

◆HISTORY OF NURSING NEWS◆

Volume 7, Issue 2

June 1996

CALL FOR ARTICLES

History of Nursing News wants to begin to publish articles in one issue each year. This is a call for articles for the fall issue.

HoN News welcomes submissions for the fall issue related to aspects of history of nursing in British Columbia for consideration for publication. Such submissions may be:

- ♦ articles related to historical research projects completed or currently underway
- ♦ biographical articles on nurses who have made contributions to health care in B.C.
- ♦ anecdotes and personal reminiscences.

Deadline date is August 31, 1996.

Articles should be limited to 1,500 words (5-6 manuscript pages maximum, including references). All manuscripts should be submitted typed on white, 8.5" x 11" paper, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Reference style is left to the author, but references must be complete.

Full-length articles will be peer reviewed. Please submit three copies of the manuscript. Name(s) of the author(s) should be on the cover sheet of one copy only; the other two copies will be sent to reviewers for blind review and should not contain identifying information.

If you work on a computer, you may also submit a 3.5 inch disk

containing the manuscript as well as the hard copy; the file should be submitted in ASCII format.

Short items for this special issue are also welcome, as are reviews of new books (maximum 750 words) related to history of nursing.

VISIT TO RIVERVIEW

A special "program meeting" of the B.C. History of Nursing Group has been set for **Riverview Hospital** on Saturday, September 21, 1996. This meeting is open to all HoN Group members. The program will be hosted by *Anna Tremere*, a member of the B.C. History of Nursing Group and chair of the archival committee for **Riverview Hospital**.

In 1904, 1,000 acres of land on the Fraser River east of New Westminster were set aside by the provincial government for a model mental health institution. The **Hospital for the Mind** at Mount Coquitlam -- later known as **Essondale** and later still as **Riverview Hospital** -- opened in 1913. Since that time, this facility, which once housed nearly 5,000 patients, has been the

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**Visit to
Riverview
Hospital
Archives
planned for
September**

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"cornerstone" for mental health care in B.C.

Recently, however, new plans have been suggested for the area. By 2002, the old structures at Riverview are to be replaced by a new 358-bed tertiary-care psychiatric hospital for patients from the Lower Mainland area. The facility is to be one of four regional placement hospitals throughout the province that will form part of the "closer to home" treatment and rehabilitation program.

A planning process to determine the future of Riverview Lands and Buildings not planned as part of the new Hospital has been set up under an independent team led by the Spaxman Consulting Group. The planning process has already begun, with advisory committees already established and some public meetings held. The future of the lands and the 61 buildings will be decided by early Spring of 1997.

Mrs. Tremere has established an archival center in one of the older buildings and has been collecting records, documents, photographs, and artifacts related to the history of Riverview Hospital. She and her committee have amassed quite a collection during the recent downsizing and bed closures at the hospital. Mrs. Tremere has served as a consultant to the initial planning process to make the team aware of the historical value of the building and lands. She is preparing a pictorial history of Riverview, and is working on a history of psychiatric nursing in the province.

Mark your calendars now for the trip to the Riverview Archives! Further information on the meeting

times and location (and maps) will be sent to all members in early September so that car pooling can be arranged.

Submitted by Glennis Zilm

Nurses Make the News!

Helen Niskala, nominated as an honorary member of the Western Region Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing, received the award at the Annual Conference, held in Edmonton in February.

Verna Huffman Splane and Richard B. Splane received UBC's first joint honorary doctorate on May 31, 1996 in Vancouver.

Muriel Down, a long time member of the History Group, was a candidate in West Vancouver Garibaldi for the B.C. Conservative Party in the recent B.C. provincial election. She got 61 votes. An active member of the Conservative party since 1954, she has filled almost every position in the organization except that of an elected member of the government.

