

4-1951

## Beacon Light: April 1951

St. Cloud Hospital

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# BEACON

# LIGHT

Volume 1 Number 9

ST. CLOUD HOSPITAL

April 1951



## LION

OR

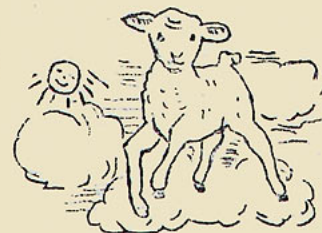
WHICH SHALL IT BE????

There is much conjecturing these days on how March shall end! Those who can recall that March came in like a lion will contend that it shall go out like a lamb!

And so what? What difference does it make? Weather is an enduring conversational subject. Folks have newly met, and weather, common to each, is talked of. Folks have visited, and having exhausted news and gossip, turn to the "weather". Then there are the folks who gripe. Is it stormy? Is it hot? Is the sun shining? Is the sky blue? What can they do about it?

All the complaints and the griping in the world will not change the weather. Why fuss? Weather is God-given - a gift to us from God Who makes no mistake. Take the weather how it comes, and remember "there's seldom a wind that blows no good." Don't spoil your disposition by having a perennial gripe about the weather.

*Lamb...*





FEASTS TRANSFERRED

Feast of the Annunciation	to April 2
Feast of St. Joseph	to April 3
Feast of St. Benedict	to April 4

Since many of you have been here only a short time we would like to emphasize a few points that are very essential to your work here at the hospital.

1. The official bulletin board for all employees is located near the cafeteria. Please take a look at it regularly as notices concerning all employees are posted there.

2. All injuries or accidents, no matter how small, incurred by you while on duty, should be reported to your respective supervisors.

3. If you change your address or telephone number, please notify your supervisor and the payroll office.

4. You are asked to walk up one flight of stairs and down two. It is not necessary to ride up or down one flight.

5. You are hospital employees and as such must conduct yourselves befitting those who care for the sick. Please avoid whistling, singing, loud talking or noisy gestures as you walk through the halls.

6. You are expected to be neat and clean at all times. Uniforms should be in good condition and never torn or soiled. Shoes, regardless of color, should be kept clean and polished. A discreet use of cosmetics is permitted.

7. Do not discuss any patient's condition with persons not engaged in the care of that patient. It is unethical to discuss patients with friends or employees in public or while riding on any public conveyance.

On April 4th we celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict. For us this is a real family feast as St. Benedict was the founder of the Benedictine Order. We ask all of you to join us that day as we thank God for the many blessings He has showered on us and ask Him to bless each and every one who is in any way associated with this hospital.

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# Ave Maria

The feast of the Annunciation March 25, has been transferred to April 2. This feast, so closely connected to our redemption, is one of the greatest feasts of the Blessed Virgin. It was Mary's "fiat", her ready willingness to cooperate with God's plan, that repaired what Eve had destroyed through her disobedience. Mary was destined by God to be the mother of the Redeemer.

As we recall at this time the words of the Archangel Gabriel in addressing our Lady with the first lines of the Hail Mary, let us recite this prayer with renewed fervor. It is easy to become mechanical in prayer, especially since we repeat the Hail Mary 53 times in the Rosary. Let us, as we recite the words, think of the Mysteries of the Rosary. The March and April issues of the Catholic Digest contain the meditations by Monsignor Sheen. If you haven't taken time to read them carefully, do so now.



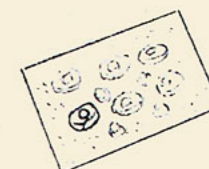
March 17th is not only St. Patrick's Day! This year for Theresa Olberding, our Theresa in the bakery, it was the beginning of the 24th year of service at the St. Cloud Hospital. On March 17, 1928, after giving domestic service in families in the vicinity of Melrose, Theresa heeded the call for workers in the kitchen of the St. Cloud Hospital. After about a year there, she was moved to the bakery where she has happily stayed. Have things changed much? "Yes and no" is her reply. "We have a different oven and some new things, but as a whole the place is very much the same. The work has changed somewhat. True enough, folks need to eat and there always have been folks wanting bread, and cakes, cookies, pies, and what not!" The hospital had only newly opened and Theresa says she well remembers that some sections were still closed. Most of the helpers lived in. (Imagine, if you can, that happening now? What size structure would be necessary for the employees?) There were not so many patients, and there were less workers, so there were less folks to cook for. "But we were kept busy," says Theresa. "For a while we sold bread. That news must have gone like wild fire, because we had so many orders. Then for a while we also made and decorated First Mass and Wedding cakes. I remember doing three in one week - one even went to St. Paul." As the work became heavier with the growing hospital, the sales phase was discontinued.

