



### ANNUAL MEETING -- APRIL 15th, 1993

Annual Meeting of the History of Nursing Group

Thursday, April 15, 1993, at 7:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver  
(in conjunction with the RNABC Annual Meeting)

#### SPEAKER: IRENE GOLDSTONE

#### Nursing's Responses to Epidemics: Lessons from History

Irene Goldstone, Director of Professional Education and Care Evaluation, B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, will be guest speaker at the Annual Meeting of the B.C. History of Nursing Professional Practice Group. The meeting will open with the speaker's presentation., and the business session will follow at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Her topic will be "Nursing's Responses to Epidemics" throughout the ages. Using slides from her readings and from travel, she will discuss some of the lessons learned from Fabiola's times to the present. She explores recurring themes of major epidemics (bubonic plague, cholera, AIDS) and how these relate to significant developments in nursing.

Born in B.C., Irene Goldstone took her Bachelor of Nursing at McGill, but has been back in B.C. for 15 years and holds a Master's of Science in Health Care and Epidemiology from the University of B.C. She is a founding member of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) and carried out the RNABC's special "Pin Project" for the 1987 anniversary.

Following her presentation there will be a short coffee break, followed by the business session. Important items of business will include:

- \* Revisions to Constitution and Bylaws,
- \* Elections
- \* Budget for 1993
- \* Proposed budget for 1994.

Further information on some of these items is given in other parts of the *Newsletter*.

The HoN Group also will be taking part in the RNABC's Annual Meeting and Convention. The Wednesday program will include presentations by and about various Professional Practice Groups (April 14, 10:30-11:30 am). During this concurrent session, a HoN Panel led by President Helen Shore will discuss *Preserving Your Personal History*. The panel will offer suggestions on how individual nurses should keep their own records and how these may be saved until more Nursing Archives can be created.

**Mark your calendars now !!**

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**• PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE •**

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Surviving a snowy cold January (and an arm broken on icy steps) and now watching snow drops and crocuses burst into bloom has made me reflect on life's patterns and changes. The rhythms, though known, are not always recognized nor marked as we progress. Still, there is no failing to recognize and mark the burst of spring around us now nor the suggestions and promise of new developments in the days ahead.

I have similar reactions as I review what has been accomplished in the History of Nursing Group since the last annual meeting. I will be reporting to you at this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and I believe you will be pleased at the growth and promise in our Professional Practice Group.

As a result of the steady stewardship of Ethel Warbinek, the Constitution and Bylaws have been reviewed, revised, and readied for your consideration (and acceptance) at the AGM. One of the new categories allows for regional representation. Until we had sufficient members in a region and a desire for a local group, it has not been possible to have regional representation. Victoria always had a solid core of dedicated members. Now that group in Victoria, under the coordination of Kari Moore, may be ready to affiliate with the History Group this way. More news of this development at the AGM.

The Scholarship Fund has grown marvelously, both through individual contributions and through donations to the Doll Project. This offers great promise for the future.

In my last letter to you, I wished for the

History Group to meet in other centres in the province. We have had very successful meetings in Mission and Victoria and we are hoping to travel to other centres in the coming months. Ideas, anyone?

Another wish I made was for a joint project to collate stories of B.C. nurse pioneers. Our Oral History Committee has made great progress in getting typed summaries of interviews added to the collection. We are keeping the "Pioneer Nurses of B.C." project in abeyance for a while longer yet.

Now Spring is just around the corner. See you at the AGM.

-- Helen Shore, President  
March 1993

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**MUSEUM HONORS "FIRST NURSE"**

The display at the North Vancouver Museum and Archives, titled "Moodyville: Milltown and Mystery," has some special interest for HoN Group members. A portion of the display honors the contributions of Emily Patterson, the first person to give nursing care in the Vancouver area.

In researching Mrs. Patterson's contributions to early Moodyville, the curator got information from HoN Group President Helen Shore, who has been doing research on this woman. If you have the opportunity for a visit, the Museum is at 209 West 4th Street, North Vancouver. Hours are Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. and Thursdays, noon to 9 p.m. The exhibit runs until May 16.

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**NEEDED -- NEW CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

A new constitution and bylaws will be presented at the History of Nursing Group's Annual Meeting in April. The presentation is needed again in 1993 because the changes approved by the HoN Group at the 1992 annual meeting were not accepted by the RNABC.

