In pursuit of thoroughness, Rev. Murray set up a Training School for Nurses in 1904. Later that year, he hired Miss Mary Cleary, a graduate of Chicago's Mercy Hospital, to run the facility. The first 12 students were Sisters.

In 1905, Miss Alida Frances Potter, a graduate of the Boston School of Household Arts, was hired to work with the training school. Her duty was to give the Sisters a special course in practical dietetics. She taught the Sisters how the diet relates to diseases and the healing process.

The first class graduated in 1907 with 12 Sisters earning their diplomas.

That same year, Sister Mary Eulalia took over as superintendent of the nursing school. During her 12 years with the training facility, Sister Mary earned a reputation as an excellent organizer and disciplinarian.

The training school ran for more than 40 years until government regulations in 1946 restricted nurses' training schools to larger hospitals. The nurses' residence was then converted for use by graduate nurses on staff.

In 1951 St. Vincent de Paul Hospital was approved as a school for Certified Nursing Assistants.

By 1973, all training classes had been moved to a regional centre, but St. Vincent de Paul Hospital is still involved in teaching.

Students of radiology from Kingston get some practical training at the hospital.

The hospital provides clinical experience for students in the diploma nursing and registered nursing assistant programs at St. Lawrence College in Brockville.

Housekeeping staff keep hospital shipshape

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

What would a hospital be without an efficient housekeeping department? One can only imagine the chaos that would result.

At St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, 13 fulltime employees and seven part-time employees are kept busy all day long, keeping the institution in shipshape condition — cleaning, polishing, making the place spick and span. As one patient remarked: "You could really eat off the floors here!"

Head housekeeper is Joyce Reid, who took over from Gladys Brontmire when she retired two years ago. Mrs. Reid had worked for 13 years at York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill where she was in charge of all housekeeping.

"The stress was really getting to me in that huge place, so I answered an ad for St. Vincent de Paul and it was just exactly what I wanted," she explains. As a result, she and her husband moved here and bought a farm north of Algonquin.

Assistant to Mrs. Reid is Pat VanSanten, who has been on the job for 15 years and, like Isobel Church who has been on the housekeeping staff since 1969, has seen many changes over the years.

"But, other than materials, housekeeping duties continue much the same," they both agree.

The housekeeping staff does all the cleaning in the hospital and looks after all the complaints, washing and buffing all the floors in all the halls and in every room, every day.

"Our objective is to make sure the building is clean, functional and safe — for all the employees, all the patients and all the visitors," Mrs. Reid reminds.

The housekeeping staff clean the patients' rooms daily and look after all waste removal, dusting and polishing floors, making sure all the washrooms are cleaned and serviced.

Flower care is another aspect for the cleaning staff, as they take care of all the cut flowers and plants in patients' rooms — pruning, changing the water, etc., as the patients like to take their flowers home.

There is also the assigning of project work for wall washing, floor polishing and curtain cleaning, as well as window cleaning. The housekeeping staff is in every department of the hospital.

Each member of this staff is assigned to a specific area. Isobel Church has been cleaning Fifth Floor for the last three years, although she has worked on all floors of the hospital. She admits that she often feels



Joyce Reid, head housekeeper at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, is seen wearing her dark maroon smock, while two of the longtime housekeeping staff, Isobel Church (standing) and Pat VanSanten, assistant head housekeeper (seated at desk) wear the light blue smock and full uniform, which are also familiar sights in the halls.

(Photo by Betty MacDowell)

badly when she sees patients, who are terminally ill, return to the floor after being able to be home for a while.

"You get to know them quite well, chatting and visiting with them while cleaning their rooms — and they often tell you little things about themselves and their families. They treat us like friends. So it's very sad to come in some morning and find someone you have gotten to know has died during the night," Isobel says with regret.

After a patient is discharged, or dies, the entire unit is thoroughly cleaned and made ready for the next patient — who generally arrives within hours.

Cleaning techniques have changed somewhat, and for the better. "For example, we no longer have to put our hands in water, as cleaning sprays are

used, as well as toilet brushes. We wear gloves all the time, for more protection for ourselves as well as the patients," Pat VanSanten notes.

Hospital rooms at \$5 per day

While it's hard to reconcile the astronomical costs of a hospital stay these days compared to 20 years ago — the price of a room per day for a patient back in the 1930s wouldn't even buy 10 minutes in a room today.

Retired night supervisor Toni Lunman, who nursed at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital over a span of 40 years before retiring in 1976, has some interesting figures of hospital costs among her souvenirs.

The large front private rooms, as well as a bed, contained a large couch and a

The cleaning materials are now germicidal detergents and disinfectants. And isolation techniques have changed, too. In the old days absolutely everything had to be washed, from the top of the drapes downward — but studies have shown that "germs" do not infest drapes. "Instead, we disinfect everything the patient might have touched," said Mrs. VanSanten.

The cleaning staff also takes precautions when handling any blood, the materials being put in plastic containers and sterilized before being thrown out.

The housekeeping staff often gets offers from patients to go home with them. "They joke about wanting us to go home and do their housework for them, but some seem to mean it," Miss Church remarked.

They all agree that there is a more relaxed atmosphere between the patient and the cleaning staff — "and if they seem down in the dumps, we try to cheer them up," she added.

Isobel worked for two years at Brockville General Hospital before joining the staff at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital 24 years ago — and Pat worked there for three years. And they recall that before the time of Mrs. Brontmire (who was also at BGH for 17 years before organizing the housekeeping at St. Vincent) that the nurses cleaned the rooms themselves — looking after changing all the beds.

"They didn't seem to like the idea of a housekeeping staff taking over their jobs, as they had always kept the patients' rooms clean themselves. But it was to give them more time on nursing duties with the patients," Mrs. VanSanten reminded.

The housekeeping staff has to be very careful to make sure that no accidents occur as a result of their cleaning — and they use a non-skid wax on the

floors. They also try to pick up an water that might have spilled, or any talcum powder, also rather slippery.

Also, if the staff sustain any accidents themselves, such as cuts to their hands, they have to report them immediately and go to the staff health nurse for treatment.

Sometimes the staff encounter former school teachers or Sunday School teachers as patients — "and we have a great old visit, once we tell them who we are!"

The hours have improved over the years, they note. Full-time staff used to work every other weekend, but now it's only one weekend a month.

Obviously, the housekeeping staff is a very important aspect of the operation of any hospital, as they all quietly and efficiently go about their daily tasks. They are recognizable by their pale blue smocks over navy pants — but recently they adopted a maroon colored top; made of cotton. "But this has been changed, as it didn't stand up as well — so we're going back to the pale blue and navy," explained Mrs. Reid.

And the housekeeping staff look after their own uniforms, keeping them washed and ironed every day. "They don't go out in the laundry — they are our own responsibility," the women noted.

While Isobel Church has been on the staff the longest, followed by Pat VanSanten who came in 1972, close on their heels are Marilyn Evoy and Edith Vanderwal, who both came in 1973, followed by Pat Beach in 1975, Jean Darling and Michael Gilmer in 1976, Judith Greene and Esther Menzies in 1977, and Lila Brewster in 1979. These are all full-time staff.

Part-time staff consist of Marie Oomen, Gail Bouwers, Ruby Schaafsma, Brenda Stretch, Joanne Trip, Andrea Livingstone and Wendy Anstead.

fireplace, and a private bathroom. This was the highest price room at the hospital and cost a patient the price of five dollars a day.

The other large rooms, which also had fireplaces, but no adjoining bathrooms, cost \$4 per day; an ordinary room was \$3 per day; a semi-private room cost \$2 or \$2.50 depending on the size and location; a bed in a ward was \$1.50 a day. And if a patient couldn't afford to pay for a bed in a ward, the town took over at the cost of 75 cents for "indigents".

And some of the patients, who

could afford the larger rooms, languished there for months on end — some of them being there for years.

There was no hospital insurance, or government subsidies in those early days, and patients' families were expected to pay — although there were instances when a large bill was run up by a family down on their luck. When this occasionally happened the Sister Superior took a charitable view and marked the account "paid in full", another longtime staff members recalls.

Retired nurse has many happy memories

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

A retired longtime nurse at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Toni Lunman has many happy memories of working there — dating back to her student nursing days in the early 1930s and continuing to retirement over 40 years later.

Much of her time was spent as night supervisor, dealing with emergency situations.

"My last night on duty — on Boxing Day in 1976 was a really sad one, though. It was when the Manix family was brought in from the fire (fatally overcome by smoke at their Sherwood Street home). I can tell you there wasn't a dry eye at the hospital that night!" she says sadly.

But there were humorous occasions she remembers, recalling the fun of nursing over the years.

Toni is the former Josephine Laton, who came to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in 1932 to their school of nursing from her home at Queensboro, north of Belleville. Her father had been in an accident and the nurse who looked after him had come from Brockville and talked about her home a lot. After putting her application into several hospitals, young Josephine was glad when she was chosen by St. Vincent de Paul to come to Brockville — "and I've been

here ever since!" she proudly states.

Her nickname of Toni came from her surname, as the students all called each other by their last names long ago. And soon it became the only name by which she has ever been known in Brockville.

She did well in all her exams and won a prize at the end of her junior year — a Parker pen and pencil set in a nice box, donated by Louis Dargavel!

The class of 1932 was the last class to stand on the steps at the front door of the hospital and have their photos taken for graduation, she remembers. The next year there were only two in the class, and for the following year (her graduation class in 1934) there was no "graduation" ceremony, just a dinner in the nurses' dining room.

"While in training we worked seven days a week, with a half day off once a week (if you were lucky) and two hours off per day which was when we took our lectures — and some of them were over at the Brockville General Hospital, depending on where the doctors were at the time," she recalls.

Remembering the medical staff who lectured, Mrs. Lunman recalls that Dr. McAvoy lectured on surgery and anatomy, Dr. Harper Perrin on pediatrics as well as bacteriology and



Toni Lunman is seen at the nursing station desk in the old wing of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, back in the 1950s when night supervisor meant handling all kinds of emergency situations.

sanitary science, Dr. Chadsey on materia medica (now pharmacology) and Dr. Doug Code on general medicine and communicable diseases.

Sister Mary Flavian was the Superior when Toni began her nursing career — and Sisters were greatly in evidence all over the hospital, on all its floors and in all the departments.

