



The *Great* Canadian
Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.



Projet de la *Grande* Histoire
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

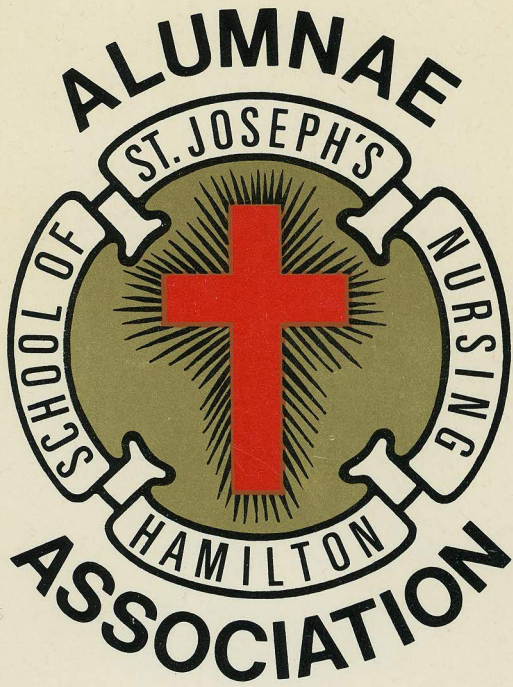
**St. Joseph's Hospital
School of Nursing
Alumnae Association**

Source: Courtesy of Sherman Library,
St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton

Copyright: Public Domain

Digitized: November 2015

HOSPITAL LIBRARY
ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
HAMILTON, ONTARIO



"The Way We Were"...

Dedication

To our Alma Mater . . .

With gratitude for all the unique and wonderful people

who make it our Alma Mater

and

to the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Note From The Authors

It will become evident from reading the "history of the history" that Lois Mackenzie has had, for many years, the commitment of writing a history of our Alumnae.

The motivation to fulfill this commitment has remained high, but time has somehow slipped by since 1963. Lynda Richards, as president of the Alumnae, has provided the impetus to accomplish this dream, and for that the authors thank Lynda and the present executive.

This is not a serious study, full of statistics and great conclusions, but rather a selection of excerpts from the minutes with some personal observations from the authors.

The minutes of the Alumnae prior to 1942 are unavailable. For a brief summary of the history of the Alumnae during this period, we have taken an excerpt from the Jubilee Book published by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1950. We are grateful to Sister Ursula for providing this part of the history.

The authors have both been involved with the Alumnae since their respective graduations. The writing of the history has made the Alumnae come alive more than ever for us and we hope that its reading will have the same effect on you.

The History of the Alumnae is for you to read — the future of the Alumnae lies with each of us.

May 1976

Lois MacKenzie 1954

Ruth Milne 1958

Excerpts from the Minutes recording history of the history.

April 1961

"Lois MacKenzie suggested that the Alumnae should have a historian — offered to take the position."

February 1963

"It was announced that Mrs. MacKenzie is acting Alumnae historian and has in her possession past minutes."

November 1963

"Mrs. MacKenzie felt that there was no need for a ways and means convenor. Miss Milne and Mrs. Savelli were on Mrs. MacKenzie's committee and any ideas they had could be presented at a general meeting. They felt their time could be better utilized working on the history of the Alumnae"

January 1964

"Mrs MacKenzie did not think, as historian, that she could have the 50th year booklet ready for May of this year."

April 1965

"Mrs. MacKenzie moved that a history of the Alumnae would be printed in booklet form in due course — all agreed!"

September 1973

"Historical data either history of Alumnae or School of Nursing. Ruth Milne offered to assist Lois MacKenzie in compiling information regarding these histories."

June 1974

"History of the Alumnae to be ready for presentation at the reunion dinner next year. Ruth Milne and Lois MacKenzie in charge of compiling history."

June 1975

"The history of the School of Nursing is being compiled by Sister Ursula. The history of the Alumnae is being compiled by Ruth Milne."

September 1975

"The deadline for the Alumnae history being compiled by Ruth Milne and Lois MacKenzie will be February 29th, 1976 to allow time for printing prior to the reunion dinner."

The St. Joseph's Hospital Alumnae was organized in 1915 under the convenorship of Misses Ada Egan and Jean Morin assisted by the Sisters on the staff of the hospital. After much planning and formulating of constitutions and bylaws, the nucleus of the present association was formed with Miss Ella Kelly as President.

In 1920 in anticipation of the erection of the new residence (Undermount), the nurses planned to raise \$1,000.00 to assist in furnishing the living room. Ways and means were discussed as to raising this amount of money. There were now forty-nine graduates. The then mountainous sum of \$1,000.00 was quickly raised by private donations of \$5.00 to \$20.00 from the graduates themselves. To many of us today we wonder just how this could be done, when the rate for private duty — which was then the only field open to nurses — was \$3.50 for twelve hour duty. To complete their goal, they held a dance at the Connaught Hotel thereby completing their objective.