All professional practice groups (PPGs) of the RNABC must have their constitutions and bylaws approved by RNABC. Last year, RNABC drew up a "standardized" constitution and asked all groups to change their constitutions to fit. In most respects, the new constitution is the same *in principle* as that approved by the HoN Group last year.

However, certain specific changes are needed. Perhaps the most major change concerns separation of the functions of secretary and treasurer; RNABC prefers all PPGs to have these two as separate individuals. When the HoN Group was formed, the original constitution called for a joint office -- partly to make the executive smaller. Now, however, the HoN work load has increased enough to call for two people. As this change affects numbers of elected officers, Annual Meeting approval is needed.

Furthermore, this constitutional change needs to be approved before the elections are held at this meeting so the two offices can be filled.

Rather than have a president-elect, an option in the RNABC's recommendations, the HoN Executive decided to make its past

president a voting member of the executive.

Under the RNABC's standardized constitution, PPGs may have as many standing committees as they believe necessary. The HoN Group executive is recommending at this time that there be only one standing committee, as was the case in the previous constitution; this is the membership committee. All other committees are ad hoc and appointed by the Executive.

Ad hoc committees that are currently functioning for the HoN Group are:

- Oral History,
- Newsletter,
- Biographical,
- Five As (Archives, Artifacts, And Associated Articles),
- Nominations,
- Memorial Doll,
- Program/Education.

Vice President Ethel Warbinek has spent the past year working on these changes and now has prior approval from the RNABC that, if these changes are approved by our membership at the annual meeting, they should pass approval at the RNABC Board level.

The 10-page package showing the proposed Constitution and Bylaws (1993) will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Members who would like to see copies before the meeting should get in touch with Ethel Warbinek (538-5066). Once the package has been approved, it will be mailed to members with the next *Newsletter*.

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**\* NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE \***

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Brief items from meetings of the Executive Committee, Nov. 20, 1992, and Jan. 12, Feb. 9 and 26, 1993.

**\* Annual Meeting:** The Executive Committee has been working on plans for the forthcoming Annual Meeting. (See page 1). In addition to the HoN Annual Meeting, the Group will host a display table during two days of the RNABC Convention and Meeting, run a fund-raising raffle, take part in a panel presentation on Professional Practice Groups (PPGs), and run one of the Concurrent Sessions on "Preserving Your Personal History."

Anyone who would be free to assist with the HoN Display Table and sell cards and raffle tickets on April 14 and/or 15, please call Glennis Zilm at 535-3238.

**\* CNA Memorial Book Nominees:** Once again the HoN Group has been asked by the RNABC to draw up a list of nominees to be submitted to the Canadian Nurses Association for inclusion in the CNA Memorial Book. This year the nominees were to include nationally-known nurses who died either in 1992 or during the 1930s and 1940s. The executive identified the following "B.C. names" and assigned individuals to prepare biographical information for submission:

- Margaret Campbell (1992)
- Beatrice Johnson Wood (1992)
- Mary Ard. MacKenzie (1948)
- Sharley (Wright) Bryce-Brown (1944)

If you know of other nationally known nurses whose names should be submitted to CNA in coming years (next year, we will be

submitting names from 1993 and up to 1959), please let a member of the Executive know. If possible, provide, in writing, some background information to assist in starting the biographical file. We have already begun to gather files on Sister Columkille and on Emily Eliza Matthews for next year's submission.

**\* Budget Planning:** All committee chairs have been actively involved in budget planning and one executive committee meetings was devoted to budgets for the remainder of 1993 and 1994. As each committee becomes more and more active, it finds money is needed -- especially for communications among its members. The executive committee's proposed budgets will be presented at the HoN Annual Meeting.

**\* AAAAA Committee:** The Archives, Artifacts, And Associated Articles Committee, under joint Chairs Bev DuGas and Brenda Flynn, has drawn up its terms of reference. Members believe that it is essential for the HoN Group to get its own archival records into shape as a starting matter. As well, the Committee has a number of artifacts and articles that it has received that need to be placed in proper storage.

**\* Biographical Committee:** The Biographical Committee, under Chair Ethel Warbinek, has drawn up an excellent six-page "Profile" form to use as a basis for collecting biographical material. As well, the committee has developed a release form that will accompany the "Profile" indicating that information in these records can be released by the HoN Group.

(Continued on page 5)

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

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(Continued from page 4)

The biographical form currently is being "tested" by members of the executive. In the meantime, however, the form has proven so valuable that it has been officially adopted by the Oral History Committee as its base for collecting information on each of those interviewed on tape.

