

# History of Nursing News

OCTOBER 2004 VOLUME 15 ISSUE 2



## *Salute to Glennis Zilm*



*Glennis Zilm*

Glennis Zilm has been named the 2004 recipient of the John B. Neilson/Spaulding Award given by the Associated Medical Services (AMS). The award is named in recognition of Dr. Neilson, a former president of AMS, for his many initiatives and contributions to the history of health care in Canada. A recipient of the award must be a Canadian who has made long-standing contributions to the history of health care in Canada. This was the first year that the recipient is a member of the health professions other than medicine. We are justly proud of Glennis for achieving this honour and to recognize her award, the history of nursing group played out her prestigious career with a lunchtime skit at our summer workshop.

With help from members of Glennis' family, namely her aunt, sister and cousin Cheryl Entwistle, we presented a sketch of her life and career. Beginning with school days in New Westminster and her nursing education at VGH/UBC, Cheryl shared many stories. There were accolades from her early teaching career at RCH. Her adventures in obtaining registration in

Australia to practice in a survival camp gave us all a good laugh.

The scope of her career as a journalist and writer, which followed graduate degrees at Carleton University in Ottawa and Simon Fraser University, was impossible to cover in our short skit. Her career as a journalist included assistant editor of the Canadian Nurse, five years with the Canadian Press in Edmonton, radio and television work in Vancouver. A trip to Northwest Territories with Governor General and Mrs. Michener, was one of many outstanding events as a journalist with Canadian Press.

Glennis returned to B.C. in 1973 and took up residence at Crescent Beach. She continued to write and took teaching posts at the University of Manitoba, University of Victoria and University of B.C. Her many publications are familiar to all of us; *Legacy*, *The Smart Way*, research and writing about Tuberculosis, Nurse Miller and the Riel rebellion, early B.C. nursing and costumes, to name a few. She is best known to the history of nursing group for her generous offer of coaching, editing and mentoring. Our debt to her contribution to our group is immense. Her long term friend Dr. Shirley Stinson sums up her past and present contribution:

"I would rank Glennis as the nurse who has made the most exemplary combined contribution to the development and promotion of the history of nursing in Canada...I believe it is Glennis Zilm who best exemplified what it is to make outstanding contributions in all areas of nursing history in continuing long-standing substantive and integrated ways." The Neilson/Spaulding Award, granted to Glennis Zilm, is well deserved.

## Memorial Book Submissions

Deadline for admissions for the Memorial book have been extended until December 1, 2004. If you have submissions, please send by email to Lynne Esson [esson@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:esson@nursing.ubc.ca) or by mail to PO Box 72082, RPO Sasamat, Vancouver, BC V6R 4P2



## GETTING TOGETHER

History Group Executive Meetings are usually held the first Thursday of every month at the RNABC Offices from 4 PM—6 PM. All members are welcome to attend. For further information please call President Sheila Rankin Zerr at 604-943-3012

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## HoN Editorial Board

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The HoN Newsletter is published four times a year. Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome. Please submit articles to Lois Blais by December 1, 2004. Please email Lois Blais [lblais@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:lblais@interchange.ubc.ca)



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## From the President's Pen

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By Kathy Murphy

On July 21, 2004, a group of sixteen gathered for our Annual Workshop. At this time, the 2003/2004 Objectives were reviewed and the 2004/2005 Objectives were defined. There are to:

1. Monitor the impact of the Health Professions Act on the PPG status of this group.
2. Join the BC Historical Federation.
3. Continue with fund raising for a "Home of our Own".
4. Increase our membership.
5. Develop an Archival Brochure.
6. Continue to plan the CAHN 2006 Conference.
7. Review the feasibility of an electronic newsletter.
8. Promote the History of Nursing Scholarship.

Following a wonderful Pot Luck Luncheon, Glennis Zilm was honoured with a review of her life and career by several of the members. With appropriate costumes, Cheryl Entwistle told of her beginnings, Beth Fitzpatrick described her nursing career, Sheila Zerr highlighted her academic achievements, and Ethel Warbinek commented on her publishing talents. Glennis was then presented with a floral bouquet in recognition of her being named to receive the Associated Medical Services Incorporated John B. Neilson/Spalding Award for 2004.

It was a most successful day to reflect on our many achievements and plan for the year to come.



