

Hospital helpers

Auxiliary's 'little extras' bring comfort

By LOUI TAYLOR Herald staff writer

While Ontario hospitals struggle to stay afloat in this, the age of cutbacks, patients at Georgetown and District Hospital still receive many of those little extras which help make a stay in hospital a little easier thanks to the women's auxiliary.

The women's auxiliary at the Georgetown hospital is one of a few auxiliaries involved in both service to patients and fund-raising, says auxiliary president Marion Booth. The auxiliaries are divided into regions across the province. Georgetown is in region 5, which has 15 hospitals.

Georgetown is one of the smallest hospitals in the region, with 77 beds.

All jobs performed by members of the auxiliary are strictly the extras, Mrs. Booth says, and don't take any jobs away from anyone. All the profits from services such as the gift shop and the television service are turned over to the hospital, she adds.

The main services offered by the auxiliary are the ward workers and the candy-strippers, who perform essentially the same service, Mrs. Booth says. The candy-strippers are trained by registered nurses, while the ward-workers are trained by the in-service nurse. The ward-workers are adult volunteers, while candy-strippers are teenagers. The ward-workers work from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. during the winter months, while the candy-strippers work during the afternoons and evenings. The candy-strippers frequently take over for ward-workers during the summer, when the women who have school-age children may prefer to be at home, she says.

WARD WORKERS

"Our candy-strippers get excellent training, so we don't have the problems with the program that other hospitals sometimes have," she said.

The operation of the gift shop is a large undertaking too. It is stocked and staffed completely by volunteers, and all the profits are turned over to the

hospital. Lena Johnston is the convener of the committee in charge of the gift shop. She is assisted by 16 women in charge of all aspects of buying, training and scheduling. This is in addition to the volunteers who actually staff the shop three times a day.

"It's there for the patient, really," Mrs. Booth says. "It provides the little extras for the patient. It's a nice place for the patients to walk to, if they're out of bed."

The gift shop stocks cigarettes, something which Mrs. Booth says has caused a lot of discussion, both in Georgetown hospital and others across the province.

The gift cart is a mobile gift shop, carrying "a little bit of everything you need if you can't get out of bed," Mrs. Booth says. It also doubles as an opportunity for volunteers to talk with patients who don't have visitors. The gift cart goes out every day.

SERVICE DIFFERS

The hairdressing service offered by the auxiliary differs from that of most hospitals.

Mrs. Booth said. Most hospitals have a beauty shop where patients can go. At Georgetown hospital, however, volunteers to cut on the wards and wash patients' hair for 25 cents.

"We didn't really expect to make money with it, but people are so pleased with the service that they give donations," she says.

New babies receive extra benefits from the auxiliary. The auxiliary has a volunteer who takes photographs of new babies, and each new baby receives a pair of booties, with a choice of pink or blue.

"If there is any way the auxiliary can help the mother and baby, we will," says Mrs. Booth.

The women's auxiliary also looks after the televisions, and the profit is turned over to the hospital.

"It's a difficult administrative job," Mrs. Booth says. "The auxiliary is responsible for arranging the installation, and collecting the payment."

The auxiliary also arranges tray favors for patients' trays on special days, such as Christmas, Easter, Father's and Mother's Day. The favors are made by Guides and Brownies from Acton, Georgetown and Glen Williams.

While the duties involved in service to patients are divided up among committees of volunteers, "everybody is involved in fund-raising," Mrs. Booth says. Last year the auxiliary turned over \$11,500 to the hospital, to be used as a payment on x-ray equipment already purchased.

"We have to turn it over before the end of the year, so we don't have to pay income tax on it," Mrs. Booth says. "It's pretty strange, having to pay income tax on money earned by the work of volunteers."

The auxiliary holds a number of fund-raising events



Mary Persons, left, is one of the volunteers who assists in the running of the hospital gift shop for the women's auxiliary. Although staff members like Sandra Hentschel make use of the store, it's primarily for the convenience of patients. The gift shop

is one of many "little extras" provided free of charge to the patients by the auxiliary. (Herald photo)

through the year, including booths at the Highland Games, a Christmas Ball, and a booth at the Fall Fair. Tickets are also available on a trip to England, which will be drawn at this year's Christmas Ball.

SOLD DAFFODILS

In addition to other projects, the auxiliary furnished the doctor's waiting room, at the request of the hospital. The auxiliary has also sold daffodils in the gift shop to assist the cancer society.

"If the auxiliary can help an

outside group trying to do something for the hospital, we'll do it," Mrs. Booth says.

The auxiliary is part of the hospital disaster plan, and if the time comes, will assist with tagging patients, she says.

