

JGH Pulse

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY AND FOR
THE STAFF OF THE JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2

MARCH-APRIL 1972



COOPERATION is the name of the game as men, women, girls and boys from the local community pitch in in the Laundry, Dietary, Housekeeping, and many other Hospital Departments during the 11-day strike of non-medical personnel which swept Quebec Province.

From April 11th to April 22nd, over 1,000 volunteers registered for service at the JGH alone -- many recruited by Allied Jewish Community Services, the Montreal Volunteer Bureau, B'nai B'rith, Northmount, Outremont, St. Laurent, Mt. Royal, and other high schools... while others just walked in "from the street" to offer their service.

For more details about the strike, see inside.

Hair comes to the JGH or,

Teens are busting out all over

The recent strike of our unionized employees resulted in hundreds of well-meaning young people flocking to the assistance of hospitalized friends and relatives. These young people swelled the ranks of our regular volunteers, our teens and ladies in blue uniforms, who were going about their usual tasks and assignments staffing the Gift Shop and Coffee Shop, helping in clinics and on the wards. We did not expect, nor were we prepared for the hundreds of phone calls from people of all ages who, offered their assistance.

Suddenly, and quite informally, I found myself in the position of "Den Mother" to all the 19-year-olds who were really going on 15, and the 17-year-olds who were actually 14. Our youngest volunteers were two very young men who marched into the Hospital dressed in their cub scout uniforms, their noses barely reaching the table top, and asked to be directed to the office where they could help. Unfortunately, their good services could not be accepted. Where could we use two 7-year-olds?

Young people came from around the corner and across the bridge, from Chomedey and Cote St. Luc, from Rosemount and St. Therese. They came in groups, they came alone, with boy friends, with girl friends, with mothers and fathers, with sisters and brothers. One teen-ager called to ask if his younger brother, aged 8, could come and help too because he had to baby-sit him.

There were Yeshiva students, and young rabbis, nursing students and French Catholic boy scouts. Members of B'nai Brith groups, high school and college students. We were all touched when a young man or woman would tell us that they had been a patient at the Jewish, that this was THEIR hospital. We had hundreds of "helpers" of all ages, but the majority were in their teens. Instant Ben Caseys and Dr. Kildares. Florence Nightingale could not have had as devoted a group of followers as our young ladies who left their homes before six e_ach morning because they wanted to "help the nurse"... and help they did, even though their uniforms were somewhat unconventional: nurse in blue jeans!

We offered 10-minute courses in Pot-ology, the science of washing pots while Mopology was a favoured science with young men. Not to be overlooked were the post-graduate Garbologists, and the "Manglers" in the Laundry Room.

JGH SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Worried about unplanned pregnancies? Want to know more about family life education? You no longer have to worry or wonder in isolation. In the Hospital and out in the community there are groups of people meeting and learning how to arrange their family life according to their own needs and desires. At family planning clinics people are learning how to use birth control devices, and how to use appropriate medical and counselling resources. Knowledge of one's own body and the control over human reproduction is everyone's right. Responsible parents are not only concerned with their own sexual life, but are also concerned with the sexual education of their children. Young singles also need counselling rather than question and agonize in isolation.

In the Hospital, the Social Service Department can organize employee groups for family life education. Groups of parents, groups of singles, or groups of mothers, can come together to discuss and learn how to manage this very vital area of human activity.

For further information, you need only call the Social Service Department, Local 611, and ask for Mrs. Rosemarin.

Mrs. A. Rosemarin, P.S. W.,
Social Service.

* * *

BATTERS UP!

Boys and girls on the JGH staff
who'd like to get out on the base-
ball diamond to hit a few homers
are invited to phone Albert Cohen,
Maintenance, at Local 300, NOW!



In fond memory of Bill McGeehan, fellow staffers Mrs. Mercedes Fernandez, Housekeeping, Mr. Frederick Goldstein, Assistant Director, Mrs. Anne Starke, Secretary to Mr. Butler, new Executive Director of Housekeeping, and Mr. Manuel Ulloa, Housekeeping stand by the wheelchair which a \$100 donation from Bill's friends at the Hospital helped to buy.



ESCAPE FROM PARIS

Thirty-two years ago this June, my first husband and I escaped from France. With 24 other men, women, and children, two dogs and considerable baggage, we squeezed into 7 large and small, old and new cars. Our entourage consisted of journalists and photographers from the Paris offices of Time, Life, and the March of Time.

