



*Annual Meeting News***MEMBERSHIP FEES TO RISE IN 1993**

Members attending the 1992 annual meeting April 8 in Vancouver approved two constitutional amendments that will see annual fees for the History Group rise at the end of the year.

The first amendment was one to change the financial year of the Group to the calendar year. When the Group approved its Constitution at the inaugural meeting in 1990, the financial year was defined as April 1 to March 31. However, RNABC has asked all Interest Groups to look into constitutional changes that would ensure greater consistency among groups. RNABC's recommendation was for a December 31 year-end, which would allow all interest groups to report to RNABC on the same basis.

Members attending the annual meeting approved this change, which was moved by the Executive. This means, in effect, that the current membership year will be a "short year." Annual fees for the next year will be due January 1, 1993. However, the Executive proposes that current members who do not renew still will be considered "active" until March 31 of 1993.

A second motion calling for a raise in fees for the 1993 membership year was also

approved at the annual meeting. Fees for the 1993 year will be \$15 for Active and Affiliate members. Fees for Student members remain at \$5. Several amendments were proposed from the floor, calling for higher raises and greater activity on the part of the group, but in a close vote the Executive Committee's recommendation for only a \$5 increase was passed.

Other minor constitution and bylaw changes were also approved to bring the Group's document in line with those of other RNABC Interest Groups. For example, one such minor change was in the name of non-RNABC members from "Associate" to "Affiliate." Other than the title change, there were no other changes in the status of these members. The changes have now been sent to the RNABC Board for its approval.

A copy of the revised Constitution and Bylaws as passed at the meeting is enclosed with this newsletter. Members who have any questions or concerns about the Constitution and Bylaws should get in touch with Vice-President Ethel Warbinek at 538-5066.

**1992 DUES NOTICES FOR THOSE
WHO HAVE NOT YET PAID
ARE ENCLOSED WITH THIS
NEWSLETTER**

*** NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ***

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since the History Group came into being two years ago, many of you have shown your personal interest by becoming members. Some of you merely lend your support through membership, but others are actively pursuing individual history projects. We appreciate both kinds of support.

We have made considerable progress on our mandate "to stimulate interest in nursing history" and we have the capability to provide mechanisms for exchange of ideas and information. In future, we need to discover more and more varied means of communicating with each other.

We are beginning to be involved in preservation of historical nursing materials and gradually will get more experienced. We still need members to become familiar with the Survey of Nursing History Material in British Columbia and to visit local archives and museums to see what is in their nursing collections. We need to get to know archivists and curators and to let them know about nursing and about our group and what we are doing.

My personal dream for the History Group is a joint project to collate stories of British Columbia nurse pioneers, early hospital and district nursing, and nurse memorials. We are aware of many stories and we have made wonderful progress collecting accounts through the Oral History project. We need to set up better collecting

mechanisms, however, for written documents. We have a terrific potential to preserve our local history and to share it with a wider public.

I hope that, during the coming year, we will travel to other communities to hold executive and general meetings. If any group would like to host an executive or general meeting, or just arrange for a group visit to your local archives or museums, please let us know. I will keep in touch through these pages and I hope you will write with your ideas and reactions.

-- Helen Shore, President
June 1992

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

Some brief items from the meeting of the Executive Committee, **May 7, 1992:**

*** Finances:** Treasurer Nina Rumen reported the annual meeting cost approximately \$172. Dues for the 1992 year are arriving daily. After paying for the printing of the Nursing Sister Window cards, the balance was \$313, with another \$1,500 in a term deposit.

*** Membership:** On behalf of membership co-ordinator Di Ritchie, Nina Rumen reported that the current membership is 38 regular, 8 affiliate, 2 honorary, and 2 student members. (Total membership at the end of last year was 77 members.)

(Continued on page 6)

**** COMING EVENTS ****

September Get-Together

"MISSION'S LIVING MEMORIALS"

***A History of Health Care and the
Story of the Hospitals in
Mission, B.C.***

Saturday, September 12, 1992, 2:00 PM

Mission Memorial Hospital

Betty Robertson, one of our members and co-author of the forthcoming book Mission's Living Memorials, is arranging a September Get-Together for the History Group. We will receive a "preview" of the book, which is to be officially released in October, but which is already in the final proof-reading stages.

The book covers 100 years of health care in the Mission area and describes the building of the hospitals for the area.

Slides from some of the 77 photographs collected for the book will be shown. Those who are interested in learning about development of a local history book project will have a chance to discuss this with the authors.

Betty's two co-authors will also be involved in the presentation and our Mission hosts will also arrange for a visit to the "Founder's Corner," a permanent display of historical hospital artifacts.

