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B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY NEWS
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HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded to Naomi Allsebrook Miller

Adapted from the nomination prepared by Glennis Zilm

IN RECOGNITION OF HER MANY ACTIVITIES IN A LONG AND PRODUCTIVE CAREER, NAOMI MILLER WAS AWARDED HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, APRIL 8, 2010

Naomi Allsebrook was born in Kaslo, BC, in 1927. In the mid-1940s, she decided to enter nursing, and first worked as a nurses' aide at Tranquille for a summer, then entered the University of B.C. and Vancouver General Hospital Schools of Nursing, graduating from VGH in 1950 and with her Nursing degree from UBC in 1951. She worked as a head nurse at the TB Willow Chest Centre, then at Pearson Hospital (where she knew one of our earlier, dear life members, Esther Paulson). After her marriage in 1953 to Peter Miller, the couple moved around the country – Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario – and finally settled in the mountainous, eastern BC area that was "home." During this time, they began

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NAOMI HAS A CLEAR AND NOTEWORTHY VISION OF WHAT HISTORY OF NURSING MEANS, AND HAS APPEALED TO NURSING HISTORIANS TO WRITE NOT JUST ABOUT NURSING LEADERS, BUT ABOUT THE DETAILS AND MECHANICS OF NURSING IN YEARS GONE BY.

their family of six children. As her family grew, she volunteered with the Girl Guides of Canada, which became a life-long interest and she advanced in the organization to become a Guide Trainer and continues to attend and support the Guide organization and to attend provincial councils.

In 1968, the family established a home in Golden, BC, and she continued to work, at times, in nursing and to establish a wonderful network of nursing friends and colleagues in the area. Her husband, a teacher, had always been interested in history and was working with the Golden and District Historical Society, so she joined in this passion and from 1974-83 was Curator of the Golden and District Museum. In 1983, they moved to Wasa, BC, and she became actively involved in the local historical societies. In 1980, she was elected to the Council of the British Columbia Historical Federation and in 1983 launched the Federation's first annual Writing Competition for B.C. History Books. She served as president from 1986 to 1988 and then as Editor, for 10 years, of the quarterly *British Columbia Historical News*. She reorganized it, increased its circulation, and firmly established it as a prestigious journal. During the 1990s, she was active in provincial history activities, serving as a member of the Heritage Minister's Advisory Committee, Director of the BC Heritage Trust, and with the innovative Kootenay "Living Landscapes" Committee. She was a founding Director of the Friends of Fort Steele Society – and if any of you have been to Fort Steele you will appreciate the magnificent effort by volunteers to make this an important provincial heritage site. Since 1989, Naomi has served each summer as a volunteer in Fort Steele Heritage Town. And from 1999 to 2005, she was Secretary of the Wasa and District Historical Association. From 2003 to the present, she has served as Secretary of the Fort Steele Cemetery Society.

During the 1980s and early 1990s, her own writing career matured and flourished. She also encouraged other nurses to publish articles related to the history of nursing in the *News* so that these would reach a wider audience of historians and scholars. Among the many she encouraged was Helen Shore – another of our Society's Life Members. In 1998, she and Wayne Norton edited the book *The Forgotten Side of the Border*, an important work in pulling together and sanctioning the history

of the area. It was in the 1980s that she began writing articles on the history of nursing in BC's eastern and central areas for the *B.C. History of Nursing Newsletter*; she was determined to bring to light the stories of the history of nursing from outside the province's Lower Mainland and Capital District areas. She served for more than a decade on the B.C. History of Nursing Society's Editorial Committee, and for most of the time edited one issue a year.

In 1999, she received the prestigious British Columbia Heritage Award, a provincial recognition of her many contributions to B.C. history. This is only one of her many honors and awards. Then in 2002, her excellent book –*Fort Steele: GoldRush to Boom Town* – was published.