Paris was second home to me. I had often visited an aunt there during my summer vacations from school. After she died, I shared an apartment with two American students from the Sorbonne, while I took a course in domestic science. During the summer months when we were not in school, all three of us did modelling.

When war was declared September 3rd, 1939, my two friends left for the USA. I stayed on, however, as I was engaged to a correspondent from Time and Life. We planned to marry at the British Embassy June 16th, 1940. Paris was so gay the first year of the war... but as I look back now, it was also very corrupt, and the people seemed not to care. They were beaten from the start.

In the months that followed, I worked with the Red Cross; coffee and wine were scarce; the French resented us; and Paris fell into despair. It was awful to see the change.

By June 6th, 1940, 350,000 troops had been evacuated from Dunkirk to England, Paris was declared an open city, and the
(continued on page 9) 5.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Ada Israel, Industrial Clinic, Emergency, who won the door-prize at a March meeting of the Quebec Association of Secretaries. The prize? The weekend of April 21st-23rd at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City including meals, theatre and plane fares. "I was treated like royalty" says Ida... Mrs. A. Reuto, RN, 7W, who gave birth to a girl April 19th... to Mrs. P. Butcher, RN, Nursing Supervisor, who gave birth to a daughter in March... ('72 seems to be the year for girl-babies... responding to the call from Women's Lib, perhaps?)

BEST WISHES to Miss Donna Bowen, Nursing Office, who left her secretarial post recently to marry May 17th... to Miss B. Bonnell, RN, 6N, who wed May 6th and is now honeymooning in Spain ... to Miss J. Carter, RN, Nursing Office Supervisor, who wed April 28th... to Mrs. R. Sanidad, HN, 7W, who recently underwent a serious operation..... to Miss E. Millham, RN, Supervisor, Nursing Office, who married Mr. N. Kordellas April 18th ... to Miss Claudette Fletcher, who was recently appointed Supervisor, In-Service Education, Department of Nursing, to assist Miss Dorothy Butler...

SYMPATHIES to Miss G. Charleston, RN, 5N, whose father died in England in April...

WELCOME BACK to Mrs. P. Chambers, RN, 3W, whose tonsils were removed in April... to Mrs. M. Bettenville, RN, 4E, who responded to the article by Mona Michaels, RN, Nursing Office, which appeared in the November-December issue of Pulse, by vacationing recently in Disneyland, Florida... to Mrs. C. Las Pinas, AHN, 8NW, who spent two weeks in Bermuda in April... to Miss Gertrude Chorlton, Administration, who spent a late winter month in California...

GET WELL SOON to Mrs. H. Rauch, AHN, 2M, whose gall bladder was removed in April... to Miss J. Graham, NA, 4E, who suffered a fractured leg recently... to Miss F. Cobrin, NA, 8NW, who is temporarily ill... to Mrs. D. Downer, NA, 8NW, who had thyroid surgery in March...

DID YOU KNOW that during the 11-day strike that some volunteers asked for "the toughest jobs"? that Boris Levine, AJCS, removed garbage? that Mrs. David Littman, wife of Mr. Littman, Admitting, did yeoman service as cook in the Dietary Department? that some fathers scrubbed floors in the Maternity Department on weekend afternoons? that on the strike's third day, the

MORE PEOPLE IN MORE NEWS

census was 453 patients, down some 200 from the norm? that calm prevailed throughout the Hospital during the whole strike? that some staff members, e.g., those from Dietary, Housekeeping, and several nursing areas worked 12-hour days, 6-day weeks? that one dietician described the nurses as "fantastic"? that while the staffs of some departments were extremely busy, those from others had a lighter load than usual? that the Telephone Department was bombarded with outsiders phoning in to see if they could visit patients, or ask when the strike would be over? that while some outdoor clinics were officially closed, some continued to provide medication to urgent cases? that on the 7th day of the strike, the census had dropped to 411 patients? that on the 8th day, the Quebec Hospital Association -- which reported daily to the Quebec government on the hospital strike situation -- said that 175 hospitals were managing "well"? that hardest hit were 14 chronic and psychiatric hospitals which were still operating with 90% of their normal patient load instead of the average 50% of general hospitals? that many patients from Quebec Province went to Ontario hospitals during the strike? that on the strike's last day, the Ottawa General Hospital near Hull functioned at 200% capacity in Maternity, and at 150% capacity in the Outdoor and Emergency Departments? that throughout the strike, meals at the JGH were excellent? that when a gentleman entered the lobby of the Hospital, a rotund lady volunteer who was vacuuming the red rug there said "Get off my rug!" with such vehemence that he went spinning out the revolving door back into the street?

