



Charitable Status

HISTORY OF NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED

A B.C. History of Nursing Scholarship Fund has been established under the History of Nursing Group and has qualified for tax-exempt status as a registered charity under the Canada Income Tax Act. This means donations to the History of Nursing Scholarship Fund will be given a tax receipt and donors may claim that amount as a charitable donation on their income tax returns.

The HoN Group Executive approved in principle application for charitable status early this fall, but applications for tax-exempt status usually take six months to a year to obtain. Sheila Rankin Zerr, who serves as treasurer for the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, made the application on behalf of the group and the B.C. History of Nursing Group was granted tax-exempt status within six weeks.

To qualify, the History Group has had to name an independent Board of Trustees, who will administer the Trust Fund and report annually to Revenue Canada. The Board of Trustees will consist of the HoN Group's elected president, vice-president, and treasurer. All donations to the trust fund must be used entirely for scholarships; monies must not be used for operational expenses.

In applying for charitable status, the Group has filed trust documents describing

how the monies will be administered and awarded. The decision was made that monies will be deposited into interest-bearing securities until the fund reaches a sufficient size for the interest to be used for scholarships; once the interest reaches \$500 in any year, a scholarship will be awarded.

At the moment, all energies need to be directed into building up the trust fund. The History of Nursing Group's Memorial Doll Fund, developed by Sheila Zerr, will be the main fund-raiser at the moment, as money (\$500 for each doll) has already been pledged for five dolls. Money raised through sale of the Nursing Sister cards and at raffles at our annual meetings can also now be diverted into this trust fund. Other donations -- of any size -- directly into the fund will also be welcomed.

Once the fund is of a sufficient size to award scholarships, notices will be made through Nursing BC and through our Newsletter. Nurses registered in B.C. who are pursuing studies in History of Nursing will be eligible; candidates will be asked to submit a description of the course of studies and of the nursing history study plans. A selection committee will be appointed by the Board of Trustees to review the applications. If you wish to make a tax-exempt donation to the Fund, please get in touch with HoN Group Treasurer Nina Rumen.

*** NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ***

Brief items from meetings of the Executive Committee, Sept. 12, Oct. 1, and Nov. 3, 1992:

* Charitable Status: (See page 1.) The Executive Committee now is exploring the logistics of setting up the Board of Trustees, issuing tax receipts, and keeping the Trust Fund records. As well, executive members are continue to look for funding sources and ways to manage donations of artifacts.

* AAAAA Committee: Although the HoN Group does not intend to become a repository for nursing books, artifacts, and memorabilia, Group members are frequently asked to assist in disposal of items related to nursing history and sometimes must take items in order to protect these (e.g., the RNABC Library is being approached to see if it can take certain photographs related to meetings held in the 1950s). The Artifacts, Archives, And Associated Articles Committee (the 5 As) now meets under Past President Bev DuGas and is developing objectives to guide its work. The Executive asked this committee to draft a recommendation on storage of nursing history materials for submission to the RNABC annual meeting. If you would be interested in working with this committee, call Bev DuGas at 327-0602.

* Finances: Treasurer Nina Rumen reported at the Nov. 3 meeting that the Group has approximately \$737 in the bank, with another \$1,500 in a term deposit for the education/research fund. Sale of Nursing Sister cards has slowed, however.

* Membership: Membership forms for the 1993 membership year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31) are enclosed with this Newsletter (see also page 13).

* Meetings: The Group held meetings in Mission Sept. 12 and in Victoria (dinner) Oct. 1 (see page 12). Plans had been proposed for a meeting in Vancouver in November, but we were unable to get the desired speaker. A Vancouver get-together will be held February 6 (see page 15).

* Conference '93: All RNABC Professional Practice Groups, including the HoN Group, have been invited to participate in RNABC's Annual Conference by taking part in a 1 1/2-hour session in which we can describe the Group and its goals to those nurses attending the RNABC meeting. The History Group has agreed to participate.