It would be difficult to enumerate the good work done by the Alumnae as they continued to make sizeable donations to the School of Nursing and to the hospital.

It seems appropriate that as we began to read the minutes, the first item which appeared was the discussion of the entertainment of the graduating class of 1942.

"It was moved by Miss Moron and seconded by Miss Millie Hayes that Miss Quinn be convenor of a committee to arrange for dinner and entertainment."

We also noted that there was in 1942 much discussion re the appointment of married nurses to the Alumnae.

April 16, 1942

Miss Loyst chaired the meeting.

"There were 29 nurses present and a noticeably poor showing of general duty nurses."

"Sister Mary Grace spoke about the appointment by the Government of Miss Buck, to contact high school students throughout the city to instil an interest for training as nurses. An assistant of Miss Buck will be appointed from St. Joseph's and Hamilton General Hospital. The shortage of nurses will be felt in years to come more so than at present time. Applicants are very scarce."

Belonging to the Alumnae had different implications in 1942.

"To become a member of the register a nurse must be in good standing in her Alumnae Association."

October 1942

"An interesting talk was given by Sister St. Edward, Superior of the Hospital for "Our War Effort". The many things we might do to help win the war other than buying Victory Bonds were discussed."

This meeting had a surprise ending.

"As there was no correspondence or other business the meeting adjourned with all present invited to attend the Doctors staff meeting already in progress."

November 1942

"Moved by Miss O'Donahue seconded by Miss M. Hayes to buy a toaster for the special nurses table, carried."

"Moved by Miss Quinn seconded by Miss Markle that the usual \$5.00 cheque be given to Sister Superior, as a Christian remembrance."

January 1943

"Dr. Fraser showed moving pictures of spinal anesthetics and he also showed moving pictures of the 1942 and 1943 graduations."

The problems of collecting money!

April 1943

"Re contingency fund for R.N.A.O. It was tabled as to whether the Alumnae send a cheque for \$30.00 to cover the 60 private duty nurses on the registry and then collect from the nurses or to collect it first and send it."

April 1943

"Moved by Leona Johnson (Hudecki), seconded by Miss Morrow that the dinner be held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Royal Connaught Hotel and that the nurses dance be held in the Starlight Room after. It was unanimously decided that the dinner be held on May 20th, 1943 and that the price be set at \$1.50 per plate."

June 1943

"A letter from Miss McNaughton was read thanking the Alumnae for the identification bracelet which was given to her before she went overseas."

"Sister Mary Grace spoke about the bursary granted by the Government for University causes and urged that we take advantage of it."

Toasters again!

September 1943

"Moved by M. Haley seconded by Marg. Wright that the table for the hospital staff be supplied with a toaster."

September 1943

"Re Ditty Bags — Moved by M. Gillen, seconded by K. McCarthy that we fill three ditty bags from the funds."

October 1943

"Speaker Dr. Cummins who delivered a very instructive address on Metrazal shock treatment for mental illnesses. We then went to B5 where Dr. Cummins demonstrated the use of metrazal on one of the patients using 1 / 60 gr. of curafe with 10% metracal. There were 24 members present."

Don't be afraid of Health Insurance!

October 1943

"Sister Mary Grace explained the difference between state medicine and health insurance."

February 1944

"A letter was received from Bill Howarth thanking the Alumnae for the ditty bag."

"Report on Canadian Nurse Journal. The Canadian Nurse no longer prints birth or marriage notices. Very special news is all that will be accepted."

February 1944 seemed to be a lean month for the Alumnae.

There were 15 members present. The minutes of February, March and April contain much detail as to how this problem was resolved.

February 1944

"A lengthy discussion introduced by Miss E. Moran regarding the attendance at the Alumnae meetings. She presented a paper regarding what the Alumnae had done since it was organized in 1915."

The immediate solution seemed to be an open discussion at a later time so in March, 29 members were present for the open discussion re how to increase attendance. The minutes tell us that "The discussion was quite lively at times and several useful suggestions were brought out." There were eight suggestions, and five motions to implement some of them. One of these suggestions — a penny sale — brought in \$265.65. The other tangible result was that by April, 40 members attended the meeting.

March 1944

"Moved by Miss Moran, seconded by Mrs. Poole that the bylaws be revised so that the rules and regulations are clear."

May 1944

Discussion re graduation dinner "To be held at the Corner House due to insufficient funds and a desire to save funds. The flowers were to be red and yellow and to cost \$5.00."

The late spring and summer of 1944 once again saw the Alumnae faltering when several members of the executive resigned. Sister Superior and Sister Ursula organized a meeting for the purpose of electing a new executive.

"In October with Sister Superior in the chair for an opening pep talk, Sister suggested that we do our utmost to make our January meeting a bumper meeting with every member present and all fees paid. Starting the meeting on time was stressed particularly.