MORE INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT WILL BE AVAILABLE

IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

THE EXECUTIVE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE CAR POOLS FOR THE TRIP

**** MORE COMING EVENTS ****

**NURSE HISTORIAN TO SPEAK
AT UVIC -- OCTOBER 1, 1992**

Susan Reverby, Director of the Women's Studies Program, Wellesley College, Boston, will visit the University of Victoria campus on Thursday, October 1, 1992, as part of the Women Scholar Series. Her public lecture is entitled "The Right to Care: Nurses and the Politics of Womanhood," at 8:00 pm in Cornett Building, Room B108.

In the notes about her public lecture, Dr. Reverby says: "Nursing was organized as a profession when women were expected to care out of a sense of duty. But what would nursing be like if the right to care, rather than the duty, was considered its central core? This talk will provide an historical overview of the development of nursing as the politics of womanhood have shaped the effort to move from duty to rights."

The above information was sent to the Newsletter by Maria Campbell, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, University of Victoria.

Victoria members of the History Group are being approached to see if they would

like to host an Executive meeting or other small get-together on the afternoon of October 1, so that those who will come from the Mainland for the lecture might have an opportunity to meet with our Victoria colleagues.

More information will be available in the September Newsletter.

"Visionaries"

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL NURSING
CONFERENCE**

June 17-20, 1992

St. John, N.B.

Canadian Association for the
History of Nursing and American
Association for the History of Nursing

At least four members of the B.C. History of Nursing Group will attend this international meeting and will have a display presentation on some of the projects by our members. Projects on display will include:

Memorial Doll Collection, by Sheila Zerr; Pioneer Nurses of Vancouver, by Helen Shore; and Vancouver's Monuments to Nurses, by Nina Rumen. Verna Splane is presenting a paper at the Conference.

OCTOBER
IS
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

*** NEWS FROM THE ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE ***

The Oral History Volunteer Group, a committee of the History Group, is one of the most active and holds regular meetings separate from the main group. Items of interest from the April meeting are reported below:

* Tape Summaries Project: The Oral History Committee would like to have the summaries for all Oral History tapes typed so these would be easier to use. The group investigated the cost of the project by having two summaries typed. It appears the cost would be about \$5,000, which the committee decided was not feasible at this time. Members will work with RNABC Librarian Joan Andrews in hope that money might be obtained for a summer student work project for 1993. Meantime, if any History Group member who can do word processing would be interested in volunteering to assist with this project, please get in touch with the Chair.

* Work in Progress: Among current projects planned by members are these:

Interview with Lyle Creelman, former chief nurse with the World Health Organization and recently the first nurse to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of British Columbia.

Interview with Irene Goldstone of St. Paul's Hospital, who is actively involved with AIDS programs, both locally and nationally. [Not all oral history has to be

ancient history -- although everyone hopes that AIDS soon will be! --Ed.]

Interview with Cali Philips Dunsmuir, who worked in 1928 in the Medical Dental Building Hospital in Vancouver.

* Other "themes" identified were: RNABC history; Expo '86 nursing experiences; Strike of 1989; the "Stewardess era"; Sisters of St. Anne; and Polio Nursing.

* New Tapes: Two of the tapes recently added to the RNABC Library Collection:

Interview with Minnie Hackett on her years working in the Churchill area and her experiences in the North. (Interviewed by Diana Ritchie and Ruth Ann Cross.)

Interview with Alice Smith and Kay Keith about their experiences with the Medical Services Branch of Health and Welfare Canada. Alice Smith was chief nursing officer with MSB for some years, as well as having work in the North. (Interviewed by Sheila Zerr.)

A full list of Oral History tapes is available "on line" in the RNABC Library. Tapes may be borrowed by mail by out-of-Vancouver RNABC members.

* Next meeting: The committee next meets September 23, 1992. Anyone interested in joining the Oral History Committee should get in touch with Chair Sheila Zerr.

MORE NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 2)

* Newsletter: Glennis Zilm was reappointed editor of the newsletter. Cost of the 1991-1992 Newsletters (4 issues, all small format) was \$388.18 -- plus a great deal of volunteer effort. Plans are underway to make all issues for the remainder of 1992 at least eight pages.

* AAAA Committee: (Archives, Artifacts, and Assorted Articles!) Past President Bev Du Gas has taken on the Chair of this committee. The Group has acquired a number of items that need to be placed in proper archival or museum collections. This committee is to draw up its objectives and suggest a plan for the coming year.