**\* Finances:** At the Feb. 23 meeting, Treasurer Nina Rumen reported that the Group has approximately \$1,000. in the PPG fund, with another \$1,500 in a term deposit earmarked for the scholarship fund. The Scholarship Fund (which must be kept separately from the PPG funds) had \$2,780 (with another \$500 to come for the sixth Memorial Doll). Of the PPG funds, \$917.25 had been raised through raffles in previous years. It was recommended that this raffle money be used to pay for out of pocket expenses related to materials for the dolls used in the Memorial Collection (such as China heads and hands, stands, and display cabinets). Considerable discussion followed related to the proposed budgets for committees, which are now having larger out-of-pocket expenses (mailings, long-distance phone calls, filing cabinets, files, and so on). Proposed budgets for 1993 and 1994 were discussed and will be presented to the Annual Meeting.

**\* Membership:** Membership at mid-February stood at 48, which includes 33 full members, 11 affiliate members, 2 student members, and 2 honorary members. Several members have not renewed, and it was agreed that a "Second Notice" would be sent to non-renewals with the March Newsletter.

**\* Meetings:** The Group held a meeting in Vancouver Feb. 6 to hear John Hutchinson speak on War and Charity: The History of the Red Cross. The Victoria members will host a meeting March 17. The Annual meeting, with guest speaker, is set for Thursday, April 15. A tentative date for another guest speaker in Vancouver has been set for Saturday, May 15 (possibly on The Black Death) and the executive is looking at a possible visit to the display at the North Vancouver Museum. Members who have ideas for guest speakers and/or who would like to help arrange programs for the coming year, please get in touch with Nina Rumen (733-7529).

**\* RNABC Liaisons:** The RNABC has established a steering committee to look into nominations of prominent B.C. nurses for public awards, such as the YWCA's Women of Distinction, Order of B.C., and so on. RNABC requested that a member from the HoN Group be named. Sheila Zerr volunteered to act as liaison to this committee on behalf of the HoN Group. RNABC has since asked whether the HoN PPG could take on the whole task of the steering committee, but the executive is a bit concerned about the extent of the workload that would be involved, although it supports the general idea behind such a task. The matter has been tabled for further discussion with the new executive following the annual meeting.

**\* Welcome!** Members who wishes to attend executive meetings would be most welcome. Meetings are held approximately once a month at homes of the executive members. Please get in touch with President Helen Shore (731-9588) or other member of the executive.

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**OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING**

Elections for officers to serve for two years will need to be held at the Annual Meeting in April. If changes to the Constitution and Bylaws are approved (see page 3), four positions will be open. Vice-President Ethel Warbinek is acting as head of the Nominations Committee this year and is seeking candidates for the positions.

Depending on whether the changes are made, the positions open are:

Secretary/Treasurer OR  
Secretary and  
Treasurer , PLUS  
One Director at Large and  
Membership Committee Chair.

Job descriptions for these positions have been drawn up and are available. If you feel you would like to run for one of these positions, please get in touch with Ethel Warbinek (538-5066) before the meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, but the Nominating Committee's report must be prepared before the meeting.

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**VICTORIA STARTS CHAPTER**

History of Nursing Group members living in Victoria are interested in organizing a "Chapter" so that those living in the area can more effectively take part in HoN Group activities. Kari Moore is the Organizing Coordinator for this proposed chapter and has

called an information meeting to take place at the University of Victoria on March 17, 1993, at 7:30 p.m.

The main idea is to provide a focus and direction for those living in the area. The objectives include 1. collecting biographies on nursing leaders on the Island, 2. taping of oral histories from Island nurses who have interesting stories to tell, and 3. documenting present-day history in the area.

A strong core group of HoN members live in the area, including Kari Moore, Mary Richmond, and Marilyn Jackson. They have had some initial meetings with Shirley Anderson of the Greater Victoria Hospital; she is also the one who looks after the archival collection from the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing.

Once the Victoria Chapter gets going, they hope to hold more meetings, which would also be open to anyone from other areas of the province who wish to attend.

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

To date, only 44 of 67 HoN Group members have renewed for 1993. If you have not yet renewed, a "Second Notice" is enclosed with this *Newsletter* as a reminder. If you receive this notice, please return it, with your cheque, so that you will be able to vote at the Annual Meeting.

**If you do not renew,  
this will be your last *Newsletter!***

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### CAHN MEETING IN JUNE

Plans are underway for the annual meeting of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing to be held in Ottawa on Monday, June 7, and Tuesday, June 8. The meeting will also include presentations on the state of Nursing Archives in Canada. Barbara Craig, who has done some work on Archival Collections in Ontario, will be the keynote speaker, to be followed by a panel on "Archives -- State of the Art."