January 1945

"There were 24 members present. Reports were given on a dance and bridge by Miss Clohecy (Bernadette Lewington) and Mrs. Wheatly."

February 1945

"There were 23 members present. It was decided that we should have a membership committee which would be responsible for contacting members from each class of graduates. It was moved by Miss Crane, seconded by Mrs. McKerracher that we have a reunion and social evening on April 5th in the Undermount classroom."

We have nothing to report from the minutes until March 1946 when even though time lapsed the problems remain the same.

March 1946

"To improve attendance at our Alumnae meetings it was suggested that each member should bring one other member to the following meeting."

The incongruity which remains constant is that even when members almost disappear, needed funds are raised.

October 1946

"Reported \$1,000.00 had been raised by dances and other social events."

October 1946

"To uphold the dignity of our profession and to abide by the rules and regulations of our organization nurses are to refrain from wearing caps and uniforms on the street."

January 16, 1947

"Moved by Miss Haley seconded by Miss O'Brien that the yearly fee of the Alumnae be raised from \$1.50 to \$2.00."

"A vote of thanks was given to Sister Superior and Sister Ursula for their generous offer of coffee, tea, sugar and cream for our monthly meetings."

"Following the meeting the presentation of \$1,000.00 was made to Sister St. Edward (Sister Superior) by Mrs. Hudecki from the Alumnae for furnishings for the new hospital." (This refers to the John St. building.)

February 1947

"Miss Margaret Peart gave an interesting talk on the Nurses Practise Act."

It is a good thing she did because we can't find a record of much else happening until . . .

Revitalized!

November 1948

"It was suggested to show moving pictures at the next meeting — moved by Miss Quinn.

Meeting to be moved to the third Monday of the month. (There it remained.)

A dance in February was suggested."

January 1949

Report from Mrs. Mary Tilden re dance February 2nd, 1949. Every nurse who sells 15 tickets is entitled to one free one."

February 1949

"It was voted that the reunion be combined with the Graduation Dinner in May."

February 1949

"It was suggested that a gift be presented to Miss Anne Payne (Sister Bridget Ann) and Miss Marguerite Reding (Sister Mary Austin) at the time they are received into the convent."

May 1949

"There are ninety paid up members."

October 1949

"The engraved sugar shell to be presented to the nurses who were married during the past year was shown to those present."

"The financial report was given by Miss Hinks. The balance is approximately \$1,200.00."

January 16, 1950

"The annual dinner for the nurses in honour of the graduates will be June 8th at Fischer's Hotel. Beef or chicken will be \$1.75 and we will have the room for the entire evening."

"Nurses were asked to co-operate by sending in articles of interest or snapshots for the magazine being published in honour of the sixtieth anniversary of the hospital." (The Gold Book)

February 1951

"It was suggested that a tour of the new maternity wing be held at the next meeting, and that it will be followed by a silver tea. It will be convened by Miss Blake and Mrs. Arbour."

April 1951

"The regular monthly meeting of the Alumnae was held in Undermount classroom with 70 members present."

October 1951

"There was a hilarious and interesting talk by Vic Copps on How to Enjoy a Football Game."

November 1951

"Miss Oliveri (Elda Marcaccio) spoke briefly on atomic warfare nursing and the part each of us must play in defense preparation."

January 1952

"Mrs. Lewington reported that due to prohibitive prices at downtown locations the Spring Bridge would be held at Undermount residence. The cost of the tickets to be 75c per person."

Much money continued to be donated, but in 1952 rather than giving money to the hospital, donations were given to the School for library and recreational facilities.

The Sisters of St. Joseph's received a gift.

Still lots of money to be spent.

April 1952

"Mrs. Marsailles presented a motion that a scholarship to the value of \$500.00 be presented to any active member of the Alumnae in good standing, filling the educational requirements of the School of Nursing."

A speaker for the dinner of 1953 was ruled out! The dinner was attended by 213 nurses.

June 1953

"Aileen McPhail has accepted the Alumnae scholarship and has therefore resigned from her position as corresponding secretary."

November 1953

"A vote of thanks was given to Miss Battersby (Dorothy Walt) for the fine job she did as convenor of the Chrysanthemum Ball."

"It was moved by Miss Quinn and seconded by Mrs. Coffee that we send Sister Superior, Sister Bonaventure and Father O'Brien a five dollar cheque for Christmas, which is usually done. Also that a box of chocolates be sent to Mrs. Keane and Mrs. Bryan."

September 1954

"There was a profit of \$263.25 on the draw at the Strawberry Festival (held on the lawn of Oakbank) but the Festival itself was not a success."

The school periodically summoned the help of the Alumnae. For example the Alumnae offered to assist with the problem of student nurses who were neglecting to sign in at the office before going on duty.

