



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.

**Our Lady's Hospital
Vilna, Alberta
Diamond Jubilee
1928-1988**

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Toronto, Ontario

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OUR LADY'S HOSPITAL

DIAMOND JUBILEE

OPEN HOUSE

VILNA, ALBERTA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1988



ORIGINAL VILNA HOSPITAL — Was built in 1928 and served until it was demolished in 1982. Of two-storey construction it operated with full X-ray and laboratory facilities.



NEW HOSPITAL — Larger and equipped with more modern facilities, it continues to provide excellent health service.



STAFF DEDICATED TO HOSPITAL IN 1982 — Left to right: June Haydak - Director of Nursing, Pauline Ibach - R.N., Christina Kuryliw - R.N., Nettie Moric - Administrator, Diane Kozak - R.N., Lyse Nagy - R.N., Helene Bierwald - R.N.

2ND ROW: Marlaine Pidluzny - Receptionist, Betty Turton - Nursing Attendant, Marge Cozicar - Nursing Attendant, Debbie Dizak - C.C.T., Audrey Pelechaty - R.N., Bobbi Thompson - Nursing Attendant, Evelyn Livingstone - Cook, Lilly Taschuk - Dietary Aide, Marianne

Mazur - Dietary Aide, Ella Lewicky - Nursing Attendant, Kate Hayduk - Laundress, Sophie Yaceyko - Nursing Attendant, Teresa Skarllicki - C.C.T., Helen Dizak - Cook.

BACK ROW: Bill Nagy - Maintenance, Lena Ewanchuk - Housekeeper, Joyce Zapisocki - Housekeeper, Johanne Hassey - Housekeeper, Mary Piwowar - Dietary Aide, Katie Puchalski - Housekeeper, Olga Fryeskul - Dietary Aide, Bernice Suntjens - Nursing Attendant, Gloria Zacharuk - Nursing Attendant, Mary Habiak - Cook.

From the administrator

The year 1988 marks the 60th Jubilee of Our Lady's Hospital, on the present site in Vilna.

We have the Sisters of Service, who until July, 1970 owned and operated the hospital, to thank. In 1970 the hospital was purchased from the Sisters and operated under a Board of Directors who foresaw the need for a new facility. With great persistence they were successful in obtaining a new facility which was officially opened in 1982.

We have endeavored to provide the same service to the community and surrounding district that was initiated by the Sisters of Service.

On behalf of myself and the present staff, we hope you enjoyed your visit to this 60th Year Celebration, meeting old acquaintances and renewing friendships.

Nettie Moric, Administrator

From the Board Chairman

A composite rural community is made up of elevators, stores, service businesses, post office, bank and above all school and hospital.

For the latter, we are eternally grateful to the Sisters of Service. They built and operated Our Lady's Hospital for ¾ of its existence.

Later boards, administration and staff have continued to build on that foundation and working to the future. We anticipate upgrading and extending our medical coverage to adjust to changing demands.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend **BEST WISHES** to all in the Vilna area as we all celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of Our Lady's Hospital.

Message from the Board Chairman
Noel Downham

High esteem for sisters

I experience feelings of pride and satisfaction as my thoughts flash back over the years knowing how I fitted in the rendering of health service with the staff from Our Lady's Hospital. In particular, I hold in high esteem the Sisters of Service who pioneered in the health care in our community. I find myself at a loss as to how great a tribute is to be expressed to the dedicated and unselfish workers of the Sisters' Community.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Staff and Board of Our Lady's Hospital on this occasion to enjoy our 60th year celebration.

P.W. Frobb, M.D.

Director of nursing

It gives me great pride to be part of the health care team at Our Lady's Hospital. I have worked with many staff members over the years and have made many lasting friends.

I will always remember the Sisters of Service I worked with. Their courage and determination to serve the community has been an example for all of us to follow.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the staff for helping in any way with our celebration.

May we continue to strive to provide the highest level of care to all those who enter our facility for many years to come.