"The first day that I finished

my nursing training I was put on special duty with a boy from St. Mary's College who had measles. He was isolated and I was isolated with him! I got five dollars a day for 12-hour duty. I was with him for a whole week, day and night, and got \$35!" she well remembers.

After graduating, Toni lived in a room on Victoria Avenue, close by. "Only the very wealthy could afford to have a private duty nurse, so we would go and work at the hospital for nothing and get our meals provided free. Years later, no one would believe me when I would tell them about this — but it was true!"

Another thing she remembers vividly from those early days after graduation was when the Slack triplets were born in 1935 — as the Dionne quintuplets had been born just the year before. She was on her way to work when she met a nurse who shouted: "Oh, Laton, you'd better hurry! There are twins now, and more coming!"

She did a short stint on staff at the hospital for \$25 a month, staying at the nurses' residence. That was during the Great Depression of the 1930s and she worked in the men's ward, which was on the first floor off Pine Street.

In those days the nurses had to thoroughly clean the rooms after the patients left, as well as sweep out the wards and "lysolize" the beds, then make them all up again. The floors were all hardwood then and a Mr. Bolger would come in and wax them. Later the flooring was covered with tile.

In 1938 she was married to Albert (Ab) Lunman, stayed home to raise their family and didn't go back to nursing until her daughter was eight years old.

She eventually returned to fulltime staff and became night supervisor in 1953, staying in that position until her retirement in 1976.

There was no emergency department, as such, back then — and any "emergencies" that came in during the night were handled by the O.R. However, it was up to Mrs. Lunman to assess the situations, as nurse in charge at night. "In those days there weren't as many emergencies as there weren't as many cars on the road, so fewer accidents resulted. And there was no OHIP coverage — but after it came in, we had a lot more 'emergencies'. I remember one night we had three different people come in with sore thumbs!

"Some nights in the early '50s it was really terrible. A girl took an overdose and we had to wash

out her stomach. Then there was a lot of screaming and yelling at the side door and in came some teenagers who had been badly hurt in an accident on the Oak Leaf Road, drag-racing. One girl was really in bad shape. On top of that, we got a call from Dr. Boss in Cardinal saying he was sending up three more injured people from an accident there. And all during this time we had a bunch of American soldiers who had been in a minor accident and they were all sleeping in the halls and on stretchers. That was one night I'll never forget," she states.

Back in the earlier days (when she was a student nurse) she remembers that the O.R. "didn't take any dirty cases" — such as the opening of an abscess. These cases were all taken down to the "septic O.R." in the basement — which was a room with a table also used for autopsies. If an appendix ruptured, then the nurses had to scrub down all the walls and take an antiseptic bath themselves. It fell to the "probies" (first year probationary students) to do the cleaning up after the autopsies. "And we had to take all the blood stains out of the sheets, too, before they went to the laundry!" Mrs. Lunman remembers.

Another difference in "the old days" were the meals. They didn't come to the floors fully prepared. Instead, the food would come up in huge bowls and pots on a dumb-waiter contrivance and the nurses on each floor would have to ladle it out onto plates for individual servings.

"The patients were all assigned numbered trays and dishes, so we could keep track of them. A little bell would ring and up would come all the food — pans of meat, everything. But at night, the nurses on duty would have to cook the meals themselves and also wash all the dishes when the maid had her half day off. And we also made the porridge for early breakfast!"

And the night nurses didn't go off duty at 7 a.m. — "we waited until we had all our work done. And we also had to go to chapel every morning at 6:30. The life of a 'probie' wasn't an easy one — but that special capping ceremony at the end of the first year was a very special time. It really meant so much to us," remembers Toni.

One particularly unusual incident she recalls from "the old men's ward" concerns two elderly gentlemen who were frequently admitted. One was always immaculately dressed,

(See RETIRED page 23A)



Sisters in "old days"

Some of the sisters on the staff at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital are seen greeting the arrival of the daily paper in the old front office back in October of 1960. They are identified left to right as Sister Mary Geralda, Sister Mary Lucille at typewriter, and Sister Mary Alberta with newspaper.

The latter two sisters are still in the area — Sister Mary Lucille is Sister Monica Gannon now in Kingston, and Sister Mary Alberta, who was in pharmacy while at the hospital, is now stationed with the Order in Arnprior and retained the same name.

Dr. Cornell — an original kitchen table doctor

Perhaps one of the most beloved and prominent local doctors active in both hospitals in their earlier years was Dr. Charles M. B. Cornell — and his photo hangs in a place of honor at both St. Vincent de Paul and Brockville General Hospitals.

Dr. Jack McDougall of

Brockville, who lives in Dr. Cornell's last residence at the corner of Pine and Garden Streets, remembers him "as an original kitchen table doctor" who seemed to work miracles in the days before modern medicine.

Dr. Cornell died at age 71 in

May of 1925 after a long drawn-out battle against cancer of the prostate gland.

One of the most celebrated surgeons of his time, he was also known as a diagnostician with a wide practice covering central Canada and the nearby United States. He also lectured

the nursing students at both hospitals, providing detailed drawings of the human anatomy, which he had colored himself to assist them in their studies.

Dr. Cornell was born in Toledo on August 1, 1854, the son of Dr. Seth Shaw Cornell and the former Maria Nash, his ancestors being among United Empire Loyalists coming here from the American Revolution.

At the time of his death, The Recorder and Times described his early life as follows: "Early in life he exhibited promise of the position which he was to occupy in professional life when he reached maturity. For this profession he was carefully prepared, at first under the tuition of his father, well-known in history as a physician, and afterwards at Farmersville High School (Athens) and at Queen's University, Kingston. He entered Queen's at age 14, and at the conclusion of his course in medicine and surgery he lacked several years of the age required

for granting a licence. He then pursued post-graduate studies in Philadelphia and after, until he reached the necessary age to practice independently, assisted his father at Toledo."

When he reached the qualifying age, he established himself at Duncanville, Ont., then after a short time moved to Athens (then the village of Farmersville). He carried out the exacting duties of a rural practice for 15 years, then moved on to Brockville in 1889, assuming his first office on Buell Street, then moving to the corner of Pine Street and Victoria Avenue for a few years.

Dr. Cornell's medical practice and reputation flourished over the years. He was a member of the medical staff of both hospitals and greatly in demand. In 1920 he was created a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He continued performing surgical operations until 14 weeks before his death, despite the pain and gravity of his own illness.

Retired nurse recalls good times

(Continued from page 22A)

while the other (a recluse) was in a terrible state, with what clothes he had having to be burned and new ones purchased when he went home. The recluse died one night and the undertaker asked for his clothes, being directed to a numbered cupboard. When he couldn't find any clothes in it, he looked in the next closet and took away the nice clothing belonging to the other patient. In the morning, nothing could be found in the closet but the shoes.

"The Sister on the floor was simply furious. I can still hear her saying: 'You nurses will have to get those clothes back here even if it means going to the cemetery and dig! dig! dig! Well, we called the undertaker and he was really surprised, said he had put them on the man and he was already laid out. Everyone coming in had remarked that he looked so nice! But he brought them back next day — and the funny part is that the man who owned the clothing said he had seen the undertaker take it away, but hadn't liked to say anything at the time.'

Another incident was when a maternity patient was having a long labor and the doctor wanted her to have an x-ray prior to a Caesarian section. "So she was taken down to the x-ray department — and then Sister in charge there called in an awful state. Apparently the poor woman had one big pain and had the baby right there on the x-ray table! But everything came out all right — although the sisters from both departments took a lot of kidding about x-ray taking over obstetrics," Mrs. Lunman recalls with a chuckle — and the sister in x-ray was known as Sister Mary Doctor from then on.

Frequently, emergency was just like a three-ring circus — particularly after midnight, she remembers. One wild night that comes to mind was when a former mental patient (who was there for a physical ailment) apparently got up in the middle of the night and leaned out the window, yelling. A neighbor across the road woke up, saw what was going on and called the hospital. When the nurses

raced up to his room, the man took off ahead of them, wearing only a hospital gown and a urinal bottle slung around his waist. As they grabbed at him when he rushed through the front door, the gown came off — and away he went, running down Garden Street in only his birthday suit!

"I gave a sheet to a couple of nurses and told them to keep after him. He went east on King Street, then headed down to the waterfront with the nurses still running behind. Remembering that I had told them to keep him in sight, one yelled to the other, 'He's heading for the river — can you swim?' But the police came along just in the nick of time — as the same neighbor had called to tell them what was going on. All that was around 2 a.m."

On another late night a teenager brought a man to the hospital after finding him in a confused state downtown. "I talked to him for a while and he was so inebriated that he thought he was in Cornwall. There didn't seem to be much wrong, other than being drunk, so I suggested that the youngster take the man back downtown — whereupon he brightened up and said 'O, you angels of mercy!' — grabbed my arm, pushed up my sleeve and started kissing it! He then announced that he had "a disease from sleeping from women" — and when I said "syphilis?" he said yes, that's it! We rushed him out of there and, needless to say, I gave my arm a good scrubbing. A few minutes later the teenager came back, very worried, wondering if he could catch it. We said 'not likely' — but he still insisted on scrubbing himself for about an hour," Mrs. Lunman recalls.

During the "hippie" era of the late 1960s and early '70s she witnessed lots of tragic sights during her nights on duty, when young people would come in while high on drugs. She remembers one young man who wore an old fur coat and a woman's hat, which seemed to be his favorite form of attire.

There were always the tragedies when she and her nursing staff felt so helpless. One night two teenagers came in, dead on arrival, from separate snowmobile accidents, each

dressed in their dark blue skidoo suits and still wearing their red helmets. "It was our job to take their parents down to the morgue to identify them — really sad," she remembers.

And another tragic case she recalls very well was when she held a little four-year-old boy in her arms, dying from leukemia.

"All he could say was 'drink! drink!' — and I held him close, giving him sips of water until his last breath. I felt so helpless..."

Mrs. Lunman took an early retirement to be with her husband who had finished business early. She's glad she did, as they had some good years travelling — visiting Spain, Africa, Russia, the Scandinavian countries, the U.K., Hawaii, etc., as well as going on cruises. Her husband died very suddenly two years ago — and she misses him.

Her next door neighbor in her apartment at Buell House is a former classmate, Celia Lefave (married to Jack) and they often get together and talk about the old days, as Celia was evening supervisor at St. Vincent for many years. "She would be going off duty just as I was coming on," Toni points out.

