



"THE RNABC HISTORY GROUP"

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

September 1991

COLLECTING NURSING HISTORY MATERIALS IN B.C.

Speaker for the History of Nursing Group's fall get-together will be Laura M. Coles, an archival services consultant to the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. Ms. Coles has prepared two highly valuable documents related to collection of nursing history materials in B.C., and will be speaking to members of the History Group on ways that we may assist in collection, storage, and documentation of archives and artifacts.

Ms. Coles served as a part-time Nursing History Coordinator and Consultant for RNABC during 1990, assisting the Association to organize its archives. She also carried out a survey of B.C. museums, libraries, hospitals, and other repositories to determine if they had collections of nursing history materials. The survey was intended to identify nursing-related materials and to begin a system of networks to ensure that historical nursing materials are preserved and available for research use.

Ms. Coles supplied a report on her 1990 activities to the RNABC Board earlier this year, reporting on her activities and making several recommendations for future activities. Copies of the report were referred to the History Group's Executive for comment as several of her recommendations concerned activities for the Group. Among the recommendations was one that the History Group "actively work as a liaison between donors and repositories, soliciting information

about archival or museum material from the community and informing repositories of available material."

As well, Ms. Coles recommended that the History Group members promote nursing history through continued contact with archivists, curators, historians, librarians, and others working in the area of general history. The Executive has now responded to the RNABC Board, approving the recommendations. The Executive is now looking into ways that the Group can organize its members to act on the recommendations. Foremost, however, the Executive urged publication and wide distribution of the survey and its results.

For the survey, Ms. Coles sent questionnaires to 196 B.C. archives, libraries, and museums, and received 118 replies. She also sent questionnaires to 133 hospitals throughout the province but received only 39 responses. She noted that the "very low response rate was itself an indication of the apparent lack of awareness of or interest in archival/museum issues by hospitals."

Her Survey of Nursing History Materials in British Columbia has just now been published by the RNABC. This 61-page booklet contains a list of the institutions that replied to her questionnaires, with information on nursing-related materials in their holdings. A copy of the information on the RN Atkinson Museum and Archives in Penticton (cont.)

is shown on below to illustrate the kind of information available in the Survey. Copies will soon be available through the History Group for interested members. Members may also borrow copies through the RNABC Library.

The get-together will be held on Saturday, September 28, 1991, at 2:00 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge, UBC School of Nursing. The School is situated on the Third Floor of the Acute Care Hospital on the UBC Campus. Pay parking is available in the Main Parkade or in a lot on the south side of the hospital grounds. Coffee will be served. Non-members may also attend the meeting for a \$2 charge.

Please try to attend -- and bring a friend.

A-086

R.N. Atkinson Museum and Archives
785 Main Street
Penikese, B.C.
V2A 5E3
Contact: Randy Manuel
Telephone: 492-6025

Public hours: Monday - Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mandate: Archives, museum. Actively collects nursing or health-related materials. "Our records do not classify nursing as a specific item, but we do have artifacts, books and records of early doctors and nurses of the region. One of our volunteers, a retired nurse, is working on a medical history and has done extensive research. She is Mrs. Joan Gale." Accessions include 1.5 metres of coroner's records and hardcover books on medicine and ophthalmology.

Holdings:

Nursing related:	Dates:	Quantity:
archives:	s.d.	misc.
artifacts:	s.d.	45-50 items
publications:	1900+	6 titles

Health-related:	Dates:	Quantity:
archives:		
artifacts:		
publications:		

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWS

The Oral History Committee has been busy over the summer and has added six new tapes to those already available through the RNABC Library.

Included among the new tapes is an interview with Lyle Creelman, Chief Nurse of the Nursing Unit of the World Health Organization from 1954-1968. Lyle Creelman grew up in B.C. and received her nursing degree from the University of B.C. in 1936 and worked in public health nursing in Metro Vancouver. She began an international nursing career in 1944 when she joined the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). Her many awards and recognitions include an honorary doctorate from the University of New Brunswick and the Order of Canada. She was interviewed by Nina Rumen for the Oral History collection.

Committee Chair Sheila Zerr interviewed Bea (Johnson) Wood, who was one of the three first graduates of the new University of B.C. School of Nursing in 1923. Mrs. Wood worked in the operating room and the new emergency department at the Vancouver General Hospital following graduation and then did public health nursing with the Victorian Order of Nurses in Montreal. Following her marriage to Prof. Freddy Wood of the UBC Department of Theatre, she left active nursing to raise her family, but has remained interested and involved in alumni activities to the present.