Naomi has been one of our most loyal and active supporters. She encouraged the *Newsletter* committee to apply to Canada Post for Publication Mail status, resulting in considerable cost savings for postage over the years. Naomi also suggested we apply for the BCHF Website Award in 2003 and our Society was winner of the \$250 prize that honors websites that contribute to the understanding and appreciation of British Columbia's past. Most of her articles for our Society's *Newsletter* have dealt with biographies of retired nurses from around the province. It was the stories from – quote – "talking to retired individuals which proved that History can be Fun." She now has begun to collect these mini-biographies with the aim of having enough to make a book. She has 14 nearly completed and material for about six more. She plans to designate the royalties go to the History of Nursing Society.

Naomi has a clear and noteworthy vision of what history of nursing means, and has appealed to nursing historians to write not just about nursing leaders, but about the details and mechanics of nursing in years gone by. For example, she urges nurses to think of the early hospitals with two or three stories and no elevator. "Can a reader born past 1950 visualize carrying a patient up the stairs on an old-fashioned stretcher to the case room, ward, or even the operating room," she asked. "An early nurse in a tiny cottage hospital was responsible for everything, for 24 hours a day. She would prepare meals as well as change dressings and administer medications," wrote Naomi, adding, this was "before telephones, autoclaves, electricity, etc." Her own interviews abound in eliciting these descriptive details.

As Naomi was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, a tea in her honour was held at the VGH SON Alumnae on May 6th where she was presented with an engraved plaque.

Editor's Desk

BY ETHEL WARBINEK, EDITOR



We are a busy productive bunch and the news items in this issue describe our member's contributions in preserving BC nursing history.

The feature article describes the incredible contribution Naomi Miller has made to our HoN Society and to BC history. As you read the article written by Glennis Zilm you will be impressed by the many projects Naomi was able to complete while raising a family of 6 children. She continues to volunteer and promote local history as well as gathering information about nurses in her area.

An author of note, her excellent book – *Fort Steele: Gold Rush to BoomTown* was published in 2002. In recognition of her noteworthy contributions we were pleased to award Naomi Honorary Membership at our Annual Meeting in April. As she

was unable to attend the meeting, a tea in her honour was held a few days later.

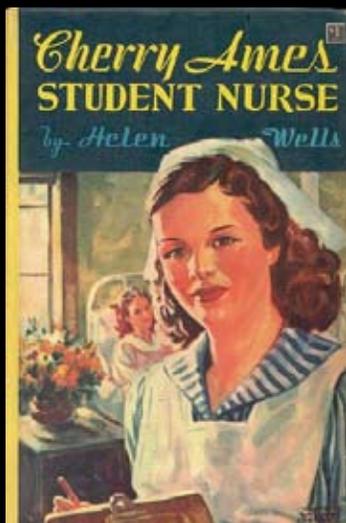
Every summer issue of the newsletter includes the annual committee reports. Some were edited in order to conserve space. If you wish further information, please contact us and we will be pleased to provide it. As you read them you cannot fail to notice how busy the executive and committee members have been in carrying out the work of the Society.

Our members are dedicated to preserving the history of nursing. Seven attended the CAHN Conference in Winnipeg in June along with 4 student members and together they presented 7 papers. – Well Done! A book review is a usual item and this issue includes an excellent review of Beverly Du Gas's interesting book on the History of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing during the period when she was head of the School. The review is by Diana Bright a valuable member of the newsletter committee.

We were saddened to learn of the death of former HoN member, Kari Moore. Her daughter, Kathy, kindly sent information describing Kari's incredible work with the Ukrainian community. This has been edited and included. Take time off to enjoy our brief summer. The next newsletter will be published in October. Special thanks to Anita Petersen who uses her special talents in polishing the newsletter.