Much work is done in the bakery when we realize that during the period from March 1950 to March 1951 almost 15 tons of flour were used. Even if the loaves of bread measure 21 inches long and weigh about 4½ pounds, and the pies are sized to serve 8 good servings, one

can hardly imagine the number of products handled. The "ohs" and "ahs" as the fragrant odors permeate the lower floor corridors give approval of the many and varied items of the menu, and many a passer-by stops for an extra sniff! Only when some detail is in process which can stand no disturbance or distraction, are the shades drawn, the view obliterated, and the bakery closed.

"My hobby? That's breadmaking," and her bright blue eyes light with joy as she visualizes the batch being turned into perfect loaves of bread. Maybe it's the squish of the dough as it is being punched down, or the roundness of the expanded forms, or the brownness of the baked loaf, or the crispness of the crust that is the enticing feature. Maybe it's more than that! Theresa must feel that she is cooperating with the Creator in that she uses the finely-ground wheat and fashions it into food acceptable to God's creatures. What meditation can be made, too, as she sees the value of cooperation and the function that each part plays in the whole, be it the leaven, the salt, the oven or the baker. How valueless or different the result when each one does not fulfill its own detail!

"Free time? What do I do? Well, in former years we girls would make up and give plays for the Sisters and the rest of the people working here. We also formed a Club and worked for the Missions. But times are different now." Then with more animation she continued, "I like to look up recipes and bring them to Sister to try out. (Incidentally, the Iced Kufels - rolls - on the Easter breakfast menu were Theresa's find.) Oh, I crochet and sew, and of course I make pictures 'God bless our home', and I do love to make plaques. But my hobby is breadmaking!"



## CLINICAL

### LABORATORY



Magazines and the screen picture a modern hospital laboratory as a mysterious department in which scientists and technologists bend over microscopes and mix strange chemicals in glass flasks. To the scientists and technologists, however, the laboratory with its test tubes, microscopes and queer-shaped apparatus is not a place of mystery, but a department of study and research in modern medicine.

The expansion of clinical pathology has been rapid in recent years, so much so that the laboratory has become more than ever an essential part of medical practice. Although the laboratory can be used both for routine work and research, here at the St. Cloud Hospital the laboratory offers services for diagnosis and treatment of both in and out patients.

Dr. Thomas R. Simon, pathologist, has been the director of our Laboratory and School of Medical Technology since 1950. He is assisted by 6 registered technologists: Sister Camille, Sister Borgia, Sister Michael (part-time), Ruth Mingo, Ann Ackerman, Allan Schmid, and Margaret Burns, and 5 students enrolled in the School of Medical Technology. The secretary assists in the compilation of records, and the 2 nurses' aides assist the technologists in various duties.

Have you perhaps wondered why the classes in Medical Technology are small in number in comparison with the School of Nursing? Here is the answer. The classes are deliberately kept small in size because each student works under the direct supervision of an instructor.

The department gives services covering the following: urology, hematology, chemistry, serology, bacteriology and parasitology, pathological histology, basal metabolism, electrocardiography, and Blood Bank. Because many diseases of the body manifest themselves in abnormal findings of the urine, a complete urinalysis (Urology) is made to detect possible disturbances in the functioning of the kidneys. The field of chemistry provides a large number of tests for detecting the normal constituents of the blood and any deviations from that normal. While hematology confines itself to the study of the blood cells, serology examines the liquid part of the blood. Bacteriology and parasitology afford the means for finding out just what specific organism (plant or animal) is responsible for infections of all types, thus enabling the physician to select the medicine best suited for treatment. Animals are provided and may be used to test disease-producing power of bacteria. Pathological histology is the study of the tissues removed during surgery. Often in combination with the basal metabolism test (BMR) which is a breathing test to measure the amount of energy used by the body, electrocardiography (EKG) is made to show a graph of the heart's action. The Blood Bank supplies blood and plasma for transfusions. For all the services, the laboratory is centralized on 6th floor except that BMRs are given on another floor and the animals are housed in the sub-basement. (More will be reported on the animals in a later issue.)

Have you questioned why laboratory examinations cost so much? To remain efficient the laboratory must be kept provided with adequate scientific instruments. These instruments must be kept in the best possible condition and sooner or later must be replaced by newer and better models. In addition to the usual array of microscopes, glass

slides, pipettes, flasks, tubes and chemical reagents we need such things as a centrifuge and a microtome, a precision instrument for cutting tissue into thin slices for microscopic examination of specimens. One of the newest pieces of equipment is an Autotechnicon, a mechanical apparatus for processing and staining slides which have to be dipped for certain periods of time into a variety of solutions. This clock-controlled machine can be started at night and will have the specimens ready for study the next morning, whereas it would require one person's time at intervals throughout the night to do the same work. Incubators are required for maintaining cultures of various bacteria at normal body temperature in which they flourish best. Qualified technologists must be employed, for inaccurate results are worthless to the doctor and patient and may easily be misleading. It is true that Laboratory, as X-ray, services add to the cost of hospital care for the patient, but it gives him much more in the way of scientific service than ever before. The public has joined the doctors in demanding the best possible facilities when health and life are concerned.