* Biographical Committee: Chair Ethel Warbinek reported that this committee has been working on a form to collect information on well-known B.C. nurses that will serve as a data base for requests for information about deceased nurses. For example, the Group frequently is asked to supply information for the CNA's "In Memoriam" book and for obituaries. The four-page form developed by the Biographical Committee has also been reviewed by the Oral History Group and will be used to supplement data collected on the Oral History tapes. The Biographical Committee

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**** MORE NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ****

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is considering asking all members of the History Group to complete and submit these forms for our files to create the beginning of a data base.

* Nominations Committee: Vice President Ethel Warbinek will chair this committee to obtain nominations for the three elected positions that need to be filled at our April annual meeting. (See also page 4).

* Constitution and Bylaws: The revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws made last April at the Group's Annual Meeting did not meet with the approval of the RNABC Coordinator for Professional Practice Groups (PPGs) and so have not been approved by the RNABC's Board of Directors. RNABC has developed a special form for the Constitution and Bylaws of PPGs, and all new PPG constitutions or changes to existing constitutions now must be within this form. For example, under the RNABC Guidelines, each PPG must have a Secretary and a Treasurer (rather than a Secretary/Treasurer as was in the HoN Guidelines originally passed by RNABC's Board. There are other changes of the same type that must be made. The Executive has asked Vice-president Ethel Warbinek to decide whether we should submit an entirely new Constitution and Bylaws, based on the RNABC's Guidelines for PPGs, to the membership or whether we should continue to operate under the Constitution and Bylaws originally passed by the Group and approved in 1990 by the

RNABC Board. A final decision on this matter must be made by the membership.

* RNABC Program Planning: The Executive spends time at each of its meetings dealing with requests for information from the RNABC. Most recently PPGs have been asked to assist in determining program priorities for RNABC for 1993.

* HoN Group Annual Meeting: The Executive has started planning for the annual meeting. Mark your calendars now: Thursday, April 15, 1993 (during RNABC's annual meeting). Tentative plans are for the speaker to present from 7-8 pm, followed by the annual business meeting at 8:30 pm.

* Welcome! Any member who wishes to attend executive meetings would be most welcome. Please get in touch with President Helen Shore (731-9588). Date of the next meeting is Friday, Nov. 20, 2-5 pm. Another meeting likely will be held in mid-January.



**SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM
THE EXECUTIVE.**

**** NEWS * NEWS * NEWS * NEWS ****

**NEED A JOB? NOMINATIONS OPEN
FOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS!**

Nominations are open for positions on the History of Nursing Group Executive. Positions open this year for two-year terms will be Secretary/Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, and Member-at-Large. Vice-President Ethel Warbinek will be seeking members to serve on the Nominations Committee to prepare a slate to be elected at the Annual Meeting April 15.

The Executive Committee has discussed a proposal to separate the positions of Secretary and Treasurer; such an action would require a vote at the annual meeting. The work load for this position is increasing, however, especially with the work required for the Scholarship Trust Fund.

All members of the Executive have been asked to prepare job descriptions, which will assist the Nominations Committee as it seeks candidates.

The positions involve attending executive meetings (approximately 8-10 times a year, usually in conjunction with other Group events, such as speakers) and, in some cases, heading committees of members interested in some special area of the Group (such as the Biographical Committee or Nominations Committee). For those interested in History of Nursing, the meetings are a source of much fun and exchange of information.

If you would be interested in filling one of these positions, please get in touch with Vice-President Ethel Warbinek (538-5066).

HELEN MUSSALLEM, CC

Helen K. Mussallem, a HoN Group member, has recently been promoted within the Order of Canada to the rank of Companion (CC). Dr. Mussallem, former executive director of the Canadian Nurses Association and, recently, president of the Victorian Order of Nurses, was described at the ceremonies in Ottawa as "a nurse of the world." She received her new honor from Canada's Governor General at Government House in Ottawa.