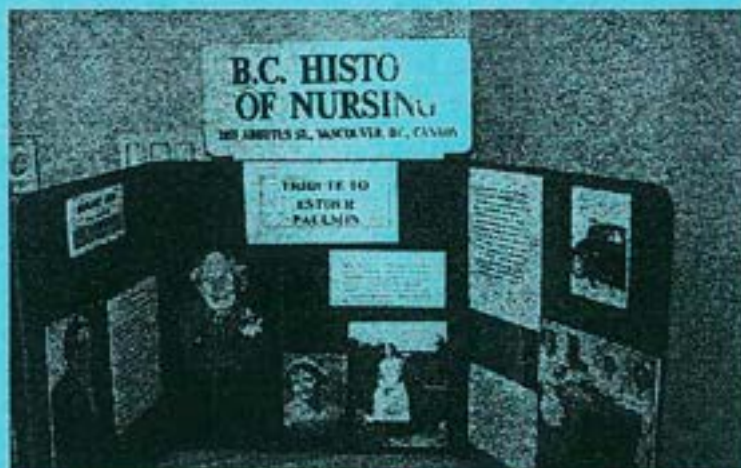
In discussing her political aspirations with Nina Rumen, Muriel says "I have been an apprentice all these years and now at the age of 70 it's time to start a new chapter". She plans to run and to win a seat in the next provincial election.

Margaret Neylan, former RNABC president, has been named winner of the Jeanne Mance Award, CNA's highest nursing honor presented to Canadian nurses who have made a significant contribution to health care and have had a major impact on nursing.

HISTORY OF NURSING ANNUAL MEETING

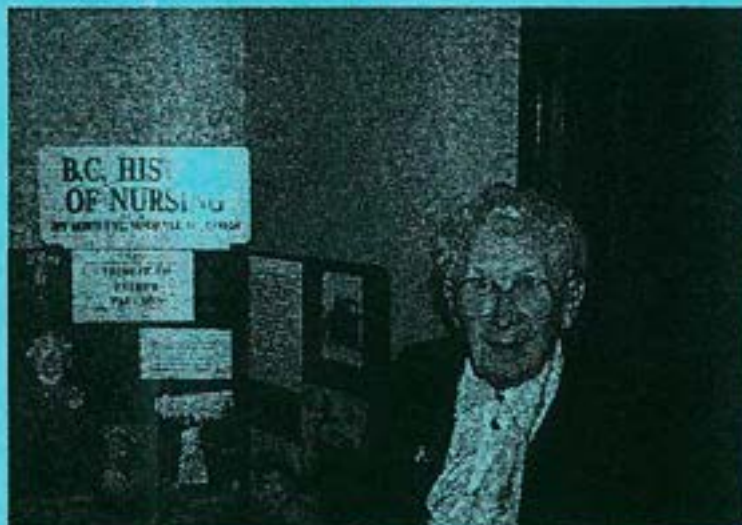
The 6th Annual General Meeting of the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group was held in conjunction with the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia's annual meeting on April 11th in Vancouver, B.C. Following a delicious continental breakfast the 20 members present had an opportunity to visit and enjoy the attractive and informative displays arranged by our Vice-President, *Lynne Esson* and members *Glennis Zilm* and *Edith Lees*.

A tribute to *Esther Paulson* (pictured below) was displayed in celebration of her 90th birthday and honoring her invaluable contribution to tuberculosis care in B.C. This display also contained a picture and write-up, seen to the left in the photo below, on *Margaret Kerr*, our 1996 nominee for the Canadian Nurses Association Memorial book.



A tribute to
Esther
Paulson

A close-up photo of Esther, who is an inspiration to us all, shows that she doesn't look a day over 80!



Following approval and correction of the minutes from the 1995 annual meeting the members heard reports from the executive, chairs of committees, and project leaders. Highlights are shown in the boxes below:

Membership

- ⇒ We have 62 members, a slight decrease from last year.
- ⇒ The application for membership brochure is being revised.
- ⇒ The HoN membership list is being prepared for mailing.

Memorial Portraits in Miniature

- ⇒ Two new miniatures were added this past year.
- ⇒ The collections was on display at VGH.
- ⇒ A process is being developed for awarding the first scholarship this Fall.

Biographical Committee

- ⇒ Seven new files have been added, making a total of 30 files.
- ⇒ *Margaret Kerr's* name was submitted for inclusion in the CNA Memorial Book.
- ⇒ Criteria for nominations and selection for the RNABC Memorial Book have been completed.

International Conference

- ⇒ Abstracts have been received from many countries.
- ⇒ Work is underway on the preliminary program.
- ⇒ Hotel and other arrangements are proceeding smoothly.

Newsletter

- ⇒ Four newsletters, two notices of meetings and a "Special Edition" were produced in 1995.
- ⇒ The newsletter Committee mapped the focus and themes for the Newsletters for the 1996/97 years.