"WE ARE A BUSY PRODUCTIVE BUNCH AND THE NEWS ITEMS IN THIS ISSUE DESCRIBE OUR MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN PRESERVING BC NURSING HISTORY"

DISPLAYS AT UBC – APRIL-JUNE 2010 BY GLENNIS ZILM



The "hands-on" history of nursing display at the University of British Columbia School of Nursing's Learning Centre for April to June 2010 featured books for young girls from the 1950s. Highlighting the display were five "collectible" books (owned by Glennis Zilm) from the Cherry Ames series. Cherry Ames was the heroine in a series of 27 books written by Helen Wells and Julie Tatham and published from 1943 to 1968. The original books were intended to encourage women to enter nursing during the nursing shortages during and after World War II. They were such a hit that readers requested sequel after sequel. The original books have become highly collectible, and there still are Cherry Ames "fan clubs," especially on the Internet. In 2007, Springer Publishing re-released the first four books. After 60 years – and many changes in nursing – the books are still selling well. Beth Fitzpatrick, one of our members, has a collection of 18 of the Cherry Ames books, including some rare first editions.

The mannequin in the Learning Centre featured a "mini," white, polyester uniform worn by UBC Faculty Member Ethel Warbinek during clinical supervision of UBC nursing students on wards during the early 1970s. Ethel's 1950s VGH cap was included in the display. This on-going uniform display regularly shows historical uniforms. This particular one described how graduate nurses working in hospitals generally stopped wearing starched cotton uniforms in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Hospitals no longer routinely washed and ironed uniforms for staff nurses, and RNs opted for the new "polyester" uniforms, which were easy to launder at home. The UBC Display Case near the main office has been requested by the School for a special display on International Nursing Year. History of Nursing displays in this case will resume in the fall.

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Diana Bright, Beth Fitzpatrick, Naomi Miller, Ethel Warbinek, Lynne Esson and Sheila Zerr (co-chairs).

The BC History of Nursing Society Newsletter is published 4 times per year. Submissions are welcome. Deadline for the Fall Issue is September 15, 2010. Please send submissions to: Ethel Warbinek:warbinek@telus.net.

Tea to honour Jean Matheson

Nan Martin organized a tea at Brock Farni Pavilion April 16, 2010 for the dedication of the plaque honouring Jean Matheson. This event, attended by several HoN members as well as residents and staff, was held in the reception area on the main floor. Glennis Zilm described Jean's career especially her time as Matron of Shaughnessy Military Hospital from 1919 until 1938. The Jean Matheson Pavilion at Shaughnessy Hospital, which opened in 1946 to care for TB veterans, was named for her. Following the ceremony, tea was served upstairs. Thank you Nan for organizing this successful event which was enjoyed by the residents and staff.



Loss of a nursing leader

Arlen Bruce:
April 23, 1949 - June 23, 2010

Just as we were going to press, we learned of the sudden death of Arlen Bruce, former president of RNABC. She will be sadly missed by her family, friends and the nursing community.

B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY 2009 ANNUAL REPORTS

The following reports were presented at the Annual Meeting – April 8, 2010

01. President's Report

BY KATHY MURPHY,
PRESIDENT



The first full year of the newly created BC History of Nursing Society was just as active as before our change from the professional practice group. At the first annual general meeting held in April, 2009, goals for the year were set. These included:

- Adapting the PPG structure to the new constitution and by-laws by using the new membership titles and defining the roles of the officers and committees.
- Continuing the development of the Virtual Museum and the coordination of displays
- Increasing the membership
- Raising the profile of the society
- Continuing with fund raising.

The society executive and committee chairs met at the CRNBC building on a regular basis and have been pleased to welcome guests to the meetings. The committees met as needed to carry out their functions.

Society members were saddened to learn of the death of one of our members, Bernadet Ratsoy, in October. Bernadet was a strong supporter of the work of the History of Nursing Society. A bursary has been established in her name by the Registered Nurses Foundation of BC.