Since retirement from CNA in 1981, Dr. Mussallem has continued to serve as consultant and advisor on nursing to groups such as the World Health Organization. A graduate and former director of nursing of the Vancouver General Hospital, Dr. Mussallem has maintained her links with B.C. throughout her career. Her promotion within the Order of Canada makes her one of only 150 living Canadians who may hold this distinction.

Dr. Mussallem was also honored recently by being invited to participate at a "Service-women's Salute," Dinner hosted at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa by the Associate Minister of National Defence. This tribute was organized in part in honor of Women's History Month (October).

**** MORE NEWS * MORE NEWS * MORE NEWS ****

ORAL HISTORY VOLUNTEER GROUP

The Oral History Volunteer Group, under Chair Sheila Zerr, has made excellent progress this month in completing all the details related to taped interviews and having the new tapes given to the RNABC Library. Ten tapes are in the process of being catalogued and will be available to interested listeners and researchers.

The new tapes include interviews with:

- Nina Rumen about her experiences in Canada's North with the Armed Forces (interviewed by Sheila Zerr).
- Beatrice Johnson Wood, one of the first three graduates of the UBC degree program in 1923, about work in the emergency and operating rooms at the Vancouver General and with the Victorian Order of Nurses in Montreal during the 1920s (interviewed by Sheila Zerr).
- E. (Fastley) Waddell about the very early children's hospital areas in Vancouver (interviewed by Diana Ritchie).
- Shirley Ego Kelly about military nursing experiences in the Korean War and mercy flights in the North from Churchill during the 1950s (interviewed by Nina Rumen).

At recent Oral History meetings, group members have worked through old tapes to identify themes so that tapes can be more accurately cross-indexed.



**MISSION
GET-TOGETHER
"GREAT DAY!"**

The September Get-Together -- to hear Betty Robertson, co-author of Mission's Living Memorials, review the history of Mission's hospitals -- was termed "a great day" by the Executive Committee.

Twelve members made the trip to Mission Memorial Hospital Saturday, Sept. 12, to hear Mrs. Robertson speak and show slides of some of the 77 photographs collected for the book. As well, an audience of about 40 people attended the presentation. The Executive took part in the presentation and described the role of the HoN Group.

The presentation was a preview of the book, which was published Oct. 24. Mrs. Robertson, a graduate of Calgary General, moved to Mission from New Westminster in 1969 and was a nursing supervisor for 17 years. Following her retirement in 1987, she became chair of the Mission Studies Group, a local historical society. Also taking part in the event were co-authors Betty Dandy, who teaches writing of local histories, and Claire Marcellus, who was involved with the restoration of the old hospital into a Memorial Centre.

Watch for the book review next issue!

**** BOOK REVIEWS *****

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: Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing, 1992. [Softcover, 93 pp.].

Reviewed by Sally Thorne

When the tattered and well travelled archives of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing (CAUSN) arrived at Queen's University in 1986, a small group of nurse historians decided to organize and catalogue all of the records and files. The eventual result was this book, launched in June 1992 to commemorate CAUSN's 50th anniversary year.

Within this modest volume, Kirkwood and Bouchard have constructed a fascinating documentary of a half century of university nursing in this country. Of great interest is the historical context within which nurse educators first began to organize themselves into a national body during the nursing shortage brought on by the Second World War. While nurses had made efforts to bring nursing programs into universities early in the century, the University of British Columbia was the first among a small handful to launch nursing programs by 1920. Ethel Johns, who had been UBC's first nursing Director, had been among the visionaries interested in creating a national body to further nursing education within university settings. Following CAUSN's inaugural

meeting in 1942, Miss Johns described the excitement of the event in The Canadian Nurse, saying that the enlightened leadership of Canadian university-based nursing programs had met to "take counsel with one another." An award recognizing the contributions of exceptional nursing education leaders in Canada was established in Miss Johns' honor in 1988. Its first recipient was the University of Victoria School of Nursing's late Director, Dorothy Kergin.