January 1955

"There was a discussion about making it compulsory for staff members to belong to the Alumnae and it was decided that this matter be discussed with Sister Mary Grace."

February 1955

"There were 22 members present. The bank balance was \$1785.05."

June 1955

"It was announced that \$500.00 had been given to Sister Mary Grace for the window of the new chapel."

September 1955

"It was decided that until more members are present at the meetings we would not ask doctors as guest speakers."

January 1956

"On Sunday January 29th between the hours of two and five p.m. a membership tea was held in the reception room at Undermount residence. Miss Mary Lepinskie, convenor of the tea, received the new members, approximately 65 in number. A very pleasant afternoon was had by all and it was suggested by numerous members that the membership tea become an annual event."

February 1956

"Miss McPhail announced that a ramp had been purchased for the fashion show and that to defray the cost we would be renting it out to anyone wishing it."

Story of the ramp to be continued!

March 1956

"It was decided that again this year we would give each member of the graduating class a favour with the school crest on it. A vote was taken as to whether we would have the dinner and dance separate or on the same night and it was decided to have it on the same night."

May 1957

"It was noted that there was a loss of \$50.00 on the graduation banquet. A motion to sell tickets ahead of time next year was defeated."

October 1957

"It was moved by Mrs. Groff, seconded by Miss Donovan that a draw for a \$100.00 Bond be held to raise funds for the Alumnae."

"It was unanimously decided that \$500.00 be donated to the School of Nursing for the building fund. (Fontbonne Hall)"

March 1958

"The decisions to confer Life Membership on certain members of the Alumnae was approved to be included in the revised constitution which was to be presented in April."

The dinner this year, 1958, was attended by 290 members — many more than were expected and there was no advance ticket sale. For a change chicken at \$2.75 per plate was served.

June 1958

"It was decided to have the membership tea and the tea for the new graduates on the same day, namely September 15, 1958."

November 1958

"A suggestion by Sister Virginia, at the last meeting, that lamps were needed for the T.V. room at Undermount, met with much discussion. A motion was made by Miss Hayes that Sister Virginia and Sister Mary Grace be approached to encourage staff members to join the Alumnae and then with the increase in income we would have more funds with which to consider buying the lamps. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Marcaccio and unanimously carried."

April 1959

"Mrs. Lois MacKenzie announced that any news that could be contributed to the annual bulletin would be appreciated."

June 1959

"There were 279 members and 69 new graduates at the dinner."

October 1959

"The meeting was held in the hospital auditorium with 48 members present. Mrs. Lorna Mathews, the new second vice president was introduced."

March 1960

"A motion was made by Mrs. Markle and seconded by Miss Arbour (Maureen Radigan) that the Alumnae scholarship be discontinued for this year, and that the money be given instead for the new nurses residence." (\$1,000.00 was subsequently given)

May 1960

"On Wednesday May 4th the annual graduation dinner was held at the Brant Inn with 302 members and 59 graduates present. A bulletin containing a resume of all Alumnae activities for the past year and a treasurer's report was presented to all members."

September 1960

"A motion was made by Mrs. Rizzo (Marg. Simpson) and seconded by Mrs. Radigan that the Alumnae sponsor a fashion show in the spring. Mrs. Smart (Charlotte Judson) moved to have a bridge to follow the fashion show but also in the spring. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hastings."

During January and February of 1961, much discussion took place re attendance at the dinner by membership card only. This never materialized.

Here we go again!

March 1961

"An informal discussion period took place re how to stimulate membership in the Alumnae."

April 1961

"There were 536 notices sent out for the dinner."

The newest part of St. Joseph's Hospital was under construction at this time. The Alumnae as an organization agreed to give \$1,000.00 to furnish two rooms. The Alumnae also assumed the responsibility of encouraging individual members to pledge money to the building fund.

September 1961

"The mass for the living members of the Alumnae and the Peace of the world to be held in the Hospital Chapel on October 3, 1961 at 9:30 a.m. The mass for the repose of souls of deceased members of the Alumnae on Tuesday November 7, 1961."

Birth of the Newsletter —

In September 1961 it was decided to replace the monthly meeting notice with a periodic newsletter. A phone committee was to look after notifying members of the meetings.

September 1961

"Following the general meeting Sister M. Virginia spoke briefly on the nursing shortage and also she explained some of the details of the new nurses residence under construction. (Fontbonne Hall)"

October 1961

"Mrs. Hastings moved that again this year \$40.00 to be taken from the treasury to be used to provide four baskets costing \$10.00 each. Mrs. Hazlett volunteered to convene this project again this year."

January 1962

"Connie Siganski (Owen) convenor of the Chrysanthemum Ball reported that the dance, which was held at the Burgundy Room of Fischer's Hotel, was a financial success. There was a profit of \$610.00."