Toni Lunman is still seen around St. Vincent de Paul Hospital frequently as she does volunteer work for the Auxiliary, pushing the cart around for the tuck shop.

She says she has never regretted following her early childhood ambition to become a nurse, and has lots of good memories from those days. She is the middle daughter of seven girls in her family. Her two younger sisters were twins, Monica and Veronica, and were only 15 months old when their mother died. Monica entered the religious order of the Sisters of Providence and became Sister Mary Camillus, and was also on staff at St. Vincent de Paul for many years as director of nursing. She is now in Kingston and is known as Sister Monica Laton. Veronica also settled in Brockville and worked at Phillips Cables.

Toni's two children took up teaching as a career, Larry Lunman (also a well-known wood carver) on staff at St. Mary's Separate School and Karen McCarthy teaching at Westport.

Dr. Thomas Smellie had interesting career

Chief of staff at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital from 1960 to '63, the late Dr. Thomas H. Smellie had an interesting medical career.

A longtime resident of Prescott and later Brockville, Dr. Smellie was born in Russell, Manitoba, then after high school enrolled at Queen's University medical school in 1932. He returned to Manitoba for his internship at Winnipeg's General Hospital.

Dr. Smellie spent a year as a medical officer with a mining company in Panama where he met and married Marguerite (Peggy) Fink. He returned to Canada with his bride in 1934 and established a medical practice in Prescott.

In 1942, Dr. Smellie entered active military duty with the medical corps of the Governor-General's Horse Guards and served for four years in England, Italy, Belgium and Holland.

After the war, he returned to Prescott where he provided medical services to residents of the district for more than 40 years. He closed his office in 1975 and confined his practice to a part-time medical service at local industries and to those families who had been his patients for many years.

Illness forced him into complete retirement in 1981 and he died on February 26, 1982 at the age of 73.

Dr. Smellie was on staff at Brockville General Hospital and



DR. THOMAS H. SMELLIE

served for a time as chief of staff at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital. He maintained a keen interest in the Ontario Medical Association throughout his practicing years and was an active participant in the association's affairs at the district level.

He was predeceased by his wife in 1979, and has three daughters: Mrs. Timothy J. Betley (Donnie) of Guernsey in the Channel Islands, Mrs. Michael H. Wilson (Margie) of Ottawa (her husband being finance minister in the federal government), and Mrs. Rune Andersen (Sandra) of Washington, D.C., and several grandchildren.

At the time of his death, donations went to the Thomas and Marguerite Smellie Memorial Fund and St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

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**Sisters often
volunteered in
isolation ward
despite risks**

In addition to caring for sick patients, delivering babies and looking after the elderly, the Sisters of Providence were often called to work in the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital's isolation ward.

The year 1908 was particularly bad with diphtheria, typhoid and small pox claiming victims of all ages. On January 4 of that year, following a request from the Board of Health for help, a number of Sisters volunteered to care for people suffering from the dangerous, contagious diseases.

Sister Mary Dolorosa McGuigan and Sister Mary Irene Jordan were the first to enter the isolation ward. They stayed inside a month, caring for 40 patients.

Five days after the Sisters left the ward, new cases broke out. Two more volunteers, Sister Mary Bernard Foley and Sister Margaret Masterson, took their turns working in the unit.

Between 1902 and 1910, there were 124 cases of diphtheria and several minor outbreaks. In 1914 alone, typhoid claimed the lives of 13 people and afflicted another 180 people.

The fall of 1918 was a particularly bad time for Spanish influenza. By the time the epidemic reached its height in early October, at least 32 people were dead and another 300 were reported ill. On the 18th of that month, the staff at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital treated 150 flu victims.

Staff at Brockville's two hospitals were so overworked caring for flu victims, extra nurses and orderlies were sent from Kingston to lighten the load. It didn't take long before staff members contracted the disease and records show 30 nurses, doctors and orderlies were bedridden.

The disease continued to spread at such an alarming rate, the Town Council, Board of Health and local physicians agreed to ban all public gatherings. Classrooms were closed and the local clergy was urged to shorten all services and sermons until the disease abated.

It wasn't until November 30 the ban on public gatherings was lifted and classes resumed. In its six-week course, the flu claimed the lives of 42 people, most of them in their 20s.

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Natalie Tennant settles the accounts

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

A familiar face at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital is Natalie Tennant in the business office, as she deals with the public while settling their accounts.

Natalie, who has a fun-loving, outgoing personality, has been on staff since July of 1961 and readily admits that she's had "lots of fun over the years."

A native of Kent, England, she grew up in London and worked in a technical library for industry before coming to Canada. Her boyfriend, John Tennant had preceded her to Brockville to work at Phillips Cables, and she joined him — "But we went back to England to get married — then returned here to live!" she explained.

Natalie worked at Smith

Transport for a while (that was in 1956), then they went out west and came back in 1960. She then took a job at Parke Davis for a short while, after which she joined the office staff at St. Vincent — "that was in 1961 and I've been here ever since — doing accounts receivable and insurance, looking after all the patients' accounts."

She has some interesting memories of those early years. After only a week's training, she had to face welfare cases which meant interviewing patients concerning their financial affairs.

"Then the government stepped in and OHIP took over — so now no one is turned away — not that they ever really were — but at least we know we're going



NATALIE TENNANT

to be paid now," she points out.

But once in a while the hospital gets stung, she admits, recalling an incident when a couple of American men appeared for treatment. One had social security, but the other hadn't. "They left the country before we could do anything about it," she remembers, adding "they were a couple of con artists!"

Natalie enjoys her work — and her fellow staff members. "It's a really nice atmosphere here — and the Sisters have always been easy to get along with. I like meeting people, and that probably helps," she admits.

Recalling the earlier days, she remembers when the late Madeline Creigan was on the

switchboard — and how she knew everyone's voice who called. She knew all the staff, the doctors, nurses, patients, patients' families — even the news reporters who called in every day.

"Madeline was a real fixture around here, she had been living at the hospital convent since childhood. She would probably still be here, if she hadn't died suddenly while still fairly young," she recalls, rather sadly.

And Natalie remembers many of the Sisters, now retired. One who stands out was Sister Mary Gwendolyn who was Superior when Natalie started work. "She was in charge of everything — nursing, administration, you name it!"

Aside from her work at the hospital, Natalie Tennant has lots of outside interests. She is an active curler, loves to swim, enjoys shows and entertainment, plays the piano, collects stamps, and "is a mad photographer!" But her main summer activity is gardening.

Coronation oak received loving care

In late November of 1963, special care was taken on the grounds of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital to save a living object.

Instead of a patient, the focus of all the attention was a tree which was not just an ordinary tree but a Coronation Oak.

At the time, contractor Robert Fox was preparing property on Pine Street just east of St. Paul's Anglican Church for a proposed addition to the hospital.

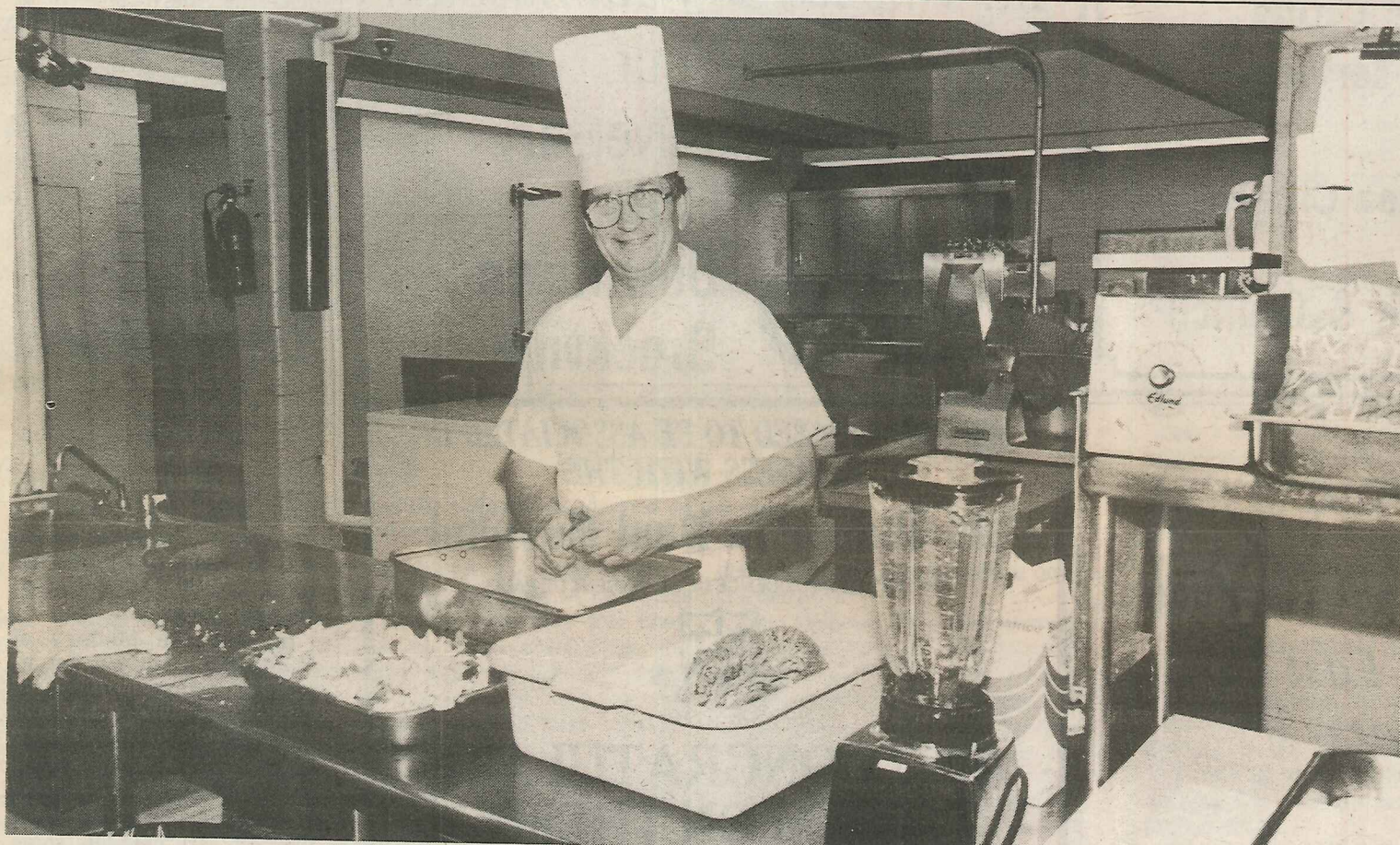
But before the start of construction, Fox had to move the 35-foot-high oak tree which held special significance for this area.