A few days following the AGM, our society will be part of the Women's History Fair being held at the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch. The Fair will feature over 20 displays highlighting diverse B.C. women's history related programmes, activities and collections from museums, archives, historical societies, cultural groups and schools. The work of the society is carried out by some very dedicated individuals who would welcome assistance in carrying out the many functions. Sincere appreciation is extended to those who have devoted many hours to accomplishing our goals.

Special thanks are extended to Genelle Liefso who will be stepping down from her role as Membership Chair in order to fill a new role as Board Member of the Canadian Network for International Surgery. The future is challenging but also important as we preserve British Columbia's nursing history.

02. Treasurer's Report

BY: SHEILA OXHOLM, TREASURER



1. Canada Revenue Agency has not yet approved the Revocation tax returns
2. B.C. History of Nursing Society has of November 2, 2009 one charity number
3. The bank accounts have been combined into one account
4. The total invested monies as of December 31 is \$73,391.97
5. 2010 budget has been prepared for distribution and approval
6. The financial statement for Victoria has been prepared



03. Archives

BY DON RANSOM, CHAIR

MEMBERS: Marjory Rolstan, Michelle Rooney, Don Ransom, Chair

Archivist: Stephanie Kays until Nov. 2009, Michelle Curran Nov. 2009 to Present

We accepted the resignation of Stephanie who moved to a full time 3 - year contract in Minneapolis and hired Michelle Curran our current part-time Archivist on 32 hours per month contract. Approximately 60 biographies were added and 7 new fonds including the BCORNG holdings. Our collection of 285 donated books was reviewed of which 87 (or more) will be kept as our permanent collection. We contacted 7 of the newer schools of nursing and offered them the opportunity to obtain books not kept in our permanent collection. To date we have given away 20 books. A future project will be to list our permanent book collection on line so that anyone interested will be able utilize them. Several new acquisitions were reviewed, mostly partial uniforms and patient clothing, and it was determined they may be useful for display purposes. We assisted 3 researchers and 7 nursing students visited from Trinity Western University. The above accomplishments could not have happened without our expert Archivists.



04. Biographical

BY: ETHEL WARBINEK

MEMBERS: Linda Lidster, Ethel Warbinek -chair

During the past year, 28 biographical files were copied and placed in the CRNBC Library and originals filed in the HoN office at UBC. A list of biographical files can be viewed on our web site. Special thanks to Linda Lidster for her assistance in photocopying.

05. Oral History

BY: ETHEL WARBINEK

MEMBERS: Carol Harrison, Delcie Hill, Sheila Zerr, Ethel Warbinek – chair

Referrals have been slow this past year. Cassette tapes are being saved on CD's and this process and the summarizing of the CD's takes time.

Interviews completed since April 2009

June Newton - interviewed by Sheila Zerr

Interviews scheduled:

Nan Martin and Kathy Murphy.

Thank you to members of the committee and especially to Delcie Hill who has recorded excellent interviews in Kelowna. She has resigned from the committee for personal reasons. We hope she will be able to join us in the future.



06. Memorial Book

BY: LYNNE ESSON – CHAIR

During the year, the History of Nursing Society either initiated or assisted with one nomination for the CRNBC Memorial Book. The nomination was submitted to the CRNBC Awards Committee and accepted.

This year the nominee for the CRNBC Memorial Book was: **Mary Bernadet Ratsoy** (died 2009). Nomination was prepared by Lynne Esson and Sheila Zerr. I would like to express my thanks to Sandra Webb CRNBC for her assistance and support during the nomination process. If you know of or hear of someone who should be nominated please let the chair of the committer know.



07. Newsletter

BY: BETH FITZPATRICK, FORMER CHAIR

The business of the Newsletter Committee was conducted at the regular monthly Executive meetings, by e-mail and at one meeting held in June 2009. Diana Bright from Naramata and Naomi Miller from Wasa continue to participate in the work of the committee from afar. Four issues of the *History of Nursing News* were published this past year. Editors were Beth Fitzpatrick (spring and winter issues), Lynne Esson and Sheila Zerr (summer issue), and Ethel Warbinek (fall issue). Thank you to these editors who spend many, many volunteer hours working on the newsletter. And a second thank you to all the members of the History Group (especially our President) who regularly submit reports, photographs, news items, book reviews, and stories.