June Haydak, Director of Nursing

Congratulations

Dear Friends:

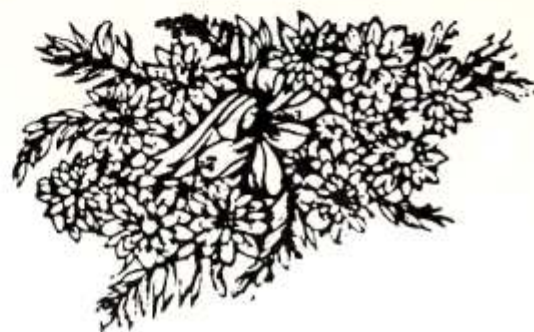
Thank you for thinking of me as you prepare to celebrate 60 years of service given by Our Lady's Hospital to the community of Vilna and surrounding districts.

Many joys — and many sorrows — are held sacred within these walls — of this hospital. At least ten Sisters who served during my time 1941-1951 have gone to their Eternal Home. Let us not forget their sacrifices.

Nothing can stay the same. We must build on the "old" into something "new" and so you have. My sincere congratulations to you and the people for having accomplished this goal. Trusting in Divine Providence even greater things can be achieved. This blessing is my prayer.

May your celebration be blessed in every way.

Sincerely,
Sister Marian Haut



MEDICAL STAFF — Left, Dr. P.W. Frobb, Dr. D. O'Leary, Dr. D. White, Acting Chief of Staff.



ADMINISTRATION — Mrs. Nettie E. Moric, Administrator, Mrs. June Haydak, R.N., B.Sc., Director of Nursing.



MEMBERS OF CURRENT STAFF — Left to right: Anne Hinz, Neily Hartmann, June Rurka, Betty Turton, Olga Shapka, Kate Hayduk, Pearl Hebblethwaite, Bobbi Thompson, Susan Moschgat



BOARD OF DIRECTORS — Dareld Cholak, Noel Downham - chairman, Frank Verbitsky, Dennis Muzyka, Robert Novosiwsky.

Our Lady's Hospital 1928 - 1988

The 60th anniversary of the Vilna Hospital is indeed something to celebrate! It is also a time to express profound gratitude to God and to all who have shared in building up these fine health facilities.

It was the far-sightedness and persuasiveness of Monsignor Hughes that led to the founding of the hospital in the Village of Vilna. It was he who convinced His Excellency, H.J. O'Leary and Reverend G.D. Daly, C.Ss.R., of the need for this hospital to be located in this area.

The beginnings were like the mustard seed, barely visible to the eye. The first little hospital was opened in the old bank building on the east side of Main Street, on November 10, 1925. The first three Sisters of Service who came to Vilna were Sisters Catherine Wymbs, Ann Gerghy and Mary Rodgers.

At that time there was no permanent doctor living in the village. Doctor Morish of Smoky Lake offered his services until a permanent doctor could be found. It was in May, 1926, that Doctor Eadie became the first resident general practitioner of Vilna. He remained in Vilna until 1941. Again Vilna was without a resident doctor. However, Doctors Svarich, Dobson, Bergman and Thomas from Smoky Lake attended to the sick of Vilna. These men of mercy travelled back and forth on rough roads to provide this valuable service.

It was a great day, in 1946, when Doctor P.W. Frobb, M.D., set up his practice in Vilna.

Humble and primitive were the beginnings of the first hospital built by the Sisters of Service at a cost of \$25,000.00 (an enormous sum of money at that time)! This modern, fully equipped hospital was officially opened in December, 1928.

There was no running water or electricity. The maintenance man had to keep a watchful eye on the batteries in the plant. When the plant failed, the Sisters had to scurry around for coal-oil lamps to minister to the patients. A well had to be found and sewage established. Those were interesting days in construction: everything had to begin at the very beginning.

A physical structure is just so much brick, mortar and wood put together to form a building. It was the dedication of the Sisters of Service, the doctors and all who had helped them who breathed life, compassion and love, which truly counts, into the structure. That is the seed from which your health care facility of today grew.

No one can be content with yesterday's glories. The tradition of patient care established by the Sisters of Service, the doctors and staff is continuing to this day. The Boards of Directors have, despite great obstacles, kept this tradition alive. The citizens of Vilna have done their part and the Alberta Government has provided this

beautiful building which will continue to serve the people of Vilna and District in this time-honored tradition.