The committee will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 1991 from 3 pm to 5 pm at Nina Rumen's apartment. (Please call 733-7529 if you would like to attend.)

BOOK REVIEW

Catholic Health Association of B.C.
ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

The Catholic Health Association of British Columbia celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1990 with publication of a 32-page, illustrated booklet, Living the Mission 1940-1990. Of particular interest to History Group members are the seven essays on the Sisterhoods that brought health care to the province. The following information gives a taste of that provided in the booklet.

The Sisters of Saint Anne arrived in Victoria in June 1858. Their original ministry was teaching, but because of the need in the rapidly growing colony the Sisters immediately added health care activities. The Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Anne built Saint Joseph's Hospital in Victoria in 1876. Shortly after the hospital opened, the Sisters established a form of health insurance for \$5 a year or \$100 for life membership.

The Sisters of Providence provided early health care in the mainland colony in B.C. from a base in Vancouver, Washington. They founded Saint Mary's Hospital in New Westminster in 1886 and St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver in 1894 as well as three "Hospitals of the Great Depression" during the 1930s -- in Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, and Vanderhoof. Although the Sisters have since withdrawn from administration of the hospitals in these three areas, they established a sound base for health care in these communities.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto brought health care to the Comox

Valley in 1913, originally providing two beds for patients within their eight-room farmhouse. Their St. Joseph's General Hospital was constructed in 1967 and is the regional hospital for the Comox Valley.

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception began their mission in 1921 with the mandate of ministering to the needs of Vancouver's large oriental population; Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, opened in 1948, continues the tradition of the Sisters' multicultural health care ministry.

The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception originally focussed their efforts on community-oriented care but in 1939 opened St. Vincent's Hospital in Vancouver.

The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception brought health care to the so-called "skid road" area of Vancouver in 1931, with a particular mandate to provide care to the aged homeless. Because of the depression of the 1930s their care soon included the hungry of any age but in recent years has once again centred on continuing care for the elderly.

This booklet, copies of which may be borrowed from the RNABC Library, also provides much greater detail on both the history and the present concerns of the Catholic Health Care Association of B.C. Individuals who wish to purchase copies for their own libraries should write to the CHABC at Ste. 210 -- 150 Robson St., Vancouver V6B 2A7.

BOOK REVIEW * NEWS

MEDICAL ARCHIVES:
WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW TO KEEP THEM

Medical Archives: What They Are and How to Keep Them is a 40-page booklet commissioned for and funded by Associated Medical Services, Inc., and the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine. As it says in the subtitle, the booklet provides an "introduction and some basic advice for individuals and institutions."

Archives are defined in the booklet as "important documents that are retained for permanent reference." The writer, Archivist Barbara L. Craig of York University in Toronto, has kept the information clear, crisp, and readable.

The booklet, published about 1990, describes who benefits from archives, in this case medical archives, and describes where they can be found. This work is an attempt to alert individuals about the value of their professional records and show how each person can participate in the creation of sound archival collections.

Rudimentary outlines for setting up archives and answers to commonly-asked questions are given in this little manual. Included at the end is a list of eight reference books that describe archival work in greater depth.

Medical Archives is easy to read and is an excellent introduction to archives. Those of us who seriously wish to preserve nursing history and all it entails can benefit from this work as its information can easily be adapted to nursing. Copies are available for loan in the RNABC Library (drop in or phone 736-7331) or you may

write for a free copy to the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine, Suite 101, 14 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5R 1A9.

Reviewed by I. Brenda Flynn

RNABC ORGANIZES ORAL HISTORY TAPES

RNABC this past summer received a B.C. Student Work Grant to hire a student to catalogue and cross index the History of Nursing Oral History tapes. The Library was fortunate to be able to hire Andy Stefanelli who previously had worked in the RNABC Library but who has returned to school for further study.

Names of individuals and subject headings from the History of Nursing tapes have now been entered into the Library's computer catalogues, which will make historical material much more readily available.

GROUP'S PRESIDENT VISITS CHINA

The History of Nursing Group's President, Beverly Du Gas of White Rock, will return later this month from a three-month working visit to Mainland China. Dr. Du Gas is acting as a consultant for the World Health Organization and looking into ways that Distance Education for nurses might be introduced in China.

Dr. Du Gas, a respected author of nursing texts and former Dean of the School of Nursing, University of Ottawa, was instrumental in assisting WHO to set up a Distance Education program for nurses in Fiji in 1990.