We are also grateful for the assistance of Anita Petersen who helps with design and graphics, Genelle Leifso who faithfully supplies us with mailing labels, and Lynne Esson who maintains the file with e-mail addresses of those who receive the newsletter electronically. Our costs are reasonable. The average cost for a printed, mailed copy was \$3.28. The average number of electronic copies sent out with each issue is 100. Work is continuing on having all previous newsletters saved electronically and available either on the website or in the archives. Thank you for the privilege of working on this committee and cheers to Sheila Zerr and Lynne Esson who will co-chair the Newsletter committee in 2010.



08. Pages of History

BY: SHEILA J. RANKIN ZERR, CHAIR

MEMBERS: Sheila Zerr (chair) Lenore Radom, Sandra Broad

Funds: Funds raised go to the Archival Fund

Pages to date: There are 77 pages of history in three sets of display albums. Two sets are used at History of Nursing Society display sites and one set is on display in the CRNBC library.

On Going project: The flyer, promoting the pages of history, has been revised to correlate with the revised web page format. Posting the pages of history on the website is under consideration. The committee will continue to work on promotion of the project and will consider increasing the \$25.00 cost of a page of history.



09. Scholarship

BY: KATHY MURPHY, CHAIR

The Scholarship Committee reviewed 6 applications for funding in 2009 and was pleased to award Scholarships to:

Rosalyn Choi, a student at UBC, who studied The History of Deinstitutionalization and the Emergence of Survivor Groups and their Perspectives on BC Mental Health Reform. Her paper has been received.

Sara Tung, a student at UBC, who studied Policy Development and Cultural Change in BC Residential Elder Care: 1950-2005.

Nerrisa Bonifacio, a student at UBC, who is studying the History of the Post-Anaesthetic Care Unit with Emphasis on the Development of Specialty Nursing.

Charlene Ronquillo, a student at UBC, who is studying The History of Immigrant Filipino Nurses in Canada.

10. Program

BY: LENORE RADOM

May Nursing Week Activities: Several members participated at a variety of venues.

Fall Luncheon & Remembrance Day was held on Nov.14th at The Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club with 28 guests including 7 Nursing Sisters. Genelle Leifso gave a delightful presentation of her experiences with an OR Team repairing cleft lips in Cambodia.





11. Website

BY: LENORE RADOM

The Website Committee is happy to report the completion of the new website with Biz Ala Carte as of April 7, 2010. A Letter of Agreement was drawn up for Sept 1, 2009 – February 28, 2010 with a manual to be supplied by Sept 30, 2009 which arrived on March 11, 2010. Outstanding corrections and additions have now been completed.

Enjoy the website! www.bcnursinghistory.ca

12. BC Historical Federation

BY: NAN MARTIN

2009 activities of the federation include:

- 1) A very successful Conference in May in Nelson which I attended. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet Society members who share our interest in history. Bylaw changes approved at the 2009 AGM that affect our society (A) Whereas a Member Society representative could attend Council meetings and **vote**, now the representative can still attend but has **no right to vote**. (B) An addition to the Bylaws allows Member Societies to nominate Directors.
- 2) Publication of the *British Columbia* History journals. Newsletters now enclosed within each journal
- 3) Presentation of British Columbia Historical Federation Awards. I missed the deadline for the new 2009 Award for best newsletter published by a BCHF member. Our newsletters are worthy of an award. We will submit one for 2010.



I encourage you to view their excellent website at www.bchistory.ca Please contact me for recent newsletters or journals or for any information regarding the Federation.

13. Membership

BY: GENELLE LEIFSO

Memberships in 2009 regained ground lost in 2008. If we continue to take a longer view, the trend towards steadily increasing membership continues – 1999 (85), 2003 (130), 2006 (167), 2009 (164).

THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS FOR 2009 ARE:

2009 (year end)		2008 (year end)	
Honorary	5	Honorary	5
Full	86	Full	53
Affiliate	20	Affiliate	46
Student	53	Student	39
Total	164	Total	143



I am optimistic that our current membership will continue to grow. The delivery of our newsletter in e-format continues to gain popularity amongst all members. All student members receive it this way, and about two-thirds of our full and affiliate members have requested an e-newsletter. This is helping us to be even more fiscally responsible and “green”.

I would like to mention the value of introducing nursing students to this group. While a few students become members independently, most student memberships are due to the generosity of current members. This year, I would like to acknowledge the continued generosity of Dr Helen Niskala, Dr Glennis Zilm, and Drs Shirley Stinson, Pauline Paul, and Janet Ross Kerr, Nina Rumen, Sheila Zerr, Sheila Oxholm, and Genelle Leifso who sponsored interested undergraduate and post-graduate nursing students. After receiving a gift membership, some students continue as members. In BC, additional student interest is being generated in response to nursing faculty like Drs Geertje Boschma and Sonya Grypma, who are sharing nursing history with the next generation of nurse scholars. As I retire from this position, I wish to thank the executive for their support and patience with me in this role over the past five years. As well, I would like to express my thanks to Sheila Oxholm, our treasurer, who worked so closely with me in tracking new and renewing members.



14. Nominations BY: DON RANSOM

The following were nominated for a 1-year term ending after the annual general meeting in 2011.

President	<i>Kathy Murphy</i>	Vice President	<i>Ethel Warbinek</i>
Secretary	<i>Lynne Esson</i>	Treasurer	<i>Sheila Oxholm</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Nan Martin</i>		

MEMBER NEWS

CAHN CONFERENCE JUNE 18-20 2010 WINNIPEG

The following HoN members attended the CAHN conference:

Frank Gillespie, Geertje Boschma, Marg Gorrie, Sonya Grypma, Susan Armstrong-Reid, Carol Helmstadter, Glennis Zikm, and student members: Nerissa Bonifacio, Deb Hamilton, Helen Vandenberg and Charlene Ronquillo.

Papers were presented by:

>> **Carol Helmstadter** on **"The All Saints Sisters at University College Hospital."**

>> **Deborah Hamilton & Geertje Boschma** on *"Work, Education and Technology: ICU Nursing Practice at Vancouver General Hospital, 1965-1985."*

>> **Geertje Boshma, Nerrisa Bonifacio, Helen Vandenberg and Marg Gorrie** on *"Work, Rehabilitation, and Housing in Discourses on Mental Health Care."*

>> **Charlene Ronquillo and Geertje Boschma** on *"Filipino Nurse Migrants in Western Canada: An Oral History."*

>> **Sonja Grypma** on *"China Nurse Jean Ewen and the Conundrum of Norman Bethune."*

Well done – Congratulations to all

CAROL HELMSTADTER

Carol will be a panellist at the International Perspectives on Nursing History Conference to be held at Royal Holloway College in London from September 14-16. This round table discussion will try to answer two questions, 'Was there real training at the Nightingale School?' and if so, 'Did it have any impact on nineteenth century nursing?' Carol along with Judith Godden and Joyce MacQueen has written a book - *Nursing Before Nightingale 1815-1890* which will be published in 2011.

CATHY EBBEHOJ

Cathy received the prestigious *UBC Killam Teaching Award* which was presented at Convocation. She was nominated by her students in recognition of her excellent teaching. A long overdue honour Cathy!