British Columbia's influence upon CAUSN's early years was also expressed in the person of Evelyn Mallory, then Director of the UBC School of Nursing, who was among CAUSN's first presidents (1948-1952). Other B.C. nurses to have held that role were Ruth Morrison (1956-1960), Beth McCann (1970-1972), and Dorothy Kergin (then at McMaster) (1976-1980). Thus, the history of CAUSN also encompasses a number of wonderful tidbits of information that will be especially useful to students of the history of nursing in B.C.

Based as it is on archival materials, the book tends to chronicle the various meetings and decisions that shaped CAUSN's development over a fascinating period in the history of nursing in Canada. In addition to the narrative description of what is known about that time, Kirkwood and Bouchard have included a range of useful lists (past executive members, dates at which new CAUSN members were admitted, recipients of honorary

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memberships). Since archives within Schools of Nursing are often quite sporadic, it is likely that the CAUSN records will provide some Schools with an awareness of the doings of their former leaders that might otherwise have been lost. Further, the book includes an excellent collection of photographs, especially of past presidents. For many readers, the photographs will help bring the personalities of these "famous names" to life.

Take Counsel with One Another will be of special interest to anyone with a fascination for the history of nursing and nursing education in Canada. Despite a great deal of factual information within a brief document, it is effectively written and delightful to read.

A copy is available through the RNABC Library. Additional copies may be obtained directly from the National CAUSN office. For information, call Jeannette Bouchard at (613) 563-1236 or FAX (613) 563-7739.

Mum and Me and TLC: Narratives of Nursing, co-authored/edited by Bernadette Keane, Rhonda Goodwin, and Jennifer Richmond. Bayswater, Melbourne, Australia: Short Run Books, 1992 [softcover, 191 pp., illus.]

A small group of nurses in Australia has created an extraordinary nursing history by gathering the stories of nurses and their nurse mothers (and, in one instance, a nurse

grandmother -- three generations of caregivers). The purpose of the book was to preserve the experiences and meaning that make up the fabric of nursing history. Instead of taping oral stories of "dowager nurses," however, the group decided to ask for written histories and have augmented them by notes included before and after the stories. The resulting collection from 11 families is an easy-to-read, interesting glimpse of nursing throughout the 1900s.

The stories provide an international picture of nursing as well as a view of Australian nursing. Several of the "dowager nurses" received their nursing education in Britain before moving to Australia, and the Goodwin family duo is Canadian, with mother Geraldine born in Manitoba and a graduate of Brandon General. She later moved to and nursed in B.C., and still lives here. Daughter Rhonda, a co-author/editor, graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital and nursed in various parts of Canada before moving to Australia.

A copy of the book can be borrowed from Glennis Zilm (535-3238).

RECOMMENDED READING

The Fourth Horseman: A Short History of Epidemics, Plagues, Famine and Other Scourges, by Andrew Nikiforuk. Toronto: Viking Press, 1991 (hardcover, 200 pp., illustrated, index)

This book is available through the RNABC Library. Andrew Nikiforuk will be guest speaker at the RNABC Convention in April.

*** REMINISCENCES OF A PIONEER NURSE ***

By Frances Stearns, RN (Ret'd)

This brief article is the opening part of an 11-page manuscript sent to RNABC President Inge Shamborski, who passed it along to the History of Nursing Group. Frances Pullman Stearns is now 93 and lives in Chase, B.C. She wrote the story of her nursing career for herself and her family, but decided others might also be interested. A copy of the full manuscript is available through the RNABC Library.

The year was 1923. In April I had applied to go in training as a nurse at St. Paul's School of Nursing, Saskatoon, Sask. My application was accepted in June. I was to report to the Superintendent of Nurses on August 20, bringing with me: three uniforms, six aprons (length six inches from the floor), six bibs, three collars similar to clerical ones, three stiff belts, three pairs of stiff cuffs, six cotton underskirts, three cotton and three flannel nightgowns, three pairs of black shoes, one dozen pairs of black stockings, six pairs of bloomers, three cotton and three wool undervests, two pairs of corsets, one kimono, two pairs of bedroom slippers, a watch, and twelve handkerchiefs. All these had to be marked with a printed cotton name tape sewn in by hand.