"Connie Siganski reported that Dr. Love would like to talk to the Alumnae regarding sponsoring an African student to train at St. Joseph's School of Nursing." [This was done at the March meeting.]

March 1962

"A motion was made by Mrs. Agnes Muir and seconded by Mrs. Pat Lyall to establish a Benevolent Fund of \$500.00 yearly for deserving students of St. Joseph's School of Nursing."

April 1962

"In reference to the sponsoring of the African Student the recommendation of the executive was that providing her credentials are acceptable to the R.N.A.O. and that it is acceptable to the Annual General Meeting and that they give financial assistance to the project that the Alumnae sponsor an African Student to train in St. Joseph's School of Nursing."

At the Annual Graduation Dinner, which was attended by 293 Alumnae members and 84 graduates, Mrs. Lane spoke on "An Illiterate Africa". The General Meeting gave an overwhelming acceptance of the African Student recommendation.

Mrs Lois MacKenzie and her committee had some problems with the Graduation Dance in 1962.

- (1) The theme was "The Umbrella Ball" — two umbrellas (one a lawn umbrella) were stolen.
- (2) The bar lost money because there were many empties under the tables after the dance.
- (3) The orchestra was too large and too loud.

However, they made a profit of over \$500.00 and it was a social success.

The newsletter is growing well.

September 1962

"A newsletter will be sent out every six months."

September 1962

"A motion was made by Mrs. la Callaghan and seconded by Mrs. Rumbles to disband the coffee hour following meetings if a volunteer was not found."

October 1962

"Following a conducted tour of the new St. Joseph's Hospital, the Alumnae held its October meeting in the hospital auditorium with 175 members present. the president announced that 65 members of the Alumnae had volunteered to conduct tours of the new hospital on Saturday October 20th and Sunday October 21st."

October 1962

"Mrs. Newman, convenor of the African Student Project reported that the foundation were confident that there would be a student for the class of 1963.

November 1962

"Due to there not being a Christmas concert it was decided to cancel the December meeting."

January 1963

"Mrs. MacKenzie, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, announced that letters to solicit for all prizes and favours for all fund raising projects are being sent to all commercial firms."

The newsletter almost disappears in February 1963.

A motion to decrease the frequency to twice yearly was defeated. It remained a monthly newsletter with a suggestion of expanding it to include information about individual members.

February 1963

"After some discussion it was moved by Mrs. Coffee and seconded by Miss Donovan that we continue to have the members of the graduating class as our guests at the annual dinner."

April 1963

"It was announced that Lillian Chamberlain who prints the newsletter had found it necessary to give up her business because of ill health and that a floral arrangement will be sent."

Garbage Collecting Begins

"A motion was made by Mrs. Shirley Rumbles and seconded by Miss Ruth Milne that the Alumnae enrol in the Golden Book for Charity."

April 1963

"Mrs. LaFortune (Joan Mason) made a motion that the Alumnae present a television set and a Hi Fi to the student nurses to be used on the 8th floor recreation room of Fontbonne Hall."

The 1963 dinner will be remembered by the 382 Alumnae members and the 82 members of the graduating class who sweltered and fainted at the Crystal Ballroom of the Royal Connaught.

September 1963

"Mrs. Hastings reminded us that due to our African Student Project" our future activities must be geared to raise money and at our November meeting we may be able to present a Flower Show."

"Mrs. Markle read a very sincere letter received, just that day, from the student from Nigeria, and it would appear that it would be just a matter of days before the student would be here."

"Sister Virginia expressed her views on this subject, hoping that there wouldn't be too much stress placed on the social aspect of this student, as the training school already had many students from far off places such as Sudbury."

October 1963

"The meeting was held for the first time at the Gymnatorium of Fontbonne Hall. It was followed by a tour of the residence. Dr. C.K. Stuart was the guest speaker."

October 1963

"Mrs. Markle, convener of the African Student Project announced that Claribel Marchie is now enrolled in the school."

Growing Pains!

Mrs. Marrin [Mary Fitzgerald] and her committee were busy rewriting the constitution and bylaws.

The executive was being expanded and duties of officers being changed.

At an executive meeting there was a lengthy discussion as to who was going to be the convener of the ways and means convener.

We had to purchase Roberts Rules of Order so that the meetings would run smoothly.

Garbage again!

December 1963

"Miss Ruth Milne, convener of the Golden Book for Charity announced that so far we have 6,000 points saved and it takes 10,000 points before a small token can be given, such as an iron."

December 1963

"We have 277 active members and 10 associate members (graduates from other hospitals)."

January 1964

"Mrs Radigan announced that she had not had any success with regard to having skits put on at the annual dinner. She asked permission to go ahead with arrangements for having a speaker."

Garbage Produces one iron for Fontbonne Hall!

February 1964

"Mrs. Fletcher, president, announced that along with 111 students Claribel had received her cap that day."