## Web Site Award

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The BC History of Nursing web site ( [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca)) has been declared the winner of the British Columbia Historical Federation's 2003 Web Site Award. The \$250.00 prize honours web sites that contribute to the understanding and appreciation of British Columbia's past. The prize was awarded at the May 2004 annual meeting of the Federation by Jacqueline Gresko, President and accepted by Beth Fitzpatrick seen in the accompanying photo.

Christopher Garrish, web master for the Federation and member of the web site competition committee, writes that "of all the nominees, the site which best represented individual initiative in the writing and presentation, historical content, layout, design, and ease of use" was the BC History of Nursing web site. Garrish compliments the site for its features on nurses who have made outstanding contributions to the profession and the information on the web pages about public monuments in the lower mainland that honour nurses. For a detailed critique of the web site see Garrish, C. BC Historical News, Vol. 37 No. 3 Summer 2004.

Congratulations to Kevin Lee, our web master who designs, maintains and updates the site. Well done!



## A HISTORY OF NURSING COURSE IN THE MAKING

We are pleased to announce a history on nursing course is being development as an elective for nursing students in college and university programs. The course will provide a socio-historical context to contemporary issues facing those in the nursing and health professions and will be of interest to nursing students, students of history and women's studies. Malaspina College faculty submitted the proposal to develop the course. Those involved, Dr. Cheryl Warsh and Dr. Stephanie Buckingham, Professor Laurie Meijer-Drees from Malaspina College, Professor Margaret Scaia from Malaspina and University of Victoria, Professors Sheila Rankin Zerr from University of British Columbia (UBC) with Professor Glennis Zilm from UBC as consultant.

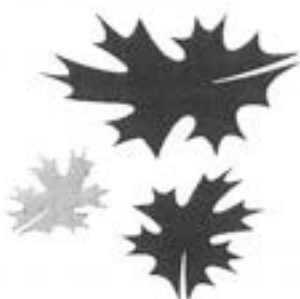
The course topics may include: the Nightingale Revolution, military nursing, missionary work, professionalization, gender issues, private nursing duty, hospital nursing, community nursing, psychiatric nursing, race and immigration in nursing, globalization, socialized health care and nursing, outpost nursing, First nations and Aboriginal health.

The course is supported by B.C. Campus and will be their property once it is developed. It will be available to any educational institution

wishing to offer a history of nursing course to their students. The course will be developed for delivery by internet and will offer a variety of learning experiences and resources. On-line access gives students across B.C. and Canada an opportunity to take the course.



## RNABC 2004-2005 Events Calendar



### September 2004

01 New Board members term begins meeting  
20 PPG Council meeting  
Ceremony  
24 Board of Directors meeting

### October 2004

29 RNABC Awards nominations deadline

### November 2004

05 Deadline to register for Leaders Conference  
08 Deadline for 2005 Resolutions and bylaw amendments  
22 PPG Council meeting  
25 Board of Directors meeting (1/2 day)  
26/27 Leaders Conference

### December 2004

### January 2005

11 Deadline for nominations for 2005 election  
18 First day for accepting Annual Meeting issues  
24 PPG Council meeting  
28 Board of Directors meeting

### February 2005

01 Registration renewal form deadline

### March 2005

02 Deadline for submission of Annual Meeting issues  
28 PPG Council meeting

### April 2005

01 Board of Directors

18 RNABC Awards

18/19 RNABC Annual Meeting

### May 2005

09-13 National Nursing Week

### June 2005

13 PPG Council meeting  
17 Board of Directors meeting

### July 2005

### August 2005

31 Term of office completed for half of the elected Board of Directors

### September 2005

07 Current Leaders Handbook mailed  
07 Nomination information for 2006 election mailed  
26 PPG Council meeting  
30 Board of Directors meeting

More information on RNABC events , please visit  
News, Issues and Events on the RNABC Website:  
[www.rnabc.bc.ca](http://www.rnabc.bc.ca)

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## A LUNCH FOR CELEBRATION AND PLANNING

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A gathering, at Nina Rumen's, on August 18, 2004, combined pleasure with work.

### The Pleasure

The lunch provided the opportunity to celebrate with Helen Mussallem and Genelle Leifso. Genelle is the winner of the 2004-2005 Canadian Nurses Foundation, Helen Mussallem Fellowship.

The fellowship will provide Genelle with funds to support her master's thesis addressing professional identity of the nurse from the client's perspective. Genelle's rich clinical background at many levels of nursing practice and administration and her diligent, high level scholarship resulted in her successful fellowship application.