Workshops related to archival collections and keeping of records will be held in the afternoon.

Tuesday morning is scheduled for the CAHN annual meeting, to give members plenty of time to decide on goals and directions for the Association in the coming years.

Tours of the National Archives and other pertinent collections are set for Tuesday afternoon. Members of CAHN will be receiving information soon. If you are not a member, but would be interested, please call Sheila Zerr, CAHN treasurer (943-3012).

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### HoN GROUP PRESENTS RESOLUTION TO RNABC ANNUAL MEETING

The History of Nursing Group has drawn up a Resolution related to Archives to be presented to delegates at the annual meeting of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. at its annual meeting, April 15-16.

The HoN Group Executive believe strongly that the RNABC needs to house the biographies of B.C. nurses once these have been compiled and generated. This biographical data on nurses who have helped to shape nursing in B.C. needs to be stored in a safe place where it is also readily available for historical study and research.

The RNABC Board, in the past, has limited its Archival collection only to its own association archival records and does not keep information on individuals. The HoN Resolution proposes that such information on individuals should also be kept at RNABC.

The resolution, which will come up for debate during the meeting, is as follows:

*RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of RNABC reconsider its position vis-a-vis archives, with a view to providing a temporary repository for biographical files containing resumes, photos, and other related materials on B.C. nurses for historical study and research.*

Group members who are attending the meeting should be aware of this Resolution and, if necessary, prepared to discuss and vote on the issue. Please advise your delegates to the meeting of your views.

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Going to Australia? The Royal College of Nursing Australia is holding a Nursing History Conference to precede its Second National Forum, in Melbourne May 15-16, 1993. Further information and forms available from the Newsletter Editor (535-3238).

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**\* REPORT ON FEBRUARY MEETING \***

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The fascinating history of the Red Cross came vividly to life through the illustrated lecture by Dr. John Hutchinson at the History of Nursing Group's February get-together. The presentation "War and Charity: An Illustrated History of the Red Cross" reflected changing times and values as well as the growth of the Red Cross, and Dr. Hutchinson did an excellent job of drawing out special nursing ties to make his presentation suited to his audience.

In introducing Dr. Hutchinson, Nina Rumen noted that he is an historian and professor of history at Simon Fraser University. His undergraduate degree is from Toronto and he did postgraduate studies in Vancouver, London, Paris, Helsinki, and Moscow. As a Hannah Scholar in 1983, he researched Russian medical history -- and a chance reference there led him to research the Red Cross.

Dr. Hutchinson's wonderful slides told the story of the battlefield losses that led Henri Dunant, a Swiss humanitarian appalled by the horrors of war, to suggest an impartial international organization that would be able to care for the wounded and to provide war relief. Although Dunant contributions later were downplayed by the organization's central headquarters in Geneva, his influence was successful. M. Dunant hounded various nations to lend support to the idea, with the result of an 1864 meeting of dignitaries representing many nations -- and thus the founding of the International Red Cross.

An interesting factet related to the use of

symbolism was brought out by the speaker. During the World Wars I and II, the United States used the organization's image -- aided by use of the image of the Red Cross nurse as mother-figure and angel -- to raise funds for the U.S. war effort and for war bonds.

In thanking Dr. Hutchinson, Helen Shore added a few additional facts relating to the Red Cross and nursing in Canada and B.C. She noted that the Red Cross, signifying peace and caring, was a common symbol used in Canada even before its association with the international organization. She noted, too, that the Red Cross is a symbol used on many nursing pins. The organization itself, through its Canadian branch, was a major factor in the development of nursing in Western Canada and the Red Cross also financed some of the first nursing education programs to be introduced in universities in Canada.

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**Committee on Women's History**

The Canadian Committee on Women's History is seeking members. The group, mainly of those with degrees in history, was formed at a meeting of the Learned Societies in 1975 and is affiliated with the Canadian Historical Association. It is concerned with teaching and research in women's history, disseminating information about sources, research and publications in its field, and linking with othr similar groups. Members receive 2 issues of the CCWH Newsletter (fall and spring). Fees in 1992 were \$25. For further information, write: Lorna McLean, Department of History, University of Ottawa, 155 Seraphin Marion, Ottawa K1N 6N5.