* Notecards: As approved at the annual meeting, the History Group has taken over production and sale of the Nurse Memorial Window notecards. Treasurer Nina Rumen arranged for the printing. All members of the Executive have these cards for sale (see enclosed order form). The Group should raise about \$3,000 from the sale of these cards.

* Raffle: The book raffle at the annual meeting raised \$338 for our Award Fund. Winners were:

Mary Dupuis, for the copy of Nursing: The Finest Art: An Illustrated History, by Patricia Donahue (St. Louis, MO: Mosby, 1985), which was donated by Mosby.

Karen Turner, for the copy of Pharmacology and the Nursing Process, by G.E. Johnson, K. Hannah, and [our own] Sheila Zerr (Toronto: Saunders, 1991), donated by Saunders.

The door prize (a Chocolate Nursing Sister) was won by guest Leonore Radom.

* Events in the Planning: In addition to the September meeting in Mission, the Executive Committee has several other possible speakers lined up for the fall-winter season. Speakers proposed include: Joan McCarter of Victoria, whose father was the architect for the Vancouver Medical Dental Building (1928) and who has many stories about the original building; John Hutchison of Vancouver, who has been doing research into the development of the Red Cross Society; Veronica Strong-Boag, director of the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations at the University of British Columbia; and Stan Richards, who is doing research on the hospital ship *Prince George* and the former Royal Naval Hospitals at Esquimalt, B.C.

COPIES OF SURVEY STILL AVAILABLE

Copies of the Survey of Nursing History Materials in British Columbia are available to History Group members free (but send \$2.50 for postage and handling). Order forms were sent with the March Newsletter.

**** GAME : "DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN . . . ?" ****

History is not just dates ... but being able to put events into a proper context often offers insights. Give yourself 5 points for each correct answer, 3 points if you came within one year either way, or 1 point if you had the right decade. Answers on page 8.

George M. Weir, commissioned by the Canadian Nurses Association and Canadian Medical Association, is released. This landmark document called for striking changes in the education of nurses, and is still quoted today.

1. First ever strike by nurses in B.C. (and maybe even in Canada) at St. Joseph's Hospital in Comox over demands for an eight-hour working day.

6. Graduate Nurses Association of B.C. is established, the forerunner of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.

2. Year federal Medical Care Insurance program went into effect (July 1), with only two provinces (B.C. and Saskatchewan) qualifying by following the four basic principles of comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and public administration.

7. Formal separation of the labor relations division from the RNABC, which retained statutory/regulatory functions and creation of the B.C. Nurses Union (BCNU) for economic/union functions.

3. Last hospital-based nursing education program in B.C. (Vancouver General Hospital) closes to new students and merges with University of British Columbia.

8. B.C. gets a Registered Nurses Act, thanks to lobbying efforts of the Graduate Nurses Association of B.C.

4. Sisters of St. Anne arrive in Victoria, the first "trained" nurses in what is now B.C. They travelled by ship down the east coast, by train across the Isthmus of Panama, and up the west coast by boat.

9. First University Nursing Program in Canada (indeed, in the British Empire) is established at University of B.C.

5. Report by UBC Education Professor Dr.

10. First public health legislation passed in B.C.; health officer appointed and sanitation regulated.

**** MORE NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING ****

TWO NURSES HONORED

The History Group honored two of its own during the Annual meeting in Vancouver in April. The 32 members and guests attending the meeting joined in the applause for recognition to **Monica (Frith) Green** and **Mary (Razzell) Nicol**. Monica Green was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Group (the second given) and Mary Nicol was presented with a plaque for the Group's first Recognition Award for Merit.

The following brief summaries indicate some of the reasons for the recognition for these two outstanding nurses.

Monica M. (Frith) Green

Born in Prince Albert, Sask., she received her BA in 1939 and B.A.Sc (Nsg) in 1940 from the University of British Columbia. On graduation, she worked as a public health nurse in Kelowna and Creston.

In 1944, she attended the University of Michigan to obtain her Master's in Public Health and returned to B.C. to become a Consultant with the Provincial Health Service. In 1948, she became Director of Public Health Nursing, a position she held until her retirement in 1976.

During her career she received many honors from the American Public Health Association and the provincial and national offices of the Canadian Public Health Association.

In 1984, she completed an outstanding history of the Provincial Public Health Nursing Service, Through the Years with Public Health Nursing, which was published by the Canadian Public Health Association.

Mary (Razzell) Nicol

The Recognition Award for Merit was presented to Mary Nicol in recognition for her leadership in coordinating the RNABC Oral History Project from 1986-1989. She was the original guiding force in organizing the Oral History tape collection, which has grown to become a permanent part of the RNABC Library. Her guidance in developing quality levels for the tapes has led to an outstanding historical resource.