The Sisters are happy to know that the people in Vilna and area are well taken care of in the new building and by our successors.

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers those sisters who have served you in the past and have since gone to their reward: Catherine Wymbs, Eveleen Donnelly, Stella Dube, Catherine Donnelly, Margaret O'Reilly, Hermine LaMothe, Mary Ann Burke, Lidwina Furman, Josephine Dulaska, Margaret Muldoon, Gertrude Walsh, Jeannette Kinch, Ann Geraghty, Mary Quinn, Mary Rodgers, Rose Jolicoeur, Ida Pickup, Ruth Mill.

Those who are still working in the Lord's Vineyard are: Agnes Brunning, Irene Profit, Ella Zink, Beatrice DeMarsh, Mary Fitzmaurice, Kathleen Allen, Martha Knechtel, Mary Roberts, Bertha Jackson, Marian Haut, Brigid Knopic, Leona Rose, Margaret Morgan, Helen Hayes, Clara Graf, Joan Schafhauser, Mary Pelech - R.P.N., Emma Smyk - Dietary Aide, Margaret Skarlicki - Director of Nursing, Helen Bierwald - R.N., Fred Leskiw - Board Member and Bill Kuryliw - Board Member.

God bless all those who helped the Sisters in any way.



SISTERS OF SERVICE — Left to right: Sr. Irene Profit, Sr. L. Rose, Sr. S. Dube.



FAREWELL PARTY — Sisters of Service are showered with flowers before their departure in June 1970. Pictured above are Sister I. Profit, Sister S. Dube, Sister K. Allen, Sister A. Brunning.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT — Sister Allen, Sister Knopic, Sister Brunning, Sister Profit, Sister Halder, Sister Duley.



AN ABOUT TURN — Something different. Patient wheels nurse around hospital corridors.



FORMER EMPLOYEES — Left to right: Anne Mochulski and Jessie Michalchuk.



STRAWBERRY TEAS — One event sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary to raise funds is always popular. Some scenes taken in 1988.



A SOCIAL VISIT — Father Hickey, Sr. S. Dube, Sr. Knechtel, Sr. Donnelly, Sr. Wymbs, Sr. LaMothe, Sr. Falkland (Superior) visit our Lady's Hospital.



SHIRLEY KUNYK, ELSIE HAYDUK (ACHEMICHUK).

Annual fair parade

The Hospital and staff have supported the annual fair with a float almost every year, capturing a number of prizes. That was part of their community contribution. Below are some of their entries.



Present Staff

BOARD MEMBERS:

Noel Downham
Dennis Muzyka
Dareld Cholak
Frank Verbisky
Robert Novosiwsky

MEDICAL STAFF:

P.W. Frobb, M.D.
D.F. O'Leary, M.D.

ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF:

Dr. D.S. White

NURSING STAFF:

Pauline Ibach, R.N.
Diane Kozak, R.N.
Nelly Hartmann, R.N.
Elanor Funk, R.N.
Susan Moschgat, R.N.
Michelle Loranger, R.N.
Laverne Wright, R.N.
Elizabeth Bone, R.N.
Pearl Hebblethwaite, R.N.
Shirley Weinmeier, R.N.
Sophie Yaceyko
Ella Lewicky
Betty Turton
Bernice Suntjens
Marge Cozicar
Roberta Thompson
Anne Hinz
Teri Yaceyko, R.N.A.
Mary Lou Savic, R.N.A.

ADMINISTRATOR:

Nettie E. Moric

DIRECTOR OF NURSING:

June Haydak, R.N. Bc.S.