The oak was the only survivor of five oak trees planted in the Brockville district on May 12, 1937, to commemorate the coronation of King George VI.

Fox and his workmen took special care to move the tree from its former location, directly in front of the main entrance of the old hospital, to a new site at the rear of the lawn on the west side of the newer building.

The tree was a royal oak having come from the Royal Garden in London, England.

At the ceremony in 1937, the tree was planted by the late Dr. T. F. Robertson, who was chief-of-staff at the hospital. He was assisted by Paul McAvoy, who was seven years old at the time.



Chef Ron Boulton is seen in the kitchen of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital preparing fresh vegetables for the noonday dinner.

(Photo by Betty MacDowell)

Chef Ron Boulton prepares meals

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

Ever wonder about all those tasty meals at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital — and where they come from?

Chef Ron Boulton is the man in charge of food production — and everything is prepared right there in the spacious hospital kitchen.

An Englishman from Lancashire, chef Boulton worked in both hospitals and restaurants before coming to Canada.

"I came right from England to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in April of 1966, having acquired the position two weeks before," he recalls. He left the hospital for a short time, but returned shortly after and was awarded his 20-year service pin by Sister Susan recently.

And while the kitchen itself has remained basically the same since he started over 20 years ago, the major change is that Versa Food Services, a catering firm, has the contract.

"It only means that we work for Versa, not for the hospital — but all the meals are prepared right here. We start from

scratch and everything is fresh," he explained.

"We do all our own ordering and set the menu for the patients and cafeteria — but Versa brings in the supplies," he added.

"Ronnie is known for his great desserts, too," noted Sister Susan, pointing to the freshly baked pies — apple, pumpkin, raisin, cherry, as well as some tempting looking tarts.

And the chef and his kitchen staff no sooner finish one meal, when it's time to start preparing the next.

With 75 patients getting three meals a day, and an additional 150 dinners in the cafeteria and sisters' dining room every noonhour, to say nothing of breakfast and supper, the "pots are steaming" all day long.

As well as the wide choice of hot meals, there's a good variety of salads and sandwiches. Besides chef Boulton, there are 22 full-time and part-time kitchen staff.

"Yes, it's always a busy place here — we don't have a problem putting in time!" they all agree.



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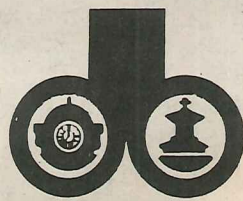
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Obstetrics unit opened at hospital 91 years ago

Before the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital opened on Schofield Hill 100 years ago, women delivered their babies at home. The births were either unassisted or the babies were delivered with the help of a family member or midwife. Difficult cases were sent to Kingston long before the baby was ever born.

When the hospital opened and the Sisters of Charity came to work at the facility, the nuns were called to town residences and farmhouses to help deliver babies.

It wasn't until 1896 that an obstetrics ward opened at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital. That year, a new section called the East Wing was built onto the old convent and increased the number of patient beds to 60. Besides an up-to-date obstetrics ward, the new wing also contained a surgical unit.

In May, 1935, history was made when the first set of surviving triplets was born at the hospital. The babies, named Elma, Francis and Mary Catherine Slack, were delivered by Dr. J. McAvoy.

Further hospital expansion in the 1950s again increased the number of patient beds and provided a first-class obstetrics ward with 13 bassinets. By 1967, the ward had 20 bassinets and beds for 14 women.

In 1972, the Ministry of Health did a study in an attempt to rationalize services at Brockville's two hospitals. Officials decided some services were being duplicated and, in an attempt to save money and provide the best care possible, some areas were streamlined or cut.

In March, 1973, the maternity ward at St. Vincent de Paul closed its doors.

Care at home

Although a new hospital, St. Vincent de Paul, was scheduled to be built on Schofield Hill property in 1887, patients would still be cared for in the home when it was necessary.

A *Brockville Evening Recorder* news account of October 14, 1887, notes, "it is officially declared that the good Sisters of Charity will be prepared to attend the sick of every denomination in their own homes when required to do so, even should the sickness be of a contagious or otherwise dangerous character."



St. Vincent de Paul Hospital graduated its last class from its registered nursing assistants program on May 19, 1972. The training centre officially closed September 1, 1972 and a day program began at the Brockville General Hospital. There were 27 classes

held in all at the hospital with 361 graduates. Can you identify the 1972 graduates? Pictured are Susan Bateman, Shirley Bryan, Sister Agatha Corcoran, Sister Ellen Dawe, Barbara Downey, Margaret Healey, Carol Ann Jones, Betty Anne Lalonde, Carol

Larwill, Annemarie Leins, Shirley Anne Meehan, Bonnie Millar, Bonnie Moore, Laurie Murphy, Linda Nolan, Marianne VanPelt, Merle Walker, Corrie Westendorp, Debra Yeldon.

Hospital's RNA course had many graduates

1951: Marlene Beevor, Helen Fitzmaurice, Zita Hagan, Janet Ouderkirk, Theresa McIntyre, C. Silverthorne (Mrs.), Evelyn Smith, Ruth Smith, Nancy Brown, Marie R. Donelon, Theresa Tovey, Gertrude Walsh.

1952: Margaret Bennett, Leila Brennan, Catherine Burant, Kathleen Davis, Nola Etue, Joan Garvin, Lois Leclair, Maude Poole, Rosalie Burns, Marian Greening, Muriel Lewis, Rita McDonald, Heather McKenzie, Miene te Grotenhuis.

1953: Marlyn Daze, Beatrice Malette, Margaret Nolan, Mary Wand.

1954: Margaret Campbell, Irene Hanniman, Ann McCullough, Margaret Moody, Angeline Roy, Irene Virag.

1955: Marguerite Greening, Pauline Orser, Wiegertje Visser, Mary Walsh, Florence Zillney.

1956: Doreen Beauvais, Joan Daniels, Theresa Fardella, Alma Farley, Bernice Johnston, Joan Langney, Muriel McMahon, Bernadette O'Brien, Mary Lou Roseberry, Mary D. Baird, Edith R. Boyle, Mary P. Doyle.

1957: Mary Valerie Burke, Marie Gerarda Derks, Gail Onilea Dillon, Winifred E. Ouderkirk, Faith Pauline Rees, Ada Reid Smith, Alma Irene Smith, Eileen Edna Warden.

1958: Dona Cronkwright, Edna M. Doughty, Sister M. Francis Xavier, Iola P. Johnston, Reinalda Kloosterman, Lois P. McKibbin, Beverley A. Pilon, Sister M. Redempta, Valentine R. Schuster, Mary Irene Singleton, June L. Tennant, Eleanor Hagan, Marie Lesage, Joyce McParlan, Theresa

Yorke, June Young.

1959: Mary Alice Brennan, Gertrude Castonguay, Ruth Chamberlin, Pearl Gagne, Sister Mary Gracia, Cecily Hicks, Evelyn McEvilla, Beverley O'Rourke, Elsie Phillips, Sister Mary Paul, Augustine Vanderpool, Daphne Vanderpool, Mary Jane Ward.

1960: Jean Catherine Brunet, Marlene Ann Cavanagh, Margaret Rose Closs, Colleen Catherine Doyle, Ann Catherine Fodey, Shirley Girard, Shirley Jane Gray, Patricia Ann Helferty, Phyllis Marie Kinney, Sarah Anne Lynch, Gail Marie Mawhinney, Mary Carmel Meraw, Patricia Anne Morgan, Mary Linda O'Brien, Patricia Gail Patterson, Margaret Rose Preston, Margaret Louise Punch, Marilyn Sandra Quinsey, Sister Mary Austin, Sister Mary Fidelis, Marilyn Alice Wright.

1961: Sister M. Aloysia, Sister M. Augustine, Mary Catherine Coburn, Mary Gladys Connolly, Mary Ilene Dunley, Margaret Monica Forestell, Carol Jean Heffernan, Margaret Jean Higgins, Mary Patricia Horrikan, Carole Anne James, Mary Hilda Johnston, Irene Mary C. Kennedy, Mildred E. MacIsaac, Morraine Mary McGregor, Mary Jane McNally, Joan Shirley McQuaid, Mary Patricia Mulville, Mary Catherine M. Moher, Anne Elizabeth Sweeney, Shirley Veerman, Margaret Elaine Vint.

1962: Mary Eileen Bibby, Joanne Brand, Helen Marguerite Burns, Karen Mary Byrne, Mary Adele Cavanagh, Wilda Theresa Cayle, Heather

Ruth Dargan, Carole Marie Dennie, Mary Rita Devlin, Anne Patricia Gudgin, Mary Teresa Guerin, Eliza Jane Haley, Karen Evelyn Hemeon, Mary Rita Latendre, Beverley Joan Myers, Mary Patricia Power, Mary C. Raymond, Sister Mary Perpetua, Sister Mary Stephen, Mary Birdiline Smith, Virginia Gail Smith, Mary Carol Lynn Spencer, Irene Nelda Wright.

1963: Vivian Bolla, Diane Booth, Marie Bourrie, Carol Callaghan, Mary Donnelly, Mary Flynn, Claire Keogh, Karen Knapp, Mary G. McDougall, Marion McGaghan, Sylvia Murray, John Nuyens, Rita O'Connell, Joan O'Hearn, Margaret O'Keefe, Catherine Riley, Diane Robitaille, Sister M. Agnes, Carmelita Sullivan, Louise Sweeney, Rose Marie Zilney.

1964: Sharon Cardinal, Marie H. Doyle, Grace Harwood, Catherine Lexmond, Mary Teresa McGlade, Theresa McKiernan, Claire Morin, Mary E. O'Neill, Dolores Robitaille, Alice M. Sheridan, Betty Ann Staunton, Sister M. Margaret Ann.

1965: Maureen Heather Begg, Margaret Jo-Anne Bradshaw, Judith Ann Cork, Linda Jean Corrigan, Catherine Gertrude Donoghue, Helene Mary Doyle, Mary Sheila Arlene Edwards, Ann Cecilia Healey, Vivian Theresa Jean LeBlanc, Frances Patricia Lustic, Patricia MacMullen, Mary Elizabeth Norris, Bonnie Loretta Rayner, Judith Vincent, Elizabeth Anne Whibbs; Practical Course: Mercedes Castillo Pena.