She has also prepared several articles from the tapes for the RNABC News, which has helped make some of our outstanding nurses better known to nurses throughout the province.

Mary is a graduate of St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver and worked as a nurse for several years before turning to writing as a career. As Mary Razzell, she is author of several award-winning books for young adults, including Salmonberry Wine and Night Fires, which feature young nurses as the central characters. Her articles, short stories, and poetry have appeared in many national and international publications as well as on radio.

**** BOOK REVIEW * BOOK NEWS ****

Report: Task for on Military History Museum Collections in Canada. (1991). Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services, Canada. (Cat. No. Co22-102/ 1991. ISBN 0-662-82 70-5) [56 pp. English, 60 pp. French.]

This excellent, well-presented (i.e., no expense spared) government report provides useful, interesting information about military museum collections in Canada. The task force was appointed by the federal ministers of communications, defense, and veterans' affairs. Its mandate was to examine strengths and weaknesses in the preservation, development, display, and interpretation of military history.

The task force, chaired by G. Hamilton Southam and Denis Vangois, visited 89 military museums and historic sites, sent questionnaires to more than 2,000 institutions and individuals involved in collecting military history, and carried out extensive research into aspects related to their mandate.

For those interested in history related to Canada's nursing sisters, this would prove a most useful resource. As well, the report, which opens with a summary of the committee's 23 recommendations, also could serve as a blueprint and guide to nursing groups interested in ways to look at strengths and weaknesses in nursing history collections.

A copy is available on loan through the RNABC Library.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

The following books and pamphlets are in the final stages of preparation and will soon be available.

"Take Counsel with One Another": A Beginning History of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing, 1942-1992. by Rondalyn Kirkwood and Jeannette Bouchard. Ottawa: CAUSN, June 1992. Illustrated, about 100 pp., softcover. Price will be about \$12.

History of Nursing Beginning Bibliography: A Proemial List with Special Reference to Canadian Sources, by Shirley M. Stinson, Joy L. Johnson, and Glennis Zilm. Edmonton, University of Alberta School of Nursing, June 1992. Softcover, about 100 pp. Price \$12, including postage. Contains an organized listing of 1,000 references.

OTHER RELEVANT BOOKS

The following are not nursing references, but might offer some valuable leads to important sources for those researching B.C. nursing history. As well, all three show an interesting approach to archival records and bibliography in other fields.

The School Record: A Guide to Government Archives Relating to Public Education in British Columbia 1852-1946. by P.A.

(continued on page 10)

**** MORE BOOK NEWS * ANNUAL MEETING NEWS ****

Dunae. Victoria: B.C. Ministry of Government Services, 1992.

Annotated Bibliography of Education History in British Columbia [A Royal British Columbia Museum Technical Report], compiled and annotated by V.M.E. Giles. Victoria: Royal British Columbia Museum, 1992. Softcover, 65 pp.

British Columbia Local Histories: A Bibliography, by L.L. Hales and Jean Barman. Victoria: British Columbia Heritage Trust, 1991. Looseleaf binding, 196 pp.

INTERESTING ARTICLE

An interesting and thorough article on Dr. Malcolm T. MacEachern, the "Father of Hospital Accreditation," appears in the May issue of the BC Medical Journal. Dr. MacEachern was Superintendent of the Vancouver General Hospital from 1913 to 1922 and was instrumental in helping to introduce the nursing department at the University of B.C. Later, he was Medical Director of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, then Associate Director of the American College of Surgeons. Incidentally, an incorrect spelling of Dr. MacEachern's name appears in the article and should be noted if you use this for research. See:

McDonnell, C.E. The evolution of hospital accreditation. BC Medical Journal, Vol. 34, No. 5, May 1992, pp. 292-294.

EXECUTIVE 1992

Elections for positions on the Executive were held during the Annual Meeting in Vancouver. Each year, elections are held for three of the six elected positions, and to fill any openings that may occur.

Helen Shore, recently retired from the UBC School of Nursing and previously vice president, was elected president. **Ethel Warbinek**, assistant professor in the UBC nursing program, was elected vice president, leaving a one-year term open on her former Member-at-Large (MaL) position, which also was filled. **Ellen Roberts**, who is just completing a master's degree in nursing at UBC, was elected to the two-year MaL position, and **Brenda Flynn** was re-elected to the one-year MaL position.