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\*\*\* THE MOSBY PROJECT \*\*\*

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Four groups of students at Cariboo College found that looking into history helped give them a better perspective on present-day nursing and now believe that it also gives them a clearer view of how to prepare for the future. As Iona Brierton, Susan Cumming, and Donna Macleay summed it up in their presentation:

"Through our study of the South Central Health Unit annual reports, we found that although many things have changed in public health many things have also stayed the same. The message of 'prevention' remains as clear today as it was in the past."

The students were part of Karen Abbott's Nursing 404 "Trends and Issues" class. This class agreed to participate in the first Mosby Memorial Doll Project, which the B.C. History of Nursing Group hopes to repeat each year in a school of nursing in the province. For this project, students and instructor agree one special assignment on history of nursing will be prepared and shared with their classmates.

The students then will choose a special "memorial doll" to be sponsored for the HoN Group's Doll collection. This first doll was funded through the sponsorship of The C.V. Mosby Company of Toronto, publishers of nursing texts. Steve O'Hearn, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Times Mirror Professional Publishing, arranged the sponsorship to help stimulate interest in history of nursing in B.C. schools of nursing.

The 13 Cariboo College students worked in groups and produced four assignments:

- \* Nursing History at Tranquille
- \* Historical Review of Public Health Nursing in Kamloops
- \* Nursing Power: Past, Present, and Future
- \* Transition of Nursing Education from Hospital to College in Kamloops.

Sheila Zerr later visited Kamloops and reported the project had created great excitement in the class and had generated interest in history of nursing among all students and instructors at Cariboo College. The students had taken highly innovative approaches, including videotaped interviews with those who had introduced changes in nursing education, group visits to Tranquille (the TB and mental health site, now closed), and collection and display of past public health nursing uniforms. Sheila said the project had not only generated interest in history of nursing in the school but in the community as well.

Instructor Karen Abbott, a HoN Group member, said she was "overwhelmed with the effort they [the students] put into the assignments and the quality of the results." She reported one student who had seemed a little dubious at first "was amazed at how nursing issues emerged from her research."

The doll selected by the students is to be dressed in the uniform worn by the nursing students in the College's first (1973) program.

The written assignments will be on display at the HoN table at the RNABC Annual Meeting. As well, the editor hopes to present excerpts of some of the information in a forthcoming issue of the *Newsletter*. < >

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**MEMBERS' PROJECTS**

HoN Group members are not only interested in the past; they are concerned with the issues of today and tomorrow. **Gwen Kavanagh** of Kamloops was elected by acclamation as RNABC Director for Thompson-Columbia region for the 1993-1995 biennium and **Marianne McRobert** is running for election as the Director for RNABC District "A" (Richmond, Delta, North Shore, and Sunshine Coast). Both have been an active members of the HoN Group and should make wonderful contributions to the RNABC Board.

For those of you who vote in District A: Marianne is a community nurse with the Kidney Dialysis Service and has lived in Delta, Richmond, and Sechelt, and has nursed in Delta and Richmond hospitals. She graduated in 1973 from the Vancouver General Hospital and from the UBC Nursing program in 1984. Among the issues she is concerned with are job security and workplace satisfaction as well as the needs for more community-based acute mental health services and more extended care facilities.

Gwen is a general duty nurse at the Royal Inland Hospital and has been particularly active in her chapter. She stresses a positive future for nursing and wants RNABC and BCNU to work together.

**Edith Lees** has started to collect "stories," biographies, and photographs from nurses who served in Canada's military, with the idea of putting together a book. She has started by getting in touch with nurses through the

Canadian Nursing Sisters' Association, but would appreciate any "leads" and ideas. If you know of a nurse who has served with the military, please pass the name along to Edith.

**Karen Abbott** has become involved in improving the School of Nursing Archives at Cariboo College. As well, she and a colleague are beginning work on a history of the College's Nursing Program.

Members will be interested to hear that **Laura Coles**, who was an archival consultant to the RNABC and who conducted the survey of nursing archives in the province in 1990, is taking her doctoral studies in London, England, specializing in archival matters. She will be away about two years.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Condolances are extended to the family of **Beatrice Agnes Stroyan** (1890 - 1992), a member of the Queen Anne's Territorial Nursing Service during World War I, for which she was decorated for her services. Mrs. Stroyan was also a graduate of the early nursing programs at the University of B.C. Following her retirement from active nursing, she was a lifetime member of the Red Cross and active in its business throughout her life.