The auxiliary was started November 10, 1958, before the hospital was even built, Mrs. Booth says. The first president of the auxiliary was the late Mrs. Muriel Adams and the first meeting of interested women was held in her home.

"As president, I find the girls are just terrific," Mrs. Booth says. "Nothing is too much for some of them."

"It's a great organization. There are jobs for anybody, whether you've got young children, or grown children. It doesn't matter what you do, you can fit in the auxiliary."

The auxiliary is looking for new members because they're trying to get more people to get the jobs spread around more," Mrs. Booth says. "The members look after each other."

"The bulk of the new members are former patients. Our volunteers are good public relations people."

Among the strongest supporters of the auxiliary is hospital administrator Fred Morris.

"They're tremendous, and it just makes a lot of difference when you have a good group of volunteers who help the way they do," Mr. Morris says. "I suppose they must get satisfaction too, or they wouldn't do it."



Eva Harper

HALTON'S PEOPLE

Women's lib unknown on Eva Harper's farm

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald staff writer

Farm wives have worked hand in glove with their husbands for so long in all areas of the family business a lot of them wonder what this equality of the sexes battle is all about. Probably an area could be found where their husbands were the bosses but that lost significance beside the number of things women did on their own. If there was hay to come in or a cow dropping a calf and the woman was around she might well end up helping to take care of the work. No one doubted her abilities just because she was female.

At the Harper household on Rural Route 3 Georgetown the woman's role has gone even farther.

"Eva's the boss," her husband jokes. "I'm just the cook and bottlewasher."

"Jack did his share for 25 years," she defends quickly. "He never liked farming. If his health had been good so he could have stayed with the bank we'd be living in town."

which included a few Jerseys but he was more interested in a cow that produced a good quantity of milk than he was in the cow's pedigree. As well as shipping milk, he raised veal calves, she says.

"Manys the time I remember going out with the cutter to pick up a calf at a neighbours' farm," she says. "I'd put them in a bag at my feet and bring them home. We got a lot of good cows that way. Someone didn't need the heifer calf and Dad would raise it instead of vealing it."

Her father also sold hay in Toronto. It was loose hay, in those days. They'd load the wagon or sleigh, depending on the season, and bind the load on good and tight. Then the next morning they'd leave early to deliver it to the customer. He supplied feed for the delivery horses of a butcher and a bread company.

Mrs. Harper's father also kept standard bred horses, as well as the work teams. He liked to take them to the fairs to race, she smiles and she and her brother rode them too. She still has an eye for a horse and speaks fondly of the Arabians belonging to her herdsmen's children which are kept on the Harper farm.

Mrs. Harper fondly recalls a mare, Annabelle, which she showed at the Canadian Na-

tional Exhibition in 1933. She was selected as the Grand Champion Standardbred mare. Mrs. Harper decided to ride her home after the CNE but as they were passing Sunnyside the mare balked at passing the big merry-go-round on the boardwalk. She can't recall how long the ride took but says since a good road horse would do 10 miles per hour it wasn't bad. What she does remember was how stiff she was after the ride. She had to ride her again the next day to get the aches out, she chuckles.

LOVED FARM

Although she always loved the farm and kept a finger in the works she spent a period of five years or more working in Toronto. She attended Dominican Business College then got a position as private secretary to the chief engineer of Vitrified Clay Pipe. She commuted by Canadian Pacific Railway from the Erindale station daily and recalls the train service not being too slow in spite of the fact that commuters were picked up at every station. Farmers shipped milk to city dairies on that train too, she says.

Mr. Harper's family lived up the road about 1 1/2 miles and she knew them well although she must have been finished

By PAUL DORSEY Herald staff writer

An enlarged and improved curriculum of tutorials for youngsters and several workshops for adults await those who register for the coming season at Georgetown's Nornic Studio for the Performing Arts.

Five area residents, each with extensive experience in various facets of the performing arts, have been recruited as tutors for the three wide-ranging semesters planned for the 1979-80 season by Nornic Studio administrator Enid Williams and artistic consultant Bev Nicholas.

While youngsters aged seven to 18 years can enjoy and learn from workshops in mime, speech, music appreciation, make-up, improvisation and many other subjects, adult students are being offered classes in choral development and Broadway musicals.

SPECIAL INTEREST

Of special interest to the many local arts-oriented groups that are eagerly awaiting the completion of the town's first proper theatre and art gallery facility on Church Street is a one-day workshop being planned for March in which an expert in the field will discuss public relations and audience development.