### The Work

The lunch provided the chance for a strategy planning session to search out the possibility of mounting the Timothy Sullivan opera "Florence: The lady with the Lamp." Members of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN/ACHN) 2006 planning committee, Nina, Lois, Cheryl, Lenore and Sheila had an opportunity to seek help and direction from Heather Clark. With Heather's help, we launched a strategy to examine the feasibility of mounting the opera in June 2006.

A great way to enjoy lunch – to toast Helen and Genelle, and to plan a challenge for the 2006 CAHN/ACHN conference.







## NEWS about MEMBERS

Membership figures stand, as of September 1, 2004, at 141 members -- still creeping up and making new records.

There are a number of corrections and additions to the Membership Directory, which was mailed out in the summer.

Barbara Bavinton (new full) -- no "G" in last name -- and email should be: < < barbarabavinton@yahoo.ca >  
Irene Goldstone (full) -- email should be < igoldstone@cfe.net.ubc.ca >

Mary Nicol (affiliate) -- email should be mcrazz@telus.net

Sheila Oxholm moved- new address: Apt.1604 - 2075 Comox St., Vancouver BC V6G 3H7

Verna Splane (HLM) -- phone number should be 604-224-4506

Shirley Stinson (affiliate) -- new phone: (h) 780-433-0067

Emily Jenkins(student) -- new address: Apt. 903, 811 Helmcken St., Vancouver BC V6Z 1B1

Niki Sibera (student) -- address should be #306 - 10506 - 96 Avenue (correction)

New Member: Lorna Jefferis, 2200 Cowichan Bay Road, Cowichan Bay BC V0R 1N1

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, please let the Membership Chair know so that she can send out a "Potential Member" package.

Glennis Zilm, Membership Chair

Shirley Stinson to receive an honorary Doctor of Sacred Letters , Honoris Causa from St Stephen's College ( United Church) Senate (located at the University of Alberta, Edmonton), The award, in honor of her many contributions to the Church and to Alberta generally will be made October 18, 2004.

Shirley Stinson once again bought 10 packages of Memorial Church Canadian Nursing Sister cards, which she resells as our "agent" in Edmonton. For example, she plans to take at least 6 packages to the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada, Edmonton Unit's next luncheon meeting on November 9. Nursing Officers from the 1st Field Ambulance Unit of RCAMC, just north of Edmonton, also attend the luncheon. This year, the commanding officer, Lt-Col Weger, is going to give a presentation about the 100th Anniversary of the CAMC.

Fran Sutherland, one of our affiliate members in Edmonton and a former Nursing Sister in World War II, is gradually recovering from about six months of gout inflammation of her legs and feet and from post-cataract surgery. Our best wishes.



## **POWELL RIVER AND ITS NURSES SERVE AS A HUB OF WESTCOAST HOSPITAL CARE 1910-1952**

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The townsite of Powell River began in 1910 when a portable sawmill was set up to start construction of a town from the timber cut in the mill. Tents and shacks provided the first shelter until 1911 when twenty-one permanent houses were built. The planners who founded "The Powell River Company" not only built a new industry but planned and built a townsite of permanent homes. Needed services were built into the townsite plan, including a hospital for medical and nursing care.

There are records of early lay nurses and midwives who practiced in the Powell River area before the paper mill was established. Mrs. Marie Hansen nursed the sick and cared for mothers and babies at the early logging camp that preceded the construction of the mill. The early lay nurses looked after maternity cases in their homes and served as undertaker to lay out the dead. The practice of having babies in the home continued into the early 20s and even when the hospital was well established women stayed at home for childbirth for fear of the dreaded infections that plagued the hospitals in the 20s and 30s.

Dr. Andrew Henderson was one of the earliest arrivals in Powell River. An 1852 graduate of McGill, he travelled with his bride, riding in the caboose of the first CPR train, to the western outpost of Calgary. He remained there throughout the Riel rebellion, his son Richard being the first white child born in Calgary. He later practiced medicine in St. Paul Minnesota, where he met Dr. Brooks, one of the original owners of the Powell River Company. He came to Powell River in 1909 with Dr. Brooks. After passing the B.C. medical exams he set up Powell River's first hospital in a tent and then in an old bunkhouse.



**DR. A. HENDERSON**  
Founder of St. Luke's Hospital

Powell River's first professionally trained nurse was Miss Grace Hancock. She staffed the tent hospital, and then the bunkhouse hospital, along with a cook and an orderly. This small hospital and staff served the growing community adequately except for a serious epidemic of typhoid fever in the summer of 1912 when it was necessary to utilize a number of houses to care for the sick. Thirty-seven cases of typhoid were treated with only two deaths reported.