MEDICAL RECORDS:

Marlaine Pidluzny

OFFICE STAFF:

Barb Romaniuk

DIETICIAN:

Jane Laiss

DIETARY STAFF:

Mary Habiak
June Rurka
Olga Shapka
Amy Gawalko
Lilly Taschuk
Mary Piwowar
Doris Farris
Cathy Kucher
Lorna Preston

HOUSEKEEPING STAFF:

Joyce Zapisocki
Johanne Hassey
Gloria Murray
Marianne Mazur

LAUNDRY STAFF:

Kate Hayduk
Nancy Shankowsky

MAINTENANCE:

John Romaniuk

ADDITIONAL STAFF:

Richard Connor
Bev Hoolahan

LAB & X-RAY

Donna Barker

Joanne Macdonald

PHARMACY

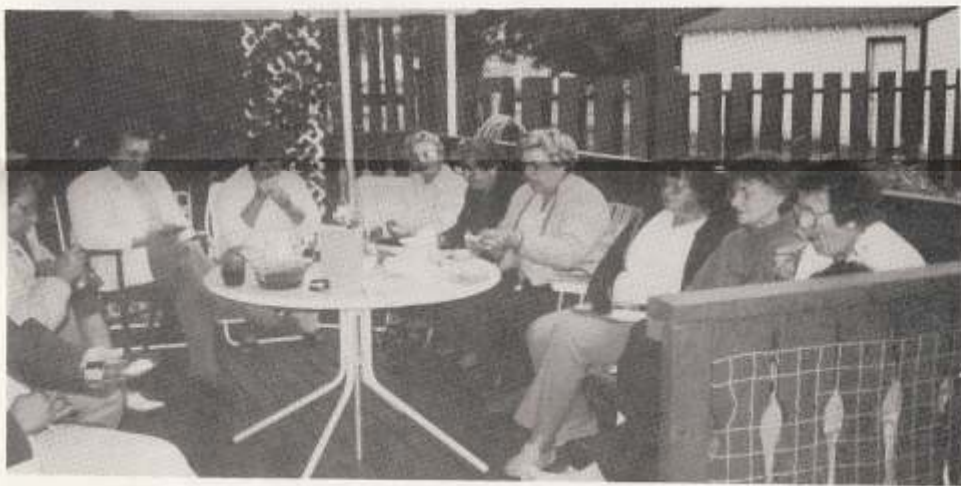
Lorraine Lawton



STAFF AT HOSPITAL — Seen here, front row, left to right: Mary Habiak, Ella Lewicky, Joanne MacDonald, Donna Barker, Michelle Loranger, Nancy Shankowsky; centre row: Bev Hoolahan, Barb Romaniuk, Marianne Mazur, June Haydak - Director of Nursing, Lilly Taschuk, Marge Cozicar, Lorraine Lawton, Doris Farris; back row: John Romaniuk, Mary Piwowar, Elizabeth Bone, Dianne Kozak, Bernice Suntjens, Pauline Ibach, Nettie Moric - Administrator, Marlaine Pidluzny.



AUXILIARY AT BAKE TABLE ANNUAL STRAWBERRY TEA - 1988.



HOSPITAL AUXILIARY BARBECUE 1988.



LAUNDRY — Kate Haydak



JOYCE ZAPISOCKI, GLORIA MURRAY, MARIANNE MAZUR

VILNA, ALBERTA

*There's a valley in Alberta
Where the sun doth always shine,
And a village in that valley on the St. Paul des Metis line,
It is Vilna, it is Vilna,
Best old town along the line,
Let us give three cheers for Vilna,
Vilna, Vilna every time.*

*English, Irish, Scotch, Ukrainians,
Native People form in line,
For the honor of the hometown,
Let us one and all combine,
All for Vilna, all for Vilna,
Sing it like a merry chime,
Let us give three cheers for Vilna,
Vilna, Vilna every time.*

The preceding lines are part of a song, which was sung by the youth of Vilna in Sister Fallon's school. They give a good idea of what Vilna is like, that little village with its very mixed population, yet all united in the one idea of becoming good Canadian citizens. Sister Wymbs, who is in charge of the little hospital there, reports street things done among the sick, while Sister Fallon is in charge of a school of sixty youngsters.



X-RAY MACHINE — In old hospital, collectors' piece, not in present use.