Finance Committee

- ⇒ The financial books have been audited and found to be in order.
- ⇒ A proposed budget for 1996 (see page 5) was presented and approved.



Don Ransom, Treasurer, and Helen Shore, past president are seen in the photo to the left. Helen presented the nominations for the executive for 1996:

- ⇒ President: *Ethel Warbinek*
- ⇒ Vice-President: *Lynne Esson*
- ⇒ Member at Large (2yrs) *Jill Thompson*
- ⇒ Member at Large (1 year) *Janet Gormick.*

B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GROUP PROPOSED BUDGET 1996				
REVENUE	1994 Actual	1995 Budget	1995 Actual	1996 Budget
Grant	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Memberships	1130.00	1600.00	1440.00	1600.00
Donations	126.80	—	5.00	—
Interest	88.06	—	8.30	—
Note Cards	1035.80	1000.00	842.99	1000.00
Total	2380.66	3100.00	2796.29	3100.00
EXPENSES				
Stationary	109.93	300.00	157.79	200.00
Postage/Fax	212.06	175.00	492.57	700.00
Photocopying	201.82	175.00	523.70	600.00
Meetings	143.32	500.00	153.70	200.00
Honorarium	201.00	—	100.00	200.00
Miniatures	150.00	—	45.00	200.00
Newsletter	334.61	950.00	—	—
Tapes	15.70	—	—	—
Bank Charges	—	—	14.36	—
Miscellaneous	—	1000.00	**2039.96	1000.00
Total	1368.44	3100.00	3526.45	3100.00

1. Bank Balance December 31, 1995 was \$1871.21. Note that the \$500.00 Grant from RNABC has not yet been received. Other assets include a \$1500.00 B.C. bond.

2. Scholarship Fund Balance December 31, 1995 was \$7030.15

3. Committee and newsletter expenses have been incorporated into the overall budget.

4. Under miscellaneous items for 1995 the **\$2039.96 included a \$1500.00 loan support the International History of Nursing Conference in 1997.

Treasurer: Donald Ransom

Following the presentation of the budget and the report of the nominations committee, outgoing members of the executive were recognized. *Helen Niskala*, chairperson of the Biographical Committee and *Beth Fitzpatrick*, Vice-president were given recognition certificates. Members then had the chance to socialize and view the displays.



Janet Gormick, newly appointed chair of the Biographical Committee, is seen here on the left, chatting with *Edith Lees* about her recently published book *The Military Nurses of Canada*. *Edith* provided an interesting display at the annual meeting, including historical photographs. Watch for a review of *Edith's* book in an upcoming issue of the *History of Nursing News*.

Ethel Warbinek, President, and *Glennis Zilm* are shown in the photo on the right. Members at the Annual meeting felt that several scheduled events during the year would encourage membership and *Glennis* has agreed to take on this task. Please send her your ideas.



The meeting concluded with the drawing of the door prizes: *Janet Gormick* and *Anne Karl* both won copies of *Edith Lee's* book *The Military Nurses of Canada* and a poster celebrating International Nurses Week was won by *Helen Shore*.

As I Recall.....

In the past year the editor of History of Nursing News has had many opportunities to correspond with *Esther Paulson* about a variety of topics and concerns. Here are some excerpts from *Esther's* letters which capture her recollections of people, places and events.

I wrote to *Esther* to see if she had any information on **Chatham House Private Hospital**, my place of birth. She writes: "Yes, I remember when the hospital was in full swing and have seen the house on numerous occasions. It is still there on 16th Avenue between Granville and Oak. Chatham House was a well run, well respected institution. They handled obstetrics, tonsils and other minor surgery as well as medical patients.

Miss Mirfield was the owner/operator—a dignified English woman, very professional and a member on the **Board of Directors of the RNABC**. I first met her through that source in the autumn of 1934 when to my surprise I was appointed to the **Board**.

At that time I was involved with a special committee set up to explore the possibility of a comprehensive Nursing Registry. The **Canadian Nurses Association** was proposing a trial project and \$2,000 for any provincial association that was willing to set up a Registry. B.C. decided to be cautious, hence the committee was formed to investigate all angles, the financial cost, and so forth.

There I was—a young grad, just

having completed the certificate Public Health nursing course at UBC and no job!!! It was the depression era. *Miss Fairley* was president of the **Registered Nurses Association** and other members were *Mabel Grey*, *Margaret Kerr*, *Miss Randal* of course and *Miss Mirfield*. They were all very kind and helpful to me and tried to make me feel comfortable and less intimidated!"