1966: Sister M. Edward Joseph, Shirley Allan, Patricia Brady, Anne Collins, Patricia De Luca, Frances Howard, Susanne Howard, Elizabeth McCarthy, Heather McGreggor, Patricia McKenzie, Sharon McOuatt, Patricia Morisset, Marilyn Murphy, Margaret O'Neill, Bonnie Tracey.

1967: Linda Bellman, Theresa Burns, Patricia Conroy, Rose Mary Doyle, Georgina Elliott, Louise Geneau, Barbara Haffie, Brenda Jackson, Patricia Joyce, Janet Mahoney, Mary Matte, Mary McMahon, Mildred Murray, Marlene Prokator, Donna Scanlan, Colleen Sheahan, Sylvia Stephenson, Corrine Stewart, Rita Stover, Erica Van Amstel, Mary Jane West, Paula Wiseman.

1968: Gail Jacqueline Primeau, Susan Agnew, Marilyn Barkley, Lynda Bigelow, Heather Brennan, Patricia Burns, Carolyn Covell, Doreen Fama, Sharon Forbes, Martha Garrah, Joanne Graham, Mary Healey, Theresa Healey, Anne Houlihan, Patricia Larocque, Linda McLaren, Jessie McLean, Valerie Melvin, Cherrill Myers, Mary Neil, Jane Onstein, Barbara Poirier, Elizabeth Purdon, Kathleen Roach, Hildegard Schmuki, Carolyn Seabrooke, Brenda Therrien, Janet Willis.

1969: Roseann Anderson, Linda Bolyea, Yvonne Burns, Gloria Byrd, Jacquelin Callaghan, Sylvia Earl, Lynn Hatton, Ann Howard, Darlyne MacFarlane, Constance McParland, Mary Jane Palmer, Gloria Scott, Elaine Shannon, Bonnie Thomlinson, Diane

Wilkinson, Mary Yanosik, Josephine Arnoldi, Feryn Bennett, Mary Louise Brady, Christine Cousineau, Catherine Cuming, Linda Dawn, Beatrice De Jong, Margaret Doyle, Linda Durfey, Barbara Empey, Rita Ferguson, Leone Frank, Marsha La Rocque, Pamela Miller, Yvonne Todd.

1970: Sandra Atherley, Bonnie Blad, Patricia Brady, Susan Byrd, Jane Davis, Sharryn Dowdell, Cherie Duperron, Elizabeth Ann Easton, Brenda Eligh, Dianne Evoy, Sister Helen Harris, Irene Holmes, Sally Hutcheon, Diane Lynch, Kathleen McCann, Sister Gladys McCourt, Jane O'Callaghan, Joan O'Callaghan, Beverly Paterson, Sister Frances Piasecki, Elizabeth Virtue.

1971: Marianne Barnhoorn, Anne Breen, Valerie Bryan, Joan Chambers, Wanita Cheetham, Sharon Dempsey, Jacqueline Dunleavy, Mary Hallett, Joan Jarvis, Susan Johnston, Karen Leeder, Janice LeRiche, Deanna McDougall, Sandra McKerracher, Sheila Niblock, Ingrid Nolting, Beverly Nowlan, Dianne Poole, Marie Shanahan, Jane Shepherd, Dorothy Taylor, Cora Wager.

1972: Linda Nolan, Susan Bateman, Shirley Bryan, Sister Agatha Corcoran, Sister Eileen Dawe, Barbara Downey, Margaret Healey, Carol Ann Jones, Betty Anne Lalonde, Carol Larwill, Annemarie Leins, Shirley Anne Meehan, Bonnie Millar, Bonnie Moore, Laurie Murphy, Marianne VanPelt, Merle Walker, Corrie Westendorp, Debra Yeldon.

Fay Rehberg finds hospital job "satisfying"

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

Secretary to the administrator at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital since 1974, Fay Rehberg is another longtime employee who has seen many changes over the years, but continues to derive a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment from her work there.

"I really started working at St. Vincent's in 1959 — almost 30 years ago — but left in 1964 to have my family, then returned in '66 to be a secretary in radiology until 1974," she explains.

The former Fay Herbison, she was born and brought up in Brockville, attending BCI. Her first job was at Brockville General Hospital, from 1955 to '59 — "and you can see that I've only worked at two places in all those years — both hospitals!"

Needless to say, she enjoys her work in this busy hub of the hospital — "everything comes through this area, except the patients!" she says with a laugh.

When she first started at St. Vincent de Paul, it was in the old business office, working in payroll and as an accounts receivable clerk, being a sort of "jack of all trades" as were most of the desk people.

But as secretary to the administrator, she has to be their right-hand person. When she first assumed the position, the administrator was Sister Angelica Dunn, followed by Sister Grace Maguire, then Sister Irene Forrester in 1977, who continued until the spring of 1986 when Tom Harrington took over as business administrator.

There have probably been as many changes as administrators, but they have been gradual, she says, adding that the word processor is the most noticeable.

"But there seems to be a great deal more paperwork than ever before — mounds of it! I don't know why, but it keeps on increasing," she says.

One reason for this, she points out, is that the medical staff applications all have to be processed through her office, and as the medical staff all have to apply for privileges every year, it goes on and on. And the medical staff is a much larger body than when she first started.

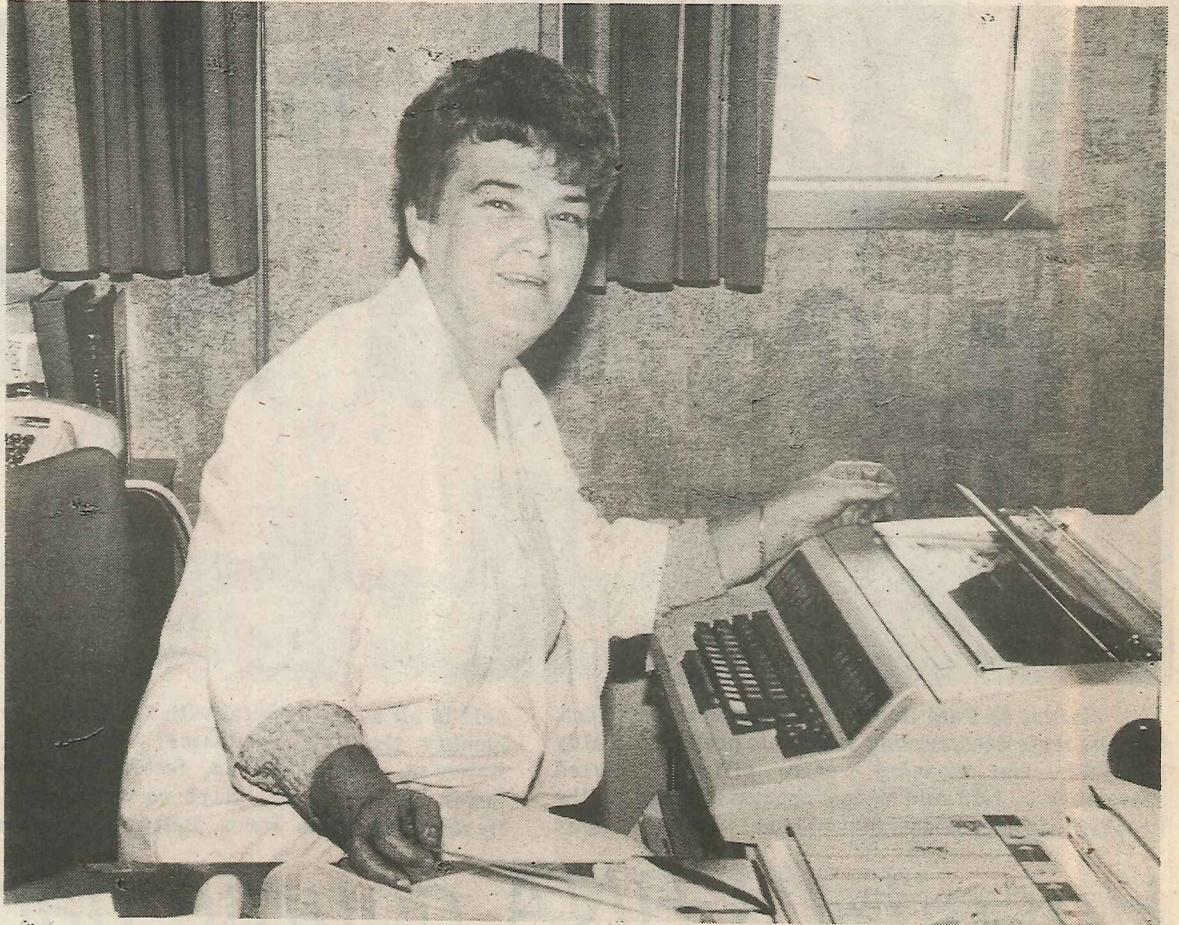
With a happy approach to her work, Rehberg considers her job "a challenge" and says she never gets a chance to get bored. There are annual reports to prepare, the Auxiliary newsletter, reports from the governing board — and many

special events resulting from this busy year for the centennial observances. And her office is now stacked with cardboard cartons containing special commemorative china plates, and glass steins, to mark this 100th year of the hospital.

Fay Rehberg likes the happy and pleasant atmosphere at St. Vincent. "It's the nice way that people ask you do things, taking the time to say 'when you have a minute' — not insisting on having something right away. So you do it for them as soon as possible, because you want to."

She points to the many long-service people on staff, noting that their records must certainly speak for the great feeling that persists among "our happy family here."

Fay is married to Eugene "Sonny" Rehberg, who came from the Maritimes to Brockville with his parents in early childhood. They have two grown children, a son and a daughter, both in the working world. The Rehbergs took up boating this summer, which they greatly enjoyed. They also love to travel, spending vacations in Mexico every year.



Fay Rehberg, secretary to the administrators at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital since 1974 (although working at the hospital since 1959) finds her job a challenge, as all paperwork pertaining to the hospital passes through her office. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)

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Living next to hospital a blessing and a curse

By ROY LEWIS
Staff Writer

Dr. Jack McDougall, who retired in 1985 from a medical career spanning 45 years, found that having a residence and office next to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital could be both a blessing and a curse.