A New Era:

The graduating class had with few exceptions until 1964 been honoured by the Alumnae at the annual graduation dinner. The classes had increased in size and to continue this custom was becoming a financial drain on the Alumnae. The decision to make a change was obviously emotion laden. There were motions, tabled motions and new motions. Finally there was a compromise.

The final decision was to invite the members of the 1964 graduating class to attend the April meeting and at that time be presented with their memberships to the Alumnae. A cheque for \$100.00 was donated in the name of the Graduating Class for equipment or supplies for Fontbonne Hall.

This class may have suffered from over exposure at this April meeting. The heat of the discussion regarding the revised constitution would have equalled any parliamentary discussion in Ottawa. There was a guest speaker who was Mr. Patrick O'Neal, the Governor of the Hamilton jail.

The minutes tell us that there was a delightful coffee hour at which Miss Quinn and Miss Maloney poured coffee.

June 1964

"The reunion dinner was held on May 6, 1964 for former graduates only. There were 301 graduates present. This was the first year for advanced ticket sales and for reserved seats. The dinner was held at the Crystal Ballroom of the Royal Connaught Hotel and the price of tickets was \$3.75."

Remember the ramp we bought for the Fashion Show? It disappeared in May of 1964. Sister Celestine located two parts of it by the end of June and Mr. Holland may still be looking for the third part.

June 1964

"Sister Celestine joined us and we were all more than delighted to welcome her to Hamilton as the new director of nursing and as a member of the board of directors of our Alumnae."

September 1964

"Mrs. Hastings, president, reminded us that the first objective of our association, as outlined in the constitution which is now on trial, is to promote good fellowship and friendship among the members."

The other highlights from the September meeting were that Roberts Rules of Order was lost, and that we hoped that the Garbage would produce equipment for the sewing room at Fontbonne.

October 1964

"A motion was made that we entertain the graduating class with a tea arranged by the executive with the Director of Nursing."

This was the way in which the graduates were honoured by the Alumnae until 1974.

October 1964

"Mrs. Savelli (Pat LaFlamme) put to a motion that we discontinue the practise of a silver collection at our general meetings."

November 1964

"Miss maloney had baked and donated the buttered date and nut loaves and shortbread for the coffee hour."

January 1965

"Mrs. Fletcher announced that she had seen Claribel recently and she had appeared quite happy and was getting out socially with young people."

February 1965

"Mrs. Markle presented Mrs. Doris Cumming with her beautifully painted life membership scroll. This replaced the blank one given to her at the dinner in 1964."

"Kathleen McLeod, one of our members who is on leave from the mission field in Ethiopia, was guest speaker at this meeting."

End of Garbage!

October 1965

"Miss Ruth Milne announced that the Golden Book for Charity Project was discontinued and in September a cheque for \$72.06 was received."

April 1966

"A detailed report of Claribel's graduation expenses was presented. Sister Celestine reported that Claribel had been accepted in the Public Health Course at Magill University."

April 1966

"There was a recommendation to purchase 100 card tables to be donated to the Nurse's Residence for their use and the use of the Alumnae."

The bridge by this time had obviously become an annual success.

February 1967

"There were thirty members present and the following coming events were discussed:

The Dessert Bridge convened by Mrs. Charlotte Smart and Mrs. Lois MacKenzie.

The Graduation Tea.

The Chrysanthemum Ball to be held at the Netkin Auditorium.

A tour of the New Psychiatric Unit at the April meeting.

June 1967

"It was suggest that our centennial project would be to purchase a piano for the student nurses."

November 1967

"A cheese and wine party was held in a classroom at Fontbonne Hall."

January 1968

"A letter was received from the students thanking the Alumnae for the piano."

1968 was a busy year!

The bridge profit was \$615.63.

There was a tour of the new kidney dialysis unit.

The Reunion dinner was attended by 405 graduates.

September 1968

"Mrs. Charlotte Smart, presided. There were 46 members present. A letter was

received from Claribel stating that she was planning to return to Zambia Africa at the end of this month."

"It was moved to omit the January general meeting."

November 1968

"Mrs. Smart read a letter from Claribel Marchee thanking the Alumnae and informing them of her safe arrival home. The African student fund is now closed."

"It was announced that Miss Jean Quinn is now the paid executive secretary."

What an enviable position!

November 1968

"Any suggestions for the utilization of our healthy bank balance will be gladly received."

February 1969

"Mrs. Lois MacKenzie is preparing a pamphlet welcoming and explaining the functioning of the Alumnae for the new students in September."

"A contribution was made to the Mary Lepinskie Memorial Fund."

April 1969

"The revised constitution was presented and accepted."

"It was proposed by Mrs. Kay Towler, seconded by Miss Croft that we give \$700.00 to Sister Maris Stella to purchase audio-visual aids that would be most beneficial to the School of Nursing."