In another letter, written on November 27, 1995 *Esther* says "Thank you for sending *Helen Mussallem's* nice note to me. I was thrilled to hear from her, she was a longtime colleague on the **RN-ABC Board**. I am so glad I can still be useful, at least on topics from the past. Speaking of the past—today is the 60th anniversary of my arrival in Cranbrook, the first public health nurse/social worker combined for the East Kootenay district. I arrived after two nights and a day of train sickness on the Kettle Valley railroad! It was with the newly formed Welfare Field Service, set up by the Provincial Health and the Social Welfare Departments—it doesn't seem like 60 years since then and many of the problems of then are still around and worse today. The past has much to give the present and some very interesting links come to light with the passing years."

Thank you, *Esther*, for filling in our information gaps and helping us to recognize the historical links!

"The past has much to give the present and some very interesting links come to light with the passing years."

In Memoriam

Virginia Avenel Henderson died at the age of 98 on March 19, 1996 at Connecticut Hospice in Branford. Private funeral services were held in her family home of Forest, Virginia and a memorial service was held at Yale University on May 6 on National Nurses Day.



Photo by Mr. Akihiko Otsuka

Miss Henderson was known as the modern-day mother of American nursing and nursing worldwide. She did more than any other nursing leader in this century to move nursing from its relegated role as "physician's handmaiden" to a respected profession based on the science and the art of caring. Her texts, Principles and Practice of Nursing (six editions), Basic Principles of Nursing, and The Nature of Nursing were the first to emphasize

science and theory as the basis of nursing practice and transformed nursing from the routine carrying out of doctor's orders to a science-based practice discipline in its own right. Her definition of nursing has been adopted worldwide and, to this day, provides the foundation for the clinical standards and policies of many major nursing organizations around the world, including the American Nurses Association and the International Council of Nurses. It is so well known that people do not realize that it had a time and an origin.

The unique function of the nurse is to assist the individual, sick or well, in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to a peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge. It is likewise the function of nurses to help people gain independence as rapidly as possible."

From: Principles and Practice of Nursing, Sixth Edition, Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1978, p.34

Miss Henderson is also credited with the development of the Nursing Studies Index which was the first major classification system developed for the scientific nursing literature. Her project, which indexed sixty years of nursing literature, was the first to facilitate parallel searches within both the nursing and medical literature by subject. As a result of this project, she became a highly respected consultant to the National Library of Medicine, once

Virginia Henderson, the 20th Century's Florence Nightingale dies at age 98.

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again elevating nursing in the public's eye.

The overall impact of *Miss Henderson's* work was to promote data-based studies of nursing practice (rather than studies of nurses) and to keep the focus of nursing on the provision of knowledge and care to assist the patient to gain independence as rapidly as possible. Her recent writings emphasized her beliefs in health care as a right, advocacy of publicly financed, universal health care systems; the need to turn medical records over to patients and to eliminate the health care jargon; the important role of hospice at the end of life; and the necessity for collaborative relationships among the health profession—issues which are at the heart of health care reform.

Miss Henderson was a Senior Research Associate at Yale University School of Nursing before she retired to become a sought-after speaker and participant in conferences and seminars around the world. She formerly taught at Columbia University's Teacher's College, where she completed her post-basic program in 1932 and earned her master's degree in 1934.

Miss Henderson received 10 honorary degrees from prestigious universities and was the first recipient (1985) of the Christianne Reimann Prize from the International Council of Nurses. She was an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Nursing, the American Academy of Nursing and an honorary member of the Japanese Nursing Association and the Irish Nursing Organization as well as having

numerous other honors from around the world bestowed upon her.

Miss Henderson spent the last four decades of her career and life at Yale. She will forever be remembered as "Every Nurse", the "American Florence Nightingale" and "the world's most beloved nurse." Her passing marks the end of an era in nursing leadership but she leaves a rich legacy for nurses to follow.

Those wishing to honor her may contribute to the **Virginia Henderson Fund**, established at the Yale School of Nursing in 1993, at *Miss Henderson's* request, to support initiatives dedicated to furthering the principles of her work. Contributions may be sent to:

- ♦ Yale School of Nursing
- ♦ 100 Church Street South
- ♦ P.O. Box 9740, New Haven
- ♦ Connecticut 06536-0740

Information on *Miss Henderson* courtesy of Pat McCormick, Administrative Associate, Office of the Dean, Yale University School of Nursing.