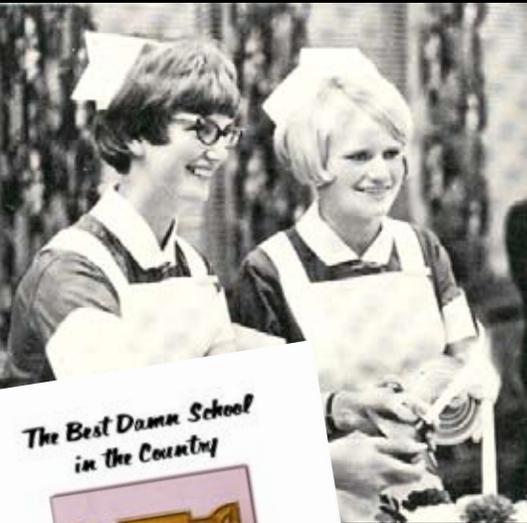
SHARING STORIES: REQUEST FROM NAOMI MILLER

Do you have a favorite story about a pioneer nurse? Your interest and admiration need not be limited to the nursing duties performed by your heroine. (Sorry guys!) What were her hobbies, innovations, services to her community? History of nursing records - names, dates, events and changes - and should include the accomplishments of each individual. My aim is to collect and compile thumbnail histories of women in British Columbia who have used their natural talents, as well as their nursing training, to serve their community.

Please share these stories with Naomi Miller at Box 105, Wasa, B.C. V0B 2K0 , email Naomi_miller@shaw.ca or phone 250-422- 3594.

THE BEST DAMN SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY

THE VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING 1957-1965
BY BEVERLY WITTER DU GAS



REVIEWED BY: DIANA BRIGHT

In the fall of 1957, Orson Banfield, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Vancouver General Hospital, said to the Director of the School of Nursing "Listen, little girl, you make us the best damned school in the country and we'll back you all the way." That "little girl" was Beverly Witter Du Gas

and she determined to do just that!

Beverly graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1945 with a Bachelor of Arts degree (major in nursing) and also received a Diploma in Nursing from Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing where she went for her clinical experience. She then obtained a Master's degree in Nursing School Administration at the University of Washington. In 1953 she returned to Canada.

In 1957, UBC decided to sever its partnership with VGH (which dated back to 1919,) and give the students their clinical experience in St. Paul's Hospital instead. Apparently UBC wanted to control all of their nursing students' education and clinical experience. Beverly decided that in order for VGH to be a good school, they needed to be accredited as such. Canada had no nation-wide standards for nursing education. In the USA, The National League of Nursing Education (NLNE) had established criteria for the accreditation of schools based on optimal standards.

Beverly received the NLNE Accreditation Manual and her work began in earnest. First she had to upgrade the library to acceptable standards, then she reformatted the method of teaching the student nurses. Instead of a Block system of large groups of 100 students lectured by doctors in a two week period, followed by work on the wards, she formed small groups of students who were lectured by nursing instructors for four hours, then given clinical experience by the same teachers on

the wards. Courses in Social Sciences were increased to balance the time spent in Anatomy and Physiology. The student nurses were given experience in Public Health Nursing and practiced their Nursing Arts on live patients instead of a dummy patient in the lab. They also role-played situations they might encounter in their nursing duties, and their performances were critiqued by fellow students who suggested other ways of handling difficult patients.

Many obstacles were overcome and new challenges appeared. One was a conflict between the students in the nursing residence and the matron who made it her duty to inspect the students' rooms each week. After a meeting was called with the Board of Trustees, permission was granted to rewrite the Constitution and Bylaws of Student Council as long as they complied with the hospital's Charter. A lawyer aided the students in writing the Residence Rules and Regulations and many "silly rules" were eliminated. The matron no longer was allowed to inspect the girls' rooms. Curfews remained however: first year students had to be in residence by 10:30 pm, second year students by midnight, and senior students by 1:30 am.

The VGH School of Nursing also included many activities for its students. These were the Capping Ceremony to initiate students who had passed the probationary period, dances, picnics, Christmas, teas, Fall Fairs, and Graduation.

Graduating students wrote the NLNE registration exams and placed in the top 6th percentile in four out of five areas: Medical Nursing, Surgical Nursing, Obstetrics, and Pediatrics. The only area in which they did not score as high was Psychiatry, partly due to the lack of clinical experience.

