

HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL NEWS

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SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

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Department of Nursing Service

The Front Line of Patient Care

The hospital nurse is like the front-line soldier in an army: both require extensive supportive services but in the final analysis are judged by their own performances. Training is the key to good performance in both instances and, under the direction of Sister Helen Marie, C.S.C., the Department of Nursing Service at Holy Cross Hospital has earned an enviable reputation for skillful and compassionate care of the sick.

There is little doubt of the need for good supportive services—dietary, housekeeping, maintenance, engineering, X-ray, laboratory, pharmacy, physical medicine, etc., to enable the nursing service to do its best. Mrs. Jeanette Robinson, R.N., Assistant Director of Nursing makes that point clear. An example she cites is the use of unit secretaries on the nursing floors, freeing the nursing personnel from time-consuming paper work that would inevitably detract from their primary mission—patient care.

During her 17 years as an R.N., Mrs. Robinson believes that the trend toward freeing nurses from administrative and other non-nursing duties has contributed substantially to the general improvement in quality of care provided in hospitals.

Staffing is the biggest problem the Nursing Service experiences—but it is a problem that plagues every hospital throughout the country since there has long been a nationwide shortage of skilled, qualified nursing personnel.

As a result, Holy Cross, like most other hospitals, has had to rely heavily on part-time nursing personnel to round out its staff. At present

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Mrs. Jeanette Robinson, R.N., Assistant Director, and Sister Helen Marie, C.S.C., Director of Nursing Services, during a typical morning in the Nursing Service Office.

Fund Drive Tops \$500,000 Mark

"We are going to keep going until we change the '5' into at least a '6,'" said C. Edwin Kline, General Co-Chairman of the Expansion Fund Appeal, recently.

The "5" referred to the \$500,000 achieved early in June, and the "6" is the Expansion Fund Goal of \$600,000.

Mr. Kline said a special effort is being made to secure 100% participation from the Hospital Family and other groups.

Employees should contact the Personnel Office for pledge cards or information. Other donors are urged to contact the Expansion Fund Office at the Hospital for pledge cards, information about Memorial Oppor-

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Holy Cross Set For Medicare

Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring was one of the first nine hospitals in Maryland to qualify as a participating hospital in the Federal Medicare program.

In a ceremony in the State Office Building in Baltimore on June 1, Sister M. Laurencita, C.S.C., Administrator of Holy Cross, signed official agreements with the Social Security Administration.

Witnessing the ceremony was Dr. William J. Peeples, State Health Commissioner, who certified that the hospital met the standards required for participation in the Medicare program.



Sister M. Laurencita, CSC, signs official agreements for the hospital to participate in the Federal Medicare program. At left is Mr. M. D. Dewberry, Regional Assistant Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. At right is Mr. John P. Moore, General Counsel of the Hospital and Chairman of the Hospital's Lay Advisory Board.

Immunization Program

The Personnel Health Office will soon begin a program of Tetanus Toxoid Immunization for employees at a nominal charge of 50 cents. Notices will be sent to all departments advising of the time and date for the program.

Nurses Accept Mission Challenge

The Fourth Floor in particular and the Hospital in general will miss two popular R.N.'s who will soon be en route to Guatemala to work in a mountain hospital during a six month leave of absence.

Miss Kathleen Weaver, R.N., and Miss Margaret Finan, R.N., who have been staff nurses at Holy Cross Hospital for two years, will work as lay nurse-missionaries at a Maryknoll hospital located in Huehuetenango Province. Their journey is being sponsored by the Rev. Richard O'Kane of Richmond, Virginia, who is working through the Catholic Medical Mission Board of New York.

The nurses duties will include helping to teach, acting as public health nurses, and taking care of hospitalized patients. Both have been brushing up on their Spanish and hope to greatly improve their conversational skills in that language.

The hospital is located well outside of Guatemala City and is reached by unpaved roads, thus the nurses will be dependent on their horseback riding skills for the six hour journey.

