

Hospital volunteers continue tradition

By L. WILLSON
Herald Special
Georgetown Hospital Auxiliary -
The Tradition Continues
Volunteers are a vital part of community life all over Canada. Often their support is simply a generous donation of "time" ... a rare commodity in today's busy world.
Despite the hustle and bustle of daily life, the Georgetown

Hospital Auxiliary, with its more than 130 volunteers, is an active and dedicated group.
The organization's history dates back to 1959 when four energetic women established the Women's Auxiliary and began ambitious fund-raising efforts which still continue today.
The founders, Inez Crichton, Lois Graham, Lena Johnston and Eva Patterson, tell stories that

are rich in tradition and truly illustrate the growth of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.
Inez Crichton became involved in the Auxiliary and fundraising through a personal wish to see a hospital built in Georgetown. At the time, her own father was a patient in a Kitchener hospital which was a long way from his home and family.

She also recalls how the Auxiliary members actually helped make bed sheets for the operating room. "Our sewing room was located in the Hospital, right next to the laundry room," Inez says. "We would regularly meet there, and busily set to work sewing hems on huge, white pieces of fabric."
In reminiscing about the first gift shop, Inez remembers, "It



was very small, measuring only five feet by eight feet. In fact, if two people were in the room at the same time, the last individual in had to back out of the door. There was literally no room to turn around."
As a relative newcomer to Georgetown, Lois Graham's connection with the Auxiliary began in the late 1950s when she joined to meet people in the community. "The Auxiliary offered me a great opportunity to get to know people from the area. The organization has remained an important part of my life some 30 years later."

One of Lois' vivid memories was of the very young patients. "I remember decorating the Children's Ward at Christmas. Being in the Hospital during the holiday season was a little happier for these youngsters because we brought the festivities to them. It was such a delight to see their faces light up when they saw the bright lights and decorations."

The picture of the Auxiliary's first gift cart, is a clear one for Lena Johnston. "It was 1961 and the rules for volunteers were very strict rules in those days. We wore low-heeled shoes, and were not permitted to wear pants, makeup or earrings. We would always remain outside a patient's room and talk to them from the door."

The fourth member, Eva Patterson, fondly looks back at the Auxiliary meetings where, "our primary goal was, and still is, fundraising. We've had many successful events - from dances to craft sales - and I must say that I still enjoy Hospital Auxiliary work."

The Auxiliary's activities continue to expand, and today include ward work, teen volunteers, providing hairdressing services at the hospital's in-house hair salon, baby photography, flower arranging and running two gift shop operations.

Ambitious activities like these could not happen without dedicated people such as the four originals and countless others like them.

They deserve a special thanks - these unsung heroes of the past, present and future.

Garage sale

A Garage Sale to benefit Cystic Fibrosis is planned for Saturday, May 25, 1991 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location is 27 Heather Court, Georgetown, in the Moore Park Plaza.

There will also be a bake table, hot dogs and pop for sale and balloons for the children.

If anyone would like to donate articles to the sale you can call Julie at 877-8163 (after 6 p.m.) or Karla at 840-0578.

Plan on attending the sale and support Cystic Fibrosis research. "Give the breath of life."