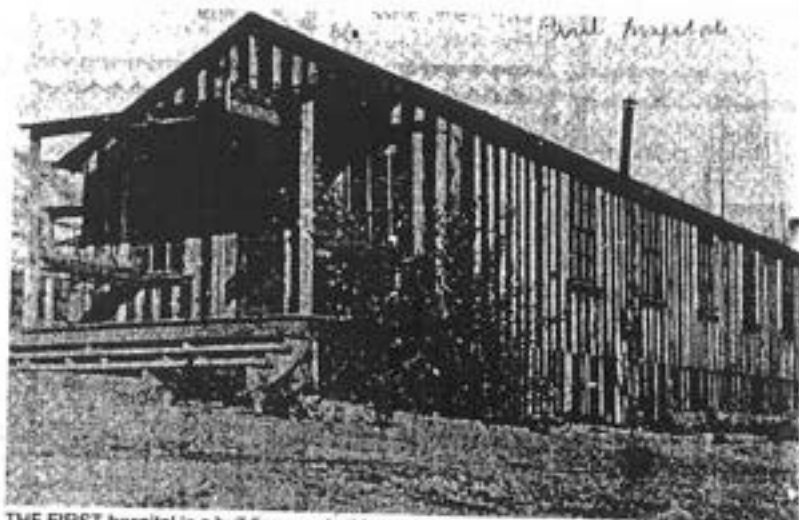
In 1910, an early version of health insurance was set up by the Powell River Company. The 2000 construction workers paid \$1.00 a month, to the Company, for the doctor's service and hospital stays. At first, this covered the worker only, but as the company and numbers of families grew, coverage was extended to family members. In 1920, the Powell River Employees Sick Benefit Society was initiated to provide more comprehensive health care benefits.



Original tent hospital.



MISS HANCOCK  
First Nurse



THE FIRST hospital in a building was in this bunkhouse. It served until St. Luke's was built in 1913.

In 1913, the new St. Luke's Hospital was constructed behind the bunkhouse hospital site to offer "modern" hospital care. The benefits of this new hospital were recognized by the various industries along the coast as they began to send their sick and injured to Powell River for hospital care. The matron of the new St. Luke's Hospital was Miss Sara Blain, a sister-in-law of Dr. Henderson.

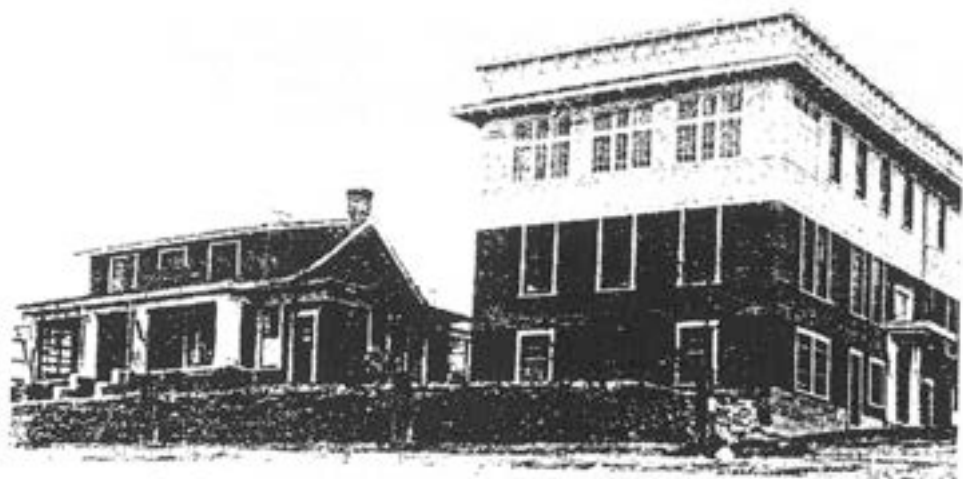


Powell River's first hospital building after the tent hospital was discarded. It is now the Kenmar Building occupied by apartment dwellers and offices.