Both said correspondence from their many friends at Holy Cross will be appreciated and their new address will be available at the Fourth Floor nursing station.



Miss Kathleen Weaver, R.N., (standing) and Miss Margaret Finan, R.N., seated next to Miss Weaver, at their Fourth Floor station.



Sister Mildred Louise, CSC, (at left) and Sister Helen Marie, CSC, are shown cutting the cake during a surprise party in their honor commemorating their Silver Jubilee Anniversary in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Student Nurses To Work This Summer

The Department of Nursing Service has announced a summer employment program for student nurses that will assist the students in their professional development while relieving the problem of scheduling necessary personnel during the summer vacation period.

The students from area colleges and schools of nursing will work as technicians and nurse aides.

The students and the schools they attend are: Clare Willging, Mary Hanna and Mary Dobrowski, all of Catholic University; Kathleen O'Donovan and Mary Howe, both of Georgetown University; Louise Gorman, St. Joseph College, Emmitsburg, Md.; Elizabeth Macelhose, Roanoke College, Salem, Va.; Robin Graham, Duke University; Joan Daly, Cornell University; Mary Ann Tomassula, Diane Usilton, and Ellen Heydt, all of St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore; Roberta West, University of Maryland; and Sheila James and Mary Ann Sartaen, both of De Paul Hospital, Norfolk.

A special orientation program has been devised for Junior Volunteers who have been engaged by the Nursing Service to substitute for nurse aides taking vacations during June, July and August.

The Junior Volunteers are: Debra Umphries, Chere Redner, Karen Harper, Carol Wasson, Susan Thomas, Linda Sparks, Barbara Miller, Marsha Starr and Sara Coner.

Life Insurance Rate Reduced

All employees covered under the Group life insurance program this month enjoyed the benefit of a 40% reduction in premium which was passed on by the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross as an additional fringe benefit.

At Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring, the first \$1,000 of insurance is provided without cost to the employee. Additional coverage is available to the employee with the Hospital paying about half the additional premium and the employee paying the other half, amounting to 50 cents per thousand dollars of insurance. Under the reduced rate, the employee cost will be 30 cents per thousand.

Also reduced was the rate charged for supplemental coverage, available to employees after two years of full-time employment. This rate was reduced from 68 cents per thousand to 64 cents per thousand.

Committee Plans Night at Theatre

The Employees' Activities Committee will sponsor a Theatre Party at Shady Grove, Saturday, July 16, 1966 at 8:30 P.M. for *How to Succeed in Business Without Trying*.

Tickets will be available from members of your Employees Activities Committee and further details will be posted regarding price, and other particulars.

The Employees Activities Committee has arranged to buy tickets from Shady Grove for individual shows during the season on a 20% discount. This is for employees and their families. No more than six tickets will be allowed to an individual employee. Tickets will be available from Miss Ellen Helfgott, Admitting Office, extension 361, and Mrs. Marge Turner, Medical Staff Office, extension 226. The 20% discount will be given for shows on Tuesday (top price only), Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday, and Thursday Matinee.

If we can succeed with either of the above projects, this can be a continuing seasonal advantage for the employees.

Outpatient Clinic In New Location

Holy Cross Hospital's outpatient clinic opened in new quarters on the ground floor level earlier this month. The move from the area adjacent to the Emergency Department greatly relieved congestion resulting from the two services being so close together.

Under the Administrative direction of Mr. Richard Beauchamp, Mrs. Evelyn Knapp, R.N., serves as the area supervisor for both clinics and Personnel Health Services. Two nurses, one aide and two social service assistants staff this area five days a week.

Dr. Sydney Leventhal, Chairman, Department of General Practice is also Chairman of the Outpatient Committee of the Medical and Dental Staff and is the Clinic's Medical Director.

During 1965, the clinic recorded 1,833 employee visits and 1,490 patient visits.

Medical, Surgical, Pediatric, Gynecological, and Obstetrical Services are available in the Clinic. A dental Clinic for handicapped children is under the direction of James McCarron, D.D.S.