AND DID YOU KNOW that Mme. Genevieve Renaude, Chief Therapeutic Dietician, Dietary, chaired a panel on "Food Fads and Fallacies" at a conference of the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology held at Bill Wong's February 24th? that it is now believed that as many French-Canadian babies are born with "a Tay-Sachs-like" disease in the whole province as Jewish babies with Tay-Sachs in Montreal? that 172 pints of blood were collected at the Red Cross Blood Donors' Clinic held in the auditorium of the Nurses' Residence April 27th? that Mrs. Louis Frohlich, Clinic Chairman, was pleased with this result in view of the previous weeks' disruptions? that persons interested in joining Pulse's staff of reporters are invited to contact Miss Draper, Editor, at local 653? that the Apollo 16th astronauts actually discovered life on the moon? that this life took the form of tics... or lunatics to you?

(continued from page 2)

Some young people came to ask me to call their mothers to tell them "what good work they did" while others said "don't tell my parents I was washing floors... they'll expect me to do the same at home". Some youngsters found that they could not get home and back to get the favoured job in the morning and so arrived with sleeping bags and bunked with friends who live in the neighbourhood. A French Scout group -- Pioneers -- between the ages of 14 and 17 -- helped in the kitchen from 6 am until well after the supper trays were cleared. They were here daily, helping quietly and efficiently. One young woman came in from Laval every evening to help in the Laundry. She worked there from 8 pm until midnight, then faced a long bus trip home. Then there were young people with St. John's Ambulance certificates who helped the wardmaster. Many stayed all night in the Emergency Department. One young man, his younger brother, and his father -- all St. John's men -- covered the Emergency Department 'round the clock; the father during the day; the two boys during the night. Late one evening, a young man walked in, and stated that he, too, held a St. John's Ambulance certificate. It seemed hardly possible as he looked no more than 15! He was very insistent, however, and to prove his point, he phoned and woke his father asking him to get dressed and bring proof that "I am what I say I am". His father did, and also stayed to help. Another young man sat all evening with his father, a patient here, and then helped the wardmaster from 11 until 7 in the morning.

These young people, their exuberance and tireless efforts, their laughter and their good spirits, were unnerving to some who are used to more staid and unrestrained behaviour. But how does one harness such youthful energy and enthusiasm? and why? They were fantastic, untiring, good-natured, and above all, helpful in a time of crisis. So they sat in the front lobby; so they filled the dining room with their high spirits; so they wore what to us was unconventional attire. They also washed floors, cleaned toilets, ran messages, moved beds, washed instruments, helped in the Laundry and on the wards. Many young people took advantage of the situation to see first hand the workings of the Hospital. They were curious and alert, anxious to see and learn and do. For many, the experience was as fantastic as a trip to the moon.

Edythe Frank,
Admitting Office.

(continued from page 5)

French government moved its headquarters to Tours. By June 8th, the flow of news had stopped and, with the rumble of war in the distance, and complete chaos in Paris, the only thing to do was to go. Everything happened at once: people poured out of buildings loading as much as their cars would hold. We were caught up in a disorderly tide of terror, but we had a common goal: keep ahead of the Germans.

We arrived in Tours and set up house. I was chief cook. Some of our Time and Life men tried to get news, but were almost shot as spies in the process. On June 13th, the day after the Germans had bombed the airfield flat, Churchill arrived at Tours to confer with the French government. As Germans were getting a little too close, however, we, like the French government, decided to move on.

After I had bought all the tinned goods I could find in Tours, we packed up and left for Bordeaux, picknicking along the Loire valley on tinned chicken, crabmeat, asparagus, Vichy water, and tomato juice. The French were very hostile by now. They called us "spies" and "dirty English" and overturned one of our cars to ruin a camera and spoil some film that De Rochement of The March of Time had taken of us and of thousands of others on the road out of Paris. On June 18th, we reached Bordeaux, and from there our American personnel went by boat to Lisbon, and thence by clipper to the States. Meantime, we and two other Britishers headed for Bayonne, hoping to get to Spain. It was a beautiful drive through the Pyrenees but, because we were British, the Spanish authorities turned us back at Bazian. Before returning to Bayonne, however, we stayed at an inn overnight and had a wonderful homecooked meal.