We are ever trying to improve and expand our facilities to render adequate service for the benefit of the patients and the doctors. Because the laboratory cannot function automatically or independently, we need the cooperation of all. We extend to any new employees and to those who have not yet seen our facilities an invitation to come and see the department.



## WHY DO HOSPITALS NEED

### PROMPT PAYMENT?

Hospitals need cash to pay operating expenses as do all businesses. Payrolls must be met; many purchases can be made at a discount if funds for cash payment are available. The payroll for our hospital in January 1951, was \$43,744.35, compared with \$37,988.20 in January 1950 and \$26,678.00 in 1949. (This does not include Sisters' salaries.)

Traditionally, hospitals have not paid salaries comparable to those paid in industry. Today if they wish to obtain the skilled personnel they need, they must pay at least comparable salaries.

\* \* \* \* \*

April 11

The third Wednesday after Easter we celebrate another feast of St. Joseph - called the SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH. This feast honors St. Joseph as the patron of the Universal Church. Let us ask St. Joseph to be at all times our "helper and protector" in life and in death.



He who follows another  
is always behind!

THE MAN IN THE HOUSE

----- Katherine Tynan Hinkson

Joseph, honored from sea to sea,  
This is your name that pleases me,  
"Man of the House."

I see you rise at the dawn and light  
The fire and blow till the flame is bright.

I see you take the pitcher and carry  
The deep well-water for Jesus and Mary.

You knead the corn for the bread so fine,  
Gather them grapes from the hanging vine.

There are little feet that are soft and slow,  
Follow you withersoever you go.

There's a little face at your workshop door,  
A little one sits down on your floor;

Holds His hands for the shavings curled,  
The soft little hands that have made the world.

Mary calls you; the meal is ready;  
You swing the Child to your shoulder steady.

I see your quiet smile as you sit  
And watch the little Son thrive and eat.

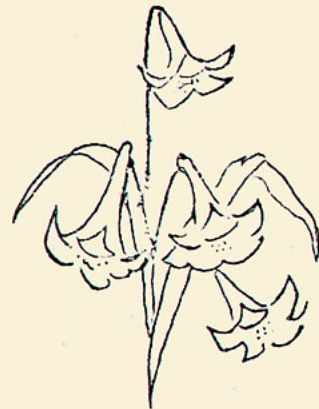
The vine curls by the window space,  
The wings of angels cover their face.

Up in the rafters poised and olden  
There's a Dove that broods and his wings are golden.

You who kept them through shine and storm,  
A staff, a shelter, kindly and warm.

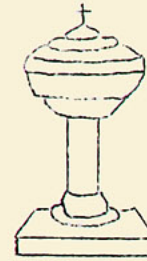
Father of Jesus, husband of Mary,  
Hold us your lilies for sanctuary!

Joseph, honored from sea to sea,  
Guard me, mine and my own roof-tree.  
"Man of the House."



PERSONALS

WELCOME

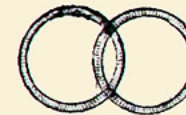


Kay McEnroe, a student in Medical Technology here, was baptized on Wednesday, March 21, by Father John Denery, in St. Paul's Church. Mrs. Eugene Ahles, (formerly Miss Anna Mae Engelhard) was her sponsor. Miss McEnroe received her first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

Willie Mason, an employee on our maintenance staff since last August, was baptized on Holy Saturday by Bishop Bartholome at St. Mary's Cathedral. Lawrence Heider was his sponsor. Mr. Mason received his first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO:



Mary Ann Dombrovski and Raymond Poepping who were married on March 29 at 9:00 a.m. in St. Paul's Church in St. Cloud. Mary Ann had been an employee here since August 27, 1949 and worked as a hospital aide on 5 North.

Miss Clara Neumeister who will also enter the state of matrimony. Wedding bells will ring on April 22 for Miss Neumeister and Crandall Atwood. They are to be married at Holy Cross Church in St. Cloud. They plan to live in Florida. Miss Neumeister has worked at the St. Cloud Hospital since May, 1943. During that time she served as a staff nurse on 2 North and also did private duty part of the time.



OUR SYMPATHY TO:

Elaine Schindler on the death of her father.

\*\*\* \*\*

POOR TESSIE!

It's hard enough to be sick in bed, but when you look like a little gopher with a pouch on each side so that swallowing becomes quite a problem, then it's twice as bad. And added to that, one must be in isolation, not able to have visitors - well, that's quite a plight, and yet, Tessie smiles and says it isn't so bad.

Yes, it's true - it's Theresa Gagnon and it's the mumps - but the Doctor says it won't be long and Tessie will again be back to work. "We've missed you, Tessie," say the girls in the Diet Kitchen.

SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT - -



The Purity Milk Company is sponsoring for a year a publication on infant care, "Your Baby's Care," which we are giving to each maternity patient coming to our hospital. Those of you working on Fifth Floor know how much the mothers appreciate this book.

OUR THANKS TO PURITY MILK!