**SOMETHING TO CHECK:** Members with a Vancouver General Hospital connection may want to check on the following. In 1915, a ward at the General was named in honor of **Eden Pringle** (VGH Class of 1915), who was one of three nurses killed in May 1915 when German aircraft bombed the hospitals at Etaples, France. Perhaps there still is a memorial somewhere at VGH?

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### ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Members of the Oral History Committee are making steady progress in carrying out interviews with nurses on their long list of "to do" projects. To date, about 135 Oral History tapes are available in the RNABC Library; some nurses were interviewed more than once and have more than one tapes available.

Names of nurses and ideas for interviews are being submitted regularly to the committee, but because volunteer time is in short supply some projects are taking longer than members would wish. For example, Chair Sheila Zerr reported that a number of interviews have been suggested with nurses living in the Vernon area. Sheila has been in touch with Terry Lodge, who formerly worked with the oral history group, to encourage her to continue interviews in that region of the province. The committee was enormously pleased to hear that the Victoria "chapter" is interested in doing tapes with nurses in the Victoria area as well and has identified a number of subject areas.

Sheila has met frequently with Joan Andrews of the RNABC Library to discuss use of the tapes and how these, and their subject areas, can best be made known to Library users. As well, she is negotiating with RNABC concerning storage for the master tapes and their accompanying files.

A major portion of the work of this committee relates to indexing and cross referencing the tapes so that they will be even more useful to nursing researchers. Sheila and

Joan Andrews are continuing to pursue grants for the typing of tape summaries. As well, the committee has found the new HoN biographical forms to be more useful than the current short summaries and is considering sending these to all nurses who have been taped.

The oral history tapes now are being well used by researchers. For example, last fall, some of the tapes were used by Doug MacDonald, a researcher for the CBC Radio Program *Ideas*, for a program on nursing during the war. Later, he supplied a tape of his *Ideas* program to the RNABC Library for the Collection.

The committee is also considering a suggestion that it extend its base to include interviews with nurses honored each year with awards from RNABC or its Professional Practice Groups. Possibly the PPGs could arrange the tapings under guidelines from the committee.

*(By Glennis Zilm from Oral History Minutes)*

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The American Association for the History of Nursing, will hold its Tenth Annual Conference, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 1-3, 1993. More information is available from the Association, P.O. Box 90803, Washington, DC 20090-0803.

The University of Nottingham, England, will host a three-day conference on "Nursing, Women's History and the Politics of Welfare" at its East Midlands Conference Centre July 21-14, 1993. If you are interested, a pre-conference program is available at the RNABC Library.

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\*\*\* BOOK REVIEW \*\*\*

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*Mission's Living Memorials* is a community archivist's dream realized. This history of the Mission Memorial Hospitals is written about the community, using the community's archives, by three residents of the area. The book is personal, humorous, touching, and revealing.

Written by Betty Robertson (a HoN Group member), Catherine Marcellus, and Betty Dandy, this is the story of how Mission, B.C., came to have a hospital. The authors take the reader from when the doors first opened in 1920 through to the present day. The story clearly illustrates the hard work put forth by a group of dedicated women who formed an auxiliary that became the main force in establishing and maintaining Mission's hospitals.

Once the original hospital opened, the auxiliary found that operating costs also needed to be met, and quickly realized that a new and even larger structure was necessary. The auxiliary organized May Days, teas, and other community fund raisers and kept the hospital alive through especially trying times before hospital insurance and government funding. I found it interesting that the money raised in May 1929 was just a little less than that raised a year later after the stock market crash.

The original organizers wanted to ensure free hospitalization for veterans from World War I. One of the themes running throughout this little book is the Mission community's appreciation and support of the residents who participated in the wars. While reading this book, I found myself laughing out loud and also reading sections aloud to my husband (such as

the chapter on "Politics, Liquor and Hospitals"). When a book can elicit laughter from its readers and a desire to share the contents, this marks it as a success.

The many photos and quotations from personal documents obtained from local residents and archives make the book of interest to a large number of people. One of the book's main strengths is also a possible drawback for some readers: because the book is about the community, some of its descriptions are specific. No doubt most of the readers from Mission relate well to these detailed descriptions, but to readers who live elsewhere sometimes the focus on local streets and buildings can detract from the story.

Nevertheless, *Mission's Living Memorials* is a charming and useful book, not only for promoting community spirit and pride for Mission residents, but also for students and researchers of nursing history, women's history, and social history.

-- Reviewed by Brenda Flynn

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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 shorten, reject, or edit materials in consultation with the author(s). APA style preferred.

Editor Glennis Zilm

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