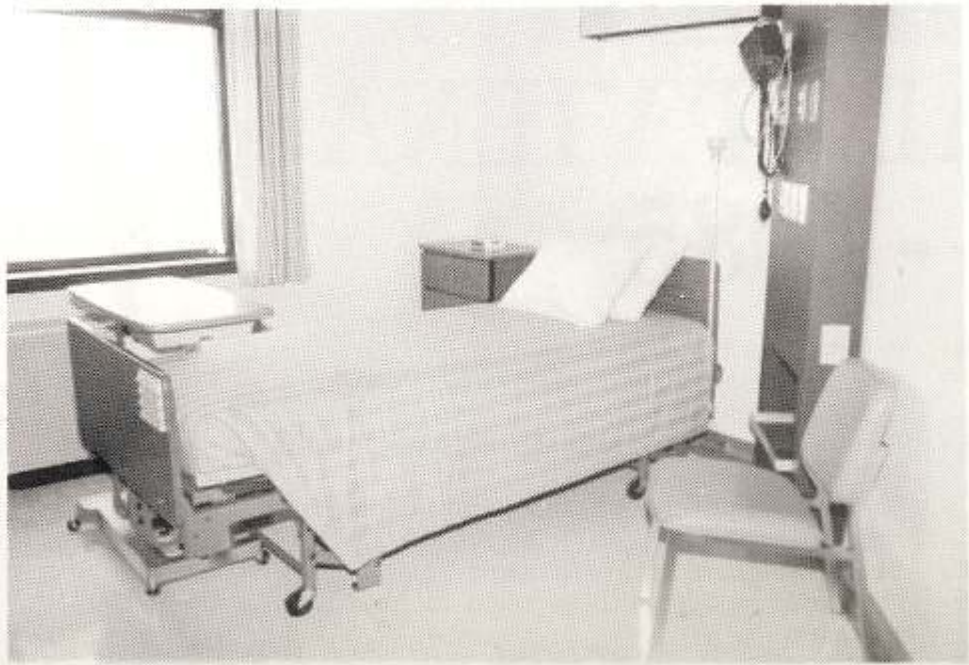
OBSERVATION ROOM



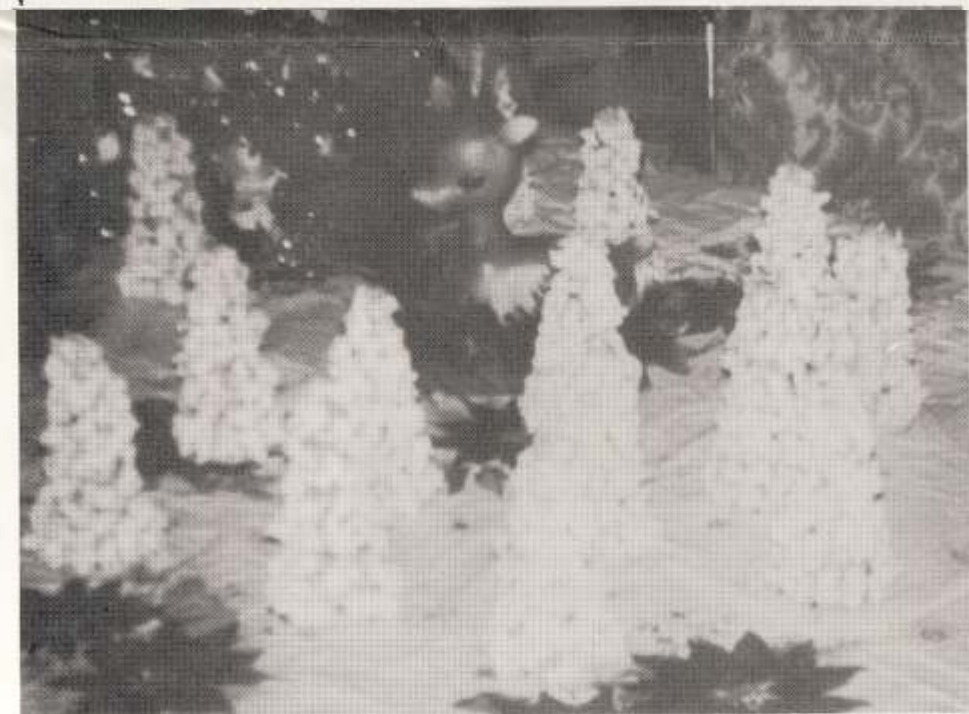
PATIENTS' WARD



DONATIONS TO CHILDREN'S WARD — By Our Lady's Hospital Auxiliary.