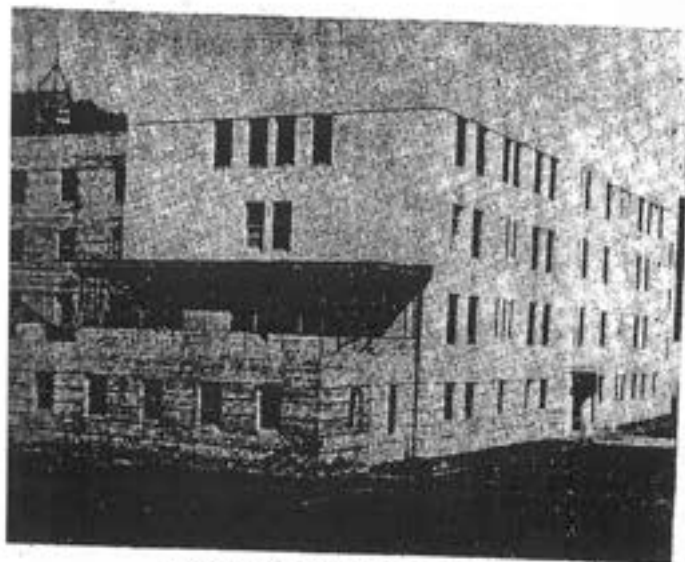
Written accounts of the new hospital reveal the growing need for nurses. Two nurses, Miss Arthur and Miss Blain joined the staff in 1914. With further growth, Dr. C.R. Marlatt was appointed medical superintendent and Miss Muriel Frances Frampton of Vananda, was hired as superintendent of nursing. As the hospital served a larger and larger community and outside area the hospital was enlarged in 1923. Beds increased to 30, the operating room was enlarged and improved and X-Ray equipment was added. Women's groups in the community pressed for nursery and maternity facilities. The enlarged hospital was taken over by the Employees Sick Benefit Society.

Dr. Henderson built his home adjacent to St. Luke's Hospital. It was considered the first real house in Powell River when it was built in the midst of the tents. He lived in this house, with his family, until his death in 1929. The house served as a residence for nurses following his death.

By 1942, St. Luke's Hospital could no longer provide adequate medical services. The Employees Sick Benefit Society built a modern, well equipped hospital that opened as the Powell River General Hospital in 1942. The old St. Luke's building was turned into an apartment block. As the needs of the community increased, in 1952, the new hospital was enlarged with a wing to increase bed capacity by 42 beds. At the same time, a new nurses residence was built adjacent to the hospital providing accommodation for the growing numbers of nurses needed to staff the hospital.



St. Luke's Hospital in 1923 (Dr. Henderson's residence at left)



Powell River General Hospital



MISS FRAMPTON  
Superintendent of Nursing

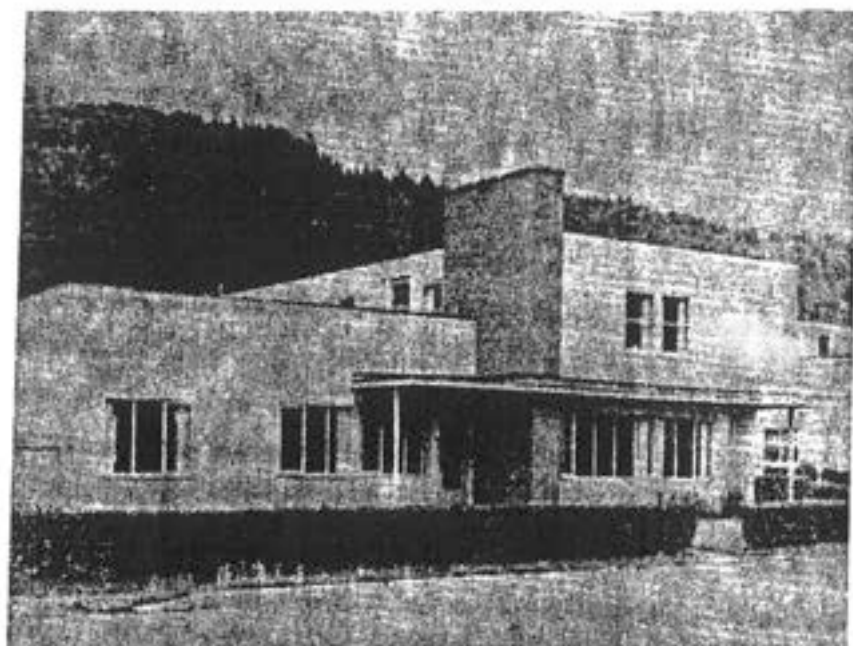
### Post Script:

Today, the original St. Luke's Hospital Building still stands as a restored apartment complex. The 1952 nurses' residence remains and is used as a health centre. The Powell River General Hospital was torn down and in recent years has been replaced by a new hospital on a health care site outside the townsite of Powell River in Westview. Dr. Henderson's original house still remains and is being restored along with many of the homes and buildings on the Powell River townsite. There is a growing interest in restoring the company owned town and what it represents to the history of British Columbia.