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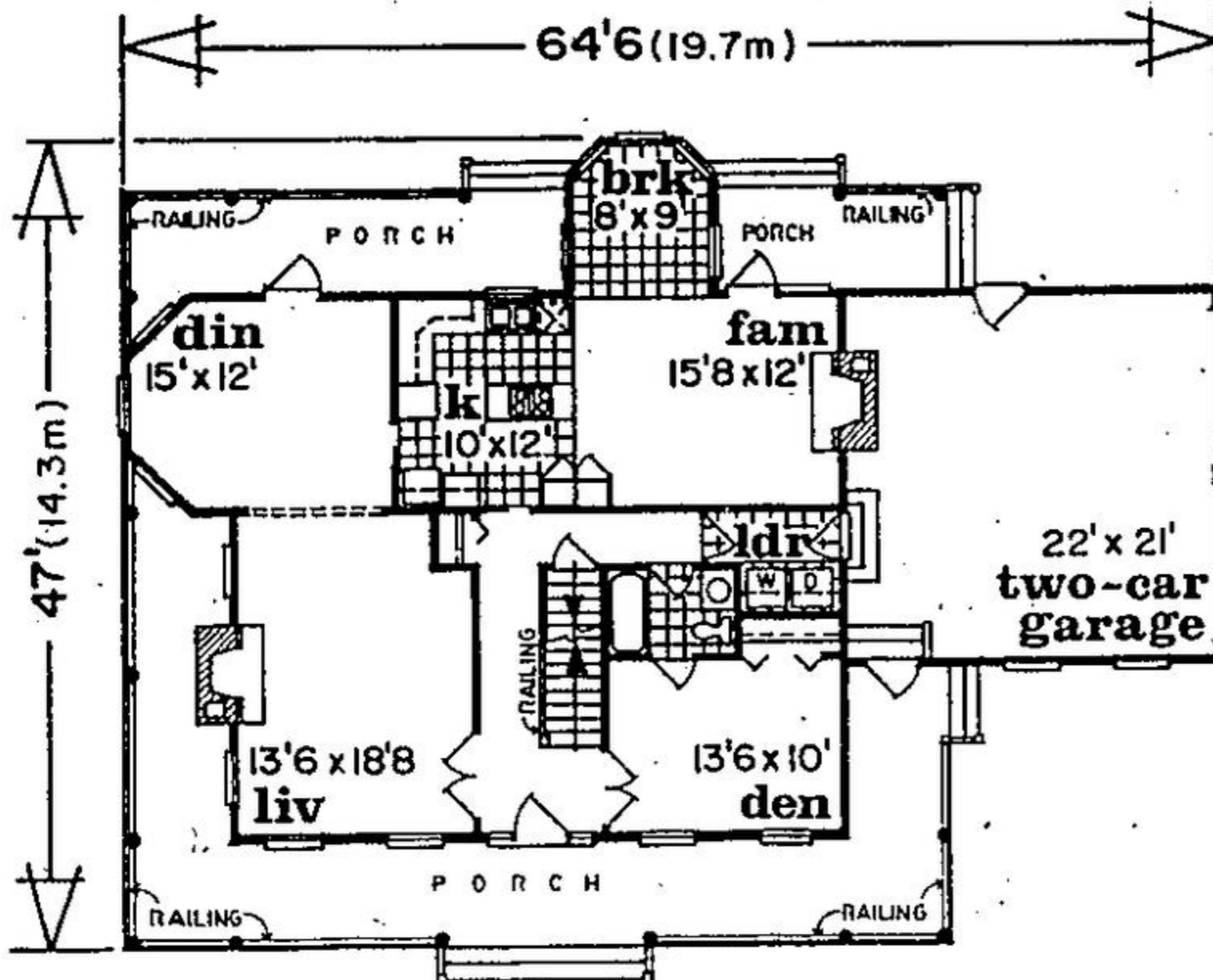
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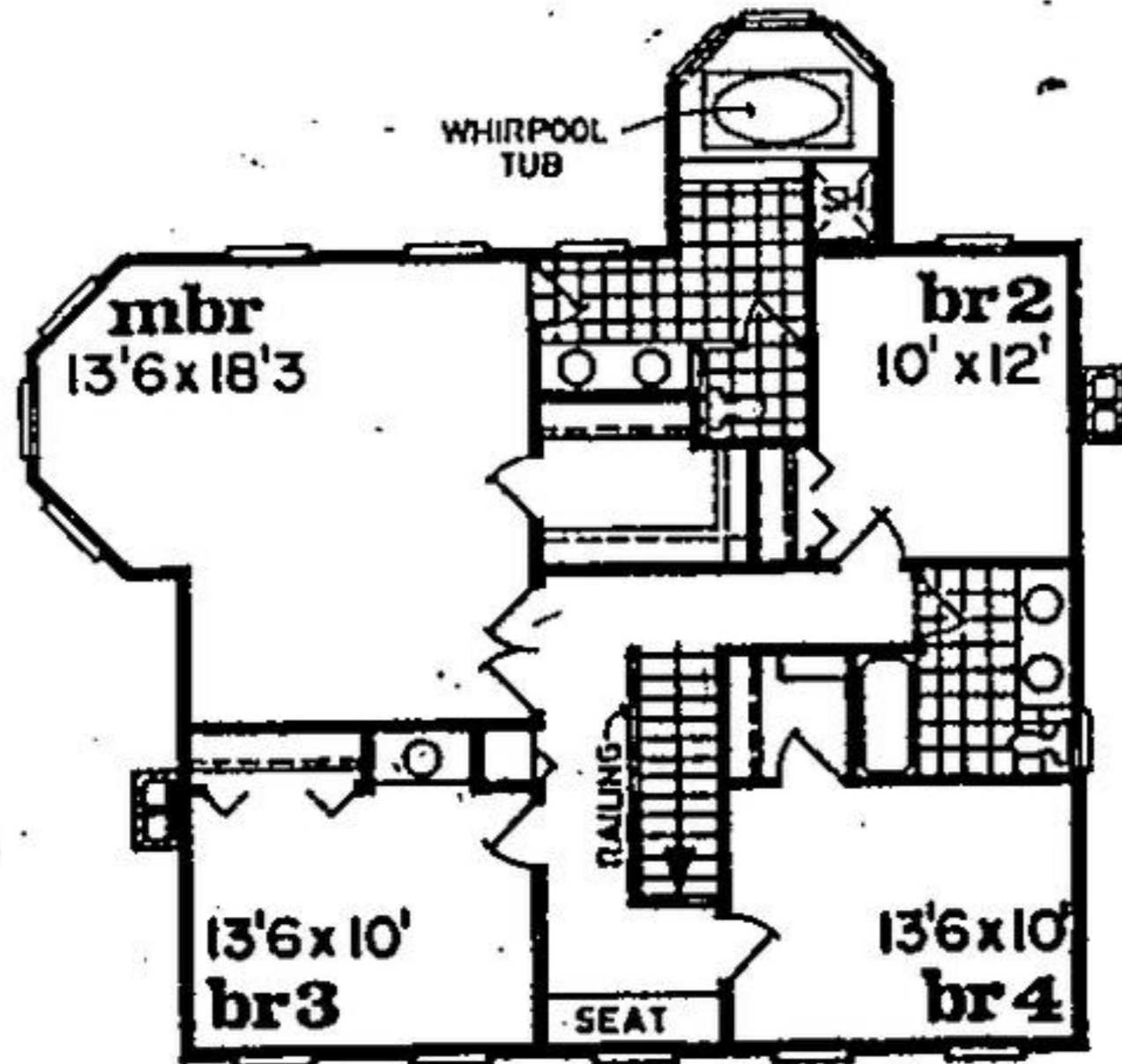
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