ST. JOSEPH SHRINE — Remodelled by Casey Tchir in July 1988. The Hospital Auxiliary paid for the remodelling.



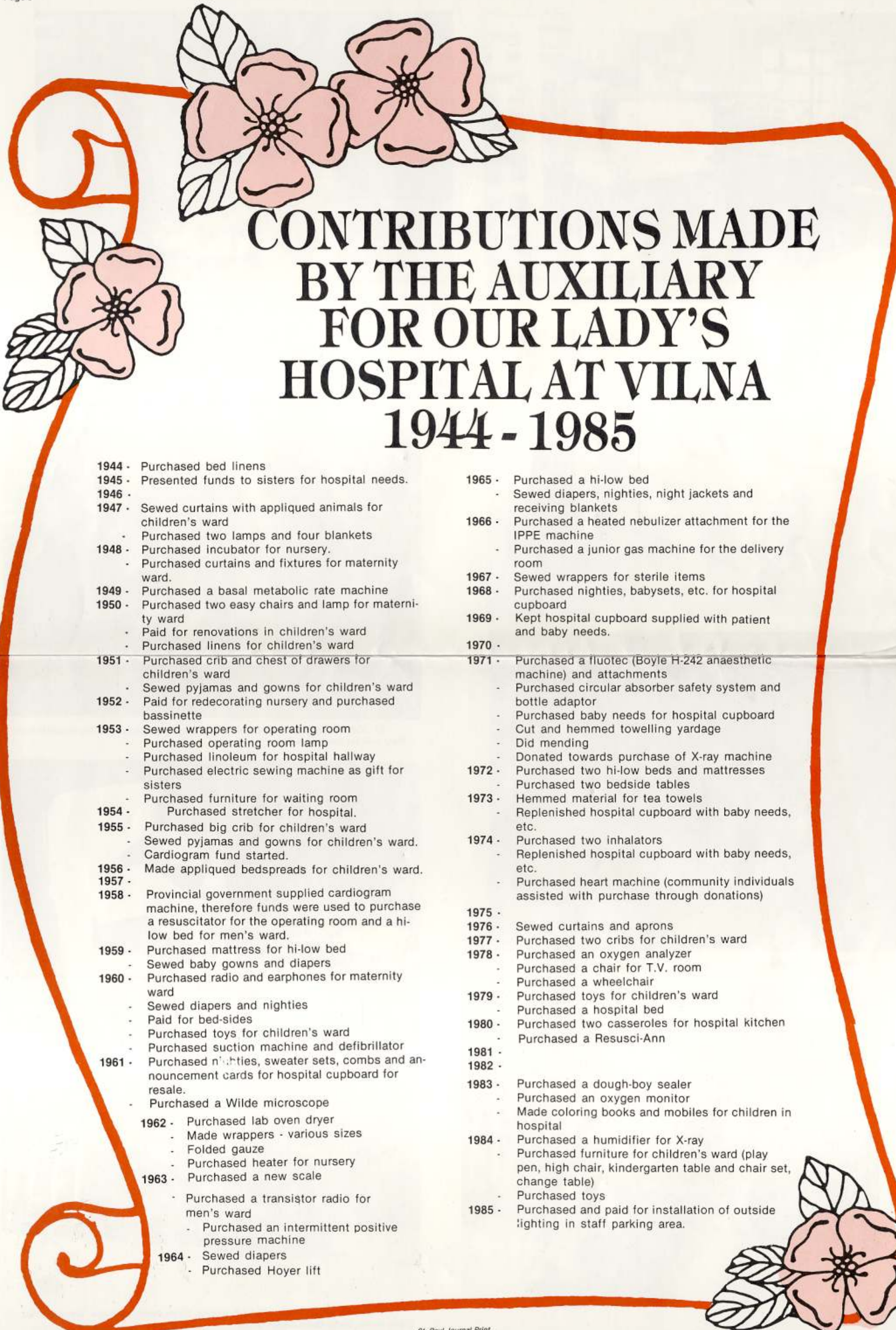
CHRISTMAS FAVORS — Made for patients by Auxiliarian Shirley Kuyk.



DR. M. DRUMM & DAUGHTER.