As described in a Herald feature last March, the Nornic Studio completes its first year of operation in the spring with an impressive theatrical presentation at the school's "home" in the Knox Presbyterian Church hall on Main Street.

Weekly workshops will play a much greater role in the studio's second year, Mrs. Williams told the Herald this week. A schedule has been prepared which will see the five tutors conducting detailed explorative classes that promise to give Mrs. Williams and Mr. Nicholas "more freedom to guide the students and see that they're getting the best we can give them."

"The workshop system is far better, really," Mr. Nicholas commented, recalling his own introduction to the largely-structured, group involvement format at an early age.

The observation was supported last semester, when

Nornic closed its instruction season with a one-day workshop conducted by Fred Thury well-known throughout southern Ontario for his work in adjudicating as well as promoting amateur theatre. The Saturday workshop was a rousing success in terms of both attendance and appreciation.

SECOND SEASON

Nornic Studio's second season begins September 8 with final registration and orientation for the youngsters. Brampton actress and award-winning director Maggie Platel kicks off the workshop series the following weekend with instruction in Movement with Mime.

Mrs. Williams is particularly enthusiastic about having Mrs. Platel coach the students, describing her as "a ball of fire who I'm sure the children are going to love". Mrs. Platel brings with her extensive experience in working with youngsters, as well as years of involvement in theatre and ballet.

Vera Macdonald, whose acting and directing talents have impressed many Georgetown Little Theatre audiences in recent years, takes over from Mrs. Platel in October with speech workshops designed to improve the students' ability to impress themselves both on and offstage. A qualified drama teacher and currently a resource teacher in Halton, Mrs. Macdonald will return to the Nornic Studio to conduct additional workshops in January.

Piano teacher, choir director and musical director Dorean Boss of Brampton will attempt to enhance the work undertaken at the studio last year by Mrs. Williams, herself an accomplished vocalist who will continue to serve as the studio's music consultant. Starting in November and returning in February, Ms. Boss will direct workshops in music appreciation, deriving much of her instruction from her years of concert, opera and musical experience.

WILL LEARN

Students will learn how to move properly and effectively about the stage at the beginning of the second semester, when Margaret Eggleton op-



Bev Nicholas and Enid Williams

ens the year by sharing her expertise in dance and choreography. A Georgetown resident, Mrs. Eggleton is also a teacher and member of the local Little Theatre and the Brampton Musical Society.

During March, professional magician Bob Cuthbert of Brampton will bring his "magical touch" to Nornic Studio for workshops in make-up, a field in which he can claim several years' professional experience. Mr. Cuthbert is also well-known throughout the area as an actor and is employed in correctional work, a career which also brings him into contact with young people.

The Studio will be devoting its third semester next April and May to the development of a major presentation by the students. Reading, blocking, rehearsals, character development and voice projection are among the aspects of performing that will be taught in preparation for the year-end presentation slated for May 17.

Registration fees for juniors, ages seven through nine, and intermediates, ages ten through 12, are \$50 for each of the ten-week semester. Senior students, aged 13 to 18, pay \$60 for the same period. Registra-

tive design, local arts-related groups will be more interested in displaying their work to larger audiences, Mrs. Williams said, and may thus find the workshop in public relations and audience development of special importance.

As with last April's all-day workshop, the Saturday session planned for next spring will include two meals catered by the Knox church ladies' auxiliary.

EXPERIMENTAL NATURE

Recalling that last year's junior students were "overwhelming with their enthusiasm," Mrs. Williams expressed hope that the studio's teenage class will grow in the coming season. Any aspiring actors and singers, she said, are most welcome to visit the studio and watch the activities.

The "experimental" nature of the studio's first-year instruction gave Mrs. Williams and Mr. Nicholas plenty of ideas on how to improve the programme and extend the benefits gained by students. They are already planning the coming season well in advance and deliberately gearing the studio to a "slow growth pattern" which they hope will best accommodate their students' interests and talents. Courses in creative dance, writing for the stage and set design are being considered for future seasons.

Both Mrs. Williams and Mr. Nicholas moved to Georgetown about two years ago from the Brampton area, where their mutual involvement in the amateur theatre and their shared interest in establishing a performing arts studio led them to plan for the future.

Mrs. Williams made her stage debut in Montreal at age nine, carrying on to join a touring troupe of eight vocalists which performed on a semi-professional basis. She is now a mother of five and a teacher at the Tiny Tim development school in Brampton.

Mr. Nicholas immigrated to Canada six years ago after a nearly life-long involvement with both amateur and professional theatre in England and his native Wales. Formerly a member of the renowned Elizabethan Players, he is an active member of the Georgetown Little Theatre.