Once again in Bayonne, we found the British Embassy was so crowded we couldn't get near it. Thousands of people everywhere were trying to get out of France. After sleeping that night in a bandstand, we boarded a Dutch vessel -- the last one to leave for England. With three times the regular complement of 500 passengers, we left the harbour just as Germans entered Bayonne. An Italian sub chased us in the Bay of Biscay. But on the 4th day we reached Plymouth where we had to anchor outside the harbour all night because of an air raid. Soon afterward we reached London... only to experience the Blitz!

This is my own experience escaping from France but an article about all of us appeared in Life magazine July 22, 1940.



Mrs. P. Ganas,
Nurses' Residence.

"If you don't do it..."

Canvassers for Montreal's Federated Appeal, a non-profit organization which raises funds for 7 major welfare appeals, are now busily collecting donations and pledges to finance its 119 community services. Raising funds on a joint basis this way greatly reduces combined campaign costs so that the monies saved can be ploughed back into badly needed services. Among other things, these community services provide:

- * rehabilitative services for children, the blind and the mentally retarded
- * counselling, homemakers and day nurseries for the solitary aged
- * drop-in centres and drug clinics for youth
- * volunteer visiting and meals-on-wheels for the solitary aged
- * aid to non-political and non-violent citizens' committees to develop neighbourhood self-help programs and urge a just application of welfare laws

These and many other services like them contribute enormously to the health and welfare of our city.

Hundreds of Federated Appeal volunteers are now working hard to surpass last year's collection of over \$10 millions. When the Chief of your Department asks you to contribute something... either with cash or through the increasingly popular payroll deduction plan, take heed, won't you?

Because "if you don't do it, the job won't get done".



PULSE PROFILE

Petite, good-natured NORMA MISHKIN FREEDMAN, head secretary, Pathology, was born in the JGH's Room 512 in 1941, "and the Hospital never sent me home!" she says, grinning.

The only child of businessman Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mishkin who still live in Montreal, Norma wanted to be a teacher when she grew up. "I always enjoyed helping people... and putting my point across." But after attending Barclay and West Hill High Schools, she went on to Cote des Neiges Business College "which was just beginning then, to develop a medical course." Maybe her stars dictated that she return to the scene of her birth? At any rate, Norma landed her first job in 1961: that of medical typist in the Hospital's Pathology Department. Today she's still there... but as head secretary to the Chief. Asked what her pet aversion is, she replied quickly: "Patients and their families who call up wanting reports. They try to bully us by saying we are keeping something from them. But we're not permitted to give out this information."

During some of these same years, bright, industrious Norma also served as President of the Fanny Goldenberg Artery of the Quebec Heart Foundation, and of the Libby Shaeffer Chapter of Pythian Sisters. In 1969, she married Seymour Freedman -- no relation to Dr. Nathan Freedman of Cytology -- a self-employed businessman dealing in furniture and home appliances.

An active person, Norma enjoys playing the piano -- and has played at community concerts; she likes reading -- especially biographies; travelling is another hobby -- she's been to Europe, Western Canada, Florida, etc.; and then there's knitting and embroidery.

Says she: "The Hospital has certainly grown since I started 11 years ago. It's gotten so big now I really have to think where departments are."

JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL

3755 COTE ST. CATHERINE ROAD

MONTREAL 26, CANADA

COPY

April 26, 1972

Mr. K. Butler,
Jewish General Hospital,
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear Mr. Butler:

The recent strike which has now happily passed into history has once again demonstrated the loyalty and devotion of our key personnel and their staff. Your exemplary performance during the difficult period made it possible for the Hospital to maintain a volume and quality of service which reflects great credit on your sense of duty and responsibility.

Mere words cannot adequately convey the gratitude which I and the entire Hospital administration owe you and the members of your department. You have earned the admiration of a whole Community and the abiding thanks of all who are concerned with the welfare of our Hospital.

With deep personal thanks and my very best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

WRS/sfb

W. R. Slatkoff, M.D.
Executive Director

Same letter sent to:

Mr. H. Schoppe
Mrs. P. Hamel
Mrs. E. Frank
Mrs. H.H. Parker
Mr. M. Shainblum