McDougall established his practice here in a large residence at the northeast corner of Pine and Garden Streets in September of 1940, directly east of the old St. Vincent de Paul Hospital which faced Pine Street. He and his wife, Edna, still reside there.

While being so close to the hospital had its advantages for the young doctor, there was also some problems with runaway cars. The parking lot was located behind the hospital with an entrance off Garden Street.

Less-than-adequate braking systems allowed several cars to roll out from the parking lot, down the entrance ramp and across Garden Street. There was a large tree on the McDougall property but miraculously the cars missed it. The vehicles were not so kind to the MacDougall

fence.

"I think I had that fence repaired at least half a dozen times after cars rolled into it," McDougall said.

When McDougall first starting making his rounds in St. Vincent, the institution was a small hospital. He said almost all of the nursing was carried out by the nursing sisters.

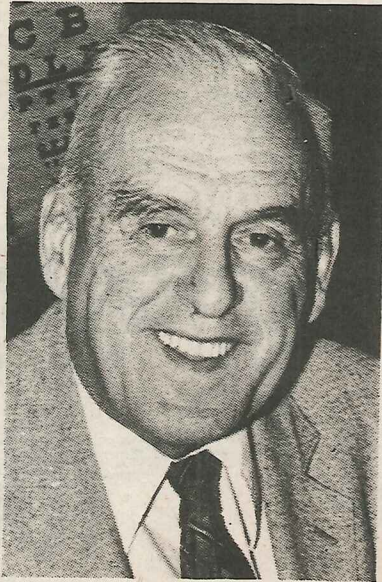
TV IN BASEMENT

He recalled that someone gave the sisters a television set which they kept in a room in the hospital basement.

"The Sister Superior was not supposed to know about the television but I think she did although she never did anything about it," McDougall said.

In those early days there was no doctor on call at St. Vincent and the sisters often summoned McDougall who would race across the road to attend to an emergency case brought into the hospital.

McDougall also assisted his fellow doctors from the country particularly when they had an urgent maternity patient. Faced with poor roads, doctors from rural areas could not



Dr. JACK McDOUGALL

always reach Brockville in time and McDougall would step in to deliver the baby.

Of all the maternity cases he was involved with, the one which stands out in McDougall's mind involved a young woman by the name of June Holiday who was in labor when she was admitted to the hospital early in the morning.

McDougall and his colleagues

realized the baby would have to be delivered by caesarean section.

But to perform the procedure, the hospital needed the authorization of the parents of the underaged woman. When Sister Mary Roberts, the night supervisor at the hospital, questioned the young mother about contacting her parents, she quickly realized the woman had given her a fictitious name.

Apparently managing to keep her condition secret from her family, the woman had no desire to have hospital authorities contact her parents who she refused to identify. Sister Roberts then embarked on a search for the family.

As it happened, one of her relatives, a Dr. Hamilton of Westport, was making one of his rare visits to the hospital. He thought he recognized the girl and believed she was the daughter of a Westport area resident.

The police were notified and they in turn had to get the Westport telephone exchange operator out of bed to put through the call from the hospital to the family. Even-

tually, the woman's father was reached by telephone.

With one member of the hospital staff receiving verbal authorization to perform the operation and a second staff member listening on the line to confirm the conversation, permission was received from the woman's father. The operation was performed and June Holiday had a successful birth.

"We don't know where she got the name Holiday but she picked the name June simply because it was the month of June when she was admitted to hospital," McDougall said.

A member of the medical advisory board for St. Vincent de Paul for several years and former president of the medical staff, McDougall said he had "many pleasant memories" of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

"I always had good relationships with the staff at the hospital," he said.

McDougall said it has been interesting to watch the hospital develop over the years and "evolve from an old-fashioned hospital into a modern, medical centre."

Working at hospital has been a family affair

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

The pleasant young woman who operates the busy switchboard at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital is Yvonne Fournier, another longtime hospital employee.

Her entire life seems to have revolved around the hospital, as she worked there as a teenager dating back to 1969 and her whole family has been involved in hospital work.

She is the former Yvonne Nieuwenhuizen, whose father, the late Jacob Nieuwenhuizen, was chief lab technologist at St. Vincent for many years. And her mother Anna (who died last year) operated the switchboard at the Brockville General Hospital for 15 years.

Yvonne's sister Karen is a Registered Nursing Assistant at the Ottawa Civic Hospital.

And Yvonne's husband, David Fournier is an orderly on the staff of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital now in his 11th year. Their three daughters are also frequently seen around the hospital, one as a candy-striper and two working part-time in dietary, where Yvonne started out originally.

"I was the last switchboard operator to be trained by Madeline Creagin — and she was really great to work with. I took over on the old board when she retired, then she went into hospital for surgery and died suddenly. We all felt terrible," she recalls.

Yvonne began her duties in 1975 and has been there ever since, with the exception of time out to have her four children.

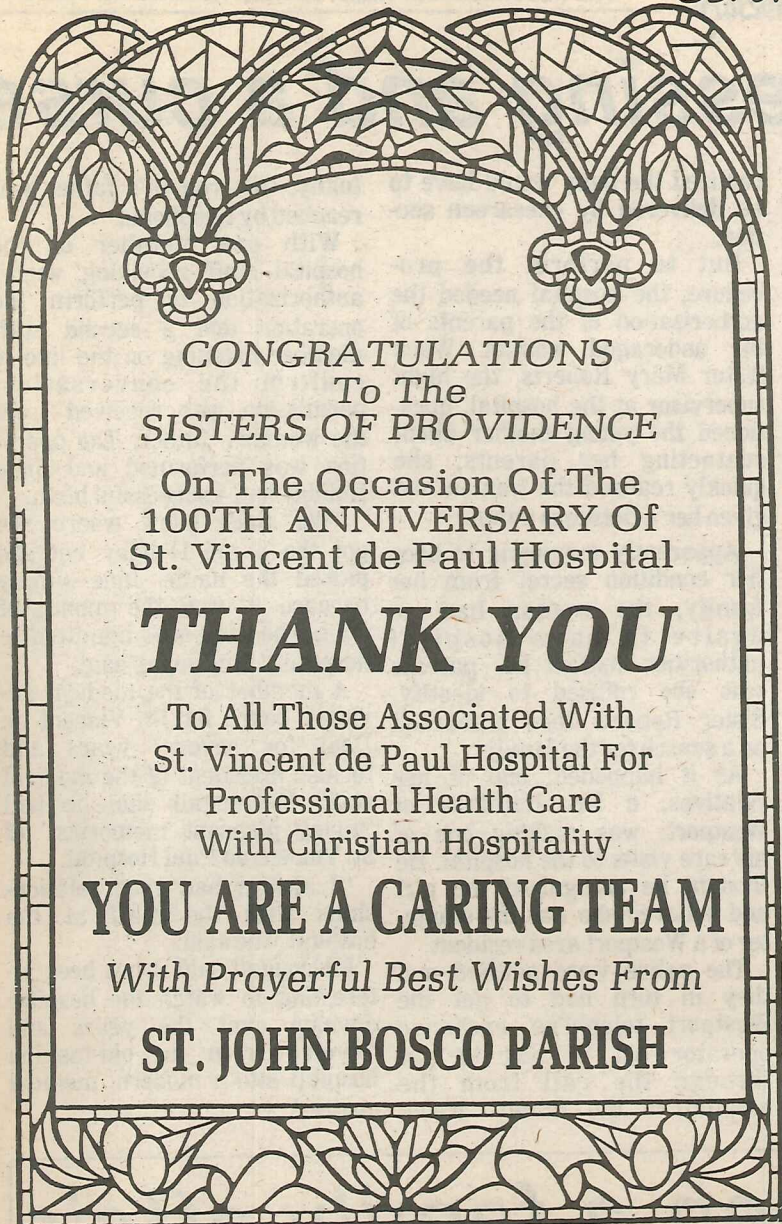
Some of the former switchboard operators at the hospital she remembers over the years after Madeline were Bertha Harkness and her daughter Wilma Caldwell, Dorothy Easton, Kay Ready, Grace Mitchell, and Millie Earle, who later went to the admitting office.

"It's busy, with never a dull moment, and we're always right in the hub of things here — sort of 'directing traffic' for all inquiries," she says.

And switchboards have undergone lots of changes since Yvonne started — from the big boards with lots of colored cords and plugs, to the tiny compact computer-sized ones now in use all over. But the calls, and callers, remain the same, everyone agrees.



This photo of Yvonne Fournier taken in 1983 shows the difference in equipment on the day the new switchboard was installed.



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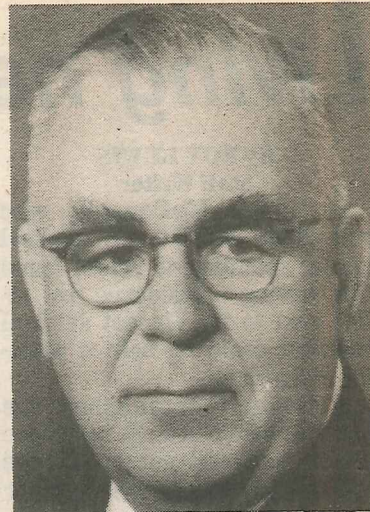
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DR. D. B. CODE

**Dr. Code headed
medical staff**

Dr. Douglas B. Code, father of Brockville's Dr. Tom Code, was a longtime family doctor and surgeon who served as president of the medical staff and chief of staff at both the Brockville General and St. Vincent de Paul Hospitals for many years.

A native of Ottawa, he was raised and educated there, but received his medical education at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1924 and interning at the Ottawa Civic Hospital.

He was a veteran of both World Wars, having gone overseas in 1915 when only 16 years of age, serving with the 20th Battery, 5th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.

Dr. Code came to Brockville in 1926 when he opened a general practice, first on Court Terrace, then later moving it to 11 Victoria Avenue where he continued to tend the needs of his patients for many years.