Medically indigent patients are referred to the Clinic by physicians and by the Montgomery County Health Department.

The Maintenance Department, headed by John Macfarlane and the Engineering Department, headed by Ronald Wallace, constructed the clinic quarters doing an excellent job and utilizing multi-colored panels for interior walls.

Personal Notes . . .

Our sympathy to Dale Koch on the loss of her mother . . . Frank Slahetka our Chief Medical Technologist is President-elect of the D. C. Society of Medical Technologists. Congratulations! . . . A new home for Robert Reilly, Blood Bank, and his family in Randolph Hills . . . A new apartment for Cherie Caulk, Barbara Kelly and Jeanne Mazzullo . . . Georgia Shull was married June 11 to George



Mrs. Charlotte Beck, RN, seated, and Mrs. Viola Sweezy, Nurse Aide, welcome two nursing students to the new Outpatient Clinic. The students, Miss Elizabeth Macelhose (left) and Miss Mary Howe, will work as Aides in the Hospital this summer.



A heat therapy lamp gets all the attention as Mrs. Catherine Cannizzaro, R.N. (center) takes nursing students Miss Louise Gorman (left) and Miss Clare Wiling on a tour of the new Outpatient Clinic. Mrs. Cannizzaro is Inservice Education Coordinator.

Alexander. A reception was held at the Bethesda Naval Officers Club after the wedding . . . Janet Edmiston and Pat Sullivan decided to spend a weekend at Ocean City. They picked the rainy weekend that Hurricane Alma visited Ocean City. The water was only up to the boardwalk however . . . Levi Miller spent his vacation in Mexico during which time he took several examinations for placement in the University of Guadalajara. Levi says Mexico will never be the same! Sister Marie Florence

spent her vacation in San Francisco and says every one should spend some time in this beautiful city . . . Miss Kathleen Doran has returned to Holy Cross Hospital for the summer and is assigned to the Admitting Department. She will return to Indiana University in the fall . . . Mrs. Edna Burleigh, Outpatient Clinic, is recuperating from a recent operation and will return to work after about four weeks of recuperation . . . Mrs. Margaret Gallagher, Dietary, is recuperating from a recent operation.

The Front Line of Patient Care (Cont'd.)



Mrs. Faith Speigle, R.N., Head Nurse, Fifth Floor, moves down the corridor with the medicine tray. Miss Shelia Corso, R.N., (left) and Mrs. Kay Popp, R.N., Sixth Floor, catch up on record-keeping. Mrs. Mary Kendrick, (foreground) and Mrs. Emma Aiken, Nurse Aides on the Sixth Floor, check their supplies.



Premature babies get a good start in life as a result of the special care made possible by this device, an Intensive Care Isolette, which enables environmental control of temperature and humidity. Miss Clara San Juan, RN, is shown with the infant in the newborn nursery.

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the staff numbers 82 full-time and 92 part-time R.N.'s.

In addition to the 174 R.N.'s, the Nursing Service staff is composed of 70 full-time Nurse Aides; 20 full-time L.P.N.'s; 26 full-time and 6 part-time technicians; 33 unit secretaries; and three orderlies.

By affiliation with Catholic University, student nurses have had the benefit of experience at Holy Cross during the past year. Next fall it is hoped that this program of affiliation will be extended to Montgomery Junior College which is planning an Associate Degree Program in its nursing curriculum.

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tunities available or other Expansion Fund matters. It is located in the Activity Room on the Ground Floor.

"I hope each one of our readers will accept the challenge to complete this task," Mr. Kline concluded. "With the inspiration and prayers of the Sisters supporting the active work of our Committee, I am confident that new and increased pledges will be forthcoming, so that we can report "success" in the near future."

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Rev. Richard Burton, Chaplain of Holy Cross Hospital, was on retreat during the preparation of this Newsletter and unable to prepare the Chaplain's Corner Column. This feature will be resumed in the next issue.



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