President* -- Helen L. Shore

Phone: 731-9588

Past President* -- Beverly Du Gas

Phone: 327-0602

Vice President* -- Ethel Warbinek

Phone: 538-5066

Secretary/Treasurer* -- Nina Rumen

Phone: 733-7529

Membership Coordinator* -- Diana Ritchie

Phone: 732-6248

Members at Large:

Brenda Flynn* Phone: 939-1856

Ellen Roberts* Phone: 228-1945

* Term ends 1994 annual meeting

Term ends 1993 annual meeting

**** BITS AND PIECES ****

The following items from the membership forms seemed to the Editor to be worth sharing. You may want to keep an eye out for information that may help with any of these projects!

Sister Therese Carignan is gathering information on St. Paul's Hospital history, including notes on the Sisters of Providence who worked there, and information on the SPH Auxiliary and Alumnae. St. Paul's Hospital Centennial will be in 1994.

Two of **Joan Doree's** interests are in the work of the early lay nurses in Canada -- up to 1950 -- and in Nursing and the Feminist Movement.

Barbara Gooberson, a new member in Fort St. John, B.C., has an interest in caretaking in ancient times (both the nursing and medical aspects).

Lynne Maxwell, another new member, is provincial director of the Canadian Council of Cardiovascular Nurses and is attempting to organize the history of CCCN for a 20th anniversary national meeting in October 1993.

Sue Mouat, who has been working on a history of health care on Salt Spring Island, is interested in obtaining more details on the life of Grace Mouat (1857-1926), first Matron of the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

One of **Helen Niskala's** projects is the nurses who staffed the costal and interior

church-supported hospitals in B.C.

Linda Hyde is trying to gather information on the history of psychiatric nursing in B.C. She would like to hear from anyone who shares this interest and who could volunteer some time to help organize the material already on hand at the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of B.C.

More on member projects next time.

FRAGMENTS

* A nation-wide search is on for military medals of two Canadian nurses -- Helen E. Hanson and Janet Mary Williamson. They were awarded medals for gallantry during the bombing raids in Etaples, France, in May 1918. Eight nurses received these medals, but these two are "lost." If you frequent antique and military shops, have a look for them. The Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Military Institute would like to acquire them.

* Several members of the Group have expressed interest in obtaining copies of Watch-fires on the Mountains, Margaret Street's 1973 superb biography of Ethel Johns. We still hope this will eventually be reprinted. Meantime, if you see one in a second-hand shop (for a reasonable price!), please let the Editor know.

* You may note a few typing/printing problems with this edition. The Editor has a new printer. Sorry about that!

★ FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK ★

MAILBAG

Would you please convey my thanks ... for the Honorary Membership bestowed on me at the annual meeting. I also enjoyed being with so many active members.

-- Monica Green
Victoria

Many thanks for sending me information and copies of the Newsletter. ... I am pleased to note that the Group is now firmly established and obviously thriving. There must be a wealth of rich British Columbia nursing history just waiting to be discovered and formally recorded. ...

I have collected considerable information ... (about the hospital ship *Prince George*). However, as in most historical research, one seems to get the feeling that there could still be further useful material yet to be found. ... Your kind offer to get word around about my naval Sick Berth Attendant/Medical Assistant history project and ... [about] the nursing sisters who served in *Prince George* is much appreciated.

-- Stan T. Richards
West Vancouver

Ed. Note: Mr. Richards headed the BCIT Health Sciences programs from 1963 until retirement in 1977. His hobby is historical research. In his searches he noted that, at the beginning of World War I, Canada requisitioned the *Prince George*, a passenger ship from the West Coast, as a hospital ship -- although for only 47 days. Previously, it

was believed that two ships in World War II were Canada's first hospital ships. He also found that the first nurses to serve with the Canadian Navy were the six nurses appointed to the *Prince George* and not, as previously recorded, nurses appointed in 1941.

The nurses appointed in August 1914 were: Betty Watson, Penelope Mellin (possibly Mellon, later Chown), Gertrude Black, Mabel Lindsay, and Annie Dover; Elizabeth Pierce was appointed as Acting Sister. It is believed they were all from B.C.

Mr. Richards would be interested in receiving more information about these nurses or about their descendants so that he might pursue this story. If you could be of assistance, please get in touch with him: S.T. Richards, #303 - 2455 Bellevue Ave., West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1E1 or phone 922-2445.

THE HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER

The History Group's Newsletter is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. Unsolicited material is welcome, but the Editor reserves the right to reject, shorten, or edit materials in consultation with the author(s). APA style preferred.

Thanks for assistance with this issue go to Diana Ritchie, Ellen Roberts, and Helen Shore.

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