"It was moved by Mrs. Shirley Rumbles, seconded by Mrs. Joan Mason that we give tickets for the reunion dinner to eight members of the graduating class."

September 1969

There were 45 members present and it was announced that "The minutes from the last meeting were forgotten."

"Mrs. Butler reported that the Chrysanthemum Ball was well under way. This year there would be a different band — The Twins, which plays a variety of music for young and old. Miss Lynda Walach (Richards) is convenor."

November 1969

"The Chrysanthemum Ball was a social success. The same orchestra to be engaged for the Graduation Dance."

April 1970

"It was suggested that the Alumnae activities be somewhat altered in the coming year. All special activities will remain the same plus executive meetings and the newsletter."

"Mrs. Rumbles moved that next term we try one meeting in the fall, one in the spring, and a business meeting as required — then have a meeting to discuss this. Motion seconded by Ruth Milne — carried."

Wine and cheese takes over from business!

September 1970

"A few announcements were made by the president — very brief meeting."

Double Graduates in 1971.

This was a unique year for the Alumnae as we welcomed two graduation classes. One from the three year program and one from the two year program.

There were two Graduation dances. One convened by Janet Blacket, held at the Estaminet, the other convened by Willie Hagervorst.

Isabel Kerr convened two Graduation teas. One on June 6th the other on July 18th.

September 1971

"The Chrysanthemum Ball is to be held at the Ancaster Golf and Country Club."

"A mass for the Living and the dead is to be held on November 11th at 8 p.m. in the hospital chapel. This will be a folk mass. A coffee hour is to follow at Fontbonne Hall."

September 1971

"A motion was made that the Alumnae discontinue sponsoring the Graduation Dance as of 1972."

September 1971

"Mrs. Charlotte Smart moved that a donation be made to the Mary Lepinskie Library Fund in memory of Mrs. Doris Markle a past president and outstanding Alumnae participant."

April 1972

"The Bock Beer Fest and card party was held in March at Fontbonne Hall. Mrs. Anne Schurter convened."

A change from chicken!

April 1972

"It was announced that Cathy Munro was convening the Reunion Dinner which was to be a Smorgasbord at the Holiday Inn. Price of the tickets to be \$6.25."

September 1972

"Sister Joan O'Sullivan formerly Sister M. Celestine spoke on the feasibility study re the new nursing program. Further information to be included in the newsletter."

October 1972

"It was reported that the membership of 346, there were 660 newsletters sent out."

The "Christmas Basket Project" came to an end in 1972. A donation of \$50.00 was given to a deserving student.

January 1973

"There was a motion by Ruth Milne to place a quarter page add in the Vox Ommium."

Anxiety Begins to Rise

January 1973

"Report by Sister Joan O'Sullivan on the new program of regional nursing control at Mohawk College. The Alumnae to remain as such without any immediate change, even though the School of Nursing may not be in existence."

February 1973

"The Hamilton district alumni of nursing schools are to meet and discuss the future of their Alumnae associations. Mrs. Anne Schurter and Miss Isabell Kerr are to attend."

March 1973

"One hundred mugs with the crest of the School of Nursing will be available for sale at the dinner."

March 1973

"At the Hamilton district nursing schools alumni meeting it was suggested that all schools join to make one Alumnae association. Mrs. Schurter reported that St. Joseph's Nursing Alumnae would remain as an individual group."

April 1973

"This meeting was to have been a spaghetti supper but only two members other than executive indicated an interest in attending so the plans were changed to a regular meeting."

June 1973

"A letter of apology was sent to Mrs. Percy Cram for the phone calls she received re dinner tickets due to mix up in phone numbers."

"The bank balance is \$1,415.69 and the student aid fund is \$298.08."

September 1973

"Introduction of Sister Ursula as Sister contact who will act as liaison between the Alumnae and the hospital."

A Turning Point is Reached!

September 1973

"The final class to graduate from the St. Joseph's School of Nursing will be in 1974. An all out effort should be made for this occasion to be a memorable one."

Reassurance re Existence

The question was again presented regarding the future of the Alumnae. It was agreed that we would remain as a social group. What better place to make that decision than at the cheese and wine party.

December 1973

"An anonymous donation was made to the Student Aid Fund. It was agreed to donate the prize for general proficiency in the next graduating class."

January 1974

"A thank you note along with \$200.00 was received from a student who received a loan last year."

"No student was apparently in need of a Christmas donation this year so \$75.00 was donated to the students for a Christmas tea."

April 1974

"There was an open meeting regarding the future of the Alumnae."

"Letters are to be sent to all former directors of Nursing inviting them to attend the Alumnae as guests of the Alumnae."

"There was to be an open invitation to the graduating class to attend the Reunion dinner."

"A questionnaire re the future of the Alumnae is to be added to the newsletter."