FACING TO THE BACK — Sister Brunning, Sister Profit; front row: Sister Halder, Sister Duley, Sister Dube, Sister Quinn.



CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE AUXILIARY FOR OUR LADY'S HOSPITAL AT VILNA 1944 - 1985

- 1944 - Purchased bed linens
 1945 - Presented funds to sisters for hospital needs.
 1946 -
 1947 - Sewed curtains with appliqued animals for children's ward
 - Purchased two lamps and four blankets
 1948 - Purchased incubator for nursery.
 - Purchased curtains and fixtures for maternity ward.
 1949 - Purchased a basal metabolic rate machine
 1950 - Purchased two easy chairs and lamp for maternity ward
 - Paid for renovations in children's ward
 - Purchased linens for children's ward
 1951 - Purchased crib and chest of drawers for children's ward
 - Sewed pyjamas and gowns for children's ward
 1952 - Paid for redecorating nursery and purchased bassinette
 1953 - Sewed wrappers for operating room
 - Purchased operating room lamp
 - Purchased linoleum for hospital hallway
 - Purchased electric sewing machine as gift for sisters
 - Purchased furniture for waiting room
 1954 - Purchased stretcher for hospital.
 1955 - Purchased big crib for children's ward
 - Sewed pyjamas and gowns for children's ward.
 - Cardiogram fund started.
 1956 - Made appliqued bedspreads for children's ward.
 1957 -
 1958 - Provincial government supplied cardiogram machine, therefore funds were used to purchase a resuscitator for the operating room and a hi-low bed for men's ward.
 1959 - Purchased mattress for hi-low bed
 - Sewed baby gowns and diapers
 1960 - Purchased radio and earphones for maternity ward
 - Sewed diapers and nighties
 - Paid for bed-sides
 - Purchased toys for children's ward
 - Purchased suction machine and defibrillator
 1961 - Purchased nighties, sweater sets, combs and announcement cards for hospital cupboard for resale.
 - Purchased a Wilde microscope
 1962 - Purchased lab oven dryer
 - Made wrappers - various sizes
 - Folded gauze
 - Purchased heater for nursery
 1963 - Purchased a new scale
 - Purchased a transistor radio for men's ward
 - Purchased an intermittent positive pressure machine
 1964 - Sewed diapers
 - Purchased Hoyer lift
 1965 - Purchased a hi-low bed
 - Sewed diapers, nighties, night jackets and receiving blankets
 1966 - Purchased a heated nebulizer attachment for the IPPE machine
 - Purchased a junior gas machine for the delivery room
 1967 - Sewed wrappers for sterile items
 1968 - Purchased nighties, babysets, etc. for hospital cupboard
 1969 - Kept hospital cupboard supplied with patient and baby needs.
 1970 -
 1971 - Purchased a fluotec (Boyle H-242 anaesthetic machine) and attachments
 - Purchased circular absorber safety system and bottle adaptor
 - Purchased baby needs for hospital cupboard
 - Cut and hemmed towelling yardage
 - Did mending
 - Donated towards purchase of X-ray machine
 1972 - Purchased two hi-low beds and mattresses
 - Purchased two bedside tables
 1973 - Hemmed material for tea towels
 - Replenished hospital cupboard with baby needs, etc.
 1974 - Purchased two inhalators
 - Replenished hospital cupboard with baby needs, etc.
 - Purchased heart machine (community individuals assisted with purchase through donations)
 1975 -
 1976 - Sewed curtains and aprons
 1977 - Purchased two cribs for children's ward
 1978 - Purchased an oxygen analyzer
 - Purchased a chair for T.V. room
 - Purchased a wheelchair
 1979 - Purchased toys for children's ward
 - Purchased a hospital bed
 1980 - Purchased two casseroles for hospital kitchen
 - Purchased a Resusci-Ann
 1981 -
 1982 -
 1983 - Purchased a dough-boy sealer
 - Purchased an oxygen monitor
 - Made coloring books and mobiles for children in hospital
 1984 - Purchased a humidifier for X-ray
 - Purchased furniture for children's ward (play pen, high chair, kindergarten table and chair set, change table)
 - Purchased toys
 1985 - Purchased and paid for installation of outside lighting in staff parking area.