In 1965 Beverly Witter Du Gas said good-bye to Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing and took a position with the World Health Organization as a Nurse Educator to develop a post-baccalaureate program at a university in India. She had established a solid foundation to make VGH "The Best Damn School in the Country".

The Best Damn School in the Country

The Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing 1957-1965

by Beverly Witter Du Gas

ISBN 978-0-9812032-0-1

Published in Canada May 2009.

Copies available from the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association e-mail: kathleen.murphy@vch.ca

REMEMBERING KARI MOORE 1926-2009

BY ETHEL WARBINEK

Kari was a great supporter of the BC History of Nursing Group and a member for several years. We were saddened to learn of her death on November 30, 2009 at age 83. As this news is recent, it was not included in an earlier newsletter. It's impossible to include all of Kari's amazing accomplishments. A more detailed account including her written Biographical Sketch, poems and other documents are available in the biographical files at the CRNBC library.

**"MY MOTTO IN LIFE WAS
ALWAYS TO REACH FOR
THE TOP AND LEAVE
FOOTPRINTS FOR
OTHERS TO FOLLOW."**

Kari was born in 1926 in Buford Alberta, one of 5 children. At age 12, she had her appendix removed and decided on a career in nursing. She graduated from the University Hospital in Edmonton in 1949 and worked on the orthopaedic ward. After a year she moved to Nelson, BC and later nursed at Shaughnessy Hospital and at Vancouver General. She married in 1955 and moved to Surrey, BC where she raised 3 children and was an active community volunteer, for example: Along with 5 friends she proposed Surrey build an arts theatre to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday. And although the struggle was intense, the arts centre was built. Kari was elected to the Surrey Council and during her tenure she was able to open libraries in Whalley and Cloverdale. In 1981, she made the decision to continue her education and graduated with a BA in communication from Simon Fraser University. In 1981, after an absence of 38 years, she returned to nursing and worked in Extended Care until her retirement ten years later when she moved to Victoria BC.

Kari is best remembered for her outstanding work with the Canadian Ukrainian communities both in BC and across Canada. She was cited as "making it her mission to inform Canadians as a whole about Ukrainian-Canadian's often painful place in history, as well as furthering educational opportunities, cultural support and activism.

Upon moving to Victoria, Kari "rediscovered her Ukrainian persona" and became very involved in the Ukrainian community. In 1995, she organized the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association in Victoria and became president. Her involvement in the community expanded as she pursued many causes such as her role as treasurer of the Ukrainian Studies Society which raised \$150.00 for an endowment scholarship. As a member of the BC Ukrainian Council Kari's major responsibility was compiling the history of all the Ukrainian communities in BC as well as the history of internment camps during WW1 1914-1920. Her work with the University of Victoria began in 2004 when a course on Ukraine was offered and she was the motivator behind the establishing of Ukrainian Endowment Studies at the University. She received many honours and awards one being winner of the Valued Elder Recognition Award from the University of Victoria's Center on Aging for her work as a senior citizen counsellor.

Since a young girl of 10, Kari wrote poetry and many of her poems have achieved Canada-wide recognition. An open verse poem on Internment is used across Canada when a commemorative plaque is unveiled. She was asked to write a verse on the Soviet Ukraine famine of 1932-33 which was used on the plaque placed in the Memorial Park in Dauphin Manitoba. Much of her poetry is personal and written for family and friends. As she stated "It gives me great pleasure.

Sources cited: From poetry to fundraising, Moore fought tirelessly to raise awareness of Ukrainian-Canadian issues, by Katherine Dedynda, Times Colonist, February, 12, 2010

Resume: Kari Moore - nd



Life's journey has taught us that
The essentials or happiness
Are something to do
Somebody to love
Time to play
Space to be ourselves
And something to look forward to.

- BY KARI MOORE



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