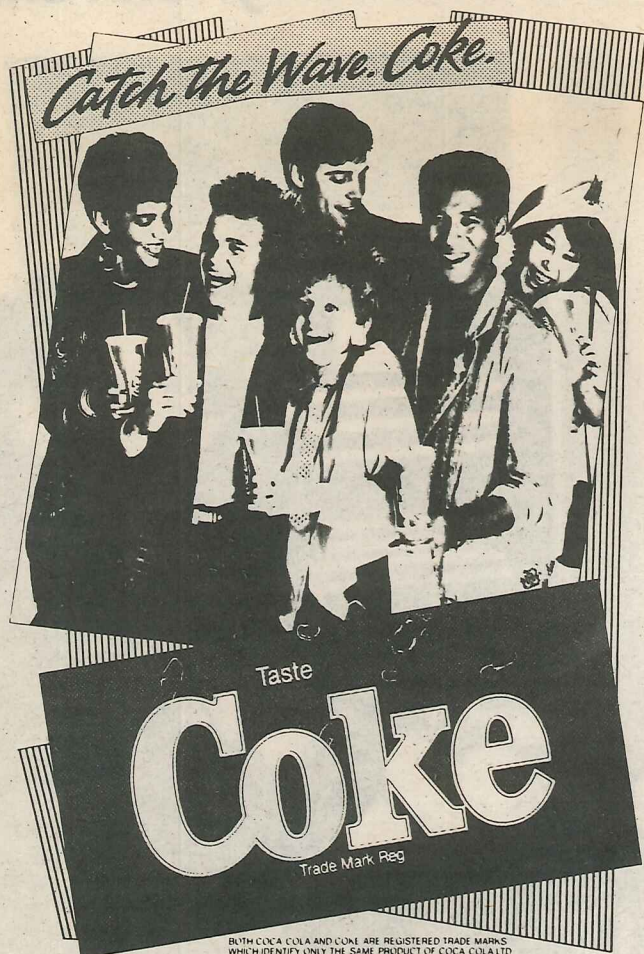
He had served as a medical officer of the Brockville Rifles from 1928 to 1959, retiring as a major. During World War Two he was in command of the hospital at the Officers' Training Centre here.

In 1945 he was certified as a specialist in surgery by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and in 1960 was made a fellow of the International College of Surgeons at their North American Congress held in New York City.

Dr. Code also served the community as an elected member of the Board of Education for 18 years, the final two years as chairman of the board. He was also a longtime member of the Brockville Rotary Club and a past president.

Dr. Code had a pleasant, outgoing nature. He was married to the former Kitty Harvey Hilton in Ottawa in 1927. They had three children: Barbara (Mrs. R. G. Shaw) and twin sons, James and Thomas.

The senior Dr. Code retired in 1964 because of failing health. He died on November 6, 1966 at the age of 67.



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Ladies Auxiliary plays important role at hospital

In 1887 there is mention in hospital records of several ladies of Brockville going twice a week to St. Vincent to help the Sisters. Their activities included sewing, washing, cooking, marketing and caring for the sick.

On March 12 in the year 1895 the ladies formed a committee called "The Ladies' Hospital Auxiliary". The rules were set up, the main one being that this "auxiliary be for the purpose of raising money to assist the maintenance of household furnishings and delicacies such as the Sisters may approve of for the patients." The total membership was 65. The financial statement for the year 1898 listed items purchased for the hospital amounting to \$380.85. By the year 1902 the ladies held a hospital tea and raised \$1,393.

The auxiliary became affiliated on a provincial level in 1953 and the first constitution and by-laws were prepared in 1954.

Over the years they served the hospital by staffing a tuck shop, which was moved a number of times, and is presently located in the main lobby. They operated a coffee shop, which was a very good source of funds, until 1970 when the space was no longer available. In the past 12 years they have donated \$62,074 to the hospital. With this money the



Terry Glassford is in charge of the Auxiliary's staff, patients and visitors at moderate prices. The gift shop at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital where a shop is always particularly busy prior to the wide array of needs and gifts are available for Christmas season every year.

(Photo by Betty MacDowell)

hospital has procured a variety of equipment, some used in direct patient care, such as the century tub on fifth floor, and others were instruments used in surgery, such as the electro-surgical unit and another was a type of microscope used by Dr.

Cooke in cancer detection clinic.

In 1972 the by-laws were revised and the name was changed once again to The Auxiliary of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital. This was with a view to attracting some gentlemen to the

ranks. Each year the auxiliary raises money through a variety of activities and these may be auction sales, rummage sales, card parties, marathon bridge and a number of raffles.

Through the gift shop, the travelling cart and the beauty

shop they provide services to patients and staff besides bringing in some revenue.

The auxiliary has been a support to the hospital in a public relations way that is fairly significant. Because of their activities in the community and their association with many other groups, they have been able to spread the good word about St. Vincent de Paul Hospital and the kind of care that they are aware of taking place in that institution. They have been the support group for our junior volunteers, these are the teenagers who assist on the nursing units after school hours and on weekends, and these girls have helped greatly at a time of day when staffing is minimal and with them it has been an opportunity to give service to others. The auxiliary have been extremely supportive of the Palliative Care Service, they have made contributions to it, have provided the uniforms to the volunteers and once again have been a strong public relations group for the hospital.

The new executive for 1987-88 are the following: president, Gertrude MacKenzie; first vice president, Marion Rashotte; treasurer, Daphne Hall; assistant treasurer, Ethel Palko; recording secretary, Norman Manion; corresponding secretary, Nellie Bolger.

Operating rooms have seen many changes

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

Head nurse in the operating rooms at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Ann Arnold has seen many changes since she first started there in 1959.

The former Ann Kelly of Brockville, she graduated from the Ontario Hospital School of Nursing (now Brockville Psychiatric) in the class of 1957, working there for a couple of years after becoming a registered nurse.

But when an opening occurred on the staff at St. Vincent de Paul, she was ready for a change and applied — "It was in the O.R. and I've been here ever since — and never regretted it!" she is quick to point out.

When she arrived at the O.R. in 1959, a new supervising Sister had just taken over — Sister Mary Geralda from Camrose, Alberta.

"It was in the old wing — and Sister Geralda lost no time in making some sweeping changes. She was very progressive, updated all the equipment — and even got the doctors to change their clothes — got them into proper scrub attire. Before that they just wore lab coats," she

explained.

Nurse Arnold remembers many of the difficulties the O.R. staff labored under. When a portable x-ray machine was brought in, someone had to stand at the fuse box and put in new fuses. "We kept blowing the power all the time!" she chuckles now.

Also in 1959 she married Juerg Arnold, continued nursing until '61, took time off for her family and resumed her career in 1966. The Arnolds have two children, Todd and Tanya, both of whom were born at St. Vincent de Paul.

In the meantime Sister Geralda had left and the O.R. was taken over briefly by Jean MacDonald and later by Sister Mary Michael (who later became known as Sister Joan Wing). She, too, was very progressive, was well-liked by the staff and doctors, and continued to make sure everything in the operating theatre was kept right up to date.

"But when I look around now, and realize the conditions we worked under in the old days, I wonder how we did it," Ann Arnold acknowledges. "For instance, we had to keep the gas machine in a closet and

drag it out. And that old wing didn't have any air-conditioning... I really don't know how we managed as well as we did."

The O.R. staff of 1987 is as busy as they ever were, with four RNs as well as Mrs. Arnold, two O.R. technicians, two RNs in the recovery room and an RNA and housekeeper to look after things.

The most major change in the O.R. at St. Vincent de Paul is the fact that all the eye surgery is done there. Cataract patients now undergo lens implants, all of which is paid for by OHIP under the hospital's global budget. And expensive microscopes are also needed for this surgery.

When Sister Joan Wing was transferred to Kingston a few years ago, Ann Arnold took over the Operating department, which consists of three separate rooms (in the old wing there were two big rooms and a small one) — but these present areas have the latest equipment.

"Needless to say, there's never a dull moment — we keep busy and happy. And I hope we always will!" says Ann Arnold, who can't imagine working anywhere else.



ANN ARNOLD



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Maintenance of hospital a high priority

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

Maintenance is an ongoing business at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital where there is always something to be done in the way of improvements.

Borden Shire, now in his 20th year in this busy department at the hospital, was busy extending a wall in the main lobby. "The lab next door needed more space, so we're building it out into this area, with wickets to be put in for the public to check in easier," he explained.

It was Borden who built the nice wooden and glass display cabinet in the waiting area, which contains memorabilia of the hospital's history, commemorating its 100th anniversary this year.

Borden Shire has been working around St. Vincent de Paul Hospital for years and years, since 1968 really when he was with Andre Construction and Sullivan when they were building the new wings.

"The old part was being torn down, and also the old laundry building at the back, which had student living quarters over top," he recalls.

After the new buildings were completed, he decided to stay on at the hospital in maintenance, doing all kinds of construction as well as looking after the grounds, including the recently built Japanese garden patio.

Another longtime employee in maintenance is Harold McNish (head of the department) who has been on the job for 22 years, and along with the three engineers, they are all busy all day long.

Next thing on the agenda will be the stringing of Christmas lights and the decorations all over the hospital, both inside and out, which will herald the start of the festive season in early December.

"Yes, we keep busy putting up things and taking them down, 'fixing things', changing areas around to make better use of space, and just regular maintenance — maintaining the hospital for the efficiency of all," is the way Shire sees it.

And, like all the rest of the staff at St. Vincent, their work is done in a nice, friendly manner with a smile and pleasure for the job.

"Couldn't work in a better place!" he assures.



Borden Shire, one of the busy maintenance staff changes in the main foyer to give the adjoining lab at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital (now in his 20th year there) is seen making some carpentry some extra room. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)

Staff spirit tremendous, observes radiologist

BY BETTY MacDOWELL

A recent "newcomer" to St. Vincent de Paul Hospital is Dr. Janet Purchase, one of two radiologists on the staff.

Here for three years this past July, she is an enthusiastic supporter of the hospital and says she has never seen anything like the staff spirit and community interest. "I just love it here!" she maintains.