I arrived in the afternoon. The Superintendent took me directly to a twenty-bed dormitory where I met my fellow classmates. There were twenty of us. From the time we arrived until the lights out bell rang,

we were very busy girls, putting our uniforms, etc., away in our cupboards.

The next morning we eager beavers were up and dressed before the "Wakey, Wakey, Rise and Shine" bell rang. First prayers and then breakfast, after which we were told to meet the Superintendent in the Lecture Hall. There we were, twenty young ladies with smiling faces and sparkling eyes anxiously waiting to hear what we had to do on the first day of training. We soon learned what our duties were. I was put on second floor (female), which was Medical and Maternity and some Surgery.

My Supervisor was a third-year nurse, with a Sister over us all. My duties those first three months were emptying bed pans and sterilizing them, sweeping and dusting the wards; in private rooms there were scatter mats to shake. Patients' flowered plants had to be looked after daily. There were beds to be made and to be made perfectly -- mitred corners must be even. When patients were discharged or died, bed frames had to be carbolized. In a private ward there was a lot more to do.

If a patient had had a *staph* infection or infection of some other nature, when the patient left the ward was sealed. Cotton batting was put all around windows, doors and key hole. Before sealing the ... door, a Formaldehyde solution had to be put in a large basin and placed in the middle of the

ward. All utensils, sheets and blankets, towels, etc., were left in the ward. Then the bottom of the door was sealed and left for forty-eight hours. Lysol and Creolin Carbolic were disinfectants. We had to learn to use our heads, hands and feet and observe as we went along.

The hours were 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. -- if you had your work done. There were two hours off each day, one of them spent in Lecture Hall for practical demonstrations or theory by a Sister. We had lectures once a week by doctors on Hygiene, Public Health, Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Pediatrics, Pharmacology, Medicine, contagious and infectious diseases (such as Diphtheria Scarlet Fever, Smallpox, TB), Ear, Eye, Nose, and Throat and O.R. procedures. The doctors who lectured set the examinations; Registered Nurses exams did not come in until 1924. There was no TB Sanatorium in Saskatchewan until 1925, so TB patients were taken care of in local hospitals.

After three months probationary period we received our caps. The day following the capping ceremony we were assigned to a floor, be it Surgery, Maternity, Gynecology, Pediatrics, or Medical. We were each given seven to nine patients on whatever floor we were assigned to, and were responsible for medication, treatments and charts. All the responsibility in the world was placed on our young shoulders.

There were no sulpha or antibiotics or fancy equipment in those days. They were the days of Sinapisms (mustard plasters), camphorated oil, Murphy (Saline Solution)

drips, Interstitials, Dakin's Solution (a strong disinfectant) for compresses and irrigations, hot turpentine stupes (flannel for fomentations for abdominal distention from Peritonitis), soap suds enemas, 1/60 grain Strychnine subcutaneously, Camphor in oil, Luminal and Phenobarbital used mostly as a sleeping pill or to relieve tension, Digitalis, Aloin, Strychnine, Belladonna, Caster Oil, Magnesium Sulphate, iii grain tablets of Cascara, Caster Oil, Magnesium Sulphate or Phenolphthalein for bowels, molasses and milk enemas for flatulence. The latter were tricky to make; if it curdled you had to make another one. There were glass and metal catheters. Some hospitals did not allow nurses to use glass catheters, only doctors could use them, but we were taught how to use them.

Each year we spent two months straight on night duty, no hours or nights off during that period. Some nights we got very little to eat, as on nights for the two periods of night duty we had to cook our own meals. If you were busy you just ate on the run. It was a happy day for us when we were told that we would be going to the dining room for meals, as did all the nurses.