NEWS * VIEWS

LOGO CONTEST

The HoN Executive Committee has had difficulty in evaluating the submissions for the Logo Contest announced last year and is at an "impasse." At the August Executive meeting, Sheila Zerr was asked to seek outside help with the judging and development of the logo from either Emily Carr Art School or Vancouver Community College.

Some beautiful and delightful designs were submitted, but the committee and executive have had difficulty in achieving a logo from the designs that will fulfill all the requirements. Of particular importance is the need for a simple design that will reduce to letterhead size.

The Executive thanks those who have submitted designs and hopes to announce the "winner" sometime this fall.

CAHN NEWS

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, in conjunction with the American Association for the History of Nursing, will hold "The First International Conference" June 17-20, 1992 at the Delta Brunswick Hotel, Saint John, New Brunswick. This promises to be an most enjoyable and interesting event and several members of the RNABC's History Group are already planning to attend.

Dr. Christopher Maggs, project director for the English National Board for Nursing, Midwives, and Health Visitors, London, England, and a noted nursing history scholar, will be giving the keynote address.

The "Proceedings" of CAHN's Fourth Annual Conference, held in June 1991 in Kingston, Ontario, are available. This 29-page monograph contains the keynote address of Prof. William Dray and abstracts of 10 papers presented at the conference. Sheila Zerr, Oral History Chair of RNABC's History Group and CAHN Membership Chair, is ordering copies. (We think the price is \$10, but this needs to be confirmed.) If you would like to have her order a copy for you please telephone her at 943-3012.

The Call for Papers to be presented at the 1992 Conference should be out soon and if you have a project to report or if you simply wish more information about the Conference write to Arlee McGee, 267 Smythe Street, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 3E1

HISTORY OF ICN BEING PREPARED

Dr. Joan Lynaugh of the Centre for the Study of the History of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania has received funding to write a scholarly history of the International Council of Nurses. Dr. Meryn Stuart of the School of Nursing, University of Ottawa, is Co-Investigator for Canada. The two will produce a monograph.

They are anxious to hear from anyone who has diaries, letters, or memorabilia related to the early years (1899-1930) of ICN and from anyone who knows about Canadian nurses who made significant contributions to the creation and early history of ICN.

If you have information, write to Dr. Stuart, c/o the University of Ottawa School of Nursing or telephone her at (613) 745-9349.

* EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS *

A special day-long meeting of the Executive of the RNABC's History Group was held in August. The main item on the agenda was a response to RNABC's Board of Directors regarding a Report by Consultant Laura Coles. Several of the recommendations in the report had been referred to the History Group for on-going action. The Executive was concerned that some of the recommendations will require major work and long-term activities by Group membership and wished to evaluate the recommendations carefully. (See story on page 1.)

Other items of interest include:

* Treasurer Nina Rumen reported a bank balance of \$2,391. The Executive recommended putting some of this money into an interest-bearing certificate until we can proceed with plans to start a History of Nursing Project Award through the Registered Nurses Foundation. Application has been made to RNF concerning this award and the Group is awaiting a further reply from the Foundation.

* Membership Chair Diana Ritchie reported that membership stands at 62. A list of members has been compiled into a booklet form for distribution with the September Newsletter.

* Member-at-Large Ethel Warbinek has acted as Chair for a Biographical Committee with members Kari Moore and Ruth Ann Cross. This committee is developing a form to be used for compiling biographical files on well-known nurses and a protocol for collecting and storing this material. The biographical files will be invaluable for research and award purposes, and for preparing memorial notices. The

committee is just getting started on this work. Once the protocol is developed, this committee will be requesting assistance from History Group members to compile the files.

* The Executive received a copy of The Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada 50th Anniversary 1897-1947 from Elizabeth Hutchinson of Victoria. This hard-to-find history was donated by Mrs. Hutchinson to the History Group to be passed along to the RNABC Library, which did not have a copy.

* The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be just prior to the Fall Get-together. Executive meetings are open to members. If you wish to attend, please call Vice President Helen Shore at 731-9588.

DON'T FORGET!

FALL GET-TOGETHER

Speaker: Archivist Laura Coles on History of Nursing Archival Collections in B.C.

Date: Saturday, September 28, 1991 at 2:00 pm

Place: Faculty Room, UBC School of Nursing, Third Floor, Acute Care Hospital, University of British Columbia

THE HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group. Editor: Glennis Ilna, 2686 Bayview St., Surrey, B.C. V4A 2H4. Telephone 535-3238.