Reactive Depression

In May 1974 the minutes indicate that the executive did not appear optimistic. We noted a tone of depression.

Only thirty replies had been received from the questionnaire in the newsletter.

Due to the fact that the convenor of the Chrysanthemum Ball was unable to continue with the arrangements it was agreed that the Ball would be cancelled this year.

It was agreed that the Reunion dinner would be continued — [some hope anyway.]

Unless more news is received to be included in the newsletter it will also be cancelled.

It was agreed that membership dues were to be increased to \$3.00.

Mood Is Elevated — The Alumnae revives as it so often has in the past.

The executive, under the presidency of Lynda Richards, were obviously very committed to the continuance of the Alumnae, as were the 385 graduates who attended the Reunion Dinner in June of 1974.

June 1974

It was reported that:

A tray is to be purchased for a general proficiency award for a member of the graduating class.

The Chrysanthemum Ball is to be held in November at Hamilton Place with Linda Begg as convenor.

The Last mother and daughter tea is to be held in July with 105 graduates and their mothers expected to attend.

Nancy Melnyk consented to take charge of the newsletter.

Motions were carried to:

Discontinue general meetings.

Continue dinner, dance and bridge.

Mass to be held at Mother house.

Student Aid fund to be closed.

As 1974 came to a close we all felt better.

January 1975

"The Chrysanthemum Ball was a success with a profit of \$585.21."

"Sixteen gifts were purchased and distributed to the elderly patients throughout the hospital. The total cost was \$100.00."

June 1975

"The revised constitution was accepted as written by the Alumnae members present at the Reunion Dinner."

September 1975

"An excellent response was received from the class of 1969 regarding Alumnae membership. It was suggested that a letter be sent to other classes regarding Alumnae membership."

September 1975

"The suggested change of the fiscal year to July 1st to June 30th will be printed in the next newsletter with any negative response to be presented by December 31st, 1975."

October 1975

"The current number of paid up members is 450."

"It was decided that Christmas gifts would be given to Alumnae members institutionalized in the Hamilton area. Dorothy Erb will investigate the number of members involved."

January 1976

"The Annual Reunion Dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn on June 3rd. Sonia Klein and Nancy Melnyk will be co-convenors."

March 1976

The bank balance in Regular Account \$1,826.16, Golden Account \$1,093.73.

March 1976

"The history of the Alumnae is progressing well. It will include excerpts from the minutes with footnotes. Hopefully it will be ready for the Reunion Dinner."

FOOTNOTE FROM THE AUTHORS:

We became increasingly aware, as we compiled this history, of the importance of the recording secretaries. We thank each of you for keeping the records which are the basis of this history.

There are many of our graduates, who have made a valuable contribution to the Alumnae, whose names may not appear in the history. Names appear in the minutes coincidentally, therefore, omissions are accidental.

It has taken a long time to see the history become a reality. We feel, however, that this is a more appropriate time to compile the history as there has been so much history written since 1961. Past executives have shown interest but had to consider priorities, the major one being financial.

The history is written. We hope reading it involves as many memories for you as compiling it did for us.

PRESIDENTS

Miss Ella Kelly
Miss Irene Murray
Miss Eva Moran
Miss Elizabeth Quinn
Mrs. Genevieve Higgins (Boyes)
Miss K. O'Brien
Miss Iva Loyst
Mrs. Leona Hudecki (Johnson)
Mrs. Doris Markle (Crossley)
Mrs. Mary Marrin (Fitzpatrick)
Mrs. Marg Farrell (Donovan)
Miss Aileen McPhail
Mrs. Dorothy Walt (Battersby)
Mrs. Lois MacKenzie (Stewart)
Mrs. Elizabeth Newman (Herod)
Mrs. Dixie Fletcher (Watts)
Mrs. Mary Hastings (Ruff)
Mrs. Kay Towler (Clark)
Mrs. Charlotte Smart (Judson)
Mrs. Joan Mason (La Fortune)
Mrs. Anne Shurter (Lo Schiavo)
Mrs. Lynda Richards (Walach)

LIFE MEMBERS

Miss Evelyn Ashford
Miss Myrtle Atkins
Mrs. Marg. Blackwell
Mrs. Marjorie Butler
Mrs. Margaret Coffee
Mrs. Doris Cummings
Miss L. Curry
Miss Margaret Gillen
Sister Mary Grace
Mrs. E. Groff
Miss Millie Hayes
Mrs. R. Hazlett
Mrs. Margaret Hill
Miss V. Jennings

Mrs. Marian Kelly
Mrs. R. Lane
Miss I. Loyst
Miss E. McLaughlin
Miss Helen McNanamy
Miss Jean Marin
Miss G. Morrow
Mrs. D. Muir
Miss Irene Murray
Miss Florence Nicholson
Mrs. James Ormond
Mrs. Ethel Parisi
Mrs. Kathleen Waddell