Our salary in training was \$8.00 the first year, \$10.00 the second year, and \$12.00 the third. The year 1924 the rate of pay was set at \$5.00/month through the three years. We were lucky, but we saw little of our pay as we had to pay for all our text books.

Excerpt used with permission of Frances Pullman Stearns, November 1992.

**** MORE NEWS * NEWS * NEWS ****

UPDATE FROM CAHN

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing will hold its annual conference in Ottawa June 6-8, 1993, immediately following the History of Medicine conference that will be held there as well. The main business of the meeting will address the huge archival task facing nursing historians today, especially how to ferret out and manage archival material. Lynn Kirkwood and Meryn Stuart are planning the session.

The keynote speaker proposed is Barbara Craig of York University, who has conducted a study of archival records of hospitals in Ontario and in London, England. All papers presented at this conference will be "invited papers"; there will be no call for papers as in the past.

-- Information from Sheila Zerr, CAHN

UPDATE FROM COUNCIL OF PPGs

Presidents (or their representatives) of the various Professional Practice Groups (PPGs) of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. meet about four times a year to discuss items of common concern and to hear of RNABC concerns. At the various meetings, held in the RNABC offices, are opportunities to meet with RNABC board members and staff.

Among items discussed at recent meetings:

* how to keep in touch with members scattered throughout the province. Some groups, such as the Gerontology Group, have subgroups in various centres throughout the province. Others rely mainly on newsletters. One suggestion was that groups should budget for long-distance telephone calls, especially if there are subgroups.

* Fees. These vary among PPGs and range from \$5 annually to \$40, with an average of \$15 (which just happens to be the HoN Group fee for 1993!).

-- Information from Ethel Warbinek

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

October was Women's History Month. Mary Collins, the federal minister responsible for the Status of Women, launched the idea of a "month" to help focus attention on achievements by women. October was selected to commemorate the "Persons Case" of 1929, when Canadian women took their concerns to the British Parliament (at that time the body responsible for the British North America Act) to overturn a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that women "were not persons" under the designation of the Act. The Supreme Court ruling meant women could not be eligible for various federal offices, including Senate positions.

Vancouver newspapers (and no doubt papers in other parts of the province) took
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up the challenge and during the month ran several stories on what the Vancouver Sun termed "the invisible past" where "behind every great man stand those ignored."

HoN Group President Helen Shore took the time to write to the Sun to remind them of the contributions of Emily Susan Patterson and Frances Redmond, two of Vancouver's earliest nurses. The Nursing Sister Frieze by Canadian sculptor Beatrice Lennie was also pictured with the article.

Nurses have made major contributions to history but even when it comes to "women's history" their contributions remain largely unknown and unacknowledged, Shore told the HoN Executive following the appearance of the article. "We have a major task ahead of us in gathering the stories of nurses and making them available."

The HoN Executive would like to remind members that Women's History Month will come again next year -- and it is now time to start getting the stories of other nurses ready.

QUOTE FOR TODAY

"People must know the past to understand the present and face the future."

-- Nellie McClung, Canadian author and women's rights advocate, 1935.

"RITUALS AND RESISTANCE"

By Ethel Warbinek

This is a review of a public lecture sponsored by the University of B.C.'s Centre for Research in Women's Studies.

On Sept. 15, four members of the History Group attended a presentation on "Rituals and Resistance: Nurses' Work in Canadian Hospitals, 1920-1939" by Kathryn McPherson, a history professor at York University, Toronto. McPherson studied work performed at the Winnipeg General Hospital in the 1920s and '30s by interviewing general staff nurses. She stated that, although nurses' practice had a scientific basis, as demonstrated by application of the germ theory of disease, this base differs from that of women in other sciences in that it did not generate scientific knowledge.

In fact, the knowledge used by nurses had an oppressive effect, as seen in the various "rituals" generated because of it. For example, the maintenance of asepsis generally was reduced to a series of steps. McPherson gave an example of 17 steps that had to be followed in the preparation of a subcutaneous injection, from the filling of the spoon with water to the final charting.