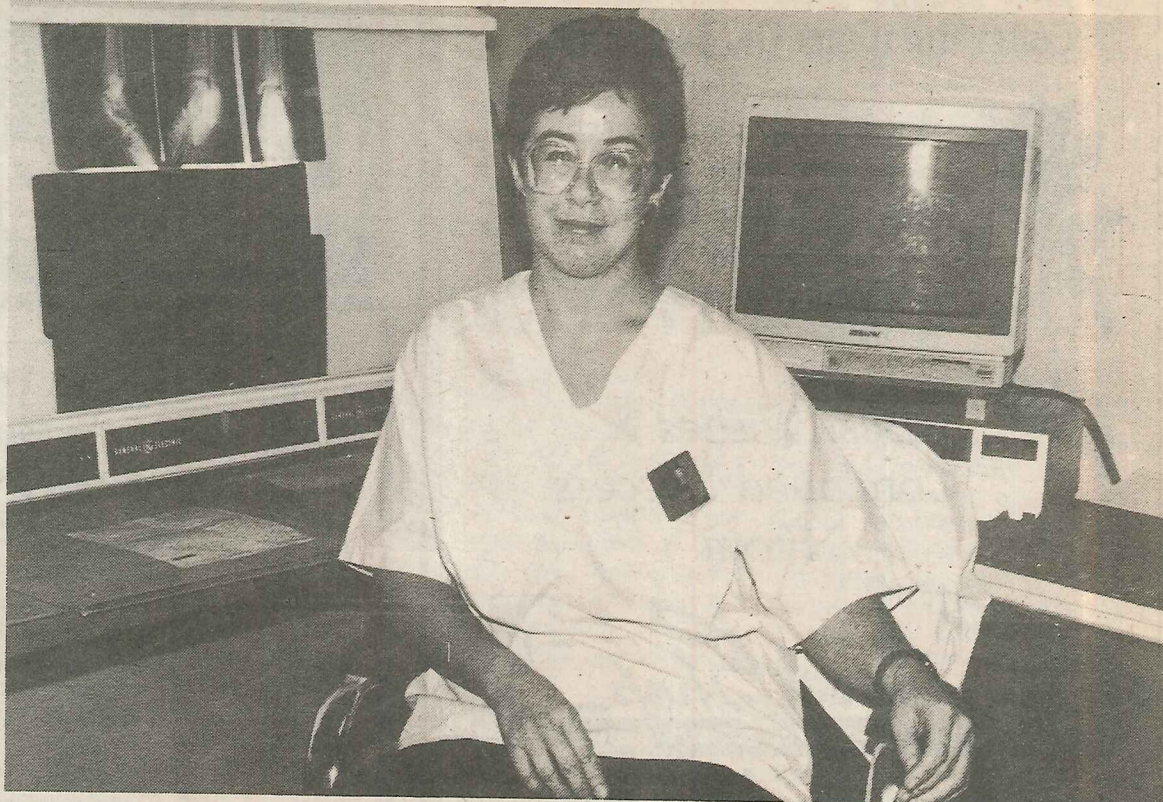
Taking her medical and radiology training at Ottawa University, she worked at both Ottawa Civic and Ottawa General Hospitals before heading to Northern Ontario doing temporary replacement in Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard and Englehart.

"I've worked in large hospitals, small hospitals — and now a medium sized hospital. I'm really most impressed with St. Vincent. The staff spirit is tremendous. They are friendly, approachable, always helpful, with such a sense of community. People here aren't just concerned with their own departments — they are interested in helping the whole hospital, not just in preserving their own jobs. It's really a great feeling. They are top-notch professionals and the quality of care is very high!" points out Dr. Purchase.

Continuity of care means so much, she says, "and it's here — it's hard to define, but the patients come first."

"During the past year, St. Vincent de Paul Hospital acquired an ultra-sound machine and now they are doing more specialized work in evaluating patients for arterial narrowing. This has certainly helped the people from the area, as it means they don't have to drive at least 50 miles for these tests which can rule out so many problems," she noted.

Dr. Purchase is involved in lots of activities outside of radiology and is enjoying belonging to the recently formed staff choir for the hospital anniversary.



Dr. Janet Purchase, one of two radiologists at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, has been on staff for three years and is most impressed with the

great spirit of friendly co-operation among all departments.

(Photo by Betty MacDowell)

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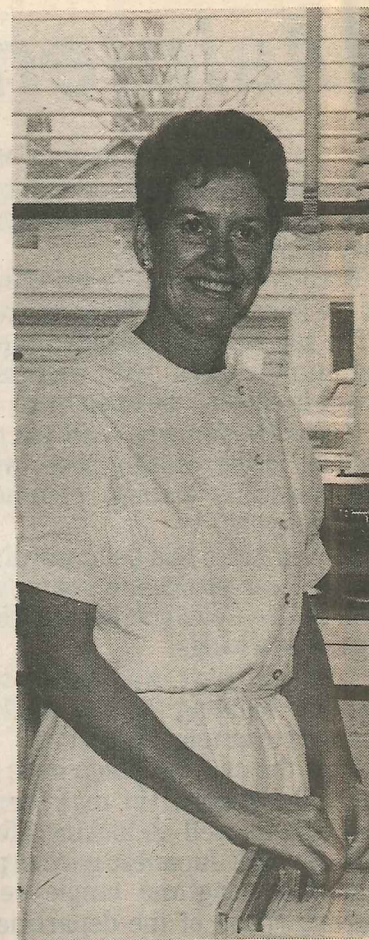


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Many tasks

Sallee Parish, a Registered Nursing Assistant at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital who has been on staff in various capacities since 1959, is secretary for the busy x-ray department.

(Photo by Betty MacDowell)

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Before Aird, Mackay lent name to drive

Former Ontario Lieutenant-Governor, John Black Aird, honorary chairman of the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital Foundation, is not the first high provincial official to lend his support to the Brockville hospital.

During 1958, the institution was actively engaged in a campaign to raise \$475,000 which was the community's share of the estimated \$900,000 cost of building a new wing on the hospital.

In the spring of that year, Leeds MPP James Auld, chairman of the St. Vincent de Paul building fund, announced that J. Keiller Mackay, then Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, had agreed to become a patron of the fund.

“We are delighted to have His Honor's personal interest and approval,” Auld said at the time.

“This is a community enterprise for the benefit of all the public,” he said.

Funds were solicited from corporations, organizations and individuals during the 1958 campaign for the new wing which was to have 60 beds, modern laboratories, complete out-patient and emergency departments, all of which were “sorely needed.”

Specialized eye surgery routine at hospital

By ROY LEWIS
Staff Writer

In 1975, an eye specialist performed the first ocular lens implant at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in which he replaced the lens in the eye of a ship captain with a plastic lens.

Since that time, Dr. Adrian Ten Cate has performed more than 2,000 similar operations at the hospital. Other surgeons are also performing the procedure which is now a matter of routine at St. Vincent.

But when he first performed the operation 12 years ago, Ten Cate was embarking on a radical form of eye surgery. At the time, he knew of only two other eye specialists in Canada to be using the technique.

Lens implant surgery was pioneered in Great Britain in 1948. The idea for exchanging the eye's lens for an artificial one came from the Second World War.

British fighter pilots in dog fights with German aircraft during the Battle of Britain often had bullets shatter their plexiglass cockpit covers with pieces of the plastic lodging in the pilot's eyes.

ARTIFICIAL LENS

When doctors found the

pieces of plexiglass did not adversely affect the eye, they began to experiment with replacing the lens with an artificial, plastic lens. Initial work was not successful but in the early 1970s, Dr. Cornelias Binkhorst of Holland perfected a lighter, smaller lens.

After studying lens implantation under Binkhorst, Ten Cate returned to Brockville to perform the surgical technique here.

Equipment for the operation is extremely expensive. The key piece of equipment, a special microscope, costs over \$20,000. The surgeon performing the operation uses foot levels to operate the microscope so his sterile hands are not contaminated by regular adjusting knobs.

Ten Cate said St. Vincent de Paul Hospital was selected to perform the lens implant operation since the hospital's operating room facilities were best suited for the procedure.

Initially, Ten Cate replaced the lens in damaged eyes. Now, almost all lens implants involve the elderly whose vision has become impaired after their natural eye lens is coated with cataracts (calcium deposits).

Another medical first in eye surgery in Brockville was performed at St. Vincent de Paul in 1965 when Dr. Godfrey Grandsen, who now practises medicine in British Columbia, performed the first corneal graft.

CORNEA GRAFT

Taking a small circle of the cornea (transparent covering of the eyeball) from a donor eye, Grandsen grafted it onto a patient's injured eyeball.

The most interesting aspect of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital for Ten Cate is not the surgical techniques performed there but the description of operations by the late Dr. Charles Cornell, one of the institution's most famous surgeons.

Cornell's fame as a surgeon was widespread with his patients coming from throughout eastern Ontario, western Quebec and northern New York State.

Ten Cate, a noted local historian, has discovered in the St. Vincent de Paul archives, notes written by Cornell about his operations performed in the early part of this century. The notes are "beautifully written" according to Ten Cate but what really caught his interest was the watercolor sketches with them.

Carefully painted by Cornell, the sketches depict the procedure he used in his operations.

"The sketches themselves are works of art and are truly magnificent," Ten Cate said.



ADRIAN TEN CATE



Sharing memories

Two retired longtime nursing supervisors from "the old days" at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital are neighbors now in Buell House apartments on Front Avenue and frequently reminisce over old times. At the left is Celia Lefave, who was evening supervisor for years, and at the right is Toni Lunman, night supervisor for many years. They were classmates when they trained at the same hospital, graduating in the class of 1934. (Photo by Betty MacDowell)



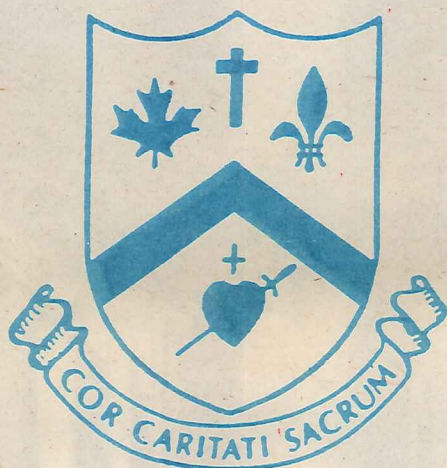
Old but spotless

Prior to modernization, halls at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital gave an air of stepping back into history. Despite the fact the building was old, it was kept spotless by a vigilant maintenance

team. This picture shows the shine of the floor, walls and even ceiling. The sign on the right points out the gift shop. It is believed this photo was taken in the late 1950s.

(Photo by GGeorge Lilley Photography)

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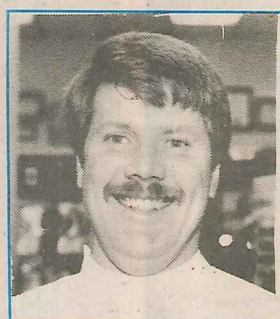
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