Alberta Registered Nurses Educational Trust Establishes Scholarship Fund

Donations in memory of *Virginia Henderson* are now being accepted by the **Alberta Registered Nurses Educational Trust**. An endowment of \$10,000 will ensure a scholarship in *Miss Henderson's* name. Contributions are tax-deductible and cheques can be made to:

ARN Educational Trust
11620 168 Street
Edmonton Alberta T5M 4A6

Nursing History News Across Canada

Alberta

In April 1996, a third provincial directory of Canadian nursing archival materials was published. Prepared by *Lorraine Mychajlunow* and *Sharon Richardson*, the **Directory of Nursing Archival Resources in Alberta** is an important tool for historical research. The first Canadian nursing archival directory was the RNABC's 1990 Survey of Nursing History Materials in British Columbia, followed in 1993 by *A Guide to Nursing Historical Materials in Ontario*. A fourth directory is being prepared in New Brunswick.

Site visits were made to approximately 140 Alberta agencies and a laptop computer with appropriate software was used to collect information during site visits. The financial support for the project made it possible to distribute copies of the **Directory** without charge to a variety of agencies, schools of nursing and individual nurse historians.

Interested readers may request free copies of the **Directory** by writing to:

Lorraine Mychajlunow, Archivist,
Alberta Association of Registered Nurses

11620 - 168 Street

Edmonton, AB, T5M 4A6

Source: *CAHN Newsletter*, V9, #1

British Columbia

The University of British Columbia School of Nursing archival collection has been

accepted by Special Collections, UBC Library. The collection includes items dating back to the early 1920's and documents about the plans for the UBC Health Sciences Centre Hospital—circa 1960's.

Source: *Nurses' News*, March 1996, page 5

New Brunswick

Arlee Hoyt McGee, a nurse historian and archivist at the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) writes a column for every issue of the Association's publication, Info Nursing (comparable to the B.C. Nurse). In the March/April 1996 issue she describes the

Nursing History Resource Centre, located on the first level of NABN's headquarters. In it is a portrait of Jeanne Mance, a letter written by Florence Nightingale, a collection of nurses caps and pins as well as rows of books and reports and accounts of nurses personal and professional lives.

McGee describes the center as a "connecting link between nurses of the past and the present. Sources in the **Nursing History Resource Centre** not only shed insight on developments in nursing but they provide a more complete picture of what nurses have and can overcome. By giving a voice to nurses of the past, we strengthen the image of nurses in the present."

Source: *Info Nursing*, V27, #2



SAVE THESE DATES!

September 21, 1996, History of Nursing Meeting and Special Program, A Visit to the Riverview Archives. Watch for the flier announcing times, program, and directions.

October 11-13, 1996. American Association for the History of Nursing Thirteenth Annual Conference, Cleveland Ohio

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

**HISTORY OF NURSING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GROUP OF
THE REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

The History of Nursing Professional Practice Group provides a forum for those interested in the history of nursing to exchange ideas and information. The Group, formed in 1990, strives to stimulate interest in history of nursing and promotes study of and research into history of nursing in British Columbia. The Group also encourages the teaching of nursing history in educational programs and can assist in the preservation of historical nursing materials.



Membership categories are honorary, full, affiliate and student. If you would be interested in joining us, please get in touch with any member of the executive. Full (voting) Members must be paid-up practicing or non-practicing members of RNABC. Non-nurses may join as Affiliate Members. Student Members must be enrolled in a nursing education program or be Registered Nurses enrolled in a graduate program.

Dues for 1996 are: Full and Affiliate \$20; Students \$5. Membership year is January 1 to December 31. Send name, address, telephone number, and RNABC registration number or name of the educational program. Make cheques to "History of Nursing Group" and send to: Anne Karl, Membership Coordinator, #1-2880 West 33rd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V2C 1N7.

THE HISTORY GROUP'S NEWSLETTER

The History of Nursing News is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia. Unsolicited material is welcome, but the Editor reserves the right to shorten, reject, or edit materials in consultation with the author(s). APA style preferred. Editor Beth Fitzpatrick, Box 444, Brackendale, B.C. V0N 1H0 1-604-898-3156

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