McPherson also discussed some positive reasons for the various rituals, such as the need for protection against communicable diseases (e.g., tuberculosis) and the fact that the rituals provided a clear definition of nurses jobs. McPherson also touched briefly on the caring done by nursing, noting this aspect of "woman's work" has been devalued.

**** MORE NEWS * NEWS * NEWS ****

Victoria Get-Together

DINNER/SPEAKER GREAT SUCCESS

The first "Victoria meeting" of the History of Nursing Group was a huge success. The meeting, held October 1, was organized by HoN members living in Victoria and it turned out to be a treat for the six "Mainland" members who could join the Victoria group for a dinner meeting at the University of Victoria Faculty Club (arranged courtesy of Marilyn Jackson and Mary Richmond).

Shirley Anderson and Mike Fraser, two individuals closely involved with the Nursing Archives of the old Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing (now part of the Greater Victoria Hospitals), were invited guests at the dinner. Their involvement was arranged by Kari Moore, who also contacted other Victoria members to take part. Honorary Life Member Monica Green was also on hand.

Among the Mainland visitors were Betty Robertson of Mission and Gwen Kavanagh of Kamloops as well as four members of the Executive Committee.

Following the dinner, the Group attended a public lecture at the University of Victoria to hear Historian Susan Reverby, director of Women's Studies at Wellesley College, Boston. The lecture, entitled "The Right to Care: Nurses and the Politics of Womanhood," reviewed nursing history of the early

1900s, with special emphasis on labor history. Dr. Reverby is author of the book Ordered to Care: The Dilemma of American Nursing 1850-1945 (Cambridge University Press, 1987) and several major articles relevant to nursing history research. Gwen Kavanagh also remained the following day to have an opportunity to hear Dr. Reverby in smaller group sessions.

The Victoria HoN Group members have now organized themselves into a small subgroup and have held another meeting. For more information about the Victoria subgroup, please get in touch with Kari Moore (361-9756).

NEW MEMBER LAUNCHES BOOK

New member **Mary White** is among the number of authors of nursing history books who are members of the B.C. HoN Group. Her new book, an autobiography concentrating mainly on her experiences with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps in World War II, was published in October. We hope to arrange a review in a forthcoming issue of the Newsletter.



**** IN MEMORIAM ****

"TORCHY" ADAMSON

Members heard with sorrow of the sudden death in late September of Grace Jean (Torchy) Adamson (nee Stewart). Torchy Adamson was an enthusiastic member of the Oral History Committee, although most B.C. nurses will remember her for her many contributions to the Alumnae of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing, of which she was a past president as well as long-time editor of the Newsletter. She was also involved in the preservation of School of Nursing artifacts and archives.

Born in Bassano, Alberta, in 1927, she was a graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital and University of B.C. Schools of Nursing (BAPS(N), 1951) and worked for the Victorian Order of Nurses until her marriage. A devoted wife and mother, she was active in many community organizations and was a member of the UBC Wesbrook Society and was honored by the Salvation Army for her efforts in their behalf.

She leaves her husband Jim, son James, and daughter Janet, as well as an extended group of family and friends.

BARBARA BAIRD GIBSON

Nurse historian Barbara Gibson died in Vancouver in late August 1992. A graduate of the Montreal General Hospital School of Nursing, Barbara served overseas with the

Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps from 1941-1946. She returned to B.C. and took her bachelor of arts and nursing degrees from the University of B.C., then a bachelor of library science. In her later career, she was a librarian at UBC as well as a teacher of history of nursing and medicine.

A keen student of the history of nursing, Barbara was working at her death on a book about Sister Gonzaga, one of the nurses who worked with Florence Nightingale in the Crimea. She leaves sons David and Ian and daughter Kate as well as three grandchildren.