### References

Powell River B.C. Golden Jubilee 1910-1960. *Powell River's First 50 Years*. Powell River: The Powell River News Ltd.

Powell River Historical Museum and Archives Association. P.O. Box 42, Powell River, B.C. V8A 4Z5.



Nurses' home  
adjacent to  
hospital  
in  
Powell River

## Nursing at Rivers Inlet

by Margery Pound Hargrove

*Mrs. Hargrove was born in China to missionary parents who returned to Canada when she was 3 ½ years old. Her father then studied theology and became a minister, serving in several smaller cities throughout B.C. In 1937, Margery entered the School of Nursing at Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, graduating as an R.N. in 1940. After one year on staff at RIH, she applied to the United Church Missions and was sent to the Hospital at Bella Bella, on the central B.C. coast, run by Dr. George Darby. She spent about two years there before moving to Powell River, to work as a nurse. Later she married Alan Hargrove, and they raised their family there. She has written three memoirs of her "Nursing Days" and these are in the B.C. History of Nursing Group Archival Collection. The following is an excerpt from one of them.*

At Bella Bella we often heard about the Rivers Inlet Hospital, which Dr. Darby opened for three months each year, during the fishing season. I was really thrilled when told I would be going to the Inlet. Marjorie McDowell had been at U.B.C. taking Public Health so when she returned another nurse and I were to go with Marj. ... Nancy Suffill stayed at Bella Bella with a relief doctor.

It was always a big chore to open the Rivers Inlet Hospital. It was an old building with camp style furniture. Everything had to be taken out of storage. With nobody there for nine months of the year you can see how things would deteriorate. Linen, blankets, pillows, etc. were all put into cupboards with tin strips around the doors (to keep rats out). All the metal things like stoves, etc. were covered with vaseline or oil to protect from rust. All the medicines, cooking utensils, operating room equipment had been stored carefully.

It took several days and a lot of work to get beds ready for patients. Sometimes this hospital had as many patients as the Bella Bella Hospital. It served a great many people – not only natives from many villages but fishermen, loggers and others brought by the mission boats. Often it was the only time of the year some people would see a doctor.

We had maternity cases, children with infectious diseases or disorders from poor hygiene. There were often accident cases – like fishermen with injured hands from working around the machinery. We also treated T.B. patients, who were later taken to Bella Bella. There were no antibiotics at the time, so the old remedies of bed rest, hot fomentations or mustard plasters, etc. were used. ...

Part of our work was visiting all the canneries on Rivers Inlet and Smiths Inlet. Dr. Darby usually took a nurse on the hospital boat, the Edward White (the "Eddie," as we called it). This was interesting. We visited the people in the cannery shacks, also isolated Indian villages like Owikeno at the head of Rivers Inlet. Only a few people remained in the village during the summer – most of these were very old.

Dr. Darby did everything from pulling teeth to inoculating animals. Nothing was too much trouble. Besides Dr. Darby and three nurses there was a student doctor who relieved at the hospital when Dr. Darby made trips on the Edward White. There was also a cook and a laundryman – usually a student from U.B.C. or Union College.

The nurses lived in a tiny four-roomed cottage in the woods. The Darby family had a cottage on a point with a great view of Rivers Inlet. Summer was the season the doctor got to see more of his wife and children. ...

Several deaths were interesting. There was a young Native girl who died from T.B. She was very pretty. I helped Dr. Darby embalm her. (This was something we hadn't been taught in Kamloops.) We fixed her in a natural position then put solution into her veins. The Dr. put some red coloring in the fluid. This made her face a more natural color.

The other death at Rivers Inlet was a newborn baby. It had lived about two days and we thought it was doing well. I was on night duty and give it the 2:00 a.m. feeding. Then before six o'clock I went to take it to its mother and found it dead. I called Dr. Darby and showed him how it had been lying. At the post mortem we found it had a very deformed heart. (None of us ever dreamed that in our lifetime they would be removing a heart like that and replacing it with a new one – so much has been learned in recent years!) ...

Things are much different now at Rivers and Smiths Inlets, but the scenery will always remain beautiful. There are place names like Darby Channel and Edna Matthews Isle that will remind people in future years of two very wonderful people.



Margery Pound Hargrove



R.N.A.B.C.  
NURSING HISTORY



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