BEATRICE JOHNSON WOOD

Bea Johnson Wood, one of the first three graduates of a degree program for nurses in Canada (1923) died early this fall at age 93. Born in Vancouver in 1899, she was one of three young women picked by Ethel Johns to enter the University of B.C. Nursing program when it first opened in 1919. She worked in the operating room and emergency departments at the Vancouver General and then in public health nursing for the Victorian Order of Nurses in Montreal. When she married Prof. Freddy Wood, she left her nursing career to raise a family, but remained active until her death in community and nursing volunteer work. Tapes on her career are available in the RNABC's oral history collection.

**** BITS AND PIECES ****

NOTES ON NEW MEMBERS

Karen Abbott is a Nurse Educator at the University College of the Cariboo. She writes that is is interested in writing a history of the Nursing Program at the Univesity College of the Cariboo and has started to organize the archives and collect missing elements. Karen has been working with Sheila Zerr to arraanage the first Mosby Competition with the students in her "Issues Course."

Lynn Kirkwood is a professor in the School of Nursing, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., and is active in the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing. She is a co-author of a history of

CAUSN (see page 6). Her note on the membership form reads:

"I am interested primarily in the history of nursing education, its relationships, contributions, etc., to the history of women's education. As well, am interested and involved in a research project about the employment patterns of graduate nurses during the depression."

Laurie MacKinnon is Betty Robertson's daughter and has long been interested in our group. A former nursing student of Mary Richmond, she remembers gaining an appreciation of history of nursing from Mary when she was a student nurse. She has attended several of our meetings and heard speakers and finally decided to join.

Mark your Calendars!

February Meeting!

**WAR AND CHARITY: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY
OF THE RED CROSS**

Guest Speaker: Dr. John Hutchinson
Professor of History, Simon Fraser University

Saturday, February 6, 1993, at 2:00 pm

University of British Columbia School of Nursing Faculty Lounge

A meeting of the History of Nursing Group will be held on Saturday, February 6, 1993, in the Faculty Lounge of the UBC School of Nursing.

(If you need directions on the location on on parking, please call Ethel Warbinek (538-5066) on the Friday before the lecture.)

Refreshments will be served.

Editorial

WHERE DO WE KEEP OUR HISTORY?

One of the most serious questions facing history of nursing groups in Canada today concerns repositories for historical materials. Where do we keep our nursing archives, artifacts, and "associated articles"? (5 As.) And how do we keep them so information is available to researchers and other users?

A 1990 study, sponsored by the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. and carried out by Archivist Consultant Laura Coles, recommended the RNABC keep only Association archival documents. The study recommended that the RNABC not develop an in-house archives. Furthermore, it recommended that the newly formed History of Nursing Professional Practice Group develop a record-keeping system and act as a liaison between possible donors and other repositories. Laura Coles also conducted, for RNABC, a survey of such B.C. repositories.

However, Group members find major problems exist: Where do we keep our history while we gather it, work at it, and make it available? What do we do with materials that those other repositories will not take but which are important to nursing's history? And how do we ensure that information about the location of important nursing historical information is available? These are the formidable tasks that our volunteer group must face in the coming year.

Collection of nursing history in B.C. is still in its "infant" stages -- and there needs to be additional support, perhaps on an inter-

im or temporary basis, for a place where information material can be kept -- and kept in a "retrievable" fashion.

For example, the History Group's Biographical Committee is ready to begin collecting biographies on notable B.C. nurses. However, collecting the biographies is not enough. They need to be indexed, stored, and made available for use. RNABC Library seems a logical place -- and we have made some initial approaches. Unfortunately, money, space, and human resources in the RNABC Library are also limited. We may need to approach the RNABC Board to see if such Library support will be available.

"Women's History Month" helped focus attention on the fact that women's history is largely "invisible." Because women's history has not been recorded and because women's archives and artifacts have not been preserved, historians -- or even newspaper reporters -- find it next to impossible to bring that history into today's world. The history is there, but not easily accessible. We need to be certain that nursing history does not suffer that same fate.

-- *Glennis Zilm*

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Editor: Glennis Zilm

2606 Bayview, Surrey, B.C. V4A 2E4 Tel. 535-3238
